



## The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503  
P. O. Box 544,  
St. Marys, OH 45885.  
[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)  
December 3, 2014

### Call to Order

PE Kathy Sampson called the meeting to order and Alex Pittman offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Squire led the singing of "Wait 'til the Sun Shines Nellie." There were no birthdays. We were joined today by our high school seniors and Jan Heinrich, guest of Jim and Kathy Gorby, guest of Ron.

### Happy Dollars

Susan Crotty was happy that the city was unveiling the new Christmas display in Memorial Park. Kraig Noble was happy to go to the OSU/MI game (and sort of happy that Hoke was fired), Rita Hilty for another grandchild, Travis Elsass on behalf of Randy for Minster's state title, Keith for the seniors sitting with him and a

buck for the Bucks for Don, and Ellen Hunter for the seniors visiting and for Kraners presenting.

### Fines

Ellen did the fining today. She did Julie Kraner trivia. Chris Honefanger, Robbie Burke, Beth Noneman, Dan Burke, Alisher, Tami Sanford, Tim Dicke, Mick Teman, Ron Gorby, Zach Ferrall, Marty Dodrill and Jeff Squire all guessed wrong. Kraig Noble was fined for cheating. Hodge Drake and Alex Pittman either knew the answers or guessed well. Then, for personal reasons I guess, she fined everyone not wearing a slip....

### Announcements

December 10 will be an evening meeting for the kids with Santa. THERE IS NO LUNCH MEETING ON DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>!!!!

Our usual gift exchange will be December 17. Please bring a gift of about \$20 for the Yankee Swap style gift exchange.

There will be a board meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

NO MEETINGS ON DECEMBER 24 OR DECEMBER 31.

### Program

President Elect Kathy Sampson introduced our program today. Our own Jon and Julie Kramer came today to speak about their adoption journey. They adopted a young girl from Haiti and the trip led them to increase the size of their already large blended family.

They had been on mission trips to Haiti before the earthquake and

after the earthquake they began looking for a new mission partner. They became involved with a fundraiser for the HIS Home Orphanage. In October of 2011 they were part of a mission team that took the long, rough trip to the orphanage. They had no intention of adopting but a group of girls spent quality time with them and Julie felt a tug on her heart for one girl. That girl gave Julie a letter and asked her to be her mom.



After the trip Julie still felt tug on her heart for that girl. She and Jon prayed on it and she said that God just started opening up doors. They began the adoption process and were featured on a CBS report on the issues of adaption from a county like Haiti, which has such need. Jon showed the CBS report, and it did not look promising that the adoption would proceed. The largest hurdle seemed to be that the couple had not been married long enough to qualify.

The CBS report lead to connections with others who had experiences adopting from Haiti. It lead to hiring the right attorney, Claudy Gassant, who had the right connections and clout to help them cut through some of the red tape. He told them that they needed to do what he said, when he

said, and don't ask too many questions.

They went through the arduous task of assembling all the information, getting it translated, copied and hand delivered to Haiti. They had an opportunity to go before the judge and, eighteen months after they started, the adoption was granted. Rose Berlin has been with them since May of 2013 and has been adapting well to life in Ohio and school in Celina.

### Proposed Member

Tom Burke from Kroger had returned to the area and has been proposed for membership. If you have any questions, contact Robbie Burke or Don Hinckley.

### Queen of Hearts

Brad Seitz won the drawing, but the Queen got away again.

### Upcoming Programs

12-10 Santa for the Kids  
12-17 Club Gift Exchange  
12-24 NO MEETING  
12-31 NO MEETING  
1-7 Shawn Brown on Common Core

### Upcoming Greeters

12-10 Kevin Harlin  
12-17 Jim Harris

*\* 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".

