



## *The Cog*

**Rotary Club No. 3503**  
**P. O. Box 544**  
**St. Marys, OH 45885**  
[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)  
**March 19, 2014**

### Call to Order

President Dan Burke called the meeting to order. Rev. Maki offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Robbie Burke introduced guests Bill Ruane and Paula Drummond, who was a guest of Susan Pittman. Kraig led us in a rousing rendition of "Sing a Song to Rotary."

### Happy Dollars

PE Randy was very happy about his Ohio Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (P.E.T.S.) experience; Mike Makely for his new grandson; Sandy Gerdeman for her new grandson too, and she reminded us of the Hospice Gala on April 5; Gary Newton was glad to be back and also for District P.E.T.S. & All-Ohio P.E.T.S.; Marty was happy that restaurant Generations is scheduled to reopen on Friday; Susan P. for her guest and

she announced the Annual Business Persons' Breakfast; Kraig for his trip to the Holy Land; Robbie for Joe taking over March Madness; Mick Teman for his chance at the Queen; Gayle for our speaker Polly (who is an excellent baton twirler!); Rick Gerdeman for the new grandson, and he challenges Rotarians to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the Hospice Gala; Ellen had two extra tickets to give to deserving Rotarians; and Bill Maki thanked us for his card.

### Fines

Rev. Maki happily handed out mostly all-fines today. He was going to fine Kraig for today's song but exempted him because he had been to the Holy Land. Fines were for not being nurses, not being to Ironwood MI, already filing taxes, being OSU fans, being U of M fans, and not picking Michigan State to win it all.

### Announcements

President Dan presented a \$100 check to Sandy & Rick Gerdeman for the Hospice Gala.



### Program

PE Randy introduced our speaker Polly Raudabusch (who introduced Liz Johnson with her.) Polly told us about the iRead SMCS Rocks the Books program, which she

developed to help students with reading. She stressed that students who struggle with reading aren't casualties of a failed system. Sometimes kids need a program to assist them in being able to achieve their goals. She said there used to be expensive cassette tapes and big headphones to help kids read, but that's not "cool." You can now download books for \$4.95 - \$19 (she thanked our library for helping find books online), but you need devices use them. The iPod Touch allows internet access and younger people can read books on them. They cost about \$229 each.



These devices are assistive. Students read the hard copy of the book while hearing it read on the iPod. This method helps children decipher the proper pronunciation of words they would have difficulty reading. Pronunciation, speech patterns, image correlation, and content comprehension are greatly improved this way. There is a wealth of online content available for students, and it holds their attention and students who would otherwise tune out are motivated to read. The test results prove the success of this strategy, with students vastly improving their scores. Polly

showed us testimonials of several students who had been helped by the program.

The program was started in middle school and has been expanded to high school, where it is also very successful. Polly wrote two grants to fund the program, and Dollar General has been very generous through their grant program but will not fund the program again. She will need additional funding in the future to further expand the program, ultimately to have 40 – 50 devices (they currently have 20.) Not a lot of school districts have the opportunity to do this because others just don't have such great support as we do here.

### Queen of Hearts

Dan Hosek won the drawing but the Queen lives...

### Upcoming Programs

- 3-26 Russ Bailey – new dog shelter
- 4-2 Allison Brady – Heritage Park Trails District
- 4-9 Social Security
- 4-16 WSU President David Hopkins

### Upcoming Greeters

- 3-26 Ron Gorbey
- 4-2 Susan Crotty
- 4-9 Kevin Harlan

*\*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.**