

And now it's my honor to introduce our speaker for today - Rick Schwartz of Winsupply.

Rick and I **have a lot in common**.

Both of us love **classical music**.

And both of us **love** and **respect small businesses**.

If you were here June 28th for our **changing of the Rotary guard meeting**, you heard me talk about my journey to America when I was **six years old**.

You heard me talk about my family **running a small business** - a **laundromat** - to put **food** on our table and a **roof** over our heads after we emigrated to the United States from **South Korea** and became **proud American citizens**.

I know what it means to **work in a small business** and **live the American Dream** - and so does **Rick Schwartz**.

Because Winsupply is not some “big giant company” based in Dayton.

It’s a COLLECTION of small businesses in construction wholesaling.

Rick’s going to tell you about that – and more – today.

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Five years ago, Rick spoke to this club about free enterprise capitalism, and why we need to stand up for it.

Because today, some people think that free enterprise is greedy and evil.

Rick knows from experience that free enterprise – practiced the right way – is just the OPPOSITE.

Free enterprise done well provides opportunity for EVERYONE – and gives them the FREEDOM to earn their own success.

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Free enterprise businesses like Winsupply generate much of the philanthropy that supports our city’s hardworking nonprofits.

Besides his role at Winsupply, Rick is president of The Schiewetz Foundation, one of the area’s largest charitable foundations not affiliated with a nonprofit organization.

Dick Schiewetz, a Winsupply co-founder, started this foundation in **2002**.

Since then, The Schiewetz Foundation has been **a major donor** to nonprofits like:

- Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley
- The Dayton Performing Arts Alliance
- Victoria Theater Association, now Dayton Live
- The Miami Valley Council of Boy Scouts of America
- Dayton Early College Academy
- The Dayton Art Institute and
- The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery

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Rick and his wife, Jane, personally support many local nonprofits.

They are **native Daytonians**, high school **sweethearts** and graduates of **Oakwood High School**, class of '67.

After high school, Rick left Dayton to study **industrial engineering** at the **University of Akron**.

He became a **commissioned officer in the Air Force** and spent 25 years in the **Air Force Reserves**, retiring as a **lieutenant colonel**.

In 1972, **Rick returned to Dayton** after Winsupply hired him to **automate business systems** so every Winsupply location could become more **efficient**.

Back then, Winsupply's offices were in the **basement** of Dick Schiewetz's father's home in **Oakwood** – right behind the home on **Dixon Avenue** where Rick grew up.

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Early in his career at Winsupply, Rick established **the support services team** and advocated for **internal IT services**.

He helped pioneer Winsupply's **two business software systems** and oversaw the launch of its **regional distribution centers**.

In **1998**, he became **president** and **CEO**.

And under his leadership, **sales at Winsupply tripled** to nearly **3 billion dollars a year**.

Today, Rick is Winsupply's **chairman of the board**.

And **last year**, sales at Winsupply **topped 4 billion dollars**.

Won't you please help me welcome **Rick Schwartz**.