



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



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Editor: David L. Dephtereos

Twelve Wilton Rotarians joined our speaker, Dr. Michael J. Rubbo, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Woodcock Nature Center, at Marly's for lunch.

Announcements:

- 1. Craft Fair.** President Boucher reported that the Board met and voted to change the fundraising format at the Craft Fair from selling ads in a program book to charging businesses for displaying advertising banners, similar to the format that has been successful at the Rotary Carnival.
- 2. Annual Dinner.** Bud reported that the dinner has been tentatively set for June 22.
- 3. Donations.** The Club donated \$500 to each of two international projects sponsored by the District.
- 4. Tolerance Proclamation.** The Board tabled endorsing a Tolerance Proclamation, which was drafted by several Wilton residents and was presented to the Board of Selectmen for adoption. The Proclamation reaffirms that Wilton is a town committed to inclusion, tolerance, and civility. The Board of Selectmen subsequently endorsed the Proclamation at its Feb. 21 meeting.
- 5. Carnival.** Patrick advised everyone to mark their calendars for September 15, 16, and 17 and noted that there may be a new Ferris Wheel added to the rides.
- 6. District Governor Selection.** Richard Kent successfully served on the District Committee that selected the governor-elect for 2019-2020.
- 7. The Pot Rolls Over Again.** Richard Kent had the winning ticket but drew the two of clubs. The losing card was destroyed and removed from the deck, thereby increasing the odds of a winner of the \$440 pot next week.

Program: Woodcock Nature Center.

The Woodcock Nature Center is located at 56 Deer Run Road in North Wilton, and its 149 acres straddle the Wilton-Ridgefield border. It is a registered non-profit that was established in 1972, and Dr. Rubbo was appointed Executive Director approximately 10 months ago. Woodcock's goal

is to provide environmental education for its surrounding communities and to encourage action by citizens to protect the environment. Woodcock has three miles of hiking trails, a pond suitable for canoeing and kayaking, a learning center, a pavilion to host events, and live hawks and owls on display. There is no charge for visitors.

Woodcock leases its land from the State of CT, and it does not receive funding from the State or other government entity. Its budget for 2016 was \$420,000, all of which was raised through fundraising (including its Holiday Wreath Festival) and fees for programs, such as its summer day camp. Six hundred children attend the camp program. The Nature Center has three full-time and three-part time employees. Woodcock offers opportunities for volunteers on its Board of Directors and work projects, and sponsorships. More information is available at: <http://woodcocknaturecenter.org>.

NEXT MEETING – Friday, February 24 – 12:15 at Marly’s.