

Wilton Rotary Drummer

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www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Editor: Paul Burnham

Fourteen members of Wilton's finest service organization (Boucher, Brown, Burnham, Dephtereos, Edwards, Freedman, Glass, Goldman, Kent, Lavin, Russo, Smith, Tai-Lauria, White) were joined by prospective members and presenters, Ruth Cardiello, R.N. and Rod Acosta, M.D. at our new digs at Rolling Hills Country Club. A clear majority of our membership was basking in the demise of the erstwhile Bombers from the Bronx.

Christene led us off with a plug for the Labor Day parade in Newtown. The Rotarians in that club are hoping that Rotarians from all over our district will have the time to march in the parade (Christene says it is an absolutely fabulous parade, perhaps because it is the only Labor Day parade in Connecticut, or perhaps because she is a Newtown resident who can't march herself because she would have to clone herself 6 times to march with every community organization that wants her) and enjoy a picnic with fellow Rotarians afterwards.

A reminder that we are invited to a lobster and clam dinner on Friday September 7 at the Y pavilion put on by Wilton's second finest service organization. BYOB I presume.

There will be a meeting at the Graduate Club in New Haven (Elm Street) on September 24 (a Monday) at 6:00 PM for anyone interested in serving our Rotary District in some capacity. Dinner will be served.

More funds have been made available for polio eradication. The Gates Foundation will double match through November all our gifts. Thus far this year there have been only 13 new cases reported. Nigeria has none, and if this holds up, it will be only Afghanistan and Pakistan where the disease remains. This CLOSE!

Carnival update ---- more bodies needed, we really should have three in the ticket booth at all times. Get your friends and neighbors, your children and grandchildren, your spouse ... we still need help. Also, we can certainly use more sponsors – probably at least 25 spaces still up for grabs.

There was a board meeting on the 16th, but whatever was discussed or decided upon was not communicated successfully to the rank and file.

Once again Judy won the right to pull the joker and once again she failed. The pot builds.

Wilton travel is celebrating its 40th anniversary this month. All are invited to a celebration at Judy's office in the center on August 23rd at 4:00 PM.

Our program today was the Stamford Hospital in two parts. Ruth Cardiello is a Wilton resident who serves as the hospital's vice president in charge of risk management. She is fond of Rotary in that she was at one time a Rotary Exchange student in the Phillipines – while some years ago, not a lot of years ago. Dr. Rod Acosta is the president of the Stamford Health Medical Group – an organization affiliated with the hospital - which has offices in each of Stamford and many of its CT neighbors and near neighbors ,including Wilton.

Ruth explained that Stamford Hospital is an independent hospital – the largest independent hospital in Fairfield County. US News and World Report rates it one of the best regional hospital in the country. It is a teaching affiliate of Columbia Medical School and has a special relationship with the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City. If you have had no reason to visit the hospital in the last five years or so, it has been completely rebuilt, and is now a stunning multi-story glass building. Virtually all the patient rooms are private. The hospital has added additional operating rooms as well as expanded emergency room capabilities. The medical equipment on site is state of the art. And don't forget the new helipad!

Rod noted that his group has two offices in Wilton. The larger is in the gray building across from the tennis courts on Route 7. Drs. Carolyn Couture and Maura Sparks have recently been joined there by Dr. Thomas Xu, all with primary care practices. The smaller is at 195 Danbury Road, just south of the old Young's Nursery, where two physicians have ob/gyn practices. There are physicians with other specialties who are in Wilton one or two weeks a month. Minor surgical procedures take place in both offices virtually daily. Rod mentioned that while Stamford Hospital is half an hour away, doctors in his practice have offices near us, and most of us don't need to visit a hospital for treatment more often than rarely.

Pat inquired as to recruitment issues for physicians. Rod allowed as how it is increasingly difficult to find doctors ready and willing to develop their own primary care practices in that specialists are most often compensated more highly, and the costs of medical school, let alone most undergraduate universities, has become astronomical. Add to that the cost to a young professional living in our area of Fairfield County. When choosing a career path, a new physician is well aware of the time it will take to pay off his or her school loans. Hopefully more medical schools will follow the recent lead of NYU and do away with tuition, making a medical education once again affordable to everyone.

See You Friday.