



## The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503  
P. O. Box 544,  
St. Marys, OH 45885.  
[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)  
September 10, 2014

### Call to Order

President Randy Elsass called the meeting to order and Sue Pittman offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Kraig Noble led the signing of "Rotary, My Rotary." There were no birthdays. We were joined today by NB/NK Rotarian Steve Smith.

### Happy Dollars

President Randy was happy for seeing Heidi Meade and her boys again, Susan Crotty for today's speakers, Frank Klatt for JTDMH (but he is unhappy about his cracked pelvis), Don Hinckley for girls volleyball sitting on 499 wins, Steve Smith for New Bremen's volleyball, Kraig Noble for the going to the Michigan game (but not the outcome), Ellen Hunter for her business being on Facebook, Bob

Leugers for his office's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Beth Noneman for last week's program.

### Fines

Travis Elsass stepped in for last minute fines and fined Steve Smith because he volunteered to be fined, Jeff Squire and Rob Spees for exchanging emails, Hodge Drake for missing last week, Robbie Burke for not properly greeting him, and anyone who has not been to our Rotary Facebook page, had sushi, or is a Buckeye fan.

### Announcements

The following announcements were provided for Club members:

- Would you like to serve on the Fine Committee? Let Randy know and he will get you in the rotation.
- The Lion's Club has invited us to their Seeing Eye Dog Program on September 23 at Jay Birds Lounge.

### Induction

Marty Dodrill welcomed Jon Kraner and Julie Kraner into our club with their sponsor Ellen Hunter.



### Program

President Randy introduced today's Program. St. Marys has had a long standing Sister City relationship

with Awaji City in Japan. Today's speakers were several of the students who participated in the program.

Julianna Bayham, Rochelle Sudman, and Bailey Fenwick-Miller joined us today to talk about the Sister City exchange. The Japanese youth delegation was in St. Marys in July and the students helped host as the Japanese students toured our area. In August our students went over to Japan. It took twenty-two hours of travel time, with the longest leg the twelve hour flight to Tokyo.



While they were there they stayed with two different host families. There were seven St. Marys students on the exchange and our own Paige Canfield was one of the chaperones. They told the story of how Paige got held up at security because of a bottle opener she tried to bring back to the US. Apparently it had to stay in Japan....

Our delegation has been chosen in October but they are trying to move the process up to the Spring. That will allow more time to fund raise for the trip and hopefully give more publicity to the program to increase the number of applicants. The cost of the trip has steadily gone up with the rise in airfares.

While in Japan the students did tour the local school. School was not in

session but there were students around. High school students don't drive cars, so the parking lot was full of bicycles. The students there are much better at soccer, but the school does not have any sports teams. All the sports are club or municipal.

While they were there they experienced lots of the culture, including learning a tea ceremony and some traditional dances. They did have a typhoon scare, but it didn't turn out as bad as expected. They did try the food and didn't seem too impressed. Language was a barrier but the hosts were very friendly and body language went a long way.

### Queen of Hearts

Dan Burke won the drawing, but the Queen got away again.

### Upcoming Programs

- 9-17 Robert Vogel, representing Vogel Dynamics
- 9-24 Mayor Patrick McGowan, representing the City of St. Marys

### Upcoming Greeters

- 9-17 Pat Cogan
- 9-24 Susan Crotty

*\* Please note: All Rotarians scheduled to greet, please be in place by 11:30 a.m.*

The meeting was adjourned after the recitation of the "Four Way Test".

