



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
May 9, 2012

Call to Order

President Linda Vogel called the meeting to order. Sue Pittman offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Squire led us in singing "All Hail to Rotary." There was one birthday today...we sang to Mick Temen. Brooke Dingeldine was a guest of Sandy Gerdeman.

Happy Dollars

Our Happy Rotarians today included Linda Vogel, Rick Gerdeman, Sue Pittman, Marty Dodrill, Don Hinkley, Robbie Burke, Sandy Gerdeman, Jim Henreich, and Jason Little.

Fines

Ellen Hunter Adams was our finer again today. Her victims today included Kevin Harlan, Kevin Lawler,

Bob Leugers, Alex Pittman, Marty Dodrill, and anyone who has not done any of the following...Gone through a home renovation, Had a hearing check-up, or RSVP'd for the Rotary Beach Party.

Announcements

Linda announced that the Annual Banquet "Beach Party" will be on June 7th. There will be no meeting on the 6th.

The World Community Workshop dinner is tomorrow May 17th, 2012. We have 4 representatives attending.

Arts In The Park flyers are available.

Linda commented that she really enjoyed awarding the Rotary Scholarships which were handed out last night.

Program

Robbie Burke introduced our own Rick Gerdeman, CEO of Midwest Electric to speak to us today about the services provided by Midwest Electric.

Midwest Electric is a customer-owned electric cooperative providing electric distribution services to more than 11,000 homes, farms and businesses in Allen, Auglaize, Mercer, Van Wert, Darke, Shelby and Putnam counties.

For more than 70 years, Midwest Ele. has upheld a tradition of service excellence. The strength is its relationship with the customers.

Electric cooperatives need to take advantage of their most important asset, their ties the communities they serve and a promise that they are consumer-driven businesses.

Midwest Electric is one of hundreds of electric cooperatives nationwide sharing resources and working to promote integrity, innovation, accountability and community that sets them apart from other service providers.



Rick spent the majority of his time today commenting on Wind Turbine as an Alternative Energy Resource.

Our concern is not so much with any specific development in Mercer County, or Van Wert County, or wherever. Our concern is with a misguided state and national energy policy that is forcing these unreliable and uneconomic systems on the backs of taxpayers and utility customers. So our comments are not specifically addressed to the proposed local development.



Make no mistake...you will pay for these wind farms many times over. Quite simply, nobody is putting up a wind turbine with their own money. Local, state and federal governments are providing significant tax credits and subsidies in order to artificially support wind power. And we all know government money actually comes from you, the taxpayer.

Additionally, state governments (including Ohio) are requiring electric utilities to generate or purchase a certain percentage of their power from renewable sources such as wind. So utilities have no choice but are forced to subsidize wind power; which means utility customers actually are the ones who are forced to buy wind power.

Because of the high cost relative to the low output of electricity, the per unit cost (kilowatt hour) is three to four times higher than electricity from a standard power plant. Those higher costs will be reflected in energy rates.

The renewable energy standards, or government mandates, are arbitrary and are not based on science or economics but rather on cute slogans. A state or national energy policy should not be based on a bumper sticker slogan.

Queen of Hearts

Dan Burke made it two weeks in a row for the Burke family as he won the drawing but just like Robbie, could not find the Queen.

Upcoming Programs

- 5-23 Milt Miller, update on Grand Lake St. Marys
- 5-30 Sue Pittman, College Community Arts Council
- 6-6 NO LUNCH MEETING
- 6-7 Rotary Annual Banquet

Upcoming Greeters

- 5-23 Rick Green

**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?