



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

February 16, 2011

Call to Order

President Linda Vogel called the meeting to order. After Kevin Lawler offered the prayer, Linda led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Squire led the song, "Wait 'Till the Sun Shines, Nellie." We sang "Happy Birthday" to Mike Makley. Visiting Rotarians were Lorraine Fischio of the Wapak club and Hodge Drake of the Celina club. Other guests were Michelle Stein of the Evening Leader, Tricia Bell and Tom Nartker of WLIO, and Jan Heinrich, guest of Jim Heinrich.

Happy Dollars

Susan Pittman, Kevin Lawler, Dan Burke, Heidi Meade, Jim Harris, Kraig Noble, Randy Elsass, Susan Heitkamp. I should mention that Dan Burke's remarks included an

announcement that both the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate had sent letters of commendation upon hearing of the death of Frank C. Murray. Dan proceeded to read the letter from Rep. John Adams and the letter from Ohio Senate President Tom Niehaus and Sen. Keith Faber.

Fines

Rick Gerdeman asked me true/false questions of Mike Makley, Don Hinckley, and Rick Green but did not raise a ton of \$\$\$. He continued with Joe Burke, Gary Newton; anyone who did not buy the significant other any candy or flowers (50 ¢); and finally Dan Burke, Alex Pittman, Heidi Meade, and Susan Heitkamp.

Announcements

President Linda announced that there will be a board meeting on March 2. Also, she presented a \$250.00 check to Heidi Meade on behalf of Arts Place, from our club as a contribution for 2011.

Program

Mike Peterson and Bandit, the German Shepherd of the Auglaize County Sheriff's K-9 unit, were on hand to demonstrate what this law enforcement unit does. Mike has served the police department for 15 years and helped obtain Bandit in Czechoslovakia. Bandit's main duties are both as a dope dog and tracking dog. He



is able to track a potential criminal by sniffing the area where the suspect had been. While he may occasionally bite a "bad guy," he can also track small children and Alzheimer's patients, but he is very gentle with them. He lives with Mike and his wife and children when he is not on duty. He can track objects like knives, guns, cell phones, etc., and lies down at the spot where the object lies until Mike retrieves it. He can search rooms or the outside of vehicles for coke, crack, heroin, meth and marijuana. When the narcotic substance is located, Bandit passively stays at the area until Mike confiscates the drugs or other evidence. Bandit then gets to play with his dope reward toy, but only after finding narcotics. Twice a month (16 hours) Mike and other officers do "maintenance" training with Bandit to keep his skills sharp. Mike also has a shoulder-harness restraints to keep from choking the dog, and even a dog bullet-proof vest for possible dangerous situations. Speaking of dangerous situations – Kevin Lawler volunteered to be the "bad guy" and let Bandit test out one of two heavy-duty sleeves. In traffic or when an officer is attacked, Bandit will bite on the sleeve (or crook) and maintain his grip until commanded to release the prisoner, which comes from Mike. Kevin, who will soon be an ordained minister, trusted that all would go well with the demonstration as it did. As Bandit was brought here from Czechoslovakia, a set number of commands are shouted by Mike in Czech. Mike hopes that Bandit can serve another two years and then Mike has the option of purchasing his

four-legged friend for a dollar and Bandit retires.

Queen of Hearts

Dan Burke won the drawing, but not Her Majesty.

Potential Members

The following are under consideration as members: Patrick McGowan and Lorraine Fischio. Anyone with comments is asked to contact Don Hinckley.

Upcoming Programs

2/23 Doug Reinhart – new Internet site

Upcoming Greeters

2/23 Scott Ross
3/2 Ed Bray
3/9 John Coe

**Please note: All Rotarians scheduled to greet, please be in place by 11:30 a.m.*

The meeting was adjourned following the recitation of the Four Way Test of the Things We Think, Say or Do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



Cog Editor: Alex Pittman