



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

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www.stmarysrotary.org

November 9, 2011

Call to Order

President Linda Vogel called the meeting to order and asked Kathy Sampson to lead us in prayer. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, we welcomed guests Amy Beckett and Jan Heinrich as well as five Memorial High School students: Austin Boise, John Nowicki, Steve Elshoff, Danielle Henning and Ashleigh Falk. In honor of Veteran's Day, Kraig Noble led the singing of "You're A Grand Old Flag." Happy Birthday was sung to Trisha Barnes, Karl Dammeyer and Frank Klatt.

Happy Dollars

President Linda was happy that her husband has 9 lives and is recuperating from his heart attack; Robbie brought brother Joe's \$15 for his son completing Ranger school and \$5 for speaker Ralph Denning; Robbie matched that amount with a challenge to brother Dan; Kraig was happy to live in a country that has free elections; Karl was happy his son

was uninjured in a water skiing fall that has entertained thousands on YouTube, the Big 10 Network, ESPN and Tosh.0; Scott Ross was happy and surprised to see his former golf coach at the meeting although if he read the Cog he would have been in the loop; Sue Pitman gave two happy announcements including a fundraising wine and cheese program Tuesday at the Lake Campus; Dan Burke rose to the challenge with his donation; Jim Heinrich was happy to have been at the United Nations for Rotary Day and to have attended the Rotary World Peace Dinner; and Kevin Lawler was happy to see the speaker, was impressed by Robbie's "emotional jujitsu" used on Dan and shared he will speak about happiness at the Thanksgiving program on the 23rd.

Fines

Rick Gerdeman was the fine master and exempted the Burkes but nailed Scott Ross for not knowing the name of the newsletter, and then got the Cog committee for not changing Sandy's name from Matthews to Gerdeman. He also shared a number of trivia questions that raised a lot of cash from Kathy Sampson, Jerry Skiver, Kevin Harlan, Kelly Kill, Trisha Barnes, Sue Pittman, Denny Vogel and anyone who voted for President Obama as Rick was apparently enraged by a 15-cent tree tax.

Announcements

Keith reminded Rotarians that squares were still available for the OSU-Michigan game fundraiser.

Rotary Update

President Linda updated the club on the Rotary's Shelter Box project. A volunteer responding to a disaster site noted that providing shelter to victims is just as important as providing food and water so he developed a 49-gallon tote that has important supplies for victims

including a 10-person tent with cots and cooking tools. Our club is partnering with other area clubs to purchase a shelter box as this project continues on the international level.

Program

PE Robbie introduced World War II veteran Ralph Dennings, a St. Marys resident who retired from Goodyear and is well known as a great golfer.



Ralph's program was "Diary of a Mission" where he shared his experience as a gunner in the turrett of a B24.

Ralph provided pictures of the B24 and pointed out the turrett that was his home away from home on all the missions he flew. He said on his first mission the young crew included a 19-year-old pilot whose claim to fame was earning his Eagle Scout designation, and a 22-year-old co-pilot whose experience as a cab driver in Philly qualified him as combat ready.

Ralph explained the timeline of a typical mission, including getting up at 1:30 a.m., having a hearty breakfast and then being driven out to the flight line for a mission briefing. After dressing in their gear, which was designed to keep them warm in the cold skies over Germany, a signal was given for the engines to start. Ralph said that it was

"something to hear when 48 Pratt Whitney engines started in unison."

The planes flew in four 3-ship elements, and once the 12 planes were in formation, they headed over the English Channel to Germany.

Ralph said he never got over the feeling he was "surrendering every amount of control I have over my life" to fly in that turrett of the B24. He said he was alone in that spot, and as he couldn't see anything, wondered how he was staying afloat.

That first mission was the bomb an airbase, a successful mission, which once the bombs were dropped, they headed back to England. That was the first of many missions Ralph flew as part of a B24 crew.

Queen of Hearts

Bill Maki won the daily drawing, but the Queen eluded him.

Upcoming Programs

11-16 Kristen Hough Sunshine Project
11-23 Thanksgiving with Kevin Lawler
11-30 Michelle Evans Council on Aging

Upcoming Greeters

11-16 Susan Heitkamp
11-23 Ken Strickland
11-30 Chris Wibbenmeyer

**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?