



The Cog

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

Call to Order

Past President Robbie Burke called the meeting to order. Randy Elsass offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ellen Adams led the singing of "You're a Grand Old Flag". There were no birthdays.

Happy Dollars

PP Robbie was happy to have had lunch with her dad at his 75th high school reunion and for her past year as president, Kraig Noble for Ed Noble's successful pacemaker replacement at OSU, Lorraine Fischio for a new Director of Nursing at the Living Center, Ellen Adams for not only buying a new house last week but for selling her old house this week, Linda Vogel for all the support signing up for shifts at Summerfest (and Linda presented Robbie a bouquet of flowers for her successful year as our president), and Mike Makley for a great trip to North Carolina.

Fines

Ellen did the fining today and chose Rotary Trivia for the start of the new year. Mick Teman and Jim Heinrich got their questions correct, but Mike Makley, Mark Ashman, Trisha Barnes, Lorraine Fischio, Susan Crotty, Dick Husdon, Linda Vogel, Bob Leugers and Frank Klatt all had to pay. Ellen also fined anyone who has not bought a house or sold a house in the past two weeks.

Installation

DGN Gary Newton took the podium and installed our new club officers and directors for the new Rotary year. Our new officers, directors and committee assignments are all on the new Cog paper. Gary welcomed the new leadership and thanked the members in advance for all the support that we would provide this year.



PP Robbie passed the gavel to Pres. Dan Burke, who presented her with her Past President's plaque.

Announcements

The next Board meeting will be at 10:45 on July 10th in the basement of the Eagles.

The club is raffling off four great tickets to the July 20th Reds game, donated by Minster Bank/Kathy Sampson. See Keith Fledderjohann or John Wale for tickets.

Induction

Marty Dodrill inducted Travis Elsass as our newest Rotarian. Travis is sponsored by his father Randy Elsass.



Program

PE Randy Elsass introduced Ron Gorby and Muhammad Khokhar to talk about the hotel business. Neither Ron nor Muhammad is a flipper in the business sense. Ron bought several hotels and fixed them up to be quality properties that he then sold. Muhammad bought a few of Ron's properties but he has developed the hotels he owns and keeps them.



Ron's latest property is the Howard Johnson's in Lima, and he has invested more than \$1.9 into it and has seen revenue increase 59%. Ron is now working on the corporate level to refresh the Howard Johnson's brand.

Muhammad's newest purchase is the former Country Hearth in St. Marys. It was in the worst shape of any property he has purchased but it offered the best opportunity. Hotels need both an excellent product and excellent service to be successful. He is in the process of improving the product at the County Hearth. He has already invested \$600,000 in improvements and more to bring the product up to the level he wants it to be. He has changed everything that is visible. He has not made any sales calls for the new property yet because he wants to get the product updated. Once all the improvements are completed the hotel will be rebranded as a Quality Inn.

Queen of Hearts

Ron Gorby won the daily drawing but pulled a Joker and had to give Marty Dodrill \$5.

Upcoming Programs

- 7-10 Club Assembly
- 7-17 Wild Auglaize County – EMA and exotic animals

Upcoming Greeters

- 7-10 Pat Cogan
- 7-17 Allen Baskett
- 7-24 Tim Dicke
- 7-31 Lorraine Fischio

**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.