



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
February 22, 2012

Call to Order

Vice President Dan Burke called the meeting to order. Bill Maki offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Squire led us in singing "Wait 'til the Sun Shines Nellie." We sang "Happy Birthday" to Dan Burke. We had no guests except out speaker.

Happy Dollars

Dan Burke was happy to be running a meeting again after so many years, Sandy Gerdeman for getting to spend the day at the Schottenstien Center with her son, Jeff Squire for a quick trip to Jamaica, Ed Peirce for his chance at the Queen drawing (and having Kraig Noble actually give him his winnings), Dick Hudson for his chance at the Queen, Kraig for Michigan's win over NU, Scott Ross for the St. Marys' bowlers moving

on in the playoffs, and Randy Elsass for good cheap skiing at Mad River.

Fines

Ellen Hunter Adams was our finer today. She fined Alex Pittman, Carl Dammeyer and Jim Heinrich each a dollar for not having their name badges on. She fined Randy for a weekday massage, Jeff for taking a vacation, Dan for asking her to fine at the last minute, Jeff Vossler for calling her "Elaine" last week, the three tables of all men because they were tables of all men, Kevin Harlan for the Grand Lake Health System's weight loss challenge, and everyone not trying to loose weight in the challenge.

Announcements

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

Program

VP Dan introduced Captain Doug Ayers from the St. Marys Fire Department. Doug is a graduate of Memorial High School and was hired as a fire fighter here in 1999. He has since received his paramedic certification and was promoted to captain in 2009. He lives in St. Marys with his wife and two children.

Doug started his presentation with a brief history of fire fighting in St. Marys. In the 1880's there were two volunteer companies in St. Marys. For equipment they had pull carts and they had to hand pump the water. In 1891, one of the companies burnt down. In the 1890's St. Marys had a full time fire department. The department had two paramedics in 1977, and now every member is a paramedic.

All of the fire fighters have to attend the fire academy, and they have two years after being hired to complete the paramedic training. The department has three ambulances that are all set up the same, three engines, a ladder truck, a tanker truck, and several other vehicles for smaller calls. They have a water rescue truck that includes the scuba gear and can tow the zodiac.



Last year was an active year for the department. There were 905 EMS calls, with 724 of those within the city limits. There were 247 fire calls with 39 true fires. They calculate that there was \$101,950 in fire loses last year, and that the efforts of the department saved over \$1,000,000.00 in potential additional damages.

The department also did more training last year. There were no loss time accidents for the department. Each fire fighter had over 200 hours of training last year, both off site and at the fire station. Rescue Randy was added last year as a training tool, and it turns out he is not very popular. In the past, other fire fighters would act as victims, but they were helping during the training. Rescue Randy is just dead weight and is much harder to train on than a person.

The department also does a lot of inspections and education to help minimize the risks for fire and to prevent

damage in case of a fire. They inspect all the businesses for compliance with the fire codes. They have a fire prevention program that they take to the elementary schools and they do fire extinguisher training for all high school seniors. They have the fire safety house that will allow students to practice getting out of a smoke filled room, and a classroom model that helps them train the students on what to do in case of a fire. They have been going to the schools during fire drills to add elements of surprise to the drills so that the teachers and the students will be prepared.

Queen of Hearts

Carl Dammeyer won the weekly drawing but pulled a joker out of the deck. Dick Hudson took five dollars from him.

Upcoming Programs

- 2-29 Arts Place
- 3-7 National Agriculture Day
- 3-14 Vince Koza on Sports
- 3-21 Randy Elsass on Ireland

Upcoming Greeters

- 2-29 Gary Newton
- 3-7 Randy Elsass
- 3-14 Doug Oliver
- 3-21 Ali Khokhar

**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?