



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Editor: Stephanie R. Barksdale

ATTENDANCE: 20 of 42 (48%)

Guests/Visiting Rotarians

Toni Boucher and John Hartwell, candidates for 26th Senate seat; Janet Hartwell, John's wife.

Announcements

1. President Pat announced that the club will only have \$16,000 to put back into the community this year and the tax return will be filed soon.
2. Several Rotarians took part in the Make a Difference Day on Saturday, October 4th and none were bit by ticks.
3. The amber alert sign ups went well at Ambler Farm Day on Sunday with 60 children receiving cards.
4. Vicky Koch, the exchange student, will be presenting next Friday.
5. The next board meeting is Thursday, October 16th at 8 am at Wilton Bank.

Fun & Fines

Karen S. will be heading to the Chicago marathon on Sunday to watch her daughter run. Don B. was pleased his son will be coming home this weekend and is still in college! Cliff J. was happy for a successful Alzheimer's Walk. John L. and Larry S. were pleased the Phillies won and John L. wished Ray D. a happy 39th birthday. Paul B. said his daughter is in CA having flown over Afghanistan several times. Frank S. will be a grand uncle soon. Ed A. was sad to have lost Randy Mineo (as is the club) as a neighbor. Toni Boucher was pleased that the Cannondale Train Station now has a bathroom (ahh the simple things in life!). Paul H. wished his mom a happy 76th and congratulated John L.s son on his engagement. Pat R. said he was happy to

sell Randy's house though I'm sure he meant only because of the commission!

Program

President Pat introduced John Hartwell and Toni Boucher who are running for the 26th Senate seat in CT. For Mr. Hartwell this is his first run for an elected seat. For Mrs. Boucher she has been elected to the Wilton Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, and for 12 years has been an elected member of the State Representatives.

Mr. Hartwell said he has long and short term goals. Long term we need business growth which means we need a skilled workforce and decent transportation. We need to put money into UCONN and the community colleges. And we need to fix the rails for both freight and commuter purposes. Short term we will have a \$300 million budget deficit and we should take money from the rainy day fund to cover it. We need new grants to towns so they won't have to lay off essential employees. And since some folks will undoubtedly lose their jobs with the financial turmoil we need a way to provide health care for these folks.

Mrs. Boucher said it is important to look at the person you are electing. She has served on the local level for 10 years and as state representative for 12 years with a 97% voting record. She has attained leadership roles as a result of her hard work and her ability to work across the aisle. She has been fighting for the town on issues for a long time and fought a \$1.6 billion tax increase proposed for this year. She has fought for trains and better service. She said in these unprecedented and volatile financial times, it is going to take someone with experience to help cut spending wisely and responsibly. She said she would not use the rainy day fund right now but would rather find a way to work in budget. She has been endorsed by CBIA, NFIB, Realtors, and retired teachers in CT.

Questions were short because of time but malpractice and Charter Oak proved to be tough issues to tackle in the 10 minutes remaining. Basically both candidates will look at caps on non-economic damages for malpractice lawsuits and both candidates agree that the Charter Oak plan, while perhaps a good start, is not really working for the State of CT.

I hope I have covered what the candidates said in a fair way. While I certainly have an opinion of whom I would vote for, I cannot vote for either of these candidates since I don't live in the district and so my role as your editor is to give you an unbiased look at what the candidates said (or didn't as the case may be!). The important thing, regardless of your political persuasion is to VOTE on November 4th. I will always remember what Helmut Hetz used to say after an

election – if you vote, it gives you the RIGHT to complain about what the candidates have done (or not done) later on!

For your continued enjoyment – Taylor McCurdy, who is our GSE student in Chile, has a blog and you can view it at: www.taylorgoestochile.blogspot.com.

Next meeting Friday October 17th. Upcoming speaker list:

October 17, 2008	Vici Koch - Exchange student
October 24, 2008	Peggy Reeves Susan Bruschi
October 31, 2008	Foundation program Strickland/Lucas
November 7, 2008	Vince Byrne Coaching: What's the Buzz
November 14, 2008	Currently open
November 21, 2008	Chris Brubeck
November 28, 2008	No meeting
December 5, 2008	No meeting - party December 6th

See you next Friday.....Stephanie