



Bulletin

East Memphis Rotary Club

Matt Haaga, President

March 24, 2021
Photographer: Bill Pickens
2020-2021
Our 32nd Year

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Upcoming Meeting Dates

April 7, 2021

Laird Veatch, AD
University of Memphis

April 22, 2021 (Thursday)

Frank Colvett, Chairman
Memphis City Council

May 5, 2021

Kevin Butler
Sole Trade Energy

May 20, 2021 (Thursday)

June 2, 2021

June 17, 2021 (Thursday)

June 30, 2021

Pass the Gavel

Please be aware that reservations are required for each meeting. We anticipate a larger crowd on the 7th so get your reservation in early.



J. Brooks Coffee
Speaker Gift Sponsor

New Member Conner Ray



John Seabold introduced our newest member, Conner Ray, attorney with Wiseman Bray. Welcome, Conner!

Welcome, Conner!

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Laird Veatch, AD, University of Memphis



Laird Veatch was named Director of Athletics at the University of Memphis on October 1, 2019. Previously Veatch, a 25-year veteran in intercollegiate athletics, was the executive associate athletics director for internal affairs at the University of Florida. He led the administrative oversight of capital improvement projects, event operations, facilities and strength & conditioning. He also served as the sports administrator for football and was the primary liaison with Gator Boosters, the fund-raising arm for Florida Athletics.

“Laird’s a perfect fit the University and our City,” said President David Rudd. “As a former student-athlete, he brings a unique perspective and a wealth of experience at some of the nation’s leading athletic departments, along with a strong vision for the future, a keen understanding of a rapidly changing landscape, unparalleled integrity and energy, and a commitment to competing at the highest level.”

“Through conversations with President Rudd and trusted colleagues from around the nation about this special opportunity, it quickly became apparent that there is a tremendous amount of momentum in Memphis,” said Veatch. “Together with our highly-respected University leadership, incredible coaches, staff and student-athletes, along with passion of the Memphis family, we have an opportunity to build an unprecedented era in Tiger Athletics. I am so excited to come alongside the team in place to serve our student-athletes, University, fans and community!”

Veatch began his professional career in 1995 at the University of Texas assisting with the development program as well as the external affairs area as a graduate assistant while earning his master’s degree in sports administration in 1997. He received his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Kansas State in 1995 where he was a four-year letterman at linebacker for College Football Hall of Fame coach Bill Snyder from 1990-94 and served as team captain as a senior. He was a starter on K-State’s Copper and Aloha Bowl teams in 1993 and 1994 and earned honorable mention All-Big Eight Conference honors in 1994. He was also a two-time CFA Academic All-American, was Academic All-Big Eight four times and was a Hita-chi/CFA Scholar-Athlete in 1994.

Veatch and his wife, Brandy, have three daughters, Jordyn, Taylor and Sydney, and one son, Dru.

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Kathy Buckman Gibson



Kathy Buckman Gibson, President & CEO of KBG Technologies, shared her story on “growing up” at Buckman Labs. After serving 32 years, 13 of which were as chairman of the board, Kathy decided to become an entrepreneur and formed KBG Technologies. With the Buckman relationship and its 75 years of water treatment experience, KBG was able to offer an increased portfolio of services and technologies.

With an undergraduate degree from Duke, Kathy obtained her MBA and law degree from Emory. A lady who obviously is a Type A, with a sense of humor, Kathy is involved in a variety of charitable organizations that include the Shelby County Early Childhood Education Plan, a member of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, and the National Civil Rights Museum. In the past she has worked with United Way, Memphis Talent Dividend: College Attainment Initiative as well as Girls Incorporated, Memphis in May, MidSouth Reading Alliance, the Assisi Foundation among many others.

Kathy did not tell us, but is it any wonder that she was named one of MBJ’s Power 100: Memphis’ most influential business leaders of 2021.



Welcome Guests



Kathy Buckman Gibson introduced one of her associates, Krista. Sorry, Krista, I didn't get your last name, but welcome!



Neal Graham had as his guest, Larry Scjitzberg, who serves on the board of KBG Technologies.



Charles Reaves introduced his guest, Dr. Guy Photopulos, who we are pleased to say took home a membership application.