



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

August 3, 2011

Call to Order

President Linda Vogel called the meeting to order. Kevin Lawler offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests today included our speaker and Hodge Drake of the Celina club. Kevin Lawler led the club in singing, "In the Good Old Summertime" and we all sang Happy Birthday to Gary Newton.

Happy Dollars

Sue P, Kevin, Kimberli, Keith, Linda V, Linda H, Allen B, Karl D, Mike M, Randy, and Alex were all Happy Rotarians today.

Fines

Randy Elsass handed out the fines today. His victims included Alex P, Don Hinckley for inappropriate attire, Jeff S. Kimberli, Bob L., Rick G. Allen B, and the entire attendance

committee for low attendance today. Group fines were for anyone who did not have their Rotary pin on and for anyone who has never kissed the Blarney Stone.

Announcements

- The baby clothing and blanket drive went well and the items donated will be added to items donated by other clubs around the district to have an impact on people in need.

- Family of Rotary annual picnic went well, but with a low attendance.

- The Nature Trail along K.C. Geiger Park was dedicated at the same time and Ryan Wendel received special recognition for the trail as part of his Eagle Scout project.

- The Amish dinner will be October 8 in Rushsylvania, Ohio.

- Hog Raffle tickets for the hog purchased by Rotary at the county fair are available. Please buy tickets or sell them to all your friends as this is a money-maker for the club. The winners each get ½ hog.

- An updated list of the Summerfest "beer tent" schedule is circulating. The committee needs a lot of help for the Saturday evening shift at the Beer Tent. If you have not signed up, please do so.

- If anyone has photos of past Rotary events, please forward copies to Kimberli .

Rotary Update

President Linda gave a review of Rotary projects over the years starting with a heifer project as the first big project of the St. Marys club. In 1950 Rotary sponsored the first Halloween Parade and it has continued. The summer concerts and the dictionary projects were also listed as continuing projects for the St. Marys Rotary Club.

Program

P.E - Robbie Burke introduced today's speaker, Neal Brady who is the Director of MECCA.



(Neal Brady - MECCA Director)

Neal has been the director of the Miami Erie Canal Corridor Association for many years and he believes the canal is a real asset to the area. Hiking trails are being developed all along the canal up through Paulding County. The long term goal is to connect these trails to make a continuous long distance trail. Present plans are to make St. Marys a staging area for canal trails going north. These trails bring people to the area and increase interest in the local history related to the canal.

Neal gave an update of what has been happening along the canal in the past several years. The recent projects have been cleaning up the banks of the canal and installing crushed stone walkways to make it easier to walk along the canal.

Neal listed various projects going on in towns along the canal including Junction, Ohio that was a thriving canal town when the canal was operational. Junction is a small village north of Paulding that was very important in canal days as the junction of the Miami & Erie Canal and the Wabash and Erie Canal. Today the

town has a renewed interest in the significance of their small town.

Ongoing project are happening in Delphos and Minster (major clean up along the canal), Spencerville, (a new Gazebo and information center along with new trails), New Bremen (the restoration of Lock 1 North and the Lockkeepers House all built with Federal Grants and new trails).

In Lockington, Ohio they are looking to receive a 2.5 million dollar grant from the transportation department to repair Lock 1 South that handled an 11 foot drop for canal traffic.

Queen of Heats

Ed Raudabaugh's number was drawn from the jar for a chance at the Queen. However the Queen lives on for another day.

Upcoming programs

08/10 U of Dayton – Summer Appalachian Team
08/17 World Community Workshop students
08/24 Dave Sprague, City of St. Marys Drinking Water Quality report
08/31 Greg Phillips, new St. Marys football coach

Upcoming Greeters

08/10 Zac Spieles
08/17 Mick Temen
08/24 Allen Baskett
08/31 Sandy Matthews

**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.