



Wilton Rotary Drummer
Wilton, Connecticut
www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Editor: Andy Mais

Sixteen Rotarians joined President Carol on a beautiful May Day at Marly's. Prospective member Mike Kaelin was a guest.

Announcements:

- Vote on the town budget Saturday, May 9, at the Clune Auditorium from 9 am to 6 pm.
- Rotary theme for May is "Celebrate your community." Voting is a great way to celebrate.
- Thanks to all who participated in the library book sale. The menu for next year is up for discussion.
- It's time to nominate Paul Harris Fellows. Tell Pres. Carol.
- Wilton Y is having its 29th Annual Community Celebration on May 31 at Millstone Farm. The Kaelins and Hudspeths will be honored, with proceeds providing financial assistance so all can enjoy the Y.
- The crafts fair needs silent auction items. See Susan.
- There's space for more crafters at the fair – a perfect place to start selling your Paul Burnham bobblehead doll. See Paul B.

Program: Judge Taggart D. Adams

On a Law Day celebrating the signing of the Magna Carta by King John, Taggart D. Adams, a judge trial referee on the Stamford/Norwalk District Superior Court, was our speaker. The mandatory retirement age for superior court judges in Connecticut is age 70. Judge trial referees (also known as state referees) are judges who are 70 years or older. Subject to certain restrictions, a senior judge automatically becomes a state referee upon turning 70. Judge Adams last spoke to us 10 years and 9 months ago at Silvermine, and reviewed changes to our courts since then. Courts are busy. There are more than 60,000 pending civil cases at any given time, more than 25,000 felony and misdemeanor cases, and about 10,000 DUI/DWI cases. Interestingly, of 3,500 DUI dispositions last year, only five resulted in a not guilty finding. There has been a big increase in people coming to court without representation, with about 70% of matrimonial proceedings having at least one party acting pro se. The problem may be financial, but the effectiveness of self-representation is in question. There is a good cadre of volunteer lawyers available to help, and changes allowing attorneys to represent clients for a discrete portion of a case – thus reducing costs – are being debated. Foreclosure cases are still historically high. The age at which a young person may be considered a juvenile has increased from 15 to 17, and electronic filing in matrimonial and civil cases is now accepted. Criminal trials are on the decline, which may reduce the need for jurors. But if the DMV has your name, or if you're on a voter list, pay taxes, or have received unemployment compensation, you still may get the call.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, May 8, 2014 at Marly's