



### *The Cog*

**Rotary Club No. 3503**  
**P. O. Box 544,**  
**St. Marys, OH 45885.**  
[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)  
**May 29, 2013**

### Call to Order

President Robbie Burke called the meeting to order. Susan Pittman offered the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Tim Dicke welcomed visiting Rotarian Steve Smith from the New Bremen/New Knoxville club, Lisa Inskeep who was the guest of Lorraine Fischio, Travis Elsass who was the guest of Randy Elsass, and our speaker Mayor Pat McGowan. Jeff Squire led us in a rousing rendition of "In the Good Old Summertime" since Ellen was not in attendance.

### Happy Dollars

President Robbie was happy watching the Reds and her hero Joey, Jeff S. for a weekend in San Antonio with his mom & "old" people for his aunt's 60th b-day, Jeff Vossler for being back after weeks of absence and he announced the LIA program to replace trees at the lake (tax deductible!), Lorraine F. for her shot at the queen last week, Ron Gorby for a great trip to FL with grandkids and he announced the raffle for the Elizabeth Sampson benefit, Keith Fledderjohann for his youngest graduating

high school, Sue Pittman for filing the final literacy grant report and she announced that the summer reading program is beginning, Marty Dodrill for positive headlines for Grand Lake Heath Systems, Kraig for spending the weekend with older people than Jeff did, and Randy E. for a great weekend at the Chesapeake Bay at his niece's wedding. Ron also announced that Elizabeth Sampson is doing well but Kathy will still be off work for a couple of months.

### Fines

Randy Elsass handed out fines with gusto. He immediately fined Jeff S. for a minor infraction and Alex Pittman for excessive flattery of today's Cog Editor. Mike Makely, John Wale, Mark Ashman, Marty D., Gayle Masonbrink, Kraig Noble, and Lorraine F. all fell victim to fines for missing questions on a variety of trivia related to Bob Evans, Babe Ruth, old cars, and men in Russia(?). Jim Heinrich knew Babe Ruth played for the Yankees. All fines were levied for not going to Chesapeake Bay for a wedding or not eating at the first Bob Evans restaurant.

### Announcements

President Robbie announced that next Wednesday Jun. 5 there will be a board meeting at 10:45 am. We also received a thank you from the JTDMH Transitional Care Unit for the donation of audio books. ***The Annual Banquet will be Jun. 13 celebrating 75 years in Rotary International.*** Feel free to help set up on Jun. 12 at 7 pm. Paul Harris Fellows are reminded to wear their medallions. DG Joe Ludwig's installation dinner will be Jun. 30 at Maumee State Park. PE Dan Burke announced that 4 tickets to the Reds game on Jul. 20 are being raffled for \$5 or 5 for \$20. They are great seats behind the visitors' dugout!

### Program

PE Dan introduced today's speaker Mayor Pat McGowan. Mayor McGowan is a native of St. Marys and has a background in the energy industry.

The Mayor wanted to update members on what has been happening in the City of St.



Marys since he took office in January 2012. He thought it was important to perform a SWOT analysis when he began to determine what is right and where improvements need to be made. He quickly discovered that several city departments, including electricity, solid waste, wastewater, water, and utility billing all paid for themselves. However, the services of other departments are paid for by the general fund which has been more challenging over the past few years. The City has an annual budget of approx. \$45 million. Revenue from interest income and gas taxes has significantly decreased in recent years but expenses still increase. Therefore, all city employees have been working to identify cost-cutting measures to reduce expenses to balance the budget.

One of his first activities after taking office was to ask business leaders what we could be doing better. Business leaders all raised similar concerns about reliable electric service. The City hired a firm to evaluate the entire system and provide recommendations for improvements. Some improvements are already underway that will help to reduce outages and ensure that if one does occur it impacts a smaller area than before. City staff will also be able to pinpoint problems more quickly.

The High Street bridge replacement is underway and a bridge connecting City recreational areas in KC Geiger Park was recently completed. The City has also installed aeration in the canal downtown to help improve the water quality. The intersection at McKinley & Spruce is being widened to help facilitate truck traffic. The City is also improving and performing preventative maintenance on various streets.

The City hired 16 employees including a new certified arborist to maintain the parks and street trees. A new web presence was created to better inform the public and market the community. Marketing efforts also include a new community video, and plans for a digital sign that will also be used for public communication. The City has recently made significant efforts to establish strong working relationships with lake improvement organizations and with regional economic development organizations. City officials are also striving to maintain close relationships with our local, growing business community.

### Queen of Hearts

Kraig N. won the drawing but the Queen lives.

### Upcoming Programs

- 6-5 Cynthia Vogel, the Annie Oakley Story
- 6-12 No meeting
- 6-19 The Kraig & Susan Show! Fun Times in Japan

### Upcoming Greeters

- 6-5 Randy Elsass

*\*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**