



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Editor: Paul Burnham

Wilton's finest service club, drew the usual suspects (and then some) to its weekly meeting this second Friday of April - Boucher, Brown, Burnham, Freedman (presiding) Goldman, Hafter, Johnson, Kent, Lavin, Meehan, Russo, Sharlach, Smith, Tai-Lauria – along with speaker Dr. Kevin Smith, three guests from the Riverbook Family Y (Kimberly Fahey, Molly Blosser and Mike Kazlauskas), and a welcome blast from the past in the guise of now visiting Rotarian, Karen Strickland.

Announcements –

1. Congratulations to Carol Johnson for the well-deserved plaudits received by Fairfield County Bank at the Library fund-raiser this past Saturday.
2. Boiled Hot Dogs with all the fixins to be served on April 27 at the library book sale. Come on down, the more there the merrier. Rumor has it that snowbird Jay Dulberg will be back to assist.
3. The District Conference is set for 5/17 through 5/19 in Southbury., Do sign up.
4. The Installation Dinner is set for Thursday evening, June 20 at Rolling Hills.

Karen reports that she is here visiting her son who lives in NYC. The rest of the year she is in Oregon enjoy her two grandchildren now in 2nd and 4th grade. She is a member of the Sherwood Rotary Club, but is not yet the President.

Richard drew the two of diamonds. The 50-50 pot grows ...

PROGRAM

Dr. Smith gave us an overview of the exciting things happening in the Wilton Public Schools, and the changes that have taken place in education since the last time we were in school classrooms. The electronic universe has changed everything. Our young people need to think globally now. They must learn interpersonal skills like never before. They must learn to solve complex problems. They must learn critical thinking, i.e., students must learn that they cannot believe anything unless it can be independently verified. It's no longer the three Rs. And even STEM is not enough, it is now STEAM,

science, technology, engineering, math and the arts.

Wilton schools continue to win awards. An award for the best school libraries in the State, an award for the best in Music Education, our ski and gymnastics teams have won state titles back to back. We are consistently ranked in the top one percent of all school districts in the country.

We were treated to a short video written and produced by students at Miller-Driscoll (5-7 years old), basically news stories about what was going on at the School with shout-outs for the students who had just had birthdays.

Wilton is no longer homogeneous. The Middlebrook (the middle school) student body is now about 20% minority. This represents a seismic shift from only 5 years ago when the percentage was 5%. Even in Wilton things are changing.

See you Friday.

Paul

NEXT MEETING: – Lunch, Friday, April 26, 12:15 at ROLLING HILLS COUNTRY CLUB