



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
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www.stmarysrotary.org
January 7, 2015

Call to Order

President Randy Elsass called the meeting to order and Sue Pittman offered the invocation. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the Club sang a verse of "All Hail to Rotary".

Guests/Birthdays

We welcomed Rachel Easterday (guest of Sue Pittman), Jan Heinrich (guest of Jim Heinrich), Brandon Ferguson (WLIO-TV), Brian (Evening Leader), and Jared Mauch (Daily Standard). John Meinerding (St. Marys City Schools) brought the following students: Kaleb Fenwick-Miller, Kami Menchover, Tristan Beecher, Branden Bubb, Noah Chivington, Michael Hastrieter, and Molly Menker.

Birthdays included: Alex Pittman, Beth Noneman, Jon Kraner, and Keith Fledderjohann.

Happy Dollars/Fines

Happy Rotarians: Randy Elsass, Don Hinckley, and others for the Buckeyes big win; Julie Kraner (Jon's successful surgery and hope for reduced pain); Gary Newton (third grandchild); Allen Baskett (expecting grandchild); Bill Maki (MSU football win, new app developed and ready for download, recovery from knee surgery, finding wife's lost diamond from ring).

Fines levied by Bill Maki for those who did not attend Sugar Bowl, those who made New Year's resolution, those who have broken their resolution already, and those who did not graduate under the "common core standards".

Election of Officers & Board

Ballots with the nominations for next year's Club officers and Board members were completed by Rotarians during the meeting. Election results will be tallied and reported by next week.

Announcements

It is with regret that we accept Marty Dodrill's resignation. Marty will be moving to West Virginia to be closer to family.

A 'get-well' card was circulated for Jon Kraner who is recuperating from surgery.

A "New Member Orientation" has been scheduled for 5:30 PM, on Wed., February 4th, at J.T.'s in St. Marys. The Club will cover the cost of drinks/appetizers.

Keith informed us that membership dues are due.

Program

We were pleased to have one of our own, Shawn Brown, present today's program, covering a subject that has sparked considerable controversy over the last few years--the "Common Core" standards.



The Common Core is a set of academic standards, or learning goals, for mathematics and English language arts/literacy that were developed in 2009 to establish consistency across all states. These learning goals are meant to outline what a student should know and be able to do at the end of each year and help ensure that students have the skills/knowledge to be successful in college, career, and life--regardless of the state in which they live.

Although some states have dropped the Common Core, these standards were adopted in 2010 and are still being used in Ohio. Nonetheless, if the current House Bill 597 passes, the Common Core standards will be repealed by 2018-19 school year. If this happens, Ohio would temporarily adopt the standards being used in Massachusetts and then take steps to develop a new set of standards.

Those who support Common Core say that the standards promote critical

thinking and problem-solving skills, while opponents are concerned about the loss of local control and intrusion of government.

Shawn stated that the Common Core is not a 'perfect' set of standards, but he admitted that the principles behind the standards are good. On the other hand, he thinks that the related assessments that were developed by Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) are both problematic and expensive.

Shawn indicated that he is very interested in soliciting the ideas and opinions of parents and the community regarding Common Core and will convey local viewpoints to legislators in Columbus. For more information, go to www.corestandards.org or parcconline.org.

Queen of Hearts

Linda Vogel's ticket was picked, but the Queen was not to be found.

Upcoming Programs

1/14 Mayor Patrick McGowan
1/21 Jim Heinrich (MESA)

Upcoming Greeters

1/14 Ellen Hunter
1/21 Kevin Lawler
1/28 Bob Leugers
2/4 Bill Maki

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

The meeting was adjourned after recitation of the "Four Way Test".

