



THE COG

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

January 17, 2018

Call to Order

President Jeff Squire opened the meeting and Charles Richtmyer offered the invocation.

Guests included Brian Botti (guest of Dan Burke), Jan Heinrich (guest of Jim), and Alex Barhorst (The Evening Leader).

Kraig Noble led the singing of "In the Good Old Summertime".

Happy Dollars

President Jeff was happy for Arts Place Beer Tasting event and Randy Elsass for his eighth time on the ski slopes and for his puppy.

Fines

Fine master, Ron Gorby invited those without badges to confess and pay their fines. Trisha Barnes and others fined for being at same table on consecutive weeks and Gary

Newton was fined for 'sucking up to the Fine Master. In honor of today's program, Kraig Noble was quizzed re: person who started the local Big Brothers Big Sisters group—was it Jim Geiger or Eldon Montague? (Kraig paid a fine for guessing it was Eldon). We also learned that Lee Harvey Oswald applied but was not selected as a 'big brother'.



Announcements

- All are invited to join next Gears & Cheers (Rita Hilty to be speaking)
- Jeff thanked Morgan Paul, Zach Ferrall, and Rick Green for help in moving "Free Little Libraries to East School and Head Start
- Those recognized for donations to Annual Fund and Polio Plus in Governor Do's year included Kathy Sampson, Randy Elsass, Bev Wilker, Gary Newton, Alex Pittman, and Wes Protsman



- Memorial Service for former member, Louis Comus, held on 1/20/18 at Wayne Street Church
- It was also mentioned that former member, Don Cable, also passed
- Thanks to those who've paid their dues; others encouraged to f/up

Program

Molly Hay presented today's program on the Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) program. Originally from Coldwater, Molly served on the BBBS Board for 16 years before becoming the Director in 2015. The local Big Brothers/Big Sisters was founded in 1989 through the efforts of Jim Geiger, Eldon Montague (and others) to provide a variety of youth programs in Auglaize, Mercer, and Van Wert Counties. Nearly 350 youth from 15 area school systems benefit each year from BBBS programs.



Site-based BBBS programs match elementary school students with high school students for weekly meetings/activities during or after school. These activities strive to improve academic and social skills as well as the self-

esteem of the little brother/little sister. In addition, studies show that 'littles' are ~36% less likely to use drugs and ~56% less likely to skip school.

Community-based BBBS sets up the traditional match between adult volunteers who commit to meeting 2-3 times per month with their 'littles'. While these matches typically continue for one year, some last longer (one local match extended for 12 years).

Big Brothers/Big Sisters relies heavily upon local fundraising events such as bowling & golf outings, and "Dancing with the Big Stars". As you might know, Zach Ferrall participated in the latter event for the past several years.

BBBS is a 501c3 non-profit organization so donations are tax-deductible. Adult volunteers are welcome to apply, as well.

Queen of Hearts

Jim Heinrich got to draw, but could not find the Queen.

Upcoming Programs

- 1/24 Bob Hellmuth, New Hope Village Senior Apartments
- 1/31 Abby Balster, Chamber
- 2/7 Mayor Patrick McGowan, City Update

Upcoming Greeters

- 1/24 Randy Elsass
- 1/31 Renee Homan
- 2/7 Rick Green

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**

