

# Rotary



# BE THE INSPIRATION

## Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut USA

District 7980

[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)

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Editor: Bill Glass

Led by President Christene Freedman, 11 Rotarians and three visitors came together on the last Friday of March and the second day of the baseball season to enjoy good fellowship, good food, and a great program at Rolling Hills CC.

### Guests/Visitors

Larry Gardner, District Governor; Courtney Lilly, Development Director at Wilton Library (Elaine's guest); Dave Sigworth, Associate Director of Communications at the Maritime Aquarium (speaker, see below).

### Announcements

#### 1. Future Events

- **April 10: Wayback Burgers Benefit for Wilton Rotary.** 607 Main Ave., Norwalk, 11 AM to 9 PM. Come in for a burger and help the club!
- **April 16-17: Red Sox at Yankees!** First of 20 games this season – GO RED SOX!
- **April 19: No Meeting.** Good Friday.
- **May 4: FREE RVNA Health Fair.** East Ridge Middle School, Ridgefield.
- **June 2: Riverbrook Regional YMCA Community Celebration.** Shore and Country Club, 3 – 7 PM (see below).
- **June 20: Installation Dinner for New Regime.** RHCC, 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Pam Brown gets her turn at the helm!
- **July 20: Chamber of Commerce Sidewalk Sale.**

#### 2. 33<sup>rd</sup> "Y" Community Celebration Award

Christene announced that our own Pat Russo will receive one of the two Distinguished Citizen Awards at the annual "Y" event on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Patrick is enormously dedicated to the Club and the Town and is more than deserving of this recognition. Congratulations!!

### 3. **Fundraising Ideas**

Christene reinforced the importance of additional fundraising events. She discussed the idea of a Casino Night, and also shared an interesting one from Branford Rotary, the "Branford Rotary Partner," in which local businesses - for a fee of at least \$1000 - become an official sponsor of Club events for a year and have their name/logo appear on the Club's web site, event ads and posters, and get a decal to put on the door of their business identifying them as a "Rotary Partner." There was some interest in something like this which needs to be more fully explored. If you have comments on this idea, or have one of your own, please contact Christene.

### 4. **DG Report**

District Governor Larry Gardner made a strong pitch for the upcoming combined District Conference and District Assembly, May 17- 19, Heritage Hotel and Conference Center, Southbury. See <http://www.rotary7980.org/index.php> for details and to register.

### 5. **PETS**

Incoming President Pam Brown attended the Mid-Northeast PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) in New Jersey recently. She had a wonderful time and feels well prepared to "relieve" Christene on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

### 6. **Police Awards**

Many thanks to the Rotarians who helped at the WPD's annual Police Awards, held this past Monday night at the Wilton Library's Brubeck Room. The top awards – **Police Officer of the Year and Community Police Officer of the Year** – went to the two members of the department who are assigned to the Wilton Schools: Officer Rich Ross, the SRO at Wilton High School, was named Officer of the Year; Officer Diane MacLean, the SRO stationed primarily at Middlebrook Middle School, received the Community Police Officer of the Year award. In addition, this year's recipient of the **Civilian Blue Angel** award actually went to an entire group of people, as the Department honored the members of Wilton Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for their service and dedication to Wilton's public safety officers.

### 7. **Meet Mark D. Maloney, RI President-Elect, 2019-2020**

Mark Daniel Maloney of Decatur, AL, USA, is a principal in the law firm of Blackburn, Maloney, and Schuppert LLC, with a focus on taxation, estate planning, and agricultural law. He has been active in many local organizations, including the Community Foundation of Greater Decatur, the Morgan County Meals on Wheels, the United Way of Morgan County, and the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce. A Rotarian since 1980, Maloney has served as an RI director; Foundation trustee and vice chair; and aide to 2003-04 RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe. He also has participated in the Council on Legislation as chair, vice chair, parliamentarian, and trainer. He was an adviser to the 2004 Osaka Convention Committee and chaired the 2014 Sydney Convention Committee. He assumes office on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Today's Program

Dave Sigworth, the Associate Director of Communications from the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, spoke to us about the past, present and future of the facility that has been a fixture in our area for over 30 years. In fact, the Maritime Aquarium celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. When the Aquarium opened in 1988, it was known as The Maritime Center at Norwalk. The name was changed to The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk in July 1996 to reflect its emphasis on live animals. The \$30 million structure grew from a former 1860s iron works factory in the SoNo neighborhood into a premier and highly respected museum and aquarium that has spawned additional development in SoNo (including a huge mall!). With 199 employees and 320 volunteers, the Aquarium attracts over 500,000 visitors a year and has a \$25 million per year impact on Norwalk. The Aquarium offers a wide range of programs and educational opportunities for guests of all ages. The replacement of the adjacent Walk Bridge will result in the loss of the IMAX theater, but they are planning to replace it with a state of the art "4-D" theater when the facility is remodeled in the next few years. For further information, visit [maritimeaquarium.org](http://maritimeaquarium.org)

***Next Meeting: Friday, 5 April, 12:15 PM, Rolling Hills Country Club***