



### *The Cog*

**Rotary Club No. 3503**  
**P. O. Box 544,**  
**St. Marys, OH 45885.**  
[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)  
**December 4, 2013**

### Call to Order

President Dan Burke called the meeting to order. Sue Pittman offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Squire led in the singing of "You're a Grand Old Flag". There were no birthdays. Our guests included Jim Beckett, a guest of the club, Stephanie Back, guest of Sandy Gerdeman, Alisher Khudakulov, guest of Robbie Burke, and members of our high school senior class.

### Happy Dollars

Dan Burke was happy that the Christmas decorations were up at the office (only to find out later the Joe put them up...), Kraig Noble by proxy for Michigan beating Ohio State (in hockey) and for covering the spread in football, Jeff Squire for Christine Sullivan being one of the high school guests and a fellow poll worker, Sue Pittman for Santa Al and a successful Christmas program at the library, Sandy Gerdeman for her

guest (a former Rotoractor), Don Hinckley for the Bucks and Auburn, Keith Fledderjohann for announcing \$79 from Kroger's reward program, Ron Gorby for the program today as an initial board member and Robbie Burke for the program as the first big sister match.

### Fines

Ellen Hunter Adams took the podium with thunderous applause to mete out her fines today. She fined Jeff for not singing a Christmas song, and then a bunch of other people for stupid stuff that she just made up on the spot. (Jeff picked a fine song as it is too early to sing Christmas songs. Seriously, aren't you sick of them being played constantly on the radio? Already? It is only the first week of December.)

### Announcements

Pres, Dan presented former president Jim Beckett with our annual contributions to the Shriner's Children's Hospital.



Sandy announced our Christmas party on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Please respond to the e-vite, and if you don't know what that is just call her or Rick with your rsvp.

Robbie announced that the club was able to raise \$2,000.00 to help the district provide shelter boxes for the Philippine's typhoon victims.

### Program

Pres. Dan introduced PE Randy to introduce today's speaker. Abby Balster has been with Big Brothers/Big Sisters for over four years and has been the director for about three. She thanked Ron and Robbie for their early support of the program. Formed in 1989, the group added Van Wert County to its service area of Mercer and Auglaize Counties in 2005.



There are five main areas of service provided by BB/BS. The best known is individual matching, pairing a youth with an adult to provide some normalcy to kids who need it. Since the organization started, about 300 children have been matched with individual matches and there are 125 matches active right now.

They also provide for some after school programs, where adults meet with children to do homework and socialize at the primary schools. New this year is a lunch club starting in the

Celina schools that meet every other week to work with kids. They are hoping to expand this program into Wapak soon and are looking for more adults (retirees) to volunteer.

They have a supper club at the March Foundation in Van Wert to provide some guidance to the troubled kids that are placed there.

Currently there are 32 children waiting for a match with 8 of those being St. Marys kids. Abby is always looking for more Bigs. She described the process for intake of both the children and the adult volunteers and the matching process.

### Queen of Hearts

Gary Newton won the daily drawing but the Queen lives.

### Upcoming Programs

- 12-11 Rotary at Otterbein
- 12-18 Christmas Party!!!
- 12-25 NO MEETING
- 1-1 NO MEETING

### Upcoming Greeters

- 12-11 Gary Newton
- 12-18 Gayle Masonbrink
- 12-25 NO MEETING
- 1-1 NO MEETING

*\*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, and Do.