



**Wilton Rotary Drummer**  
Wilton, Connecticut  
[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)

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**Editor: Andy Mais**

19 Wilton Rotarians joined four guests, including our favorite ADG John Hendrickson of Westport Sunrise, Rosa's husband Frank, and Christene's husband David to hear Judge Robert Genuario speak.

**Announcements:**



- The Drummer editor today is filling in for designated editor Paul Burnham. Paul is abdicating his Drummer responsibilities in favor of attendance at the North American Bridge Championship in Reno. My research indicates that bridge is the favored diversion in a particular age group, in between the midday Metamucil and the early bird special. We wish Paul success and regularity, although I suppose for Paul regularity is success of a kind.

• Pat Russo once again picked the wrong card from Bud's deck. The good news about Pat's losing for the second week straight is that the pot just keeps getting bigger. The better news is that the Board voted to devote the proceeds of Bud's drawing to a Rotary Peace Pole project in Wilton. Thank you to Carol and the subcommittee members who have worked on this project to provide seven peace poles. International Peace Day is Sept. 21.

- The Board met Thursday and is looking for help with publicity and social media presence.
- There are two major Rotary events coming up (see calendar). The March 26 Rotary Leadership Institute has been cancelled, but the next one should be a must go for anyone who hasn't already been to one. It really opens up your mind to the world of Rotary, and it's a fun way to meet new people and hear different ideas. Grants training and the District Conference are both in April. The Club is willing to provide support for those planning to go to either of these events. Please reach out to President Richard ASAP.
- The Board declined an invitation to contribute to the Rose Parade float.
- Elaine noted that the police awards were very successful. If you read the media coverage and thought it was a Trackside event, you will understand the Board's renewed focus on managing the brand. Any help you can offer will be gratefully accepted.



## Upcoming events (see Pres. Richard):

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| 3/26 — Rotary Leadership Institute at University of New Haven <b>Cancelled</b>     | 4/1 — Devon Rotary Club Comedy Night (\$50)    |
| 4/16 — District Training Assembly – Grants training, Four Points Sheraton, Meriden | 4/28 — Board Meeting, Fairfield County Bank    |
| 4/29 — District Conference (runs till 5/1) at Renaissance Hotel in Providence      | 5/1 — Wilton Rotary grant application deadline |
| 5/2 — Golf Outing (\$275/golfer including lunch and cocktails)                     | 5/2 — Annual Town Meeting                      |
| 5/28 — Arts & Crafts Show, Town Green  | 5/31 — World Peace Scholarship deadline        |

## Program: State judiciary



A happy Villanova alum, Judge Robert Genuario offered some fascinating insight into the life of a judge and the judicial system in Connecticut.

Judge Genuario, who in a lifetime of service to the state has held high-level positions in both the legislative and executive branches of state government before joining the judiciary, said the judicial branch was the one most likely to deal with real people with real problems. The judge noted that judicial action is still government action, and thus its power must be used with restraint.

One example of that may be the judiciary's move toward diversionary programs instead of incarceration. Genuario said that for low level crimes, the judicial system really is an entryway into a social services network. A greater portion of the judicial department's budget each year is directed toward diversionary programs.

Choosing when to employ these programs as opposed to more coercive punishment and choosing what bail to set are among the more difficult decisions a judge must regularly make. Domestic violence cases are often the cause of difficult decisions as well.

Genuario urged Rotarians to serve on juries when given the privilege. "Our experience has been that when folks serve on a jury, their attitude changes...most people find that their service has been both rewarding and interesting," he said.

As with all of state government, the deficit creates a problem. The Governor just imposed a cut of almost \$10 million on the judiciary, and has asked for a total reduction of \$70 million in its budget. Genuario said the judiciary would do its share to help the state balance its budget, but cuts will affect its ability to fulfill its obligations to the citizens of the state.

***NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 1, 2016 at Marly's (no meeting next week, 3/25).***