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Our speaker today was **Frank LaRose**, Ohio Secretary of State. **Angela Lanctot** introduced Secretary LaRose – Ohio’s chief elections officer. He was born and raised in Akron and has served the country in the 101st Airborne Division and as a Green Beret, Frank and his family recently moved to Upper Arlington.

What does the Secretary of State do? In a nutshell the Secretary serves as the state’s chief elections officer who works to ensure fair and free elections. In addition, the office is the front door to Ohio businesses. Part of that function is to help entrepreneurs succeed. In his role as chief elections officer LaRose works with local Boards of Election to make sure that Ohio continues to lead the nation in free, fair, accessible and secure elections.

As the “front door” for new businesses the Secretary of State manages the process of creating and recording new business articles of incorporation.

In the last year, Ohio has done more of both voting and business creation than ever in our state’s history. During one of the most difficult years Ohioans have done what they always do. They faced adversity with grit and determination and creativity. He was surprised at the rate of new business activity.

There were 171,000 new businesses started in the past year – more than ever. Many people saw the pandemic as the impetus to consider starting a new business from home. The Business Services Division at the Secretary of State’s office was much busier than expected. Entrepreneurs can use the Business Services website to complete a few fields to get started. A day or so later they’re a business owner.

The Chief Elections Officer role is special to Secretary LaRose. While in the military he got to see people vote for the first time in Iraq and Kosovo. He noted the enthusiasm and pride they displayed after casting their first ballot – despite the anti-voting campaigns and threats from those opposed to the election process. Two years ago he reconnected with that same sense when he, along with other Secretaries of State, visited crucial sites in the voting and civil rights battles in the American south. He will never forget standing in the sanctuary of Brown Chapel in Selma, Alabama, where the marchers gathered to march to the Dallas County Courthouse in Selma to demand the right to vote. Those marches became more frequent and turned into a Bloody Sunday on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Those marches led to the march to Montgomery and eventually to the Voting Rights Act. People were chased by dogs and knocked down by water hoses for fighting for a right that too many of our fellow Americans take for granted. The right to vote is precious. All of this just 56 years ago in this country.

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



GREETERS

September 7
TBA

September 14
TBA

September 21
TBA

REGISTRATION DESK

September 7
John Hansel
John Cleland

September 14
Tracy Harbold
Jim Hyre

September 21
Andy Livingston
Tom Westfall

CALENDAR

September 7 - Raymond
Memorial/ZOOM
Christopher Columbus Statue
Council
Host - Jaime Sisto

September 14 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
15th Congressional Race
Candidate Forum
Host - Brad Frick

September 21 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
Tim May - Inside Ohio State
Football
Host - Wayne Harer

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

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OUR NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7TH
Raymond Memorial/Zoom

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



FRANK LaROSE

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

In Ohio we are leading the nation and this is something that we should be proud of. We make it easy to vote and hard to cheat. Ohio has rejected the false premise that you somehow have to choose between election convenience or election security. We have both.

Difficulties are created by disinformation – a pernicious foe. False narratives spread by foreign adversaries and domestic operators need to be addressed in the planning process. A Ready for November Task Force was formed. Monthly Zoom meetings with elections officials and experts from around the country helped plan and prepare for election day 2020. Brainstorming about potential problems and how to address them was the key to success.

Several ways to mitigate problems and address issues were developed. Something as simple as signage at the polling place indicating how long until you reach the front of the line was one way to address the illusion of long polling place lines created by social distancing during the pandemic.

An aggressive campaign to recruit poll workers resulted in a surplus of people willing to help. The campaign featured “Youth at the Booth”, a call to veterans’ organizations to answer their country’s call once more, encouraging businesses to join in a “Day for Democracy” and asking organizations for attorneys, accountants and realtors to offer CLE credits for poll work.

There are 4,000 polling locations throughout the state and they all need to be staffed with a bipartisan team of officials.

Voter registration is another area of focus. Normally voter registration is a very person to person interaction - perhaps going door to door with clipboards, standing out in front of the courthouse or working the county fair. In the middle of a pandemic year that was off the table. One solution was a campaign called “Raise a Glass for Democracy”. Done in cooperation with the Ohio Craft Brewing Association, the campaign featured custom labels on cans and bottles reminding people to vote. This campaign has been replicated by a number of other states. A similar campaign in barber shops and beauty salons was known as “Stylin’ for Democracy”.

Ohio’s record of election cybersecurity is a model recommended to other states by the Department of Homeland Security.

In 2020 Ohio blew away any number we’ve ever seen for participation. Nearly 6 million people cast a ballot last year and the amount of early voting was almost 60%. That means almost 60% of the ballots were cast before the polls opened on election day. Voter registration was at an all-time high with over 8 million registered voters in the state of Ohio.



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THE MEETING



President **Joe Valentino** called the meeting to order and asked **Angela Lanctot** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim Hamilton introduced Visiting Rotarian **Jim Lynch**, Tri Village Rotary. **Yvonne Perotti** introduced her guest.

Joe thanked members who responded on the committee assignment request form. A list of committee assignments will be provided next week.

President Valentino reminded us that we will meet at Schmidt's Reception House (Raymond Memorial) next week – September 7.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Jeanine Hummer pointed out the 50/50 raffle forms on the table. For those who meet with us remotely she offered her personal cellphone number (614) 595-0099. Text her with your name, badge number if you know it and the number of tickets you'd like to buy.

Milt Lustnauer promoted the Fundraiser. There are 132 yes so far, 21 no's and 99 folks who have not responded. He also thanked a number of people who have stepped up recently as sponsors of the fundraiser. **Allen Handlan, Alan Yarletts'** daughter-in law for Keller Classic Properties and **Whitney Logan** were recognized.



Eric Stoll reported on the auction item status. The online auction website will be the same as last year and will open next week. Eric will provide a brief tutorial at next week's meeting – or contact him if you have questions.

Silent auction sheets were on the table. For those who don't have time to shop there is now an option to designate an amount and a club "shopper" will handle the rest. Zoom participants can send their contribution amount to **Milt** and he will get the information to our "shoppers".



Angela Lanctot reported on behalf of **Jack** and **Sandra Cotter** with a Rotary Roundtable update. The next two Roundtables are scheduled for September 14 and October 12. September 14 we will hear an Afghanistan update and on October 12 we will have a wagon tour of Waterman Farms – including a look at the new greenhouse. A number of hands were raised expressing interest in the tour – which will be scheduled early enough to accommodate our regular meeting time. Details to follow.

Chip Knoop noted that the September Community Service Committee is cancelled. There are currently no funding requests. The next meeting will be on October 4. If you have any ideas or suggestions let **Chip** or **Barri Jones** know.

Jaime Sisto proudly announced the arrival of fifth grandchild on August 18th

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**IT TAKES A
CREW
TO HIT OUR GOAL!**



2021 U.A. Rotary Fundraiser | September 17, 2021
NEW Lower.com Field | COLUMBUS, OH

96 Columbus Crew Way | Columbus, OH 43215
Friday, September 17, 2021 | 5:15pm - 10:00pm

It's going to be a great time for "our crew" to hit our fundraising goal this year! Please come with your spouse or significant other, and we hope you'll bring your friends. Group tours are available from 5:15-6:15.

Members and spouses participate free of charge; the guest charge is \$100.00 each. All charges are billed through your Club Charge, except for the cash bar.

Free parking/valet parking is available on the north side of the stadium. Dress is business casual/casual – after all it is a soccer stadium!

We look forward to seeing you there!

[Members RSVP here!](#)

UA Rotary 2021 Silent Auction

This year's silent auction will be held online and in-person. Bids will be accepted beginning Friday, September 10th at noon and bidding will be closed the night of our fundraiser Friday, September 17th at 9:00 PM.

[Donate a silent or live auction item or sponsor the event here](#)

[Visit our silent auction site here](#)