



THE COG

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

November 22, 2017

Call to Order

President Jeff Squire opened the meeting and Rita Hilty gave the invocation.

Guests included Dr. Emily Post and Nicholas Barrett (guests of Ellen Hunter), Jan Heinrich (guest of Jim), and Angie Klosterman (Evening Leader).

Zach Ferrall led singing of “Over the River and Through the Woods”.

Happy Dollars

President Jeff thanked Zach for filling in when he was gone last week; Zach Ferrall was happy for Chad Doll presenting today; Ellen Hunter for her guests and for Chad Doll; John Wale for shot at Queen and for Buckeyes; Randy Elsass for Minster FB team and for new dog;

Rita Hilty for the Rotary collection of lap blankets and for the 30th anniversary of Otterbein St. Marys; Abby Balster for wrapping up plans for Holiday Home Tour (12/19/17); and Travis Elsass for engagement to his long-time ‘best friend’.

Fines

Travis Elsass quizzed the group on Thanksgiving trivia. Did you know that...USA is not only country celebrating Thanksgiving?... that 1st Macy’s Parade was in 1924?...that 1st USA Thanksgiving lasted three days?

Announcements

- Rotary Foundation program on 11/29/17; bring your checkbooks
- Kid’s Christmas Party on 12/12/17 5:30pm dinner, 6:00pm program
RSVP in advance
- Nicholas Barrett, 2017 MHS grad, attended meeting to thank Club for \$100 donation for project he completed as part of Eagle Scout requirements— a 3’x6’ sign for Agape Client Services



Program

Today’s program on the history of Thanksgiving was presented by Chad Doll, a 1992 MHS graduate who has been teaching at MHS for

21 years. Chad also serves on the Wapakoneta City Council.

Chad traced the first Thanksgiving back to 1621--a celebration that included the Pilgrims, Squanto, Chief Massasoit & Wampanoag Indians. It was not celebrated continuously, but gained interest after a letter-writing campaign by Sarah Josepha Hale, who promoted the holiday as a means of unifying the country. Finally, in 1863, President Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November as the official celebration of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving stands out as one of our more unique holidays. Although it is not a ‘religious’ holiday, it inspires many to express their gratefulness to God for the blessings they enjoy. Thanksgiving has also escaped some of the commercialization that surrounds Christmas and our other holidays.

Of course, turkeys have been a regular part of most Thanksgiving dinners, but President Lincoln granted clemency to a turkey he received at Thanksgiving as a good-natured publicity event. This practice was sporadic, but finally, President Reagan re-established the tradition for good, by granting a ‘pardon’ to the Presidential turkey.

Over the years, many other traditions that have been linked with Thanksgiving. Parades were promoted by the major department stores to help kick off the holiday shopping season. Although Macy’s is the most famous parade, Gimbel’s held the first parade in 1920. As for musical connections, James Pierpont wrote “Jingle Bells”—a tune that actually became

more closely associated with Christmas. A few years later, in 1857, Lydia Maria Child wrote the popular, “Over the River and Through the Wood”. Of course, for some, Thanksgiving also means watching all the after-dinner football games.

Whatever traditions you share, we hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Queen of Hearts

Pat Cogan found the Queen, winning a pot worth \$200+.



Upcoming Programs

- 11/29 Rotary Foundation program
- 12/6 Jenny Boroff, WIC Program
- 12/13 Molly Hay, Big Brothers & Big Sisters
- 12/20 Member Christmas Party

Upcoming Greeters

- 11/29 Kathy Sampson
 - 12/6 Kathy Bayless
 - 12/13 Dan Hosek
 - 12/20 Linda Vogel
- The meeting was adjourned after recitation of the “Four Way Test”.

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

