



## THE COG

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

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

September 6, 2017

### Call to Order

President Jeff Squire opened the meeting and Rev. Bill Maki offered the invocation. Kraig Noble led the singing of "You're a Grand Old Flag" & "Happy Birthday" to Dick Hudson.

Guests included Principal, Bill Ruane and seven (7) seniors from MHS, Matt Hughes (guest of Dan Burke), Katie Honigford (WLIO), Eric Adams (Evening Leader), and Jan Heinrich (guest of Jim).

### Happy Dollars

President Jeff was happy for getting water at his mother's house, Dan Burke for guest Matt Hughes, Lori Martensen for Friends of the Library "Bling Fling" in Nov., and Rev. Bill Maki for disaster relief collection (filling two trucks). Linda Haines added dollar for students entering medical fields, Kraig Noble

for family gathering of 38, and Rick Green for MHS students and for chance at the Queen. Kevin Lawler kicked in \$20 for students, Rev. Charles for friend--a 79-year-old motorcycle rider, and Zach Ferrall for Riders and Buckeyes.

### Fines

Phil Schumann fined several for his trivia quiz--first school to become co-ed (Oberlin), first true supermarket (Piggly Wiggly), Cal Ripken consecutive games streak, etc. Group fines for anyone betting on the Browns for the Super Bowl.



### Announcements

- Jeff reported nice letter from DG Deb Cheney after her recent visit; Members encouraged to put their loose change in the polio pig
- District 6600 made a donation to the Houston hurricane relief fund
- Jim Heinrich reported club's Foundation giving averaged \$200/person(4th best in district)
- Kevin Wolfe resigned due to a job change; Alex Pittman will replace Kevin on the Board



- Board voted to renew Galen Cisco's honorary membership for ten years and offered Stephanie Kramer a one-year honorary
- Thoughts and prayers go out to Don Hinckley who was admitted to the hospital
- Ellen Hunter passed a card for Jake Sutton--completing FBI training (Anybody seen her pen?)

### Program

Today's program was presented by Donna Grube, Director of the Greater Grand Lake Visitors Region (formerly known as the Convention & Visitors Bureau). Donna has served in her current role for the past fourteen years, so she was able to relate very well how this organization has evolved over the years.



She was happy to report that tourism is alive and well in Auglaize and Mercer Counties. In 2016, lodging taxes reached a record level, proving that our area is indeed a destination for many travelling through Ohio. Research shows that visitors who spend one day in the area, typically spend over \$100, while those staying

overnight spend an amount greater than \$350.

Too often, we fail to recognize the attractions that we have in our own 'backyard'. We all know that the lake draws many visitors, but we also can enjoy many local festivals, the Miami Erie Canal, a variety of museums, and great facilities for boating, camping, and bicycling.

Donna related the testimonials of many past visitors. And when visitors have a good time, they tell their family and friends...and that's great for our local economy!! In conclusion, Donna outlined several future projects, including the clean-up of Villa Nova Beach, expansion of Celina Lakeshore Park, and development of a new mobile website to reach even more potential visitors.

### Queen of Hearts

The ticket of guest, Matt Hughes, was drawn. The Queen still lives.

### Upcoming Programs

- 9/13 Dean Jay Albayyari, WSLC
- 9/20 Greg Johnson, Robotics
- 9/27 Opioid Epidemic Panel
- 10/4 Paul Hoverman, Niswonger Performing Arts Center

### Upcoming Greeters

- 9/13 Linda Haines
- 9/20 Lori Martensen
- 9/27 Jake Sutton
- 10/4 Dan Hosek

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

