



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Editor: Paul Burnham

Wilton's finest service club was President-less today, and 50-50 less, but nonetheless a good showing – Brown, Burnham, Goldman, Hafter, Johnson, Lavin, Mais, Russo, Sharlach, Smith, Tai-Lauria, which special guest Louis Hopfer, visiting Rotarian from Sevestapol, California – along with speaker Joe Miscioscia, president of the Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corps (WVAC).

Announcements – Carol

1. On January 26, the Club will be assisting with the Library min-golf fund-raiser again. We are desperately short of bodies to assist. Hot dogs and popcorn served in Rotary insignia-ed bags. Also, we will be distributing our new club brochures.
2. On January 27, the Chamber is sponsoring, again, a winter carnival. We have volunteered to oversee a bonfire on Schenk's Island. S'mores to be the main attraction. We will have new sticks for roasting the marshmallows.
3. Speakers – Pam Brown and Beth Edwards always looking for additional speaker ideas.
4. Wayback Burger day is January 24. Support our club while eating lunch
5. The District is sponsoring a new membership opportunity for rotaractors and graduating interactors, as a way to get more young folk into our clubs. Christene has details.

PROGRAM: Joe Miscioscia is the current president of WVAC. This is a group of 50 or so volunteers primarily local residents who run our local ambulance service. (WVAC is not the same organization as CERT, which primarily assists our finest with motor vehicle traffic concerns and weather emergencies.)

WVAC has two full time employees – EMTs – who work 9-5 Monday through Friday. It is all volunteers evenings and weekends. (WVAC may also have part-time employees who maintain the books.)

There is a small frame house on the back of the Wilton Town Hall Campus which houses the corps. There are two ambulances, a primary and a backup, which are well equipped from the perspective of emergency medical equipment.

Many of the volunteers are high school and college age. Many of these students are more knowledgeable than their elders. Joe, for instance, is not himself an EMT, only an EMR (primarily a driver), so he has been on crews led by 21 year olds. This is not said to scare us, but rather as a plug for the extraordinary young people in town.

The WVAC averages about 1,400 calls a year, or 4 to 5 a day. This would be entirely manageable if the calls came in evenly (each call takes about an hour from start to finish) but of course they are not. A few weeks ago the corps had to deal with 5 calls that came in, in a 21 minute span. (Fortunately, all Wilton firefighters are EMTs, so this sort of situation is not as dire as it might seem.)

The Town and WVAC are entirely separate entities legally. The Town provides the building (and the space in the firehouse for the back-up ambulance). It also provides a subsidy of a bit less than \$100,000 a year. Beyond that WVAC relies upon billing for its services to its users and gifts from its supporters.

WVAC and its volunteers are another largely behind-the-scenes group proving services to Wilton residents, most of whom take it for granted. Thank you Joe et al for being there when we need you!

NEXT MEETING: – Lunch Meeting, Friday, January 25, 12:15 at ROLLING HILLS COUNTRY CLUB