



# The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503  
P. O. Box 544,  
St. Marys, OH 45885.  
[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)  
October 15, 2014

## Call to Order

President-Elect Kathy Sampson called the meeting to order and Sue Pittman offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Guests/Birthdays

We welcomed Erika Niemeyer, guest of Kristin Powell, and Chris Honefanger, guest of Robbie Burke. Birthdays included: Robbie Burke, Robert Burke, Don Hinckley, Tami Sanford, Jim Heinrich & Rick Green.

## Happy Dollars

Robbie Burke was happy for her Dad's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday and Jim Heinrich for celebrating birthdays with Robert Burke. Dan Burke was happy for his son's achievements on the high school golf team. Sue Pittman was happy to announce MHS graduate, Thomas Petter's new book--available at the Library. Kraig Noble was

happy for Michigan's win against Penn State. And Linda Vogel was happy for a chance at the Queen.

Jon Hall started by fining Ellen Hunter for doubting that he would be at the meeting. Kraig Noble had to pay for the Michigan football team's new blue pants. Ron Gorby was fined because he had such a nice tan for a 'homeless man'. Lastly, Jon took the opportunity to fine all new members who have been inducted since July (don't want anyone to feel left out).

## Announcements

The following announcements were provided for Club members:

- Flower bulbs will be planted at the Rotary Walk on 10/18/14; members welcome--bring shovels and gloves
- "Walk with Nature" to be held in St. Marys on 10/19/14
- Bob Evans is contributing a portion of proceeds to Polio Research for those ordering dinners on 10/23/14
- Kalahari Rotary District Meeting is scheduled for 10/25/14
- Rotary Halloween Parade is set for 10/28/14--members to join at 5:00 PM in Chestnut Street parking lot
- Flowers for the meetings are now being provided by Spring Flowers
- Special mention was made of prospective new members, Jeanne Meyer, Jack Brown & Tom Burke

## Program

We were happy to have Amanda Newlove present today's program. Amanda is a 2009 Memorial High School graduate and the daughter of Dane and Karen Newlove. After completing her degree in Sociology at the University of Dayton, Amanda sought a career in human services and decided to apply for the Peace Corps.

Although the interview process was very rigorous, Amanda was accepted and eventually assigned to Guinea--formerly a French colony and now a predominantly Muslim country in West Africa. Since its liberation in 1958, Guinea remains quite low on the 'human development index' (179<sup>th</sup> out of 187 countries).



Amanda lived with a host family for the first two months of her cultural orientation before being transferred to Guingan--a very remote village of about 1,500 people. She was about 27 miles (2-3 hour trip) from the closest other Peace Corps members.

Living in a 'mud hut', eating with your hands from a communal bowl, and sleeping under a mosquito net each night were all new experiences.

Unfortunately, Amanda's stay in Guinea was abbreviated by the spread of ebola (about 4,500 deaths and rising). Although there were no deaths in Amanda's village, she was forced to evacuate after only six months.

Despite having her assignment cut short, Amanda learned many lessons:

- Presence is the most powerful form of service--money and goods are important, but there's nothing quite like 'being there'

- Integration is crucial to respect and long-lasting development work--important for volunteers to embrace the native language, clothes, food, and customs
- Form your own opinions--there is more to learn about Muslims and those who practice Islam than what we see on the news
- Important to be uncomfortable--this helped Amanda stretch her comfort zone in learning about others...and more about herself
- Find your Calcutta--As Sister Teresa did, each person should find their niche or mission field (Calcutta) and then work hard to 'make a difference'

## Queen of Hearts

Kristin Powell's ticket was drawn but she didn't get the Queen.

## Upcoming Programs

10/22 Otterbein  
10/29 Rotary Foundation  
11/5 Dan Hegemier, MHS Varsity Boys Basketball Coach  
11/12 Sergeant Major Ted Copeland, Veteran Programs

## Upcoming Greeters

10/22 Keith Flederjohann  
10/29 Rick Gerdeman  
11/5 Sandy Gerdeman  
11/12 Ron Gorby

*\* 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".

