



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
February 10, 2016

Call to Order

President Elect Ellen Hunter opened the meeting and Rita Hilty offered the invocation. The Club then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests/Song/Birthdays

We were joined by Jan Heinrich (guest of Jim), and members of the media.

Kevin Lawler led us in badly singing "The Sidewalks of New York". Ellen led us in singing "Happy Birthday" to our frequent media guest Mike Burkholder.

Happy Dollars/Fines

Kraig Noble was happy for his trip to the Alps, and for helping Kathy Sampson discover the actual first Galen Cisco Award Winner by looking at some old cogs from 1964, Robbie

Burke for her chance at the Queen and for our speaker today, Rita for being back and that her husband is still with us (when in doubt call the squad), Keith Fledderjohann for another grandbaby on the way, and Julie Kraner for another grandbaby arriving.

Fines

Zach Ferrall did the fining. He fined Kevin Lawler for the "song" today, Randy Elsass for missing a St. Marys trivia question, Don Hinckley for being a smart alec, and anyone who didn't know where Wharf Street was or hasn't been to a council meeting.

Announcements

- PE Ellen announced that a teacher from the ESC would be attending next week and is accepting donations of any old office supplies for use for her students.
- The District Conference is coming up fast. Register now on the District Website if you haven't already.

Program

PE Ellen introduced our mayor, Pat McGowan. The Mayor graduated from Memorial in 1964 and continued his education, including an MBA. He worked in industry on computers for 40 years before returning to his hometown to run for mayor. He has two children.

The Mayor was here today to report on the state of the city. The Mayor's Annual Report for 2015 is available, and the mayor said if you like Russian novels you can read it in its entirety. The Mayor started his presentation today by going over the goals he started with when he came into office

and his vision for St. Marys. He then went over the various departments and reported on the activity of the city.



One of his focuses has been on electricity. The city had a firm do an assessment of the electric infrastructure of the city. Things had not been updated or maintained as they needed to have been. Beginning in 2013 the city has been working on \$7.5 million worth of maintenance and upgrades, and will begin to look at a solar field.

The Mayor discussed the engineer department, including the new CAD computer system and the upcoming street/sewer/park improvements that the department is working on.

The Mayor spoke about our great police and fire departments. The fire department has some new equipment and last year made 303 fire calls. The police made 24,109 calls for service last year and are proud of the new K-9 officer, Scout. The Mayor reported that the General Services Department has had an easy winter for snow

removal but reminded us that we are one of the few communities in the area that has brush pick-up and complimented the street sweeping program. The city picked up over 4,000 tons of garbage last year.

The city will need a new water plant soon. There will need to be a hike in utility rates to help pay for those improvements. Utility rates have not risen with the cost to provide for the new plant. Last year the utility office collected over \$21 million in fees. The Mayor hopes to have the new water plant open in 2019.

The Mayor also briefly talked about a plan to save the old mill building on High Street. The funds do exist to stabilize the structure and to return it to its original size. Additional funding will be needed to turn the building into a more useful community space.

Queen of Hearts

Kevin Wolfe got to draw for the Queen, again, but the Queen lives.

Upcoming Programs

2/17/16 Dr. Torres
2/24/16 Nick Moeller, Brew Barn

Upcoming Greeters

2/17/16 Bill Maki
2/24/16 Mike Makley

** 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".

