



Wilton Rotary Drummer
Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980
www.wiltonrotaryclub.org



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Editor: Bill Meehan

President Richard charged into the second half of his term leading a meeting of nineteen Rotarians, guest Bob McDowell (CEO of the Wilton-Norwalk Y), and speaker, Lynn Vanderslice, Wilton's new First Selectman.

Announcements:

- January 14, 8:00 a.m. – Wilton Chamber of Commerce presents Eggs & The Economy, with Dr. Nicholas Perna, Chief Economist of Webster Bank, considering the economic forecast for 2016 and beyond. Breakfast will be served. BYO Bloody Marys.
- Senior Smoke and CO Detector Project – Pat announced that mailings are going out. The Red Cross is supplying smoke detectors. The club is supplying CO detectors. Advise Pat if you can help with coordination or installations.
- Wilton Rotary Member Directory – it's time to take a look at your listing. Advise Ed or Susan whether to update the photo or correct contact information.
- Lunch Speakers – Laila is scheduling lunch speakers. Plenty of dates are available. Please advise Laila of all speaker suggestions.
- Frank shared with all an 8 x 10 glossy color photo of his newly adopted best friend, Cujo.

Program: Lynn Vanderslice, First Selectman, Town of Wilton

Wilton's new First Selectman brought the club up to speed as what to expect from Wilton town government. Given the uncertain economic times and a simmering tax revolt, Lynn dove right into the tax debate. Lynn intends to work towards stopping or reversing growth in the mill rate. She plans to offer a flat Board of Selectmen's budget. But with eighty percent of the town tax load stemming from the school budget, Lynn offered to do what can be done to push towards a flat school budget. On the other hand, the town has committed to major capital projects (Miller-Driscoll). There are also long in the tooth town facilities that will need attention, e.g., the North Wilton Fire Station. Somebody must pay for these projects. Lynn suggests the tax burden can be minimized by fostering growth in the town's tax base. Lynn mentioned that an invigorated Economic Development Commission could make Wilton more business friendly, increase the tax base and reduce the residential tax burden. Other ideas involve shifting costs for development of public athletic facilities to users. Lynn also spoke of enhancing underdeveloped assets. She cited Schenk's Island as a valuable parcel and, given its location, having much potential. Finally, Lynn spoke of reversing the apparent loss of public confidence in the Town's government.

NEXT MEETING – Friday, January 15 – 12:15 at Marly's