



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
June 15, 2011

Call to Order

Kimberli Rompilla called the meeting to order and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Susan Pittman led the prayer. Kraig Noble led the club in singing, "You're a Grand Old Flag". Guests included Pam Prater, guest of Tami Sanford; Jan Heinrich, guest of Jim; Hodge Drake, guest of Fred Wiswell; and Sue and Bill Cheslock. Birthdays were Kelly Kill and Rick Gerdeman.

Happy Dollars

Kimberli Rompilla, Don Hinckley, John Wale, Tami Sanford, Rick Gerdeman, Jim Harris, Rick Green, Susan Pittman, Heidi Meade, Deb Zwez, Kevin Lawler.

Fines

Randy Elsass fined Kevin Lawler, Heidi Meade (exempt), Keith Fledderjohann,

Robbie Burke. He followed with two group fines: anyone who did not make it to the Annual Banquet, and anyone without a Rotary pin on.

Announcements

- Kimberli thanked the Annual Banquet committee for a wonderful evening.
- Business After Hours will be this Thursday, June 16 at J & B Pastries from 5:30p.m. – 7:00p.m.
- The Rotary Summer Concert Series is starting soon and Jeff Squire distributed flyers with all the details.
- Kathy Sampson announced for the family of Rotary that Rotary will have a picnic on July 30 at K.C. Geiger Park; a trip to a Red's game will be either July 24 or September 17 – let the committee know the most convenient date. Also,
- A trip is being planned which will feature dinner in an Amish home.
- The induction of new District Governor Helyn C. Bolanis will take place at the Toledo Zoo at 5p.m. on June 30.
- A check for MHS "Academic M's" was presented to Sue and Bill Cheslock.
- New 2011 – 2012 committee assignment sheets are on the tables.

Program

President-elect Linda Vogel introduced Coldwater native Frank Bonifas, who spoke to us about his terrible difficulties with Tourette Syndrome. Frank hoped to be able to educate people in our area that Tourette Syndrome is a neurological disorder, not a mental or psychological one. He made available copies of his autobiographical book, Fu-Fu-Fu-Frank: One Man's Struggle with Tourette Syndrome.

Frank is a man of normal intelligence, but began experiencing the signs of

Tourette Syndrome at around age seven. He experienced tics which he could not control and echolalia, or automatically repeating what is said to him. His teachers thought he was a nervous child.



After his parents originally sought the help of a neurologist, they were told that nothing was wrong with Frank, and they had simply "spoiled" him. They bought him a dachshund to help him learn responsibility but the animal was run over by a car. In fourth grade, he was given organ lessons, and proved to be so talented that his sixth grade teacher asked that he play at Mass, which he did. However, his classmates were cruel and not understanding at all of his illness.

When Frank reached age 13, the obsession-compulsive disorder started and he felt the need to brush his teeth or wash his hair over and over. On Good Friday of that year, he went to the OSU psychiatric ward for help. In October of 1968, he spent six to eight weeks there, but at that time Tourette Syndrome was not well understood, even by professionals. After he was expelled from school, his family doctor suggested a referral to Dr. Shapiro in New York Hospital, who understood Tourette Syndrome and its neurological basis.

Frank has made improvements since the treatment by Dr. Shapiro. Although his mother passed away in 2004, he continues today to care for his aged father and work part-time in a bank. He also has a sister, who is ten years younger than he.

Kimberli indicated that Rotary will purchase two copies of his autobiography and donate one to Community Library in St. Marys and the other to St. Marys City Schools.

The website for the Tourette Syndrome Association of Ohio is www.tsaohio.org.

Queen of Hearts

Today's drawing was worth \$43.00 and lucky Kathy Sampson won, but not the big pot of money – the Queen still lives!

Upcoming Programs

- 6/22 Setex
- 6/29 Bob Cupp
- 7/6 Club Assembly

Upcoming Greeters

- 6/22 Ellen Hunter
- 6/29 Ed Bray

**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