



Wilton Rotary Drummer
Wilton, Connecticut
www.wiltonrotaryclub.org



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Editor: Karen Strickland

With beautiful sunny 60 degree weather outside Marly's, President Luis led the meeting today with 19 Rotarians present and one guest (Susan Schaffer of Planned Benefits). Assistant Governor John Hendrickson of Westport Rotary was also in attendance representing the District.

First order of business was the induction of two new members: Jim Booth of People's United Bank and Rev. Steve Goldstein of Zion's Hill Church. Bill Glass did the honors and presented Jim and Steve with Rotary pins and membership information packets. They join Susan Betsworth, who was inducted last week, as the newest members of Wilton Rotary. Let's keep the momentum going and introduce more prospective members to the rewards and benefits of Rotary!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pat Russo brought the smoke detector supply packages for those who have signed up to install them in the homes of senior citizens. Please be sure you get yours from Pat, select a partner, and make arrangements to get them installed.

Pat also mentioned that the Wilton Senior Center is having a grand reopening event on Tuesday, March 22, and Social Services Director Cathy Pierce has extended an invitation for all Rotarians to attend.

Karen said that Rotary will be sponsoring the Annual Police Awards on Monday, March 21 in the Brubeck Room at the Wilton Library starting at 6:30. Please try to come a little early to help set up the refreshments and greet the police officers and their friends and families. Kathy Leeds will do a welcome and talk briefly about Rotary's involvement in the event that night.

Assistant Governor John asked us to sign up for the District Assembly April 16 in Meriden, as well as the District Conference in Sturbridge, MA May 12-14. PETS training has been completed, which incoming President Frank Spencer attended.

PROGRAM – Our own Judy White speaking on her career in the Travel Business

Before establishing Wilton Center Travel in 1978, Judy was first an anesthetist and then a commercial pilot operating out of the Bahamas. As a travel agent, she has visited 150 countries on all 7 continents. The business has changed dramatically over the decades, with airlines, cruise operators and hotels all eliminating commissions for travel agencies (airlines now charge them for

bookings). There are many reasons to use travel agents: they have actually been to the vacation locations and have personal contacts/references/relationships which provide a true picture of the destination, not the hype of a brochure or website. Agents will match prices, simplify the process, provide a lot of personal attention, and save the vacationer a lot of time before and during travel. Some trends in the industry: airfares continue to go up with several added fees, new rules for travel etiquette are being defined, there is a lot more multigenerational travel, and cruises are outpacing land travel in popularity. Judy's best experience was when she was Chair of the International Travel Agents Conference in Cairo, which hosted 7000 agents and allowed her to meet Mrs. Anwar Sadat and Hosni Mubarak.

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!