



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Editor: Paul Burnham

Visitors:

Christian from the Armonk Club. Members in attendance included Dulberg, Lemke, Ashway, Russo, Kolier, Spencer (presiding), Glass, Burnham, Dephtereos, Mattoni, Grunewald, Klein, Burnham, Barlow, Kent, White, Schloss, Malkin, Lucas, Johnson, Di Giorgio.

Announcements:

We have all been saddened by the news of the recent passing of Romaine Hetz, Hellmut's widow. Hellmut was a much-loved member of our club for more than a dozen years – always reminding us of our need to be both humble and humane. He flew for the Luftwaffe during the Second World War, came to this country in the early fifties, moved from baggage handling to piloting for Eastern Airlines (remember them?) and put an entirely different face on the German Army for two generations of Wilton residents. Romaine was a friend of all of ours, and an honorary member of this club. She served our community in many ways, especially in her efforts on behalf of those suffering from mental illness, and was in manner and outlook no less a Rotarian than her husband. She will certainly be missed.

The Fun 'n Fines receipts for today will be paid to a charity chosen by the Hetz family.

Pam Lucas reported on the Paul Harris sustaining membership drive – we are hopeful that more of our members, maybe even as many as half, will become sustainers.

Richard reports that so far we have about a third of our available booths filled for the craft fair. Things are moving nicely. Ray is selling advertising space, so get him your business cards.

Leah has returned from India, with a new outlook on what Rotary means to the World. She believes we should do even more to help with such programs as the one two students presented last year – bringing computers and training to girls in impoverished areas of that country.

Program

Club Assembly. The Four Avenues of Service: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service. Kevin, who leads our Club Service Avenue, was unable to attend, and Karen, who leads the International Sector, were unable to attend, so Mark (Vocational) and Pat (Community) gave reports. Mark reported that while most of our efforts have been in the High School in recent years, our sponsorship of the Police Recognition Program at the Library later this month is a break from this pattern, and certainly a good thing.

Our efforts at the School, other than RYLA scholarships, have mostly been in our sponsorship of the Interact Club. Bill's daughter is the President and Bill has been the advisor this past year. Programs included the sports equipment to Iraq program – one of the students has a brother serving in Iraq who brought to her the needs of Iraqi children – we remember the photos of the smiling children in that most unfortunate nation wearing Wilton Soccer Association jerseys – that moment of joy can be attributed in a direct way to our efforts. Later in the year the Interact club took on the sponsorship of a girl from a poor village in Haiti with nothing. Wilton Rotary also sponsors the High School debate club, one of whose members made it to the finals of our Districts four-Way Test speech contest. Mark also advises the Model UN Program at the High School.

Pat reported on our efforts for the community. We installed twenty-five or so smoke detectors, and brought joy to many of our home-bound neighbors who were so touched that someone cared about them. We will do it again next year. We will be building wheelchair ramps when the weather gets warmer – Pat is hoping we can get some lumber and other supplies donated. Get out your electric screwdrivers! Also several of our members have become participants in Wilton's Emergency Response Team – and have actually been pressed into duty during recent storms.

And nobody took credit for the dictionary project!

A pat on the back to all of us, but especial thanks to those who make the rest of us look so good!

See you Friday

..... Paul