



THE COG

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

February 28, 2018

Call to Order

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

Guests included Jan Heinrich (guest of Jim), Dave Waltermire (guest of Kathy Bayless), and Teresa Schultz (The Evening Leader).

Zach Ferrall led the singing of "America" and "Happy Birthday" to Dan Burke.

Happy Dollars

President Jeff was happy for "Business After Hours" hosted by Minster Bank (Kathy Sampson)—great publicity for Chamber (and for Rotary); Trisha Barnes for chamber Banquet; Beth Noneman for chance at Queen; Abby Balster for "Business After Hours" & Chamber Banquet; and Linda Haines for

MHS JV Girls' Basketball and Hospital Foundation car raffle (see Linda for tickets). Kathy Bayless added a happy dollar for guest and prospective member, Dave Waltermire; Randy Elsass for crocuses, daffodils & skiing; Charles Richtmyer for U-C basketball; and Brian Botti for Boy Scouts' re-chartering.



Fines

Finemaster Travis Elsass levied fines via trivia questions. Did you know that...ancient Greeks saw tax-collectors as noble occupation...tax on gold watch during Civil War was \$1.50...average annual income in 1913 was \$800...we had 77% tax rate during WWI?? Group fines on members who haven't registered for Rotary District Conference, those without Rotary badge or pin, those who missed last Gears & Cheers.

Announcements

- Next Board Meeting on 3/7/18—all members are welcome
- Gears & Cheers (with Interact) originally scheduled for 3/8/18 has been cancelled
- Chamber of Commerce Banquet set for 3/8/18 at USWA Hall, starting at 5:00 PM (social hour) & 6:00 PM (dinner & program)

- St. Marys members invited to join New Bremen/New Knoxville Club auction on 3/10/18
- Ag Day set for 3/14/18—to be joined by FFA Club and MHS seniors; let Bev Wilker know asap if you plan to bring guest(s)

Program

Kathy Jeffries, Project SEARCH Instructor at St. Marys City Schools, presented today's program. She was joined by two of her skills trainers from Capabilities, as well as six students from St. Marys, Wapakoneta, and Minster who are enrolled in the St. Marys program.



Project SEARCH is a one-year school-to-work program providing internship opportunities for 18-22 year-old students with disabilities. Students, known as interns, take part in three 10-week internships prior to high school graduation. The hands-on internships provide them with a wide range of skills, such as communications, personal hygiene, problem-solving, financial and time management.

Since its founding in 1996, Project SEARCH has grown to over 500 programs nationwide. This is the first year of St. Marys' program and is being hosted at Otterbein St. Marys. Job skills learned include building & grounds maintenance,

food, housekeeping, and laundry services, and more. The success for interns has been excellent, with a 75% employment rate—among the best for any transitional program.



Each of the students introduced themselves, explaining their goals and how this program has made a difference in their lives. After hearing their stories, it's clear that the focus of Project SEARCH is on each intern's **ABILITIES** rather than disabilities.

Queen of Hearts

Randy Elsass' ticket was drawn, but the Queen lives on.

Upcoming Programs

- 3/7 John Hill, Haiti Water Project
- 3/14 Ag Day, Jackie Seibert, United Equity (DG Deb joins)
- 3/21 Doug Spencer, Auglaize Co. Commissioner
- 3/28 Craig Riedel, Ohio House of Representatives, District 82

Upcoming Greeters

- 3/7 Wes Protsman
- 3/14 Bev Wilker
- 3/21 Kevin Lawler
- 3/28 Mike Lee

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

