



Wilton Rotary Drummer
Wilton, Connecticut
www.wiltonrotaryclub.org



July 12, 2013

Vol. 33, No. 1

Editor: Karen Strickland

Newly minted President Paul Burnham convened the first Rotary meeting of the 2013-14 year in great form by personally offering small pours of Guatemalan rum to each of the 18 Rotarians in attendance and 3 guests (Anita Jones, Frank's niece Shannon Spencer, and Tom Nipper from the Newtown club). Several of us required Coca Cola chasers added to the demon rum in order to maintain attentiveness during the meeting. The libation accompanied an excellent chicken parm from Marly's, topped off by Crème brûlée cheesecake for dessert.

Announcements:

1. President Paul reported that Sept. 4 and 17 will be Rotary Days at Fenway Park for Sox fans and their families. Goal is to have 20 tickets sold to Boston boosters, Yankee mavens who go hoping for a loss, and neutralists wanting to just have a good time.
2. Patty reminded 50% of the membership that their dues are overdue. Please remit, you know who you are. If in doubt, check with Patty, and don't blame it on your secretary, the post office, or your dog eating the check.
3. Thank you letter received from HomeFront for our \$1125 donation and volunteer workers, thanks again to Chris Lavin for coordinating our troops, the materials and cranky Kiwanians.
4. Rotary beer/wine booth at 7/20 Street Fair moving ahead, thanks to John Lemke, Paul Hafter, Victor Tenore and others who are taking shifts. Liquor permit and insurance certificate are in the works, Georgetown Liquor providing beverages, check list will be emailed to steering committee.
5. Short term Youth Exchange student Alex Bendix leaves for Brazil tomorrow for 6-8 weeks, has been given a Wilton Rotary banner to exchange for local counterpart, will attend an August meeting to talk about his experience. Brazilian student will do other half of exchange in Wilton Jan/Feb 2014.
6. John Lemke was teased about his email excuse for missing meetings due to being busy "marrying his daughter". Rest assured that John has a new son-in-law and it was not he himself who was at the altar.
7. Tom from Newtown Rotary talked about their Sandy Hook Fund for the shooting victims and plans for using some of the money for future scholarships. Their club is also sponsoring a Golf Outing at Tashua Knolls, we will get more info on that.
8. President Paul recounted the joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Trustees held last Monday, purpose of which was to discuss Trust Fund procedures, elect officers, and affirm Avenue of Service Chairs. Trustees total 5, current president and 4 prior, Paul elected Chair, Karen Secretary, Patty Treasurer. 9 Board members, Matt heads Club Service, Pat is Community, Luis is Youth Programs, John is Vocational, Richard is International. Future

meetings will include further review of club bylaws and Trustee rules. Grants committee will continue with Frank as Chair, recommendations made to Board then Trustees. Next Board meeting is 6:30 pm 7/18, Trustees are off the hook until late October.

9. President Paul once again extended an invitation for any and all Wilton Rotarians to join him at 7 pm on Mondays at Marly's for informal chats about club operations or Rotary in general. A great opportunity to have your voice and ideas heard.

Program:

Luis and Frank presented a very interesting and enlightening program on Guatemala and their recent trip to the Anini Orphanage to purchase much needed kitchen equipment through a grant from Wilton Rotary. Beginning with beautiful scenes from the Guatemalan country which showed a variety of lakes, mountains, seashores, modern buildings, volcanos, and bountiful agricultural products, they moved to the facility at Anini which serves over 300 children with severe emotional and physical handicaps, 64 of whom live there. Many of the orphans are very artistically talented, and Luis and Frank showed a few pieces they purchased which were created by the children. The orphanage's stove and refrigerator had failed, so Wilton Rotary approved a grant to cover the replacement costs and Luis and Frank made a personal trip to oversee the purchases with help from Luis' family. We received a lovely thank you letter from the Director of Anini saying how appreciative they are for the donation. The orphanage has many needs that Wilton Rotary may be able to help with in the future.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, July 19, 2013

ADDENDUM:

Immediately following the regular meeting, several Rotarians along with Anita Jones, Charles' widow, re-congregated at the town tennis courts to dedicate the memorial bench commemorating him as Wilton's #1 tennis spectator. We were joined there by several members of Anita's family, friends of Charles, First Selectman Bill Brennan, and Parks & Rec Director Steve Pierce. Ron Barlow delivered the invocation, Bill Brennan thanked Rotary for making the gift to the town, President Paul gave a moving tribute to Charles as a person and a Rotarian, and others spoke of their many fond memories of him (the plaid pants were often cited). Charles would have been 86 years old on July 6.