



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503

P. O. Box 544,

St. Marys, OH 45885.

www.stmarysrotary.org

May 18, 2011

Call to Order

President Kimberli called the meeting to order. Kathy Sampson prayed. Kimberli Rompilla chose the song, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Birthday: Mick Teman.

Happy Dollars

Kimberli Rompilla, Jeff Squire, Deb Zwez, Marty Dodrill, Heidi Meade, Tami Sanford, Kevin Lawler, Susan Pittman, Kathy Sampson, Ellen Hunter, John Wale, Lorraine Fischio, Randy Elsass, and (Randy added a happy \$ for) Fred Wiswell, who had successful surgery.

Fines

Rick Gerdeman was the finer and his victims included Kraig Noble, Gary Newton, and Keith Fledderjohann (all three given a credit), Greeter Committee, Song Committee, and then "Reds" questions to Mary Riepenhoff,

Joe and Dan Burke, Kathy Sampson, Mark Ashman, Chris Wibbenmeyer, Bob Leugers, Robbie Burke, Linda Haines, Ed Bray, Ken Strickland, Mike Makley. President Kimberli added a group fine, using her presidential powers: anyone who hasn't been to a "Reds" game.

Announcements

- The Annual Banquet is Thursday, June 9 and there is NO meeting on Wednesday, June 8.
- June 16 – Business After Hours at J & B Pastry.
- Susan Pittman was presented a sizeable check from Rotary to buy books and materials at Community Public Library.

Program

President-elect Linda Vogel introduced the program, which today is our very own Kimberli Rompilla discussing travel trends. Kimberli decided to give the club an overview of her 21 years as a travel agent. She is originally from Defiance and attended Travel School in Lima, completing her training in 1990. She purchased Spectacular Travel in the year 2000, and then sold the business recently, becoming an outside travel agent rather than owner.

There have been many changes in the travel and tourism field since 1990. Airlines and cruise lines used to give agents free tickets. Las Vegas was a popular destination in those days, as was Australia, Mexico, Hawaii (all islands), and Caribbean cruises. Agents who dressed professionally for travel were automatically upgraded to first class!

Since 9/11, there are travel agency fees and other restrictions as well as – the Internet.



As Kimberli is very customer-oriented, she does not appreciate technological changes which have compromised person-to-person interaction. Formerly, printing boarding passes was a (cumbersome) but available service, while now an electronic boarding pass can only be created 24-hours before the flight. Reps for tour companies used to visit travel agents - now this is all handled online, eliminating the personal touch.

Now, airlines are charging for luggage, and meals, once provided in the ticket price, are \$7-10.00 extra in separate lunch boxes. Some travelers use a passport card rather than a passport book, and the card can often not be used in the case of needed emergency travel back home, creating unpleasant situations.

Popular destinations today are Ireland, London, Paris, Germany-Switzerland-Austria, Hawaii (now mostly Honolulu and Maui, not all the islands), and Costa Rica. Cruises are still popular, but mostly the eastern and southern Caribbean, no longer the western Caribbean. Still popular are Las Vegas, Disney, Myrtle Beach, Gatlinburg, TN and New York and Chicago, as well as frequent travel of the "snow birds" to Florida. There is a big decline in travel to Australia and Tahiti, and trips to

China and Japan are now mostly for business, not personal travel.

Kimberli's own favorite destinations included Hawaii, England, Germany, Jamaica, Cancun, the Riviera, Caribbean and especially Alaska and Ireland. As she concluded her remarks, she directed some "hot tamale" trivia questions to Don Hinckley, Ellen Hunter, Deb Zwez, Jim Heinrich and Kraig Noble.

Queen of Hearts

Jeff Vossler read the number of lucky Mick Teman, but the Queen lives on!

Upcoming Programs

- 5/25 Deputy Samuel Blank on "technology safety"
- 6/1 Pam Prater from Golden Living Center with "Sadie the Dog" and animal therapy
- 6/8 No weekly meeting due to annual banquet on Thursday 6/9

Upcoming Greeters

5/25 Tami Sanford

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

The 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 FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Cog Editor: Alex Pittman