



Wilton Rotary Drummer
Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980
www.wiltonrotaryclub.org



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Editor: Bill Meehan

Seventeen Wilton Rotarians and former member Peter Slavin were greeted with a surprise visit by multi-term President Karen Strickland. The Wilton Historical Society's Nick Foster spoke and presented historical photos of baseball, American history and the Wilton Farmers baseball team.

Announcements:

- **Wilton Rotary Photos** – Please give Susan copies of Club activity photos as work is being done to upgrade the Club Facebook page.
- **August 11 – District Governor Trish Pearson** – The District Governor will attend our lunch meeting. Please welcome the District Governor to Wilton.
- **Presidential Announcements:**
 - The first Monday of each month will be either a Club Social Event or a Community Service Program. Details and schedule to follow.
 - The Club will be visited by a guest Rotarian skilled in club vision and strategic planning.
 - Ex-POTUS Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci is not being considered as the next Club Communications Director.
- **September 15-17 – Rotary Carnival** – Sponsors are being lined up. Contact Pat with leads.
- **September 22-23 - Lobster Fest** – Lobster dinners \$35 with \$15 of each dinner benefitting Wilton American Legion Post 86. Contact Bud for details.
- **September 30** – Club Outing to Fenway Park - Red Sox v. Astros -4:05 p.m. Contact Carol.

Program – Nick Foster, Wilton Historical Society

Nick spoke of the intertwined history of baseball and America. With much debated origins, baseball likely predates the American Revolution. Its popularity soared during and after the Civil War. From 1921 through the early 1970s Wilton's boys of summer, the Wilton Farmers, dominated Connecticut baseball diamonds. Founded by Charlie Orem, proprietor of Orem's Dairy and Diner, Charlie built his field of dreams, a diamond equipped with bleachers, in the cow pasture right behind Orem's Diner. Charlie recruited manager Frank Squire and skilled players including former major leaguers. Rotarian Jay Dulberg was a member of the 1921 team (or was it the early 1970s?). Nick noted how social issues pulsing through America are reflected in baseball. For example, Jackie Robinson's arrival on the Brooklyn Dodgers can be viewed as interwoven with the civil rights movement. Or, the women's professional league, founded during WWII, as being tied to the equal rights movement. Visit the Wilton Historical Society's exhibition for more information.

NEXT MEETING – Friday, August 11, 2017 – 12:15 at Marly's