



## The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503  
P. O. Box 544,  
St. Marys, OH 45885.  
[www.stmarysrotary.org](http://www.stmarysrotary.org)  
March 9, 2016

### Call to Order

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

### Guests / Song

Guest included Jan Heinrich (guest of Jim), and Jared Mauch (Daily Standard).

Kevin Lawler led us in a rousing chorus of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game". Rick Kogge & Jeff Vossler were celebrating birthdays but were not present to hear us sing.

### Happy Dollars / Fines

Happy Rotarians included Randy Elsass who attended a Janis Joplin tribute, Ellen Hunter for her cruise, Linda Haines for a week in Florida and for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Grand Lake Hospice Gala, Kevin Lawler for the great

weather and the Easter egg hunt. Beth Noneman added money since she won the 50-50 drawing at the Night at the Races. Susan Crotty was happy to announce the annual meeting of the Community Improvement Corporation (11:30 AM, 3/21/16, at Eagles).

Rev. Bill Maki quizzed the group on Dayton Dragons trivia and fined Trisha Barnes, Robbie Burke, and DG Gary Newton. The group fine covered those who had not recently been to the Arts Place, the Library, or an exhibition baseball game.

### Announcements / Presentations

- Members were encouraged to link their Kroger card so that Rotary receives cash back
- Ten (10) additional sponsors have donated funds for the Carp Derby
- President Kathy offered another plug the upcoming District Conference.
- The Club applauded the efforts of Ellen Hunter as President Elect, including a continuing list of great programs
- President Kathy thanked Rick Green for sponsoring two new members



### Program

PE Ellen Hunter introduced Tom Nichols who has served as Director, Media Relations for the Dayton Dragons for the past nine years. The Dayton Dragons are a Class A minor league baseball team in the Midwest League that is affiliated with the Cincinnati Reds.

Tom also does the radio and television broadcasts of Dragons games, so he has gotten a good look at many budding stars over the years. A total of 75 Dayton players have achieved the dream of playing in the major leagues. This list of players has included Austin Kearns, Adam Dunn, Edwin Encarnacion, Joey Votto, Homer Bailey, Johnny Cueto, Todd Frazier, and Billy Hamilton.

The best minor league prospects can get a decent signing bonus and a college scholarship while those selected in the later rounds of the draft might receive little more than a gym bag and pair of spikes. The major league minimum salary is now \$500,000, with an average salary of ~\$3-4 million. The customary minor league salary is \$1,200 per month paid for only five months, so many players need to hold a second job--especially in the off-season.



The Dragons came to Dayton from Rockford, Illinois in 2000, having previously been the Rockford Reds. Like any business, the Dragons had to determine their marketing strategy. Without the draw of big name players, they decided that they were actually in the business of providing good 'family entertainment'.

To accomplish this, they offer fans the chance to meet the players, get autographs, and enjoy a wide range of game-day activities, such as contests promotional give-away items, toddler

races, and several different mascots to keep the interest of kids of all ages. The way the Dragons see it, even if fans don't remember the final score, they hope that families can say they had a great time at the ballpark.

Since 2000, the Dragons have won only two titles, but they have an extremely loyal fan base, averaging about 8,375 fans per game (116% of capacity). In 2011, the Dragons broke the record for consecutive sellouts by a professional sports team—a record that now stands at 1,121 games.

If you're not a season ticket holder, you can still call ahead to get one of the 200 tickets that are held for general sales before each game.

### Queen of Hearts

Robbie Burke got to draw, but was not lucky enough to find the Queen.

### Upcoming Programs

- 3/16/16 Dr. Bob Gill, Auglaize & Mercer County Drug Addiction Task Force
- 3/23/16 Keith Faber, Ohio Senate President
- 3/30/16 Dr. Jay Albayyari, Dean of Wright State--Lake Campus

### Upcoming Greeters

- 3/16/16 Alex Pittman
- 3/23/16 Sue Pittman
- 3/30/16 TBD

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

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

