



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
July 9, 2014

Call to Order

President Randy Elsass called the meeting to order. Alex Pittman offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Kraig Noble led in the singing of two verses of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm". (He had a cow and a chick on his farm). Our guests included Rob Spees, guest of Sandy Gerdeman and Jan Heinrich. Happy to have you with us!

Happy Dollars

Randy was happy for his 1st Rotary meeting as President and for a good trip attending a wedding. Tami Sanford was happy for her daughter's trip and upcoming wedding. Sandy was glad to have her guest Rob at the meeting and for the Reds game.

Mike Makley was happy for family time at his house.

Fines

Ellen Hunter supplied us with an "All About Tricia Barnes" fine day. Ken Strickland was fined for not knowing that Tim Dicke was her Rotary sponsor. Robbie Burke guessed that Tricia has been a Rotarian for 2 years but was wrong and fined. The answer is 3 years. Other fines were given for not knowing that her previous job was a pharmaceutical rep. and Mark Ashman guessed her as a golf state champion when she was actually a state champion in power lifting. (Don't mess with her!) Mick Teman was fined for not getting the right answer for her husband's Horse Trainer occupation and Rick Green answered to the kind of horses he has by saying "4 legged" when the real answer is "Western Pleasure". Alex Pittman guessed that her graduating class size was 68 and was fined because it was only 40.

Announcements

- *Rotary dues are due
- *We received the 2014-2015 Rotary Banner
- *Rotary Awareness July 18th Loco's game 7pm @ Simmons field. Admission is \$2. A Rotarian will be singing the National Anthem and throwing out the first pitch. Also, you can eat the "Best Hot Dogs" around!
- *July 23rd – Meeting will be kept at the normal "lunch" time. Not meeting with The Kiwanis Club because they were not interested.
- *July 25th - Sister City Luncheon
- *August 13th – District Governor here

*Jeff has daffodils bulbs for the Rotary Historic Nature Trail!

Program

PE Kathy Sampson introduced our guest speakers, Jeff & Deb Eschmeyer. They own Harvest Sun Farm, a fifth-generation family farm located in New Knoxville, Ohio. On their 22 acre farm they raise delicious, certified organic produce and flowers for our local community. They grow great food with the use of cover crops, crop rotation and unique variety selection in order to deliver the healthiest, freshest vegetables possible to their customer.



They market their produce primarily through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. CSA is an innovative and relatively new concept that is rapidly gaining in popularity. Customers buy a "share" of the farm's bounty for the season and receive a weekly basket of produce and a farm newsletter each week. The customer benefits by receiving the freshest, most flavorful produce every week while knowing everything was grown on their farm just miles from their home.

Challenges: Learning Curve -
Inventing and finding Market place -
Locating specialty equipment -
Financing - Labor - Weather & Weeds

Benefits: 50% increase of # of Farmers Markets between 2008 and 2011 – Growing Agriculture – Lower cost of entry for beginning farmers – Tremendous ability for dollars to recycle through economy – Builds community "Community Gathering"
Next Step: Looking to grow with local businesses and possible partnerships with Wellness Programs.
Questions were answered after the presentation.

Queen of Hearts

Definitely a *Tricia Barnes Day* as she won the daily drawing but the Queen lives.

Upcoming Programs

- 7/16 Deb Hemmelgarn of the Grand Lake Regatta
- 7/23 TBA
- 7/30 Russ Baily on his recent trip with the Duck Dynasty guys

Upcoming Greeters

- 7/16 Mark Ashman
- 7/23 Beth Noneman
- 7/30 Tricia Barnes

**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, and Do.

