

The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
April 3, 2013

Call to Order

President Robbie Burke called the meeting to order. Randy Elsass offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Squire led the singing of "Rotary, My Rotary". Guests included Travis Elsass, guest of Randy.

Happy Dollars

Pres. Robbie was happy for her chance at the Queen last week, Kathy Sampson for the success of the Kroger community fundraiser (our club got about \$200 in the last six months) and reminded members to sign up, Kraig Noble for Michigan's trip to the final four, Jim Heinrich for our guest today and for his upcoming trip to the Rotary Peace Foundation, Randy Elsass as he begins the countdown (three years and three months) to retirement, Marty Dodrill for the United Way reverses raffle fundraiser on May 18, and Sandy Gerdeman for the April 13 Hospice Gala.

Fines

Rick did the fining today. He fined everyone who still had an alma mater in the final four and then fined Mick Teman, Bob Leugers, Bill Maki, Linda Haines, Joe Burke, Jeff Vossler, Gary Newton, and Ken Strickland, for missing quiz questions. Kevin Harlan got his right. Rick group fined everyone who does not already have tickets to the Hospice Gala.

Announcements

District Assembly: is set for April 13th.

District Conference: May 17th-19th will be this year's District Conference to be held at Put-In-Bay.

Annual Banquet: The clubs Annual Banquet will be held the evening of June 13th.

Dueling Piano's Fundraiser: will be held April 27th at the VFW.

Red's Outing: Our Reds Outing has been rescheduled to a night game on April 21st. Tickets are \$30. Reds vs Marlins, leaving K-mart at 10:00 am.

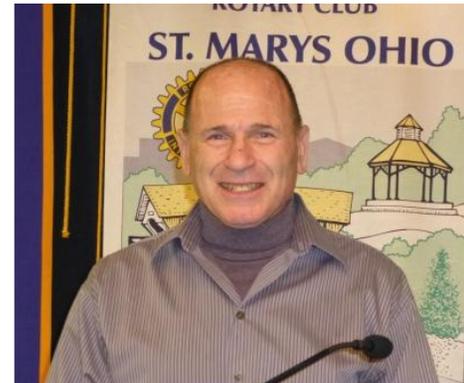
Installation Dinner: June 30th will be Joe Ludwig's DG installation dinner.

Marty gave the board report. John Wale has requested a leave of absence due to his new job. Our club will be working a shift at the Best of the Wurst tent at Summerfest as a fundraiser.

Program

PE Dan Burke introduced Mel Hoenig, a member of the Sylvania Rotary Club. Mel has been a member of the Sylvania club for over ten years and has held many offices at his club and within the district. Mel talked to

us today about Resource Centers International, a service project that he started at his club. It started in Belize and he is working to expand it into Jamaica. Those two countries are former British colonies that still use English as the official language but more and more of the people do not use it as the language of the home. The Resource Centers provide educational resources for poor areas to give access to English language materials.



In the Fall of '08 Mel had the idea to work with a preschool in Belize. The project shifted and changed as he spent more time looking at the needs of the local communities. Once the project was defined, they have been able to open 29 centers in Belize and are looking to expand into Jamaica. The project starts with a host club and a location. The project will wire a room for electricity and internet, provide tv, video and computer hardware, and books, vhs tapes and training. One of the goals is to get the older children to read to and to help teach the younger children as the Centers mature.

With the materials, shipping and travel Mel figures he has equipped 20

centers for \$11,000.00. The project is currently looking for computers and for volunteers who are technically trained to aid in the installation and training. He said that it is up to the host club to see that the project is maintained, but the center's success really relies on local leadership in the community in which it is located. He says about half of the centers do not flourish, and some don't even get off the ground.

Proposed Member

Denise Cisco and Joe Sutton have been proposed for membership. See Don Hinckley with any questions.

Queen of Hearts

Bob Leugers won the daily drawing but the Queen lives on.

Upcoming Programs

- 4-10 Vince Koza with Columbus Blue Jackets announcer George Matthews
- 4-17 Shawn Brown – St. Marys City Schools update

Upcoming Greeters

- 4-10 Rick Gerdeman
- 4-17 Dick Hudson
- 4-24 Beth Noneman

**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.