



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
September 2, 2015

Call to Order

President Kathy Sampson opened the meeting and John Kraner offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Guests/Song/Birthdays

Jeff Wolters from the Celina club, along with Jan Heinrich, our media guests, and high school seniors Courtney Helmlinger, Alison Dodson, Alexa Sutton, Blaine Shimp, Maddison Settlege, Shelby Wilder, Nathan Wilker, and Randy Slife with John Meinerding joined us today. Jeff Squire led the singing of "America".

Happy Dollars

Kraig Noble was happy for getting the check from Milt Miller for our Summerfest work and put that check in the cup. Linda Vogel was happy for Jeff Wolters being here today and for the JTDMM Foundation Golf Outing coming up,

Linda Haines for the Golf Outing Golf Ball Drop (and she's selling tickets) Susan Crotty for Greg Foxhoven to remind us about the Lots for Soldiers fundraiser, Rick Green for his chance at the Queen, Gayle Masonbrink for her chance at the Queen before that, and Jim Heinrich for the polio articles in this month's Rotarian.

Fines

Travis Elsass did the fining today. He tried to trick lawyers with questions, but only Kraig Noble fell prey to his cleverness. He group fined everyone who has not used a lawyer this year.

Announcements

Pres. Kathy announced that the board is working with the Eagles on a way to display Rotary banners. If you have any banners to display, see Kathy.

Kathy read a thank you note from one of our scholarship winners.

Program

Zach Ferrall introduced our speaker today. Lieutenant Colonel Kris R. Poppe is serving on active duty at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and is currently assigned to the U. S. Army Trial Defense Service. LTC Poppe is from Auglaize County, having grown up in St. Marys and graduated from high school in New Bremen. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Chief, Capital Litigation, US Army Trial Defense Service, Military Trial Judge, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, and the Senior Defense Counsel at several Army posts.

Today LTC Poppe wanted to talk to us about some of the cases that he has been assigned and his experiences in

the JAG Corps. He was in the reserves when he was called back up to serve as defense counsel for one of the soldiers in the Abu Ghraib scandal. There were eleven investigations going on at the same time over the behavior of the troops at the Bagdad prison at the time he joined the defense team. The conduct of the soldiers was the problem, not the photos that have been widely circulated. Most soldiers at Abu Ghraib served honorably.



LTC Poppe is currently serving as the lead counsel for Nidal Hasan, the Fort Hood shooter. He was initially asked to serve on the prosecutor's team but couldn't because of a prior deployment. The Fort Hood shootings were a shock to the soldiers when one of their own opened fire. There were thirteen dead and 31 wounded in that attack.

In 2010 he moved to Ft. Hood and began his investigation. He said it was hard to hear the stories of the attack and still represent his client. He was worried about his personal security and the safety of his family. He had a large team working for him and they had to decide if it was safer to send the families away. The courtroom had

three security checks, stacked shipping containers and bomb protection around the building.

Hasan eventually requested that he defend himself at trial and then didn't mount a defense. LTC Poppe sat with him at the trial and is now his attorney in post-trial issues.

Kris said it was hard to separate his personal feelings from his duty to defend, but he was ordered to do a job and that's what soldiers do. He also thanked us for all the service that we do here in our communities.

Queen of Hearts

Rick Green's number was pulled again, but the joker went to Tami Sanford and the Queen still lives.

Upcoming Programs

- 9/9 Polio Plus
- 9/16 Gary Levitt, Museum Curator
- 9/23 Scott Stienecker, Polaris/Lifestyle Communities Pavilion

Upcoming Greeters

- 9/9 Hodge Drake
 - 9/16 Travis Elsass
- * 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".

