



THE COG

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

December 13, 2017

Call to Order

President Jeff Squire opened the meeting, and Rev. Bill Maki offered the invocation.

Guests included Marc Kogan from Findlay Rotary Club, Bill McGowan (Kathy Bayless), Neal Brady (Randy Elsass), Phil Thomas (WLIO) Ed Gebert (Daily Standard), Angie Klosterman (Evening Leader), Matt Hughes (guest of Robbie Burke), Jan (guest of Jim), Greg Foxhoven (Mike Burkholder) and Pat McGowan (speaker).

Kraig Noble led the singing of "We wish you a Merry Christmas".

Happy Dollars

Happy Dollars from Jeff Squire for Christmas Caroling, Children's

Christmas party (\$10 from Alisher), Beth Noneman for Foundation donations, Robbie Burke for mayor and caroling, Linda Haines for Christmas party and tickets for Dodge challenger, Trisha Barnes for Christmas party, Abby Balster for Christmas party and Winter Dreams of Homes, Kraig Noble for Marc Kogan and reminder for passing of the hat at the Christmas party next week, Dan Hosek for ringing Salvation Army Bell, Renee Homan for blanket donations and Christmas caroling, and Randy Elsass for his puppy's first snow.

Fines

Ron Gorby fined Charles Ritchmyer, Alex Pittman, Trisha Barnes, Bill Maki, Jim Heinrich for no badges, Lori Martensen for COG comment, Jeff Squire for upside down photos, Zach Ferrall for upside down photo, Bob Leugers and Kraig Noble for question errors, \$.50 credit for all carolers and Group fines included those that haven't signed up for ringing the bell or if you aren't signed up for the Christmas Party.

Announcements



- Club to help Salvation Army by ringing bells (12/11-12/23)
- Member Christmas Party 12/20/17; lunch to start early—bring \$25 gift and all meals will be \$11.50 that day.

- Gears and Cheers Dec. 28th with be a social event with no presentation.
- Jeff Squire presented a \$500 check to Wes and Alex for the Arts Place.

Program

Today's program was Pat McGowan speaking about the Miami Erie Canal: Past, Present and Future. Mr. McGowan reminded us the rich history of the Miami Erie Canal dating back to 1825 and spoke about the importance and many changes that the canal has faced over the years. Currently, the canal has 75 miles owned by the State of Ohio, 35 miles with water and 199 miles of the canal are owned by businesses or private individuals. The canal has presented a health hazard with water toxins due to farm nutrients, lawn fertilizer, slow flow, banks caving in and 8" of muck. The ODNR manages and controls the canal and currently the Army Corps of Engineers states that it is still a navigable means of transportation. The future of the canal includes an \$80,000 grant for 3300' of paved trail, a \$50,000 grant for tourism plan (40 miles of trail from Fort Loramie to Delphos) and the 3rd plan includes fixing the canal and adding a 60 acre treatment plant. Phase 1 would be from Aquaduct to US 33 in St. Marys and phase 2 would be from US 33 to North Glenwood Rd. It would include removing pollutants with a treatment plant. Cost of this plan is \$10 million and we're hoping to be on the state budget for 2019. Current support from Craig Riedel, Senator Cliff Hite, Senator Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown and

US rep Jim Jordan. We're looking for support from Rob McColley. Mr. McGowan explained the benefits of these plans would include recreational area for St. Marys, stimulate the economy, improve quality of life, eliminate the health hazard, decrease pollution to the Lake Erie watershed and provide clean water for the future. Mr. McGowan then answered the club's questions.



Queen of Hearts

Visiting Rotarian Marc Kogan had the winning ticket, but he could not find the Queen.

Upcoming Programs

- 12/20 Member Christmas Party
- 12/27 Jon Burke and Craig Szymczak (MHS b-ball coaches)
- 1/3 Tim Eberle, Ohio History Center
- 1/10 Marc Kogan Boys Scouts
- 1/17 Molly Hay BBBS

Upcoming Greeters

- 12/20 Linda Vogel
- 12/27 Abby Balster
- 1/3 Beth Noneman
- 1/10 Jeff Vossler

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 am**

