



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
January 18, 2012

Call to Order

President Linda Vogel called the meeting to order. Susan Pittman prayed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Kraig Noble led the club in singing "You're a Grand Old Flag". The only guest/visitor was Ron Meyer with Minster Bank, guest of Kathy Sampson. Sandy Gerdeman had a birthday.

Happy Dollars

Linda Vogel, Linda Haines, Ed Pierce, Bill Maki, Alex Pittman, Jim Heinrich (Jim announced the passing away of the wife of former DG Jack Goodnight).

Fines

Rev. Maki fined anyone with no canned goods to donate: anyone without a Rotary pin and badge; anyone who hasn't started a snowblower in the last week; anyone who has not purchased a new car recently; and, anyone not in Agape's Thrift Store this week.

Announcements

- Robbie Burke congratulated newly-elected board members Mark Ashman, Marty Dodrill, and Mick Temen.
- Jeff Squire announced that the COG committee needs additional members and asked anyone interested to volunteer.
- Linda Vogel noted that Wednesday, February 8, is Rotary's trip to Wright State Lake Campus to see a Laker's game. Pizza is served before the game. Please sign up.
- Linda also reminded everyone to sign up for the 2012 District Conference, being held Thursday, April 19 – Sunday, April 22, 2012.

Program

Robbie Burke introduced our speakers from Agape Ministries, long-time volunteer and board member, Anna Mae Saum and executive director Kathy Bayless. Anna Mae Saum is beginning her fifth year as a volunteer at Agape. She works in the food pantry. Here, clients complete an intake form to determine their needs. They may receive food every 30 days, but this food is intended to supplement what they receive from food stamps, and will last approximately 7-10 days. This service to western Auglaize County is available all day on Tuesdays and in the afternoon on Thursdays. The pantry itself is set up like a grocery store, and after a client interview, volunteer associates take clients through the store. Every effort is made to maintain a variety of items, such as several types of soup, to aid in easier meal planning. Non-perishable items like diapers and toilet paper are

typically provided by local churches. Scout troops are also frequent donors.

Currently, the typical clients are young people with families and the father (late 40's early 50's) who may have been recently laid off. The need is definitely increasing.



Kathy Bayless offered a few statistics. The facility has been there for 40 years, and in 2011, 40,000 individuals were served from Auglaize County (St. Marys, New Bremen, New Knoxville, and Minister). Her food budget is only \$120,000 due mostly to the help of donations but the price of some items, like meat, are skyrocketing. A "backpack" program available to children receiving reduced or free lunches in school provided three meals for one week as well as school supplies. Many youngsters were served: 600 in St. Marys, 175 in New Knoxville and 100 in New Bremen. The cost was well over \$30,000 for the three-month period. Also local companies were impacted by the disaster in Japan, followed by the Thailand disaster.

Much help is needed at Agape, including 187 volunteers. Agape is really a business which needs funds to cover overhead. Additional monies come from grants, all of which are written by Kathy, for a few dollars or thousands.

The community can also help by informing those in need of Agape's locations and services, including the Thrift store. Over the past summer, Agape tried to help 21 families that were homeless, and living in camp grounds or parking lots. Two families are still homeless, including children. While grocery stores and other donors are very generous, costs keep rising. In addition to food, clothing is also provided free-of-charge to those in need.

Queen of Hearts

Beth Noneman announced that the winner of today's drawing would be \$9.00 richer. Lucky Jim Heinrich got richer, but did not draw the Queen!

Upcoming Programs

- 1/25 Otterbein St. Marys
- 2/1 Red Cross
- 2/8 Mayor Pat McGowan

Upcoming Greeters

- 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?

Cog Editor: Alex Pittma

