



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
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www.stmarysrotary.org
June 8, 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 of Sue Pittman included Lisa Tobin, Linda Gossard, Tim Smith, Amanda Imwalle, Jenny Johnnides, and Bill Bruchore (representatives of local per-schools receiving books from Literacy Committee). Former Club member, Charles Richtmeyer, also joined as a guest of Alex Pittman.

In honor of our visitors from local pre-schools, Alex Pittman led the Club in singing "Eensty Weensty Spider". No members present with birthdays.

Happy Dollars / Fines

Kathy Sampson gave happy dollars for Robbie Burke bringing her water

and cough drops during last week's meeting, for Kraig Noble finding Club flags, and the medical mission trip to be explained in today's program. Bill Maki was happy for "Walk for Water" donations, Randy Elsass for last Board meeting, Gary Newton for attending Rotary International Convention in Seoul, and Jeff Squire for taking mother to see family.

Sue & Alex Pittman kicked in for Literacy Committee books, Ellen Hunter for compiling new committee assignments (sent by e-mail) and for plans to host dinner event at her house on 7/15/16. Kraig Noble gave a buck for hanging of Club flags, Tami Sanford for trip to Hocking Hills, and Chuck Stammen gave cinco pesos (about 26 cents?) left from his recent trip to Costa Rica.

Tami Sanford fined Kraig Noble & Susan Crotty for talking "business" during meeting, the Burke's for their billboard advertisement, and Frank Klatt for his 'introduction' of guests. Tami exempted Beth Noneman for having several jobs to perform, but gave Kim Ray her 1st fine as member.

Announcements / Presentations

- On behalf of Literacy Committee, Sue Pittman presented books to five local pre-school representatives



- We will welcome MESA bike riders on 6/14/16, with dinner that night

- No meeting on 6/29/16; Annual Banquet on 6/30/16

Program

P-E Ellen Hunter introduced Celina Rotarians, Chuck Stammen and Dr. Paul Wilkins, who presented a program on the Rotary medical mission trip to Nicoya, Costa Rica to perform cataract surgeries. Joining them was Mariel Acosta Estrada, a Costa Rican exchange from the Nicoya area who also served as a volunteer in support of the surgeries. This program was co-funded by several local Rotary clubs--including Celina, St. Marys & New Bremen/New Knoxville.



Nicoya, a town of about 13,000 people, is located on a peninsula in western Costa Rica, not far from the Pacific Ocean. Although this area has a significant amount of tourism, the local hospital does not possess the latest in facilities nor the medical staff to meet the local demand for treating medical conditions like cataracts.

Leading the medical team was Dr. John Pajka, an ophthalmologist with practices in Lima and St. Marys. Several members of Dr. Pajka's staff made the trip and were joined by local volunteers. The medical team worked long hours to complete 65 cataract surgeries in just three and a half days. Patients of all ages were treated and they were elated at how well and how quickly they regained clearer vision

after surgery. Unfortunately, there is still work to be done--more than 500 residents are still in need of cataract surgery.

Chuck Stammen has been traveling to Costa Rica since 1996 and the medical team enjoyed staying at Chuck's home about one hour from Nicoya. Dr. Pajka and the medical team are already making plans for next year's trip. However, they hope to stay closer to the hospital next time in order to have additional time to conduct even more surgeries.

There's no doubt that this was a very worthwhile mission program and our Club has budgeted additional funding to support this program again next year. Speaking on behalf of her fellow residents of Nicoya, Mariel Estrada expressed a deep gratitude for the work of the Rotary mission team.

Queen of Hearts

Frank Klatt got to draw for the Queen, but drew the Joker instead--\$5 of his winnings went to Kim Ray.

Upcoming Programs

6/15/16 Kelly Anderson
6/22/16 TBD
6/29/16 NO MEETING
6/30/16 Annual Banquet

Upcoming Greeters

6/15/16 Robbie Burke
6/22/16 Rick Green

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.*

