



## The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503  
P. O. Box 544,  
St. Marys, OH 45885.  
[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)  
June 24, 2015

### Call to Order

President Randy Elsass opened the meeting and Hodge Drake offered the invocation. The Club then recited Pledge of Allegiance.

### Guests/Song/Birthdays

We welcomed Renee Homan (guest of Linda Haines), Jeff Noble and his wife and daughters (guests of Kraig Noble). There were no visiting Rotarians and no members with birthdays were in attendance. Jeff Squire led the singing of, "Rotary My Rotary".

### Happy Dollars/Fines

Randy Elsass was happy for his trip to Churchill Downs (and for his winnings!!). Randy also announced his retirement plans

and having received a prestigious Lifetime Mentor Award. Jeff Squire was happy for the Community Band performance for the Concert in the Park series and thanked Mike Makley for doing a good job as M.C. Linda Haines added a dollar for her guest, Renee Homan. Drake Hodge donated his dollar as a tribute to for Fred Wiswell's retirement (Otterbein St. Marys). Jim Heinrich was happy and proud that our club will have another flag to fly for new District Governor Gary Newton.

As Finer-of-the-Day, Ellen Hunter asked questions that were "All About Chris Honefanger". In the process, we learned that Chris was born in 1984 in Springfield, Ohio. He participated in baseball, basketball, wrestling, and drama productions in high school. He also played bass guitar and piano and was a vocalist. Chris graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University--majoring in Fine Arts and with a minor in Religion. He met his wife on-line and they married in 2012. As we learned in a recent Rotary program, Chris serves as Executive Director for the Boy Scouts of America, Old Sycamore district.

### Announcements

- Randy Elsass gave belated recognition (after Banquet) with a token of appreciation to Dan Burke for his service this past year on the Board.
- Jeff Squire recognized Reagan Noble as our newest (and one

of the youngest) Paul Harris Fellows--thanks to donations by her grandfather, Kraig Noble

- Our club will again team with Kiwanis to run the "Best of the Wurst" tent at SummerFest with chance to earn half of the proceeds after a flat investment of \$1,000.
- Next Board meeting will be at 10:45 AM, on Wed., 7/1/15. We also thanked Trisha Barnes, Susan Crotty, and Allen Baskett who served as Board members for 2013-2015.

### Program

We were pleased to have Ron and Deb Wilker present today's program about their farm on Tri-Township Road in St. Marys. In addition to farming about 300 acres with alternating crops of corn and soybeans, Ron and Deb manage a laying hen operation.



As if this is not enough, Ron has also worked a full-time job as a pipefitter. Now retiring from his 'day job' after 32 years, he and Deb plan to expand the laying hen operation this Fall from the current capacity of ~65,000 hens to ~252,000 hens. A great deal of

automation is utilized to retrieve and pack the eggs—all with a phenomenally low amount of breakage--about a half-gallon out of each 58,000 eggs packed.

Ron indicated that each hen lays approximately 40 dozen eggs over their 24-month career. After the hens are 'retired', they are often sold for processing the meat for 'nuggets' and wings.

Managing an operation of this type also comes with significant regulations, certifications, and permits--enough to fill a binder that is several inches thick. In addition, they undergo periodic audits and inspections to verify that they follow required processes for handling, safety, disinfection, disease control, and general recordkeeping.

### Queen of Hearts

Dan Burke drew the five of spades...better luck next time.

### Upcoming Programs

7/1 Club Assembly

### Upcoming Greeters

Greeter list pending

*\* 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".

