



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org



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A long time ago it was part of our normal Drummer template to list those in attendance at the meeting, and there seems no current reason not to do so – so here goes.

Boucher, Burnham, Dulberg, Glass, Goldman, Hafter, Kent (presiding), Russo, Mais, Mills, Spencer, Tai-Lauria, White. Guests, Rose Careccia (prospective member) and Peg Koellmer (Realty Seven's sacrifice to Kiwanis).

Announcements:

On Monday February 29 the Norwalk Club is inviting us and I suspect members of other local Rotary clubs to dinner at the Sedona Tap Room at 515 West Avenue in Norwalk. Andy will NOT be collecting.

Board Meeting will be happening on Thursday the 18th – usual place and presumably usual time.

If your boots are interested in being on the ground for the stove and latrine project we are sponsoring in Guatemala in conjunction with the Westport Rotary Clubs and the local Club of Vista Hermosa, have them see Richard. Not sure of the dates but it is within the period of seasonal weather recently promised to us by Punxsutawney Phil, and I have it on good authority that there is no snow in Guatemala. Do it for your boots!

Checks are cut and are ready to go to the awardees of our grants – Circle of Friends, Circle of Care, Domestic Violence Crisis Center and Visiting Nurses.

On March 18, Judge Robert Genuario will be our speaker, so long as 24 or more are in attendance. So please make a commitment one way or the other as soon as possible and let Richard know, and plan on bringing a guest.

Bud reported on pre-PETS. A focus this coming year will be on the Foundation. Rotary is very much a bottom's up organization – its strength in our world is based on the

commitment of its members. So please continue to contribute. Maybe we can become an EREY Club by next year – if not this.

The loser of the 50-50 raffle was, this month, our favorite Rotary wannabe – Peg Koellmer – who picked the Queen of Clubs.

Elaine mentioned receiving a number of thank you letters from the third graders who had received our dictionaries. Pat is in the midst of the smoke detector project, and reports that a modest monetary donation was made to the club in appreciation.

Program – Richard introduced Peg (who needed no introduction) and advised that Peg has recently become the head poobah at Wilton Go Green! (which was new information for at least one of us) and Peg then introduced Stephan Hartman of Ross Solar Group LLC. Ross Solar Group has been selected by the Town of Wilton to be the contractor of choice for the Solarize Wilton! program. This program is state-sponsored - there are significant tax and other incentives available to a homeowner who chooses to go solar – more if you make the commitment before May 18. Visit Solarizect.com/wilton for the fine details.

While it helps to have a large roof unobstructed by trees facing south, this is not always necessary – if you have a large yard not being used for any other purposes, maybe a solar array on the ground might work for you. Power which can be harvested from sunlight can be fed back into the grid, for which the homeowner will receive a credit which he/she can use for nighttime /rainy day power needs. It is not necessary to have a battery for such purposes although that is still an option. Payback may take seven or eight years, which is longer than some of us expect to live in our homes, but the realtors thought the value of the home would normally be enhanced by solar panels in place, and why not?

Solar panels have been with us for 50 or more years, and the technology is virtually unchanged in that time – so history would suggest you should not worry that an investment today will be rendered obsolete anytime soon.

Stephan did a very fine job – while he ran out of time to show the video, you can access it on the website noted above.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, February 19, 2016. See you then and there.

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