



THE COG

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

January 11, 2017

Call to Order

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

Guests / Song / Birthdays

Guests included Greg Foxhoven--City Service Director, Mike Burkholder--new Industrial & Community Development Manager for the City, Dan Keyes (guest of K. Lawler), Christine Shelby (guest of Julie Kraner), and Lori Martensen (guest of President Ellen).

Rita Hilty & Kevin Lawler led the singing of "Rotary, My Rotary", and "Happy Birthday" to Alex Pittman, Steve Mielke, and Ken Strickland.

Happy Dollars / Fines

Bev Wilker was happy for West Virginia's basketball win over #1 Baylor, Hodge Drake for Rita Hilty's

completed surgeries and Clemson's football win over Alabama, Dick Hudson for a chance at the Queen, and Trisha Barnes for a sake gift from Alisher.

Rebecca Regnet & Alex Pittman added dollars as thanks for Jeff Squire's hosting the Arts Place Beer Tasting (1/13/17), Rita Hilty for being back at Rotary, Jeff Squire for Mike Burkholder (perhaps, having the most meetings attended prior to joining), and Kevin Lawler was '\$5 happy' for guest Dan Keyes, book gifted from Larry Hammond, and Rick Green being a good sport when being teased.

President Ellen gave Bill Maki credit for levying fines based on our reading of her Sunday letter. In case you didn't know: 1) Ten new members inducted so far in 2016-17; 2) "Jake's Angels" has sponsored the most new members; 3) Salvation Army took in over \$32k (a record by ~\$8k) with help of Rotary bell-ringers; and 4) New Rotary billboard location is on State Route 29 East.



Keep watching "Ellen's Notes" for information re: current/future Club activities and events.

Announcements / Presentations

- Ellen H. read thank-you letters from Salvation Army & Arts Place
- Ellen also encouraged us all to keep looking for new members

- Gears & Cheers at J.T.'s (2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:00 PM)—all members and guests are welcome
- Next "Family of Rotary" event at North YMCA with Celina Club (5:15 PM, Sat, 1/28/17)—games, swimming & dinner provided—spouses/kids/grandkids welcome

Program

Our program was presented by Mayor Patrick McGowan, who provided his annual 'State of the City' address. Due to reduced State funding, one of the City's challenges will be to sustain its past record of financial management and cost control. Goals for 2017 include continuous improvement of operations and services provided to community residents, businesses and industries.



Mayor McGowan outlined a wide variety of the City's past achievements and the plans for 2017 and beyond, including:

- Electric infrastructure upgrades through 2019 with doubling of McKinley Rd substation capacity
- Over \$600k spent for street repairs in each of past two years
- Steady service from fire department (263 calls in 2016), police department (new dispatch camera system for officer safety), parks department (new facilities at K.C. Geiger Park, etc.)

- New water plant construction over next two years is largest capital project in City's history

Mayor went on to stress the importance of restoring the Miami & Erie Canal and the quality of water flowing through St. Marys. He hopes to enlist support of state legislators to take ownership of this issue. Actions are likely to include dredging, installing rip-rap, and a water treatment train.

Mayor McGowan is a graduate of MHS with a Bachelor degree in Business Administration. Before returning to St. Marys, he held positions in computer sales and marketing. He was elected to his current position in 2012 after having served on the City Council.

Queen of Hearts

Alisher Khudaykulov not only drew for the Queen...he found her, and took home a prize of ~\$200

Upcoming Programs

- 1/18/17 Dr. Steven Boehmfeldt, Ronald Reagan's former chef
- 1/25/17 Judge Pepple, Common Pleas Court, Auglaize County
- 2/1/17 Mike Bartell, author, "Orbit of Discovery (all-Ohio Space Shuttle Mission)
- 2/8/17 Mark Schemmel, Ohio Wildlife Officer

Upcoming Greeters

- 1/18/17 Julie Kraner
- 1/25/17 Shawn Brown
- 2/1/17 Kevin Lawler
- 2/8/17 Bob Leugers

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

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

