



THE COG

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

December 12, 2018

Call to Order

President Zach Ferrall called the meeting to order, and Rita Hilty offered the invocation.

Guests included Theresa and Jake Dowling of the Evening Leader and Jan Heinrich.

Song Leader Jeff Squire led a rousing rendition of "Jingle Bells".

Happy Dollars

Zach was happy for the excellent children's Christmas party. Jeff Squire was happy for our speaker, Ed Pierce, while Trisha Barnes thanked the Xmas party committee. Ellen Hunter was also happy for the Xmas party, including the gift of sworkd-like crayons. Rita Hilty

announced caroling at nursing homes on Dec. 17 starting at 5:30 at Otterbein. Mike Lee thanked Dan Burke for rides and was happy at the prospect of getting his neck brace off. Larry Hammond was happy for the evidence that he had truly arrived, having been entrusted by Keith with the Treasurer's briefcase.

Fines

Finemaster Brian Botti focused on holidays celebrated today, including the feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Russian Constitution Day, Kanji Day, Kenya's Independence Day, and Turkmenistan's Neutrality Day. No one answered correctly.



Announcements

- A check for \$500 was presented to Arts Place, accepted by Wes Protsman
- A Thank You was received from Ashley and Courtney Nuss for the fair purchase of a champion hog.
- Gears and Cheers will host Randy Elsass this week with world travel stories.



Program

Ed Pierce has served in the Auglaize County prosecutor's office for 35 years, 22 of those as the elected Prosecutor.

Ed explained that the office has many roles including representing county officers and acting as a victim's advocate. Auglaize County also has municipal court jurisdiction.

Before 1996, convicted persons could have indefinite sentences imposed, meaning that a judge could parole based on many factors. Truth in Sentencing mandated definite sentences. This soon began a period of overcrowding in Ohio prisons,

abetted by the closing of aging facilities.

Ed outlined how efforts through time to limit the prison population have increasingly tied the hands of the Prosecutor and the courts. This has ultimately led to the current situation in which 4th and 5th Degree Felonies have essentially gotten to be treated almost as misdemeanors. This class of crime includes drug offenses, as well as breaking and entering, theft of less than \$50,000, and forgery.

Rotarians need to be aware of this situation as informed voters in order to have a hope of remedying a situation which may not best lead to improving our community and guiding convicted felons to ultimately be productive members of the community.

Queen of Hearts

The Queen lives.

Upcoming Programs

12/19 Annual Club Xmas Party
12/26 No meeting
01/02 No meeting

Upcoming Greeters

12/19 Dan Burke
12/26 No meeting
01/02 No meeting

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**

