



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
March 16, 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 / Birthdays

Guests included Sheriff Al Solomon, Mike Wilker (guest of Bev), Jan Heinrich (guest of Jim), Eric Adams (Evening Leader), and Jared Mauch (Daily Standard).

In commemoration of St. Patrick's Day, Kraig Noble led the Club in singing "When Irish Eyes are Smiling". We also sang "Happy Birthday" to Jim Harris, Scott Nuttle, and Brad Seitz.

Happy Dollars / Fines

Dan Burke was grateful for receiving the Builder of Bridges award at the recent Chamber Banquet. Dan Hosek was happy for Chamber awards

given to Dan Burke, Phil Schumann (Superior Credit Union), and to AAP St. Marys Corp. Kathy Sampson, Ellen Hunter, and Jeff Squire were happy for Rotary PETS conference. Robbie Burke was happy to assist in facilitating the PETS event, for R.J. Burke Insurance celebrating 63 years in business, and for chance at the Queen. Other happy Rotarians included Bev Wilker (Four-Way Test Speech Contest & University of West Virginia), Kevin Lawler (good medical test results). Sue Pittman added \$\$ for the Business Person's Breakfast sponsored by St. Marys Community Library (call Library to RSVP).

Zach Ferrall quizzed and fined the group on trivia related to St. Patrick's Day. We learned that St. Patrick hailed from Great Britain and he was famous for driving the snakes from Ireland. Zach also got in some publicity for "Carp Derby", scheduled for 5/13/16 to 5/15/16.

Announcements / Presentations

- By member vote, Bev Wilker, Zach ferral, and Alisher Khudaykulov will join the Rotary Board for 2016-18. Sergeant-At-Arms will be Rick Green.
- The "Four-Way Test" speech contest to be held at Niswonger Center, on 3/19/16--thanks to Bev Wilker and others for planning this event.
- President Kathy offered another plug the upcoming District Conference.

Program

President Elect Ellen Hunter introduced Dr. Robert Gill who brought today's program on the Auglaize & Mercer County Drug Addiction and Abuse Task Force.

There is a tendency to believe that drug addiction and abuse is a problem

confined to larger cities and other parts of the country. Actually, the State of Ohio has the second highest incidence of drug overdoses. And heroin and prescription pain relievers took the lives of about 2,700 Ohioans in 2015. Convinced that drugs are also a problem in our area, about 2-3 years ago, Dr. Gill met with Sheriffs Al Solomon (Auglaize County) and Jeff Gray (Mercer County) to discuss drug addiction and abuse in our local area.



In the past couple of years, Dr. Gill and others have tried to help local citizens recognize this problem by conducting symposiums, school educational programs, and more. These programs have focused on the nature and effects of different drugs and the long-term problems associated with drug addiction and abuse.

Dr. Gill cited findings of the 2014 National Drug Threat Assessment Summary, published by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The purpose of this study was to give policy-makers, law enforcement personnel, and treatment specialists the necessary facts to help them develop priorities for allocating resources in the war on drugs.

This study found that heroine, methamphetamines, and controlled prescription drugs (CPD's) represent the greatest threats. A significant portion of the abuse of CPD's is related to opioids such as OxyContin and Percocet. As part of the effort to detect and control the abuse of CPD's, drug monitoring programs have been used to help catch individuals who take unusually high levels, those who 'doctor shop' to get extra drugs, etc.

Dr. Gill has practiced medicine for 36 years and previously served as Chief Medical Officer for JTD Memorial Hospital. He is currently Physician Advisor for Grand Lake Health Systems. We appreciate his passion for educating others about drug addiction and abuse and how we can reduce this problem in our area.

Queen of Hearts

Jeff Squire's ticket was pulled, but the Queen was not to be found.

Upcoming Programs

- 3/23/16 Keith Faber, Ohio Senate President
- 3/30/16 Dr. Jay Albayyari, Dean of Wright State--Lake Campus
- 4/6/16 Keith Wenning, back-up QB for Cincinnati Bengals

Upcoming Greeters

- 3/23/16 Sue Pittman
- 3/30/16 Kevin Wolfe
- 4/6/16 Phil Schumann

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.*

