



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P.O. Box 544
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www.stmarysrotary.org

October 29, 2010

Call to Order

President-Elect Linda Vogel called the meeting to order. Sue Pittman offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ellen Hunter led the club in singing "Take me Out to the Ballgame" in honor of the Reds. Guests for the day included Deb Schroleucke, guest of Susan Heitkamp.

Happy Dollars

Marty Dodrill, Tami Sanford, Rick Gerdeman, Doris Lawler, Sandy Matthews, Frank Klatt, Rick Green, Sue Pittman, Susan Heitkamp, Charles Richtmyer and Don Hinckley were all happy today.

Fines

Randy Elsass did the fining. He fined Charles Richtmyer, Ellen Hunter, Frank C. Murray, Kraig Noble, Alex Pittman, Frank Klatt, Linda Vogel, Brandi Horde, Beth Noneman, and everyone not wearing their pin and everyone who did not get a piece of the World's Biggest Pumpkin Pie.

Announcements

The regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held in the Eagles basement next Wednesday at 10:45.

Program

PE Linda invited Mayor Greg Freewalt to the podium to tell the club about a proposed miniature golf course that is being debated in city counsel. Greg said that the city has the funds in the capital improvement account to pay for the construction of the proposed \$228,000.00 miniature golf course on land that the city already owns in KC Geiger Park. Greg showed a power point presentation that showed similar courses as developed by the contractor hired by the city. It would cost about \$17,000.00 a year to operate and the price for playing would be kept low so as to just pay that amount. Pre-school groups and others have already expressed interest in using the course once opened.

It is very difficult for a private investor to get the return needed to justify the cost of land acquisition and development, which is why this is a great project for the city, who does not need to buy the land or recoup the construction costs. The plan is for the course to be open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and that staffing would be part time summer help, most likely returning college students.

PE Linda then introduced Jim Flora, Pro Pet, LLC's VP of Administration to talk about one of St. Marys' most visible corporate citizens. Jim has been in the pet market for many years. Pets are a \$45 billion market, with 45% of all households having a dog and 40% having one or more cats. Pro Pet makes pet food for economy brands, premium brands, and super premium brands. Americans spend \$18 billion a year on dog and cat food.



The St. Marys plant employs 50 full time employees, has about 600 skew numbers and about 160 recipes. It buys most of its substantial grain requirements locally. The current economy has not hurt Pro Pet as it makes economy brands that pet owners turn to when the economy isn't the best. Pet food was traditional sold in grocery stores, but specialty stores, vets and big box stores have taken over a lot of market share. Pro Pet has products that serve all the distribution channels.

Pro Pet ships product mostly from the Rockies east, and from Florida up into Canada. There are no retail sales available at the plant as they are regulated by the FDA and have to comply with certain food handling requirements. Pro Pet produces the Big Red Brand, Country Squire for

Menards, and Quality Care Plus Brand for sale over the internet, among many others.

Queen of Hearts:

Jim Harris's ticket was selected in the drawing. He won the daily pot but the Queen stayed hidden to live for another day.



Upcoming Programs

- 10-6 Club Assembly – Strategic Planning
- 10-13 Galen Cisco Award
- 10-20 US Representative Debate
- 10-27 "What's New with the School" presentation from high school students

Upcoming Greeters

- 10-6 Mary Riepenhoff
- 10-13 Kathy Sampson
- 10-20 Sandy Matthews
- 10-27 Marty Dodrill

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

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 FREINDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?