



## The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503  
P. O. Box 544,  
St. Marys, OH 45885.  
[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)  
January 14, 2015

### Call to Order

President Randy Elsass called the meeting to order with this wisdom, borrowed from Coach John Wooden, "When you're through learning, you're through." Kathy Sampson gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

### Guests/Birthdays

Ellen Hunter introduced our guests. From the City of St. Marys, we welcomed Greg Foxhoven (Service Director) and Sue Backs (Personnel Director). We were also joined by Jared (Daily Standard) and Tricia and Joe (Hometown Stations).

Visiting Rotarians were Deb Zwez (Wapak) and Steve Smith (New Bremen/New Knoxville).

The Club sang to the only member with a birthday- Tim Dicke.

### Happy Dollars/Fines

To get everyone in the right spirit, Ellen Hunter led the Club in a few verses of "When You're Happy and You Know It, Clap your Hands".

The National Champion Buckeyes inspired the donation of several Happy Dollars, including those from Don Hinckley, Susan Crotty, and others. President Randy Elsass was also happy to see his son and to go skiing in Colorado. Other Happy Rotarians included Dan Burke (trip to Florida), Linda Vogel (chance at the Queen). Deb Zwez added to the pot in announcing the Valentine's Day Wine Tasting & Dinner--a fundraiser for the Wapak Rotary Club (6:00 PM, on 2/14/15, at the Grand Plaza).

Travis Elsass' choice of theme for today's fines was no big surprise--"Buckeyes Trivia". The questions provided us with about everything we ever wanted to know about the Buckeyes, the Ohio Stadium, etc.

### Election of Officers & Board

Election results were announced. Starting in July, the following will serve in the roles listed below:

President Kathy Sampson  
President-Elect Shawn Brown  
Secretary Don Hinckley  
Treasurer Keith Fledgerjohann  
Sergeant-at-Arms Pat Cogan  
New Board Members-Robbie Burke,  
Linda Haines, and Dan Hosek

### Announcements

New Member Orientation will be at 5:30 PM, on Wed., February 4th, at J.T.'s in St. Marys. The Club will cover the cost of drinks/appetizers. Any member who would like to update their knowledge of Rotary is welcome to join the new members for this event.

### Program

We were pleased to have Mayor Patrick McGowan present excerpts from the "State of the City" report. The Mayor outlined activities and accomplishments in a number of areas. In the electrical power department, the City has spent a significant amount of money to improve capacity, efficiency, and reliability for residents and especially for industrial customers. This will continue to be a major focus of the City in 2015 and beyond.



The street maintenance/upgrade program has been a source of pride for the City of St. Marys and investments have been continued to help prevent streets from falling into disrepair. Other important projects included the new Main Street parking lot, widening of McKinley Road, and rebuilding of the High Street bridge--a project that was completed under its budgeted cost.

The Mayor pledged to continue working with local employers to support their needs and opportunities for future growth. In fact, over the past year, the City recognized the addition of 150 new manufacturing jobs. To further support economic development, the "Banner Project" was completed as part of downtown revitalization efforts.

As part of its efforts to achieve cost-efficiency, the City was able to complete demolition of the City power plant with a net financial gain. The receipt of grant money also helped the City cover the cost of removing diseased ash trees and planting of replacement trees. The "Moving Ohio Forward" grant was also used to remove several older buildings that have become unsafe.

Mayor McGowan was quick to credit the dedication of City employees for the success of many City programs and for providing great service to the community.

In closing, the Mayor mentioned the city tax renewal of 0.5% that will be on the ballot in May 2015. City officials are not permitted to use City time/resources to promote the tax renewal, but the assistance of interested community members would certainly be welcome.

### Queen of Hearts

Jeff Vossler had a chance at the Queen, but pulled the 7 of clubs.

### Upcoming Programs

1/21 Jim Heinrich (MESA)

### Upcoming Greeters

1/21 Kevin Lawler  
1/28 Bob Leugers  
2/4 Bill Maki  
2/11 Mike Makley

*\* 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".

