



The Cog

**Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544
St. Marys, OH 45885
www.stmarysrotary.org
June 18, 2014**

Call to Order

President Dan Burke called the meeting to order. Kathy Sampson offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Joe Burke introduced Zach Ferrall, guest of Kraig Noble. Kraig led us in a politically correct rendition of "Rotary, My Rotary." We all sang "Happy Birthday" to Rick Gerdeman.

Happy Dollars

President Dan gave \$2 Happy Dollars for a successful Annual Banquet and for the linear aerator which has been installed at the lake (our joint project with the NB/NK Club); Rita gave \$2 for Otterbein's Music by the Lake program this Sunday and for her new grandson; Mike M. gave for his new grandson Miles Anthony; Sandy G. gave for her new addition Archibald Graham (a German Shepherd); Kraig gave for his new granddaughter O.K. Noble; Marty gave for the banquet; and PE Randy was

happy and thankful for his very patient wife.

Fines

Rick Gerdeman challenged members with summertime trivia since the summer solstice is Saturday. Tim D. and Joe B. correctly answered questions, and Mike M. amazingly guessed that the average American eats 6 gallons of ice cream a year! Brad S., Keith F., Travis, Jeff V., Marty, Beth, Kathy S., Alisher, Jeff Squire, and Rita all sadly missed their questions. Travis was fined an additional 50¢ for questioning the questioner. Rick also called out Rick Green, Phil S., Kraig, and Mark A. for various infractions. All fines were for anyone who has not been this year to a baseball game, America's summer pastime.

Announcements

President Dan reminded members the deadline to submit pledges for the KC Geiger Park project is the end of June.

We received a wonderful thank you note from scholarship recipient Luke Lemmerman.

Jeff S. announced that the Summer Concert Series kicks off this Sunday at 7 pm in Memorial Park with Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass.

PE Randy reminded Board Members, old and new, to attend the meeting next Wednesday at 10:45 to discuss the budget and upcoming projects.

Program

PE Randy introduced Cheryl Parson, a Lima resident who is currently the President of the Better Business Bureau

(BBB) serving the six-county region of West Central Ohio. Cheryl confirmed Randy's comment that the BBB began in 1912 as a national vigilance committee formed mainly to monitor ads from "medicine men" and to warn the public about any of their false claims.



The Internet has served as a great tool to help consumers access information on businesses, but it unfortunately also now helps foster scams. Cheryl warned us of several current scams now happening in our area. For example, scammers claim to be from the IRS and tell victims they owe money and need to pay now. She said these scammers will often direct you to buy a "Green Dot," or prepaid credit card, and have you use that to send them money. She explained about another current scam involving a phone call saying the targeted victim has won money through the Publisher's Clearinghouse. She knows of an instance of an elderly man giving over \$20,000 to these crooks who directed him to send them a sum of money, promising he would win big later. The BBB educates stores that sell the Green Dot cards about these scams, and one did inform this man of the scam and refused to sell him a card.

Unfortunately victims will often just go to another store to buy them.

Cheryl and the BBB receive many calls from victims and they work to assist and educate these consumers about such con artists. Cheryl told us to beware of anyone who contacts you saying you have a virus on your computer, who promises to send you a new medical card, or who claims to have arrested your grandchild or friend.

The website www.bbb.org includes a lot of information on businesses and has been updated to include consumer reviews and a "Trust" button for consumers to click for businesses. The BBB confirms that reviewers are truly customers of the business. Cheryl encouraged us to be aware because any more, scams look very real and are very convincing!

Queen of Hearts

Rita H. won the drawing but the Queen lives...

Upcoming Programs

- 6-25 Last meeting of the year – Swearing in of new officers
- 7-2 Milt Miller – Lake Update

Upcoming Greeters

- 6-25 Pat Cogan
- 7-2 Alisher Khudaykulov

**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.**