



THE COG

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

January 31, 2018

Call to Order

President Jeff Squire opened the meeting and Sue Pittman offered the invocation.

Guests included Brian Botti (guest of Dan Burke), Dr. Emily Post (guest of Ellen Hunter), David Waltermire (guest of Kathy Bayless), Diana Green (guest of Abby Balster), and Jan (guest of Jim Heinrich).

Zach Ferrall led the singing of "God Bless America" and there were no birthdays.

Happy Dollars

Abby Balster was happy for her guest Dianna, Trisha Barnes was happy that Abby was our speaker and Ellen was back, Kathy Bayless was happy about her guest David

from Midwest Electric, Abby speaking, Ellen back, Abby's help, and just for being happy, Ellen was happy to be back and her guest Dr. Emily Post becoming a member next week, and Travis was happy that Rita Hilty spoke at Gears and Cheers last week.

Fines

Finemaster Travis Elsass started fines by fining himself since he forgot that he had fines. Travis then handed out group fines starting with the skewed seating at the meeting, if you did not attend Gears and Cheers, everyone BUT Ellen was fined since we were paying for Ellen's presence, if your team didn't make the Super Bowl, if you haven't caught a cold yet this season.

Announcements & New Members

- President Jeff reminded everyone that the board meeting is next week Wednesday, Feb. 7th. New board members will start their year July 1.
- Invited all to attend Gears & Cheers next week and reminded everyone that Gears and Cheers will be held at the Business After Hours event on Feb. 22nd at Minster Bank. (sponsored by Minster Bank, Chamber & Rotary Club)
- President Jeff reminded everyone that dues were due and that the new directory pages were available on the table.
- Pres. Jeff thanked JTDMH for their MESA lab donation.
- Dan Burke then inducted and welcomed new member Brian Botti to the club. Brian is the new District Executive from the Black Swamp District of the Boy

Scouts of America and was proposed by Dan Burke.



Program

Our program today was presented by fellow Rotarian and Executive Director for the St. Marys Chamber, Abby Balster.

Abby started her presentation by asking each of us "What makes St. Marys great?" When you think about home what makes you smile? Several Rotarians answered and she confirmed that each answer was CORRECT.



The Chamber is the one organization that threads all areas of a community together. Big or small

businesses all benefit from the Chamber's efforts. The chamber can thread together the big businesses, small businesses, government, education, non-profits, and communities with the VALU Class. This program brings it all together and provides the venue for networking and learning about each area. Abby encouraged all of us to get involved with the VALU class again as there have been many improvements made to the class.

Abby also spoke about the Business Advisory Council (BAC) and how it connects the schools with businesses. And also encouraged each business to utilize the many programs offered by the Chamber (e-newsletter, Facebook marketing, Website advertising, Radio & TV discount programs, health insurance discounts, Workers Comp and Credit Card processing discounts). There are current members that save thousands a year by utilizing these savings. Plus, consumers are 80% more likely to patronage a business "just for being a member of the Chamber". In closing, Abby reminded everyone of the Annual Chamber Awards Banquet on March 8th at the Union Hall.

Queen of Hearts

Lori Martensen drew for the Queen but couldn't find her.

Upcoming Programs

- 2/7 Mayor Patrick McGowan, City Update
- 2/14 Al Solomon, County Sheriff
- 2/21 Jeff Marcum, United States Freshwater Boater's Alliance

Upcoming Greeters

- 2/7 Rick Green
- 2/14 Bill Maki
- 2/21 Dan Burke
- 2/28 Rebecca Regnet

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**

