



Wilton Rotary Drummer
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Editor: Kathy Leeds



Frank Spencer served as substitute president and ran the meeting as Bill Meehan was out of town.

Announcements

- Frank reported that fellow Rotarian Kevin Gilmartin and other employees of the Patriot Bank involved in the robbery are all physically fine and we voted to give flowers to the Bank using our fun & fines money.
- Frank mentioned the installation dinner at the Silvermine Golf Club and he bestowed the Paul Harris awards not available that evening to Dorothea Barlow (posthumously) and Pat Russo. Stephanie Barksdale was cited for bringing us great speakers all year.
- Karen Strickland presented a banner from our exchange student from France.
- Pat Russo reported that our Adopt-a-Spot is being rejuvenated on the corner of Drum Hill and Ridgefield Road (by Pat and Chris Lavin).

Program

Anna Nelson, of the [Alzheimer's Association](#) spoke to us about the disease and cited several dramatic statistics: over half the population knows someone with Alzheimer's; Alzheimer's Disease is the 7th leading cause of death in the US; about 5 million patients suffer from Alzheimer's Disease currently, about 10% of whom are considered "early onset." Much of the organization's fund raising goes towards the development of medications that will slow the progress or actually reverse the effects of the illness.

Information from the website advises that Alzheimer's:

- **is a common and serious brain disease.**

More than 5 million Americans now have Alzheimer's. Although symptoms can vary widely, the first problem many people notice is forgetfulness severe enough to affect their work, lifelong hobbies or social life.

- **gets worse over time.**

As the disease progresses, other symptoms include confusion, trouble with organizing and expressing thoughts, misplacing things, getting lost in familiar places, and changes in personality and behavior.

- **is the most common form of dementia**, a general term for the loss of memory and other intellectual abilities serious enough to interfere with daily life.

Vascular dementia, another common type, is caused by reduced blood flow to parts of the brain. In mixed dementia, Alzheimer's and vascular dementia occur together.

- **has no current cure.**

Treatments for symptoms, however, combined with the right services and support, can make life better for the millions of Americans living with Alzheimer's. We've learned most of what we know about Alzheimer's in the last 15 years. There is an accelerating worldwide effort under way to find better ways to treat the disease, delay its onset, or prevent it from developing.

The Alzheimer's Memory Walk is an annual fund raising event that will take place locally on October 7th at Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk and Rotarians Cliff and Valerie Juleson are co-chairs of the Walk Committee this year. They urged us to spread the word and help out. The walk is 1.5 mile to 3 miles. A question and answer session followed their talk and we were told to call 1-800-356-5502 if we need help with a loved one or more information.

See you next Friday at the Silvermine Tavern..... Kathy