



The Cog
Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
June 19, 2013

Call to Order

President Robbie Burke called the meeting to order. Alex Pittman offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ellen Hunter led the song, "If You're Happy and You Know It." Guests included Travis Elsass, guest of Randy, and Aaron, husband of Ellen. Joe Burke and Rick Gerdeman had birthdays, but couldn't be with us.

Happy Dollars

Robbie Burke, Rick Green, Randy Elsass, Susan Crotty, Linda Vogel, Beth Noneman, Bob Leugers, Ellen Hunter, Dan Burke.

Fines

Jon Hall fined Robbie Burke, Ellen Hunter, Linda Vogel, anyone wearing a jacket or tie (it's a nice day!) 50 cents; anyone not at the banquet, 50 cents; anyone who has never been to Japan before, 50 cents.

Announcements

Robbie Burke announced that the Installation of DGE Joe Ludwig will take place on Sunday, June 30, 2013, at 4:30 p.m. at Maumee Bay State Park Convention Center, Maumee Bay State Park, Oregon, OH. Please go to the district 6600 website to register.

Robbie also announced that she received a "thank you" note from scholarship recipient Katlyn Brown.

Dan Burke announced that four Reds' tickets are available for the June 20, 4:00 p.m. game. the charge is \$5.00 per ticket. Please see Beth Noneman.

Program

Dan Burke introduced our own Susan Crotty and Kraig Noble, who, along with Mayor McGowen and Daniel Hoelscher, recently visited St. Marys' Sister City of Awaji Island (formerly Hokudan-cho).

St. Marys began a relationship with the Japanese citizens in 1977 through a goodwill mission sponsored by Dr. Kenzaburo Hara (served over 50 years in the Japanese Diet) and through an initiative of local attorney and Rotarian Barry Kemp. In 1995, the devastating Hanshin earthquake caused extensive damage, but St. Marys raised \$25,000 in a two-week period to aid our sister city. In 1998, a group of St. Marys delegates traveled to Japan for the opening of the Akashi Straits Bridge, connecting Awaji Island to the island of Honshu. Our business and cultural

exchanges are very important for both "Sister Cities."



Susan and Kraig referred to this history of our relationship with our Japanese Sister City. The host, Mr. Kimura, president of Toyo Gosei, Co., Ltd., oversees a company engaged in the sale of chemicals, including circuit boards and components for lithium batteries. Mr. Kimura's father was also a friend of St. Marys.

Susan mentioned the Tokyo hotel where the delegation stayed, adjacent to a spacious park which a former shogun, or military ruler, had used for duck hunting. The National Museum of Western Art was also visited, and she was happy to see the Oregon Bar and Grill, (owned by the Japanese company Setex), rather than experience eel and other more exotic dishes.

The sightseeing was memorable, as our delegation saw the harvesting of seaweed, a Kendo (sword-fighting) demonstration, a tea ceremony, an earthquake museum and Mt. Fuji. The visit to Awaji City offered a barbecue (Awaji beef similar to Kobe) a dance demonstration, and festival at a Shinto

shrine. As they left Awaji City, they saw the statue of Dr. Hara pointing to the Akashi Straits suspension bridge. (Dr. Hara passed away in 2004.) They even had an opportunity to ride on a "bullet train."

The trip was for important St. Marys, but also demonstrated the hospitality of our Japanese hosts.

Queen of Hearts

Shawn Brown won the drawing, but not the Queen.

Upcoming Programs

6-26 Tim Boehmer - City Parks Superintendent

Upcoming Greeters

6-26 Ron Gorby

**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