The Cog
Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
October 24, 2012

Call to Order

President Robbie Burke called the meeting to order. Sue Pittman offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Squire led us in singing "God Bless America." Our guests today were Harley Jones, Karen Pepple, Aaron Adams, Eric Ostling, and Mike Burkholder. There were no birthdays.

Happy Dollars

Robbie Burke, Jeff Squire, Linda Haines, Rick Gerdeman, John Wale, Ron Gorby, Kraig Noble, Sue Pittman, Joe Burke, Frank Klatt, Kathy Sampson, Shawn Brown, Jason Little, Sandy Gerdeman.

Fines

Sandy Gerdeman was our finer today. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month. She singled out the men in our club and quizzed their knowledge on breast cancer. Kraig Noble, Alex Pittman, Ron Gorby, Tim Dicke, John Wale, Keith Fledderjohann, Jason Little, Marty Dodrill, and Mike Makley all paid fines due to answering questions incorrectly. She also fined anyone who doesn't know someone with breast cancer.

Announcements

Please pay your dues…..on time.

Program

Congressman Jim Jordan was our speaker today. He started the program by stating "There are moments that matter in people's lives, moments you don't forget….I would argue we are at one of those times right now. This isn't about the election; we're at one of those critical moments in our nation's history where we have to deal with some big issues and problems."

Currently we have a national debt of $16 trillion dollars. It will cost our country $220 billion in interest to service this debt at a time when interest rates are at a record low.

The federal government purchases $40 billion a month in mortgage backed securities. We are at a time when US corporate savings accounts have three times the normal amounts due to uncertainty in the economy. Congressman Jordan stated these are two of the reasons we will see inflation.

Jordan called upon tax reform as part of the next major legislative push in Washington, citing that any tax code that allows almost 50% of the population not to participate is "broken." He believes the tax code is also broken on the corporate side due to American companies paying the highest tax rates in the world.

At the end of the year many tax cuts are set to expire. Jordan addressed this. "We do need to reform that tax code- step one is to make sure taxes don't go up……The first thing we have to do is make sure the tax cuts stay in place and we don't raise the tax burden on job creators and frankly any American. I would vote for the package that we already voted for, which sits in the Senate, which extends the current code for a year, and within that time frame, we have to throw it out and start over."

Congressman Jordan also stated three principles our country should stand by in foreign policy. One….We need to show the world we have a strong military, so we don't need to use our power. Two…Remember our allies in the world. Three…Keep a close eye on where we send foreign aid. He shared a quote from one of his close friends to drive home this point. "We don't need to pay countries to hate us, they will probably do it for free."

Queen of Hearts

Tim Dicke won the drawing today and found a Queen. Unfortunately it was the Queen of Spades. The Queen of Hearts lives another week……..

Upcoming Programs

10-31   Rick Green- Rotary Foundation Program
11-7   Sondra Bernardi- Organ Donation
11-14   Paul Joseph- Veteran's Day
11-21   Ryan Wendel- Eagle Scout

Upcoming Greeters

10-31   Gary Newton
11-7   Scott Ross
11-14   Ellen Hunter
11-21   Tanya Temple

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:

Is it the TRUTH?
1. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
2. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
3. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?