



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
December 28, 2011

Call to Order

President Linda Vogel called the meeting to order. Allen Baskett offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Squire led us in singing "Auld Lang Syne" We had no visiting Rotarians or guests today.

Happy Dollars

Linda Vogel, Dan Burke, Jeff Squire, Deb Zwez, Jon Hall, and Randy Elsass all had Happy Dollars today.

Fines

Randy Elsass was our "Fine Master" today...his victims included Deb Zwez, Don Hinkley, Bob Leugers, Alex Pittman, Mick Temen, and Dick Hudson. Group fines were assessed for any member not wearing their Rotary Pin, any Rotarian that hasn't goon Pheasant Hunting this season, and any Rotarian that hasn't gone Snow Skiing yet this season.



Announcements

- The club received a "Thank You" note from Arts Place, Inc for the clubs gift last week.

Program

Robbie Burke introduced David Axe of the Auglaize County Special Olympics. David has been involved in Special Olympics for over 28 years and he shared a wonderful PowerPoint presentation about Special Olympics here in Auglaize County including the history of the program, its mission, and much more.



The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and competition opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics contributes to the physical, social, and psychological development of the athletes. Through successful experiences in sports, they gain confidence and build a positive self-image which carries over into the classroom, home, job and community.

The concept of Special Olympics began in the early 1960's when Eunice Kennedy Shriver started a day camp for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The first national meet was held at Soldier Field in Chicago in 1968 for

1,000 athletes from the United States and Canada. Shortly thereafter, Ohio began a Special Olympics program under the name of the Ohio Athletic Association. Special Olympics Ohio became incorporated in 1975. Today, there are Special Olympics programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and 150 different countries around the world.

Special Olympics in Ohio has approximately 200 local member organizations and over 23,000 athletes who are in training and competition. These organizations originate from County Boards of MR/DD, public schools, developmental centers, parks and recreation departments, churches and parent and community groups.

Athletes must be at least eight years of age and identified by an agency, school, or professional as having one of the following conditions:

- Intellectual disability
- Cognitive delays as measured by formal assessment
- Significant learning or vocational problems due to cognitive delay that require or have required special instruction.

Special Olympics is a non-profit corporation funded through private and corporate donations and fundraising projects. Special Olympics is not a United Way agency and does not receive any federal funds. A significant source of support for the Ohio Special Olympics comes from the Masonic Lodges across the state.

Auglaize County Special Olympics is run entirely by volunteers. Over 25 individuals locally donate their time to provide the sports training and competition opportunities here in Auglaize County.

Special Olympics provides year-round competition opportunities for the

athletes at the local, area and state levels. There are approximately 75 local and area events and Special Olympics Ohio hosts seven state-wide competitions each year. In addition, every 2 years Special Olympics Ohio sends a team of athletes to compete in the World Games which alternate between winter and summer sports.

Queen of Hearts

Allen Baskett won the drawing and \$7.00, but the Queen eluded him!

Upcoming Programs

- 1/4 Doug Spencer, SM Athletic Dir.
- 1/11 Russ Bailey, County Dog Warden
- 1/18 Kathy Bayless – Agape Ministries
- 1/25 Hodge Drake & Fred Wiswell
Otterbein St Marys

Upcoming Greeters

- 1/4 Jim Heinrich
- 1/11 Jerry Skiver
- 1/18 Derek Vogel
- 1/25 Pat Cogan

**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: Allen Baskett