



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544
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www.stmarysrotary.org
February 19, 2014

Call to Order

President Dan Burke called the meeting to order. PE Randy Elsass offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Kraig Noble introduced guests Bill Ruane, Alyssa Blackburn, Jan Heinrich WLIO reporter Tricia Bell and videographer Phil Thomas, Evening Leader reporter Janice Barniak, and Jim Jordan's aide Cameron Warner. We also welcomed several excellent students from Memorial High School. Kraig led us in a rousing rendition of "You're a Grand Old Flag," and we all joined in wishing Bob Leugers a Happy Birthday!

Happy Dollars

President Dan was happy that his son has a date for the prom; PE Randy for skiing; Jeff Squire for the Lima News story on the flute choir; Kevin Harlan gave \$10 for his daughter's wedding; Sandy Gerdeman reminded us of the Hospice Gala on April 5 (tickets still

available); Mike Makely was happy for our visiting seniors and for a good time at Disney; Jon Hall for skiing; Jim Heinrich announced that Past District Governor Cecil Maxwell has passed away; and Rick Gerdeman was happy for his chance at the queen and for having so many students at the meeting.

Fines

Rick G. ruthlessly handed out fines today, exempting no one from questions about the Olympics. Karl D., Joe B., Gary N., and Kevin H. all successfully answered questions. Pat. C., Tim D., Mick T., Bob L., Marty D., Susan C., Dan B., Linda H., Trisha B., and Sandy G. were all stumped by their questions. The Cog committee was fined for an error on last week's Cog. All fines were levied for anyone who has not watched a game, not downhill skied, or not won a gold medal.

Announcements

- The club received a thank you letter for our \$2,000 donation to ShelterBox to help typhoon victims in the Philippines.
- JTDMMH is having an open house for the ambulatory surgery center on Sunday, March 2, from 2-4 pm.
- On March 5 for Ag City Day please remember to bring food items to donate for Agape.

Program

PE Randy introduced our speaker The Honorable US Representative Jim Jordan who first addressed our club in 1994 at a debate. During his tenure he previously served as Chair of the House Republican Study Committee and now serves on the House Oversight and Government Reform and House Judiciary Committees.

Rep. Jordan thanked us for giving him the privilege to represent us and he

especially appreciates our club and how active we are. He commented that if the whole world were like West Central Ohio, we'd be fine.

Rep. Jordan said that citizens everywhere are anxious about where the country is headed, but the good news is that Americans always rise to the challenge. He acknowledged there are over 23 million families on food stamps and the national debt is over \$17 trillion, but he is working with the Republican Party to lay out a vision for the future.



Not having a plan was detrimental to the Republicans in 2012 because voters didn't know what the Republican candidate would do.

The plan focuses on five areas:

1) Health care – Rep. Jordan said it's not enough to say the Affordable Healthcare Act is bad, but Republicans have to show alternatives that will work and should focus on wellness, prevention, transparency, and bringing small businesses together.

2) Tax reform – Rep. Jordan believes there are fundamental problems if ½ of the population doesn't participate in the main tax (income) and businesses have the highest tax burden in the world. Tax reform needs to be bold, the structure

needs to be simpler. He supports a flatter, fairer personal tax.

3) Energy – we need to let the market work and must have readily available energy at an affordable cost. He supports the Keystone pipeline because it would help achieve those goals.

4) Privacy – Rep. Jordan is working with Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) to co-sponsor a bill to reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court and add a citizen advocate to it.

5) Welfare reform – Rep. Jordan is working to help design a program that will truly help the poor to better their lives rather than trap them in poverty.

Rep. Jordan reiterated that this is a great country, Americans are resilient, and we get things done!

Queen of Hearts

Alisher Khudaykulov won the drawing but the Queen lives...

Upcoming Programs

- 2-26 Auglaize County Commissioners
- 3-5 Dennis Baker - Ag City Day
- 3-12 Harry Hooyenga – Polio Plus

Upcoming Greeters

- 2-26 Linda Haines
- 3-5 Ellen Hunter
- 3-12 Dick Hudson
- 3-19 Don Hinckley

**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.**