



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

January 2, 2013

Call to Order

President Robbie Burke called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill Maki offered the prayer. There were no visiting Rotarians, but other guests included Tricia Bell and Phil Thomas, WLIO Lima; Mike Burkholder of the Evening Leader, and Amy Kronenberger of the Daily Standard. Kraig led us in singing "Viva La Rotary." There were no birthdays.

Happy Dollars

Robbie Burke, Dan Burke, Ron Meyer, Rick Gerdeman, Randy Elsass.

Fines

Ellen Hunter was the fine meister. She fined everyone 50cents for not greeting her at the podium with a round of applause. The victims of her New Year's trivia included Gary Newton (correct answer!), Kevin Harlan, Tim Dicke, Marty Dodrill, Mark Ashman, Brad Seitz, Pat Cogan, Ron Gorby,

John Wale, Dick Hudson, Shaun Brown, Mick Teman.

Announcements

-On Wednesday, January 23, 2013, Rotarians will attend the Lakers basketball game at the YMCA on State Route 703. The game starts at 7:30p.m., but don't forget the pizza party beforehand, beginning at 6:30p.m.

-The next Rotary board meeting will be on January 9, 2013.

Program

President Robbie introduced Dan Burke, our program chair, who introduced our own Susan Crotty, the manager of Industrial and Community Development for St. Marys. As Susan only began her employment on March 30, 2012, she wanted to wish St. Marys a "Happy New Year 2013" and also share her first impressions of the community when she arrived. She was immediately drawn by the strong retail presence and business assets (Kohl's, Penney's, Kroger) as well as the solid industrial base and excellent recreational activities. A variety of things attract visitors – from the Lake, well-maintained parks, and bike paths to the new high school, Community Library and Wright State University – Lake Campus. The large, well-equipped hospital speaks well of our community.

Transportation and trade have been hallmarks of St. Marys history going back to the Girtys. The world's first offshore oil well was in Grand Lake St. Marys in 1891 and numerous

historic treaties were signed in our area.

Additional positive features are the access to airports and automotive markets, the long-standing CIC (begun in 1960), a revolving-loan fund, tax abatements, purchased land used for development and the Japanese and German Sister-City relationships.

A few negative features that Susan noted were some businesses that have not thrived and some challenges to the Lake which everyone is trying hard to address. She especially noticed that some residents take St. Marys for granted and do not appreciate all we have that other communities do not.



The employment picture is very encouraging, with 65-80% of new jobs created by existing businesses, with AAP the second-highest job creator after the hospital.

As her goals, Susan wants to build on our success by partnering with hometownopportunity.com and taking part in prospecting trips to attract prospective employers that may want to relocate to St. Marys and expand their operations. During 2012, she traveled to Chicago, Michigan, and Wisconsin to speak to employers, and

she even traveled to a Volkswagen plant in Germany to position us for global marketing. Also, she continually meets with current business owners and manufacturers to improve the downtown and see how the city can provide additional services and utilities. Not only will Lake development be a priority, but also "Lake District" improvement along 703, for example. Susan praises our low unemployment, but wants to eliminate the "underemployment" of some of our workforce and create possibly two hundred new jobs for our workforce in 2013.

Queen of Hearts

John Wale won today's drawing but not the big prize of the Queen – now approximately \$1700.00!!

Upcoming Programs

1-9 Julie Jacobs – Grand Lake Hospice

1-16 Angie Molasky

Upcoming Greeters

1-9 Randy Elsass

1-16 Sandy Gerdeman

**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 Pittman