



## Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980

[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)

*Our 31st Year of Service!*



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Undaunted by frigid, snowy and icy weather, twenty-one Rotarians and speaker Robert H. Steele gathered for the first post holiday meeting of 2014 at Marly's.

### Announcements:

1. New Public Relations Manager: Our newest member, David Taylor, has stepped forward to assume the role as the Public Relations Manager for the Club.
2. President Paul announced that following next week's lunch meeting, the Club will hold an orientation for new members as well as older members who have lost their way.
3. February 25, 2014 Fundraiser for Typhoon Haiyan Relief: the Club is in the final stages of planning with Marly's. During the fundraiser, all dinner/bar gratuities will go to relief efforts. The Club will provide manpower at the bar. Luis volunteered to demonstrate all he has learned at Paul's mixology sessions. Marly's Dram Shop liability insurer is not entirely comfortable with this idea. More to come.
4. Senior Fire Protection – inquiries have gone out to Wilton's senior citizens. Within the next month or two Pat will ask members to help install fire and carbon monoxide alarms in seniors' residences.
5. The board will meet next week. All are invited to attend.
6. Student Exchange: President Paul announced that there is a possibility for increased participation by the Club in the exchange student program.

### Program: Robert Steele – Public Servant, Insurance Executive, Author

Bob braved the ice and snow travelling from eastern Connecticut to attend our meeting. With a background that includes stints at the CIA, Congress, a run for Governor and time in insurance boardrooms, Bob had a lot of material to draw from. But, the topic of the day centered on the setting of his new novel, *The Curse*. The book tells the story of a small New England town's effort to preserve its character in the face of interests pushing to erect in the town a large Indian casino. Bob spoke of the history of Indian casino gambling operations in the U.S. He described the consequences, unforeseen by Congress (Should we be surprised?), of adopting a policy to encourage their growth. While Bob's presentation stuck to the facts, one could not help but draw the conclusion that state government is addicted to revenues thrown off by gambling operations and is set on fostering these operations in spite of substantial evidence documenting the destructive impact they are having on our society.

***NEXT MEETING – Friday, January 17 at Marly's in Wilton***