



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
January 13, 2016

Call to Order

President Kathy Sampson opened the meeting and Rita Hiltey offered the invocation. The Club then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests/Song/Birthdays

We were joined by Scott Nuttle and Rob Bechtel (guests of Rick Green), Jan Heinrich (guest of Jim), and members of the media.

Kevin Lawler led us in singing "Jingle Bells" and recognized Tim Dicke for his birthday.

Happy Dollars/Fines

Rebecca Regnet was happy for the Arts Place Holiday Beer Tasting event coming up on Friday and the Grand Opening of the new location on Saturday. Ellen Hunter for bringing back the club auction for next week's

meeting, Rick Green for his guests today, Randy Elsass for skiing and for all the anticipated questions for the upcoming debate, Kevin Lawler for Joe Burke's presence and Dan Burke's dapperness, Jeff Squire for the Arts Place Holiday Beer Tasting, Kathy Sampson for our club's involvement with a joint international project with Dr. Pica in Costa Rico, Jon Hall for the auction and our Celina based speakers today, and Jim Heinrich for Rotary's Vocational Service month.

Jon Hall talked about the history of the White Elephant auction and then fined everyone who knew that Bill Cisco used to run the auction, everyone who didn't see Bill run and auction, and Ellen for having two badges.

Announcements

- President Kathy emailed the minutes from last week's board meeting.
- She presented Kraig Noble with his sponsor badge backer for bringing in a new member.
- She also said that three different people have come up to her recently and expressed how impressed they were with our club and enjoyed our meetings.

Program

PE Ellen introduced Carol and Homer Burnett. Homer is a veteran and comes from a family with a tradition of service in the military. The Burnetts came today to talk about a project that they started called "Lots for Soldiers". When they were discussing retirement they wanted to find a cause to focus their energies on. They settled on veteran housing as a "Thank You" for those that served or are serving.

They work to find lots upon which houses can be built in the area. They work with land owners and cities to get donated or low cost lots. They have an architect that has donated three basic designs to build housing. The actual build becomes a community project, working with local contractors and suppliers to construct the home.



They set up a local committee to chose the recipient of the lot. Applicants will get a mortgage and are required to hold the home for ten years. If sold within that time the profit must be gifted back to Lots for Soldiers. They are also expected to help the construction. The last home they built appraised at \$122,000, and with donation only needed a \$54,000 mortgage.

The local community selection committee choses its own criteria to select the home owner. With the need for veteran housing many deserving applicants will be turned away. This year they have two lots in Celina, one in Rockford and one in St. Marys. They hope to break ground in the St. Marys lot this April and are still looking for a local contractor.

They have had great support from local tradesmen to donate time,

suppliers to donate materials and appliances, and landscapers to donate the exterior landscaping. They always welcome volunteer help for the actual building. They make sure that all the work is up to code and the volunteer tradesmen make sure to supervise the volunteers.

Carol is already looking ahead for lots for the next building season. They did one last year and hope to do four this year. There has been interest expressed from many communities in the area in this project. While the organization finds the lots, it is the community that builds the home and finds the soldier and family to reside in it. As Carol said, it is a simple "Thank You".

Queen of Hearts

Kevin Wolfe got to draw for the Queen, again, but the Queen lives. We also drew for Lots for Soldiers t-shirts, which went to Pat Cogan and Dick Hudson.

Upcoming Programs

1/20/16 FUN Rotary Auction

Upcoming Greeters

1/20/16 Julie Kraner

1/27/16 Shawn Brown

** 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".

