



## The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885

[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)

April 15, 2015

### Call to Order

President Randy Elsass called the meeting to order followed by Rev. Bill Maki giving the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

### Guests

Today we welcomed Kris Hall guest of John Hall.

### Birthdays

“Happy Birthday” was sung to Susan Crotty. We wish a Happy Birthday to Ed Noble and to Kraig Noble.

### Song

Jeff Squire led us all in the song, “Moonlight Bay”.

### Happy Dollars

Our Happy Rotarians included Ken Strickland who is glad to be back. He also brought greetings from Anaheim Hills. Jeff Squire was happy about the Nature Trail and that the Daffodils are up and blooming. Sue Pittman has VOTE YES signs

available. And she reminded all about the Wine Tasting Saturday at the VFW. Dan Burke had baseball news and also has tickets for the Baseball Drop. Robbie Burke was happy at a chance at the queen, for our speaker and #19 is “Back and at it!” Jim Heinrich was happy for the great weekend he and Jan spent in N. Carolina. Zack Ferrell was happy for the guest speaker. He also self-imposed a fine for being late. John Hall was happy for the good report from the doctor for his wife.

### Fines

John Hall handed out fines all having to do with INCOME TAX! Having to pay were Ken Strickland, Sue Pittman, Zack Ferrell and Rev. Bill Maki. He also fined anyone who had to pay in, who got a refund, who used Tammy Sanford’s tax service and who didn’t use Tammy Sanford’s tax service. Maximum fines were \$2.00.

### Announcements

- Professional Asst’s Day (4/22/15)
- Rotary District Assembly in St. Marys (5/16/15); see Randy Elsass if you can help out at this event
- Get volunteer hours to Randy
- Two concert opportunities on 7/28/15 – Music By The Lake (2-4pm) Appalachian Band in the Park (7pm).
- Dan Burke has 50/50 tickets for Rider Baseball Drop at K.C. Geiger (4/25/15) Benefits St. Marys Baseball Association.
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> Rotary Institute
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> Prom Promenade.

### Program

Our guest speaker was Abby Balster. She is the Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mercer,

Auglaize and Van Wert Counties. Abby is a graduate of Wright State University with a degree in Organizational Leadership. She started with the agency in 2009 as an intern and was hired as the Executive Director in 2010. Abby currently resides in New Bremen with her husband Doug and two little girls, Reagan and Avery.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Auglaize, Mercer and Van Wert counties is a 501c3 non-profit organization that was founded in 1989 and is committed to offering a variety of youth-oriented programs designed to assist at-risk students in their development into well-rounded young adults. Each year, nearly 250 students in these areas are receiving the benefits of these programs. They also provide programs in 15 area schools. A few of the programs they provide include the following:

- LUNCH CLUB: Volunteers from the community are matched with elementary & middle school students and meet during the student’s lunch period focusing on academic & social skills as well as building self-esteem.
- AFTER SCHOOL CLUB: Elementary students are matched with high school

students from area schools and meet for about 1 ½ hours focusing on homework, physical movement and group activities.

- SUPPER CLUB: A program that offers one-on-one relationship for children living at The Marsh Foundation.

The agency has a Board of Trustees that meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the Big Brothers Big Sisters office. Abby invited anyone who is interested in becoming a member.

Abby added that any donation is greatly appreciated and can help children have higher aspirations, greater confidence and educational success. Donations can be sent to the Big Brothers Big Sisters office anytime throughout the year.

### Queen of Hearts

Linda Haines won the drawing but the queen lives.

### Upcoming Programs

4/22 Professional Assistant’s Day  
4/29 Chris Honefanger - Scouting

### Upcoming Greeters

4/22 Brad Seitz  
4/29 Jeff Squire  
5/6 Ken Strickland

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

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

