



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org



February 1, 2008

Vol. 28 No. 29

Editor: Stephanie R. Barksdale

ATTENDANCE: 24 of 49 (49%)

Guests/Visiting Rotarians

Karen Birck and Elizabeth Burnham, wife and daughter of Paul Burnham – Elizabeth was on break after having received her gold wings – congrats! Bryan Haeffele, Hersam Acorn Newspapers. Marie ?, a crafter and potential member. Matthew Gastoni from AIG Financial, a potential member.

Announcements

1. President Bill M. who is happily counting down the number of days of his presidency also happily announced that one winter month is also behind us (January, that is!).
2. President-Elect Pat R. and President-elect-elect Victor T. went to pre-PETS this weekend and are excited about the prospect of leading this club over the next 2 years.
3. Richard K. thanked all for the help in stuffing the 1000 craft show envelopes.
4. Mark K. announced that with some degree of difficulty we were able to send one student to the RYLA conference which is in the scenic vista of Stratford.
5. Frank S. said he had been at a GSE meeting for the team coming to Wilton from Mexico on May 10 – 16. Host families are needed with responsibilities for lodging, some transportation, and some function attendance.

Fun & Fines

The editor put in a happy dollar in support of the Giants being neither a Pats or Giants fan but most definitely not a Pats fan! Don G. was happy to see our

guest speaker Nicki Brown at the meeting. Ron B. was wishing the rain falling was actually snow (not a very popular sentiment amongst the group, however). Charles J. is a Giants fan but will be partying with some Pats fans – hopefully he'll survive! Mark K. is going to see his son next weekend. Paul B. was happy to have his family with him. Bill G. wished Liz Burnham a long and safe career and offered encouragement for his Pats!

Program

Kathy Leeds introduced Nicki Brown, President of The Wilton Bank. Nicki said in the mid-80s a group of 5 business people decided to start a local bank – Tom Donahue, Peter Hastings, Ellen Wells, Ralph Slater, and Marce Lavin. They received a temporary charter in January 1986 and Nicki became the president and CEO with a need to raise \$4 million in capital. In August of 1986, 3 more directors were added Ed Rimer, Lee Wilson, and Steve Monaghan. The strategic plan is to remain a hometown bank while rewarding the shareholders. The challenges of running a hometown bank include the economy which is certainly rocky right now; technology; and the fact that the bank supports a multitude of organizations in town and they do not have a real measure of what that investment does for the bank. Many organizations that come to the bank for money do not even bank at Wilton Bank. Fortunately there are many joys to running a hometown bank including the community outreach; being able to make local loans even when other banks have cut off credit due to the economy; the staff which currently has 247 years of service to the bank (no, not one person!); local board and advisory board; and loyal customers. Wilton Bank is a niche bank making construction loans, small business loans, and personal loans to corporate executives, professionals and individuals. They do not write residential first mortgages. For more information the bank, one can certainly ask Patty S. or check out www.thewiltonbank.com.

Next meeting Friday February 8th. Upcoming speaker list:

February 8, 2008 Mitchell Reichgut	Wilton Energy Commission
February 15, 2008 Joanne Marcinek	Ask Joanne – web information
February 22, 2008 Stuart Svirsky	Fairfield County Board of Realtors
February 29, 2008 OPEN (Speaker suggestions welcome)	

See you at the SilvermineStephanie