



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503

P.O. Box 544 * St. Marys, OH 45885

www.stmarysrotary.org

March 9, 2011

Call to Order:

President-elect Linda Vogel called the meeting to order. Sue Pittman offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Kraig Noble led the club in singing "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling."

Happy Dollars:

Kraig Noble offered to contribute to the Jim Tressel defense fund but was quick to point out he takes no joy in the situation now facing the Buckeyes, and gave happy dollars for his friend, the mayor, and that his son, Capt. Jeff Noble was headed to Anchorage with a medal from the U.S. Army; John Wale had \$5 from Ali who was picking up his wife from the airport; Dan Burke for his shot at the queen last week; Mary Riepenhoff who praised the girls

state bowling championship run through a raft of difficulties; Scott Ross for Karl's daughter who was a part of that state championship bowling team; Sue Pittman for Doris Lawler's 50 years of service to the library board and for the mayor's proclamation honoring the same, for the Lienen Sister City event featuring Howl at the Moon, and for upcoming programs at the library; and Linda Vogel for getting back on track with her and her family's health issues.

Fines:

Randy Elsass was the fine master who got Kraig Noble and Jeff Squire for sitting apart at two tables-for-one; Dan Hosek for his Lima News article; Kathy Sampson for no happy dollars for her daughter's recent performance in the high school musical; Linda Haines and Robbie Burke for missing the trivia questions and anyone who didn't serve on the library board for 50 years or anyone who hasn't started building an Ark.

Announcements:

John Wale was pushing the March Madness basketball pool; Linda announced upcoming meetings: the District Assembly will be April 2, and the District Conference will begin April 29. Please make plans to attend if you are interested.

Program:

Linda introduced Mayor Greg Freewalt, who was on hand to present his annual state of the city message. He listed the city's

accomplishments in 2010, including taking down spending while staying "progressive."

While the city's income tax dollars were dropping, the city did see a bit of a rebound in 2010, he said.



**ST. MARYS MAYOR
GREG FREEWALT**

The city's street program continues, Freewalt said, because once you back off that schedule, you never get caught up again. Four railroad crossings were improved, streets were resurfaced, a portion of the canal was dredged and with the help of the CIC the ground floor of Hotel Fort Barbee was improved. Freewalt said "We cleaned up a section of town that's been empty for 10 years."

The mayor also listed Kohls, JT Restaurant, the Beer Barrel and BW3s announcements as progress the city is making.

In 2011, the city is looking forward to resurfacing projects, a \$2 million lift station that should alleviate water back ups on the west end of the city, and a shelter house constructed by the grist mill. The mayor also talked about the new 18-

hole miniature golf course. The city is making contact with senior citizen and day care agencies to allow their clients to make use of the course on a regular basis. Talk is also out there about a weekly league.

"For a time when we're in a recession, a lot of great things are happening for St. Marys," Freewalt said, before opening the program to questions. "We're being very progressive."

Queen of Hearts:

Dick Hudson won the daily drawing, but did not find the queen.

Upcoming Programs:

3/16 – Vince Koza
3/23 – Bob Ulm, Maverick Media
3/30 – MHS Bowling Coaches

Upcoming Greeters:

3/16 Ron Gorby
3/23 Dan Hosek

**Please note: All Rotarians scheduled to greet, please be in place by 11:30 am.*

Our meeting was adjourned following the recitation of the Four Way Test of the Things We Think, Say or Do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FREINDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?