



## The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503  
P. O. Box 544,  
St. Marys, OH 45885.  
[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)

April 17, 2013

### Call to Order

President Robbie Burke called the meeting to order. Rev. Bill Maki offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Squire led the song "Mary's a Grand Old Name." Two Rotarians had birthdays – Ed Noble (age 95) and Susan Crotty. Guests included Kathy Bayliss of AGAPE, Ronda Shelby, and Anna Katterhenry, guest of Kevin Harlan.

### Happy Dollars

Shawn Brown, Tami Sanford, Marty Dodrill, Kevin Harlan, Ron Gorby, Lorraine Fischio, Kathy Bayliss (guest from AGAPE), Ed Pierce, Mike Makley, Keith Fledderjohann.

### Fines

Bill Maki was the fine master, and grilled perplexed Rotarians with questions about the history of education in the U.S. Victims included: Dan Hosek, Alex Pittman, Susan Pittman, Marty Dodrill, Kevin Harlan, Joe Burke, Ken Strickland, Tami Sanford, Beth Noneman, Dick Hudson. Group fines were for everyone who has never run in a marathon and

also everyone who has ever won a marathon. (@ 50 cents).

### Announcements

President Robbie presented a \$1,000 check to Shawn Brown for the "Academic M's".

President-elect Dan Burke was given the challenge of helping the local food bank and received contributions from our club. He presented a check for \$350.00 to Kathy Bayliss of AGAPE in St. Marys. Kathy also asked Rotarians to donate much-needed school supplies.

Ron Gorby asked Rotarians to donate to the family of Kathy Sampson, whose 19-year-old daughter has been quite ill. The family is staying in the nearest Ronald McDonald House and the \$370.00 collected today will help with their daily expenses.

May 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> will be this year's District Conference to be held at Put-In-Bay.

Our club's Annual Banquet will be held the evening of June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Dueling Piano's fundraiser will be held April 27<sup>th</sup> at the VFW.

The Red's outing was rescheduled to a night game on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Tickets are \$30. Reds vs. Marlins.

Administrative Professional's Day is April 24<sup>th</sup>. Contact Lorraine Fischio for lunch reservations.

### Program

President-elect Dan Burke introduced today's speakers – Shawn Brown, Kris Keller, and Lisa Howe. Kris and Lisa of the School Levy committee made the case for the levy, which goes before the voters on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

The St. Marys City Schools are faced with a \$3 million deficit if the levy fails on May 7. They have already trimmed compensation and benefits. All "extra" programs are run by volunteers or have been eliminated. Health insurance benefits have been cut. Next year, the school system will have cut \$2 million of

salaries, wages, and benefits alone. St. Marys schools has the "best in class" rating in all three support services – maintenance, transportation, food service.

Specific cuts that have already been enacted are the following:

- Field trips
- Clubs and organizations
- "Power of the Pen" program
- Homework help
- Professional Development days
- Art teacher eliminated
- School supplies available are 40% of amounts previously available; while reduced lunches receive federal support, supplies do not.
- Band directors retiring will be replaced with beginning teachers, not veteran educators



Should the May 7<sup>th</sup> Levy fail, an additional \$1,400,000 in savings will be necessary. The complete list of scheduled cuts and further information is available at [www.stmarystogether.com](http://www.stmarystogether.com)

Additional cuts would include:

- Pay-to-participate sports teams
- Kindergarten will be reduced to half-day
- Vocational/Agricultural program will be eliminated
- One band director will be hired instead of two
- Reduced secretarial help and support staff
- Both Latin and French will be eliminated, leaving Spanish as the only foreign language.
- Class sizes will increase

The repercussions of a levy failure would impact the entire community, not just our

schools. New residents and businesses which could relocate to St. Marys may decide otherwise. While our hospital and proximity to Wright State – Lake Campus are positive, the viability of our school system is equally crucial to our area's future economic development. The skilled workers we need may not be here.

Our new school was recently constructed to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards, incorporating geothermal climate control, for example, and assuring future savings. Now the challenge is to continue crucial operational expenses. As a result, Rotarians are asked to speak with all their friends and relatives to encourage passage of the May 7 school levy!

### Queen of Hearts

Jeff Squire won the drawing and \$12.00 but not the Queen!

### Upcoming Programs

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 4/24 | Administrative Professional Day  |
| 5/1  | Susan Pittman Rotary Literacy Program  |
| 5/8  | Do Nguyen – Maumee Rotary Club – "Traveling to Vietnam and Cambodia with Gratefulness" |

### Upcoming Greeters

- |      |               |
|------|---------------|
| 4/24 | Beth Noneman  |
| 5/1  | Marty Dodrill |

*\*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