



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

February 8, 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 "Sing a Song to Rotary" and then "Viva La Rotary" because the first song was so weak. There were no birthdays. Our guests today included Kurt Neeper, guest of Marty Dodrill, Ron Meyer, guest of Kathy, our high school seniors Kyle Taylor, Sarah Wilker, Alex Spencer, Anthony Tenney and Tre Sherman, and out media guests Mike Burkholder, Trisha Bell and Stacy Cook.

Happy Dollars

President Linda was happy for the nice crowd today, Jeff Vossler for the LIA fundraiser scheduled for Feb. 18th (see him for tickets), Marty Dodrill for a fun Bluejackets game, Sue Pittman for Jazz at WSULC Feb. 14th, Ed Pierce because Mike Burkholder's Giants won

the Super Bowl, Kathy for her niece being honored tonight, Jerry Skiver since there have been no calamity days yet this year, and Kevin Lawler because he didn't get into a wreck.

Fines

Randy Elsass was the finer today. He fined Ed Pierce for sucking up to the press, Ellen Adams for not appearing to greet everyone, and Trisha Barnes, Mick Temen, John Wale and Gary Newton for getting his or her respective question wrong. He fined Joe Burke for not being happy about winning the drawing last week. He group fined everybody not wearing a heart, a rotary pin, or who did not bring a guest.

Announcements

Dues are due, and Keith thanks those members who are paid already.

Beer Barrel is doing a fund raiser for Agape Feb. 11th. Meet at Beer Barrel parking lot at 5:00 pm if you want to preview the new restaurant.

The club will have its annual outing to the Wright State University Lake Campus basketball game this February 8th at the North Branch of the Y. Meet at 6:30 for pizza and tip off is at 7:00.

Program

PE Robbie introduced Pat McGowan, St. Marys' newly elected mayor. Pat is a St. Marys native. Pat was elected to city counsel in 2010 and decided to run for mayor. He said that he always wanted to be mayor, and after being in business away from St. Marys for 40 years he finally has his opportunity. Pat won his counsel seat by only two votes and had a tough run against Greg Freewalt to be mayor.

Pat wanted to talk about his first thirty days as mayor. He got his first

complaint within hours of being sworn in, but that goes with the territory. He did a SWOT analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the city when he took office. Our strengths include our personnel and employees, and the city's finances are in general very solid. The weaknesses include that the city has cut back on staff and Pat wants to make sure that that does not negatively impact services. The other weakness is in the water fund, as the city will need to replace the water plant in the next fifteen years, and the funds can't be transferred from the other departments of waste water, refuse, and electric.

Pat's biggest opportunity is that he gets to hire a new safety service director and commercial development manager. Pat wants to get the safety service director hired so that that person can have input into the development manager's position. Pat sees the lack of shovel ready sites and a too passive effort to attract new businesses as our biggest threats. He wants his new hires to be able to address those issues.



Pat discussed a few of his goals with the club. He wants to let the world know that we are open for business. It can be a two to five year cycle to attract new industry into a city, and Pat wants to make sure that we start that process now. He wants a greater presence at trade

shows and to work with Jobs Ohio to get our area more heavily marketed. He also wants to solidify the existing industrial base and use the current corporate citizens as a networking tool to attract more businesses.

He also wants to see the city more involved with the clean up at Grand Lake St. Marys. He has been meeting with LIA and ODNR to work on lake/canal issues. He also wants to work to preserve our downtown area. He said that he needs to engage with the current land owners to see what plans there are for the downtown and see if there is anything the city can do to facilitate those plans.

Proposed new member

Terry Potter has been proposed as new members. If you have any questions contact a board member.

Queen of Hearts

Ed Pierce had his ticket drawn, but he scooted, so the Queen lives.

Upcoming Programs

2-15 Capabilities
2-22 St. Marys Fire Dept.
2-29 Arts Place

Upcoming Greeters

2-15 Dick Hudson
2-22 Rick Gerdeman
2-29 Gary Newton

**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?