



## The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)

January 11, 2012

### Call to Order

President Linda Vogel called the meeting to order. Kathy Sampson offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Kraig Noble led us in singing "Old McDonald." We sang "Happy Birthday" to Tim Dicke, Alex Pittman, Doris Lawler and Ken Strickland. Our guests today included Jennifer Conley, guest of Dan Burke, and our high school seniors.

### Happy Dollars

Linda was happy for our senior class visitors, Doris was a dollar happy for each of her years on her birthday, Dan for his guest, Ken for the doggie program, Marty Dodrill for West Virginia's bowl game, Loraine Fischio for Jenny Conley visiting today, and Kraig for Michigan's bowl win.

### Fines

Ellen Adams was our finer today. She fined Jeff Vossler for not being happy for his 50/50 win, the Burke brothers for dressing alike, the Cog Committee for no Cog today, everyone from JTDMH for all the news coverage, and everyone who has not yet bought a dog tag for your dog. And just to brag she fined everyone who has not potty trained a child in the past two months.

### Announcements

Quarterly statements were passed out. Please pay your bill...

PE Robbie Burke announced that the committee sign up sheets are out on the tables. She is beginning to assign committees for next year and if you want input, fill out the forms and get it back to her.

Jeff Squire announced the ballot for the club's officers and board members. The election was held.

### Program

PE Robbie introduced Jim Heistan, the assistant county dog warden for Auglaize County, as our program today. It was about three and a half years ago that the county government took back the dog warden duties from the Auglaize County Humane Society. There was an unmet need throughout the entire county for greater enforcement of the regulations and to protect the citizens from loose dogs. Since the dog wardens cover the entire county, they put a lot of miles on their vehicles. They can cover calls from Egypt to New Hampshire. They are in charge of loose dogs, stray dogs, dog bites and license enforcement. All their funding comes from the sale of dog tags.

In 2007 the county only sold 2100 tags. They have sold about 6000 this year and believe there are thousands more unlicensed dogs in the county. The county will return your licensed lost dog to you for free, but they charge \$75 if the dog is unlicensed.



In order to deal with strays and feral dogs, they are equipped with poles, tasers, pistols and a shot gun. Jim said that there are a surprising amount of pit bulls in the county and that that breed of dog bites with more than twice the force of a German Sheppard. They are trained to use a knife against pit bulls as shooting them will not release the bite. In order to qualify to carry a taser Jim had to be tased himself, which did not sound pleasant.

Jim talked about the current kennel facilities. They are currently in a space owned by the county near the New Knoxville airport, but it does not have running water or heat. They have looked at building a new facility, but the building as planned would cost over \$500,000.00. They are planning on locating the new building near the county jail as the county already owns that land and it could be connected with the jail to allow trustees to care for the dogs. Jail trustees currently help the dog wardens go on runs and to take care of the dogs in the kennel. They have space for 22 dogs at the kennel.

Any dog that stays at the kennel for more than three days becomes the property of the county, and if your dog gets adopted you are out of luck. They try to find new homes for the dogs, and they do put the dogs on the internet for wider publicity. Last year they returned 137 dogs to the owners and only had to euthanize 18. They are hoping to get a new computer system for the vehicles to allow the wardens access to the dog registration database so they can more quickly identify the owners of the dogs they pick up. The dogs do not have to wear the dog tag, but you do need to prove that you have the tag for your dog.

You can check out the Dog Warden and the dogs for adoption at <http://www2.auglaizecounty.org/resources/dog-warden>

### Queen of Hearts

Alex Pittman won the daily drawing for his birthday, but the Queen eluded him.

### Upcoming Programs

- 1-18 Agape Ministries
- 1-25 Otterbein St. Marys
- 2-1 Red Cross
- 2-8 Mayor Pat McGowan

### Upcoming Greeters

- 1-18 Derek Vogel
- 1-25 Pat Cogan
- 2-1 Kraig Noble
- 2-8 Ellen Hunter

*\*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?