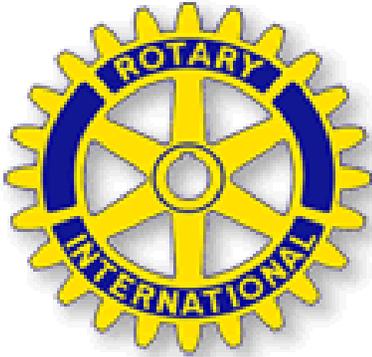


The Cog



Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
July 17, 2013

Call to Order

President Dan Burke called the meeting to order. Alex Pittman offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Alicia Fledderjohann was welcomed as the guest of Keith Fledderjohann. Kraig Noble led us in an unusual rendition of "Old MacDonald," and we just hope the farmer registered his python and paid the fee.

Happy Dollars

President Dan was happy Dad Robert's fall wasn't worse than it was, Bill Maki was happy for Jeff Squire (just because) and for 96 kids in VBS, Ron Gorby for many things including the Evening Leader ad for the Elizabeth Sampson benefit (get raffle tickets from him) and he wants to know if anyone remembers a circus in town recently, Gary Newton for his new granddaughter Avery Grace, Keith F. for his daughter joining him today, and John

Wale for his daughter's acceptance into the nursing program at Wright State.

Fines

Jon Hall enthusiastically handed out fines. He fined President Dan for misspeaking on the month, Jeff S. for not setting out enough Cogs, and Kraig N. for ad-libbing today's song. Pat Cogan, Gary N., and Shawn Brown fell victim as well. All fines were levied on anyone wearing a tie in this stinkin' heat.

Announcements

President Dan reminded everyone that our club will partner with the Kiwanis this year to work the "Best of the Wurst" tent at Summerfest. We're getting great participation but still have four open slots. Please contact Linda Vogel if you can work. We also received thank you letters from the D.O.V.E. Fund for our \$200 donation raised with the coffee Do gave us, and from Otterbein for our \$500 gift for the Imagine the Difference Campaign (which funds the Life Enrichment Center.)

Program

PE Randy Elsass introduced today's speaker Troy Anderson. Troy is the Director of the Auglaize County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and is a native of St. Marys. He gives back to the community by serving as the Assistant Fire Chief for St. Marys Township, and also leads a 4-H Shooting Sports Club with over 90 kids.

Troy started by commenting on the abundance of severe storms that we have had over the last three years. We seem to have had the majority of our tornados during that period, and he said we even had a water spout on Grand Lake Saint Marys with the last storm!

Cridersville has been hit really hard in the last two weeks. They had 5" of rain with flooding, and 326 homes and businesses were damaged in the recent storm. A couple of those buildings were destroyed. The town has suffered a lot from severe weather since 2010.



Troy then talked about his work to organize Auglaize County's Dangerous Wild Animal Response Team (DWARD). Due to the 2011 Muskingum County tragedy, the County is now required to write a plan and have a response team ready to deal with dangerous wild animals that may be in Auglaize County. Individuals who own dangerous wild animals are now mandated to register them, and there are a surprising number of animals and species now registered in Auglaize County. Troy said that Mercer, Darke, Van Wert, and Shelby Counties do not have any wild animals registered. However, they are interested in seeing our County's plan when completed.

The team members for Auglaize include representatives from each of the following; law enforcement, EMS, health department, fire departments, EMA, and the media. An owner of dangerous wild animals is also on the team, and a veterinarian is serving as an advisor.

The State is not providing funding for the program, so the County is considering using grant funds to buy cages and other

necessary equipment. The State has identified a list of what they consider dangerous wild animals, and from that list people in our county own alligators, black & white ruffed lemurs, Capuchin monkeys, black bears, Canadian lynxes, cougars, grey wolves, lions, and Syrian Brown Bears. (No tigers that we know of, though!) While people may be surprised that these animals live in Auglaize County, Troy said some people raise them for exotic animal hunts that take place in Southern Ohio. Troy doesn't know yet how many snakes are owned as pets in Auglaize County but there could be many.

The county is mainly using word of mouth to find out what else is out there. Troy is concerned though that requiring owners to register and pay a fee starting at \$150 may lead some owners to just let the animals go. If an alligator gets loose, Troy will NOT volunteer to jump on its back!

Queen of Hearts

Kraig N. won the drawing but the Queen lives.

Upcoming Programs

7-24 Jim Dieringer –Buckeye Boys State

Upcoming Greeters

7-24 Tim Dicke
7-31 Lorraine Fischio
8-07 Joe Burke

**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:**