



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Editor: Doug Macklem

Attendance & Guests: 20 Club members were in attendance and 2 guests - Laila Khouri and Maria Lopez.

Special Announcement:

The following persons have been proposed for membership in the Wilton Rotary Club:

Kevin Murray
Laila Khouri
Susan Goldman

If there are any objections to their membership, you must notify President Karen Strickland by May 16th.

Announcements:

- President Karen thanked all who helped at HomeFront in Norwalk w/Kiwanis (Chris, Patty, Bill M.) major painting, construction work needed to be done, it was great and much appreciated effort on everyone's part. An email from Chris was also sent to all club members to express his thanks.
- The Go Green Festival last Sunday was a big success, Carol, Bill M., Paul B., Karen were there manning booths.
- Patty Sweeny was thanked for her work weeding and sprucing up the Club's Adopt a Spot.
- Craft Fair (May 25th) – Richard Kent sent the silent auction list from the last 2 years to everyone. Please review and see what you can help obtain. Also Bill Glass expressed the need for club members to take ads in the program, today is deadline. The Craft Fair sign-up sheet was circulated.
- The Memorial Day Parade will take place on May 27th. Rotary once again will be doing set-up/water at cemetery and we will need volunteers – a sign-up list will again be circulated next week.
- Paul Harris Awards - letter sent to community winner Don Hazzard, Commander of the American Legion, the Rotarian selected will be surprise both awards will be presented at Annual our Dinner (June 20th)
- The Rose Sale pick up will be on June 13th, with orders to be placed several weeks prior. As usual, Bob Mills will be in charge and will be asking for our help and Rose sales orders.
- The Grants Committee met May 1st to review applications and has recommendations for the May 16th Board meeting. Reminder to Board members the May 16th meeting will be at **5:00 pm** @ Fairfield County Bank - many important year-end items will be covered. Please email President Karen your attendance intentions.
- Luis and Frank will be travelling to Guatemala 5/17 for a fact-finding trip to visit a school in need, and will report back on how best to use the \$4,000 grant funds (kitchen appliances, mattresses, etc.).
- The Wilton High School awards ceremony will take place May 30th Bill Glass's committee (Frank and Matt) has reviewed 30 applicants and selected a winner.
- Karen and Carol will be attending the district conference, Pat Russo has graciously agreed to preside at next weeks meeting.
- Karen extended a welcome to our 2 guests today, and said we hope they will be attending our meetings from now on and joining us soon as members of Wilton Rotary. She urged members to remember to bring someone as a prospective member & check the Club website for news and photos.

Program: An update from Ambler Farm - Kevin Meehan, Eve Donovan, and Jean Robertson

The three presenters gave us an enthusiastic talk on the current programs and plans for growth at Ambler Farm. The Carriage Barn and Red Barn have already been restored/renovated completed in 2007 and 2008 respectively. Now the focus is on the Farmhouse. The Farmhouse Renovation project is expected to be completed and the building ready for use in 2014. The fund drive to support this renovation has already obtained \$1.3 million of the \$1.9 million needed.

Ambler Farm has grown tremendously - the summer program has increased from 19 kids, when they first started, to over 550 kids participating today. The property now is seeing more than 15,000 visitors annually. The production of Maple syrup at the farm has grown to 1,500 bottles and is being sold to support the various education efforts. Vegetables grown at the farm are also being sold at the Farmers' Market in town.

Each of the presenters emphasized that the Farm truly belongs to the people of Wilton and encouraged all to visit.

See you all next week at Marly's!

Upcoming programs:

17-May	Doug Cutler, Architect - Home repairs after Hurricane Sandy
24-May	Family Court Judge Marylouise Schofield, Stamford/Norwalk Dist. Superior Court
31-May	Sam Brown - Project Amigo in Mexico
7-Jun	Don McGran - Security Advisor on Identity Theft and Scams