



JUSTICE JUDI FRENCH OHIO SUPREME COURT

OFFICERS

2020-2021

President

Debbie Johnson

Vice President

Joe Valentino

Secretary

Milt Lustnauer

Treasurer

John Adams

Past President

Herb Gillen

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2019-2021

Brad Frick

Wade Giffin

Barri Jones

Allison Russo

John Trapp

2020-2022

Connie Aschinger

Doug Godard

John Krauss

Jim Nicklaus

Jaime Sisto

President Rotary International

Holger Knaack

District Governor, District 6690

Steve Heiser

Assistant District Governor

Wolf Lant

ROTARYVIEW

Chairman

Jerry Woessner

Editor

Brad Britton

Writing & Design

Herb Gillen Advertising

Photography

Tanya Westerviller

ON THE WEB

www.uarotary.org

www.district6690.org

www.rotary.org

For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



Dave McCurdy introduced the speaker, **Justice Judi French** of the Ohio Supreme Court.

Justice French is a native of Sebring, Ohio. She graduated from The Ohio State University in 1984 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. In 1988 she earned a Master's Degree in History (Military History & Strategic Studies) and a law degree from OSU.

Justice French began her career as an associate at the Porter Wright law firm. In 1993, she became Deputy Director for Legal Affairs at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. In 1997 French became Section Chief, and later Chief Counsel, for Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery. From 2002 to 2004, she was Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Bob Taft.

In 2004, she was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals, which covers Franklin County. She won election to six-year terms in 2004, and again in 2010. When serving on that court, she authored more than 800 opinions.

Governor Kasich appointed her to fill an unexpired term on the Ohio Supreme Court, beginning in 2013. She was elected to a six-year term in 2014 and is up for re-election this year.

Justice French lives in Grandview Heights with her husband. They have two adult children.

Justice French described the work of the Ohio Supreme Court. It generally hears cases that it chooses to hear, with those cases starting in the trial courts and then moving through the Ohio Courts of Appeal. There are certain cases that the Supreme Court must hear, including death penalty, tax, public utilities and lawyer discipline cases.

For cases that the Court has discretion to hear, the justices review filings of memos in support of jurisdiction to review. The primary concern of the Court is not to correct errors by a lower court, but to accept appeals of cases that are "of public or great general interest". So, the Court is looking more at the prospective impact of a case. Four justices must agree to take such cases.

The Court is confronted with taking 1,800 to 2,000 cases per year. About 1,300 are cases from the Courts of Appeals, and the Supreme Court takes about 7 percent of those. Approximately one-half of such cases are filed pro se, i.e., without a lawyer.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings

GREETERS

July 21
Tom Sugar

July 28
Benjamin Lupton
Ua Chamberlain

August 4
Steve Stivers
Joe Ayers

REGISTRATION DESK

July 21
Jim Winfree
Kevin Brown

July 28
Larry McVey
Milt Lustnauer

August 4
Ted Foster
Brendan King

CALENDAR

July 21 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
Alex Fischer,
Columbus Partnership
Host: Debbie Johnson

July 28 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
Marjory Pizzuti & Nick Lashutka,
UA Community Center
Feasibility Study Report
Host: Kip Greenhill

August 4 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
Katie White,
Age-Friendly Columbus
Host: Micheal O'Sullivan

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

JULY 21st
Scioto Country Club/Zoom

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



JUSTICE JUDI FRENCH

OHIO SUPREME COURT



Briefs and other filings are done electronically. Justice French said that briefs should not just describe errors by a lower court, but should argue for what the law should be.

The Court hears oral arguments on the cases it takes. Justice French encouraged members to come to the Court and see the arguments in person, when this is again possible. She described the beautiful Art Deco architecture of the Supreme Court building, and its murals and reliefs depicting Ohio history.

Justice French described oral arguments not as an occasion for an attorney to make a speech, but as an opportunity for the justices to ask questions. She tells attorneys the best thing to do is to have

a conversation with the justices. She has found this to work better on Zoom than in person. Unlike with the US Supreme Court, arguments are webcasted live and archived, and they are also presented on the Ohio Channel.

Justice French described how, after oral arguments, the justices go into conference to discuss the cases. They are alone except for a court reporter who records the votes. They speak in the order of seniority, with the Chief Justice going first, and each justice can speak without interruption. Then there can be a spirited "free for all" discussion, which the Justice described as always cordial.

Then votes are cast in reverse order of seniority, case-by-case. After votes are taken, the author of the majority opinion is chosen on a random basis, via numbered marbles selected from a bag. A tally is kept to avoid one justice having to write more than his/her share of opinions. Justice French described how she takes careful notes in conference, to determine how best to hold a majority together, when she is writing opinions.

The Court's docket is always cleared out by calendar year-end. Justice French described as one of her biggest challenges the enormous amount of reading she needs to do for each case.

Justice French said that she prefers judicial elections over an all-appointment system. She thinks elections play the role of keeping justices accountable. She is not a fan of the amount of money that a candidate for a judicial seat has to raise. She thinks the best system would be where an initial appointment is made, followed by a "retention election", but she doesn't think this system will go into place while she is alive.

THE MEETING



Debbie Johnson opened the meeting, which had attendees both in person and via Zoom.

Dave Hammond provided the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance. There were no visiting Rotarians or guests.

GREETERS

July 21

Tom Sugar

July 28

Benjamin Lupton
Ua Chamberlain

August 4

Steve Stivers
Joe Ayers

REGISTRATION DESK

July 21

Jim Winfree
Kevin Brown

July 28

Larry McVey
Milt Lustnauer

August 4

Ted Foster
Brendan King

CALENDAR

July 21 - Scioto CC/ZOOM

Alex Fischer,
Columbus Partnership
Host: Debbie Johnson

July 28 - Scioto CC/ZOOM

Marjory Pizzuti & Nick Lashutka,
UA Community Center
Feasibility Study Report
Host: Kip Greenhill

August 4 - Scioto CC/ZOOM

Katie White,
Age-Friendly Columbus
Host: Micheal O'Sullivan

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

JULY 21st
Scioto Country Club/Zoom

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Steve Sandbo announced that the Club and its members had contributed or pledged \$40,900 for the Mayan Families food initiative in just a week—an astounding result.

Steve also provided a reminder that the club's signature summer social event, Night of Zacapa, will take place again this year. This event focuses on getting to know each other plus raising some money for our club projects. Details: It will be hosted by Steve and **Dave McCurdy** on Thursday, August 20th from 6 PM to ???, at Steve's home.

Dave and Steve have again offered to purchase the first bottle of Zacapa 23-year-old rum for \$1,000, to kick the event off.

The night will feature grilling experts **Dave Dewey** and **Milt Lustnauer** preparing prime steaks, plus plenty of side dishes, a cigars bar, lots of beverages, and possible aerial entertainment.

To make the event as safe as possible, "tweaks" this year will include:

- The event being 100% outdoors.
- Outdoor style buffet line with masked servers.
- Hosted bar (not self-serve).
- Tables set up in the yard vs. on the deck.
- Only 4 settings per table.
- Attendance capped at the first 40 members.
- The cost per person is \$150 with all net proceeds going to the Upper Arlington Rotary Club. Please RSVP to Steve Sandbo, 614-570-2527 or [SSandbo@aol.com](mailto:ssandbo@aol.com).

Joe Valentino noted that all members are still expected to participate in the Club's annual fundraiser on August 14, by providing live or silent auction items or a sponsorship. There will be a meeting of the Fundraiser Committee next Monday July 20 at 5:30 pm via Zoom; Joe will provide an invitation.

Anne Croskey encouraged members to respond to the e-vite for the Fundraiser. 112 members have not yet responded.

Peggy Concilla noted that the latest bills for dues will be sent this afternoon. A new feature is that members will be able to pay by credit card or PayPal, via a link embedded in the email. It is still possible to pay by old-school check.

Debbie Johnson reported on results from the Club's board meeting on the previous Monday, as follows:

- The 2020-21 budget was approved.
- **Rich Simpson** is working on an effort to unrestrict some funds in the Club's foundation.
- A grant to assist West Broad Street Elementary School was approved—more on this below.

• **Dave Dewey** provided 2 Paul Harris Fellow recognitions:

Ginny Barney, at the plus-1 level, and Nicole Helfrich at the initial level.



GREETERS

July 21

Tom Sugar

July 28

Benjamin Lupton
Ua Chamberlain

August 4

Steve Stivers
Joe Ayers

REGISTRATION DESK

July 21

Jim Winfree
Kevin Brown

July 28

Larry McVey
Milt Lustnauer

August 4

Ted Foster
Brendan King

CALENDAR

July 21 - Scioto CC/ZOOM

Alex Fischer,
Columbus Partnership
Host: Debbie Johnson

July 28 - Scioto CC/ZOOM

Marjory Pizzuti & Nick Lashutka,
UA Community Center
Feasibility Study Report
Host: Kip Greenhill

August 4 - Scioto CC/ZOOM

Katie White,
Age-Friendly Columbus
Host: Micheal O'Sullivan

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

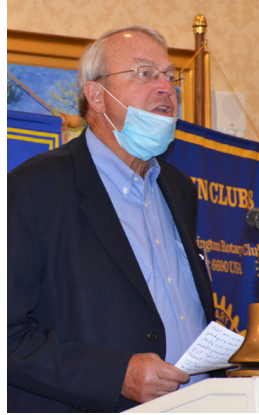
JULY 21st

Scioto Country Club/Zoom

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Tom Davis described a new effort to help students with an urgent need at West Broad Elementary School. The principal, Christina Ifill, contacted the Club asking if we could help with the purchase of several chrome book carts for its students, and she spoke to the Club at the meeting.

Details:

- In the face of severe budget cuts they have now been informed that the school year will be conducted with two days in the classroom and three days out in a school week. The vast majority of West Broad's 450 students do not have the financial wherewithal to accommodate the remote learning regime dictated by these new standards. So these economically disadvantaged children now run the risk of getting further behind those with greater resources.
- Each chrome book cart contains 30 computers and includes a cart with charging stations. These are used both in the school and also for remote learning. The cost of each cart is approximately \$10,000. Multiple carts are needed.
- The Community Service Committee has approved a \$5,000 contribution to this cause. The Upper Arlington Rotary Foundation has offered to match up to an additional \$5,000 raised from individual member donations. So, \$5,000 in individual member contributions would make our total contribution \$15,000 (including the Community Service contribution).
- The Club is asking all members to support this two week campaign with whatever they feel comfortable with. Please send an email (tfdavis850@aol.com) or text ((614) 580-6254) to **Tom Davis** with your pledge. Then make checks payable to The Upper Arlington Rotary Foundation (write "West Broad Chrome Books" in the memo section) and mail to our Foundation Treasurer Andy Livingston, at his home, 1704 Sundridge Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43221.

