



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

August 22, 2014

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Editor: Bill Glass

President Carol Johnson presided at a distinctly youthful and internationally flavored meeting, with 18 Rotarians, three Rotary Youth Exchange Students, Assistant District Governor John Hendrickson, and District Youth Exchange Chair Dave Wolff in attendance.

Announcements/Upcoming Events:

1. Youth Exchange Day: We were pleased to welcome three of our exchange students: Luci Breve, incoming student from Chile; Erin O'Connell - Luci's first host sister - and Sasha Gilles, returning WHS grads, who just completed 'gap year' Rotary Youth Exchanges in Ecuador (see program notes below for further details). Dave Wolff expressed his appreciation to the club for its strong support of the Rotary Youth Exchange program.
2. Karen's Last Meeting: While we were uplifted by the visit of our exchange students, our joviality was tempered by the knowledge that today is the last meeting for Karen Strickland as she is relocating to the Portland, Ore., area to be closer to her daughter's family. Karen has contributed far and above the call of duty to the Club and the district during her more than 20 years of service to Rotary, including three terms as president, avenue of service chairs, Drummer editor, and numerous key roles at the district level. All this is in addition to her highly successful tenure as Development Director at the Wilton Y. Our club – and our community – will not be the same without her. Carol thanked Karen for her service and presented some very nice parting gifts. May you have "Fair winds and following seas" as they say in the Navy!
3. Board Meeting Action: Highlights of the Board Meeting last night included the following:
 - a. The District Managed Grant Application has been completed and will be submitted for the next meeting of the committee.
 - b. Within the next few weeks we will be inducting two new members.
 - c. Karen and Beth interviewed a WHS student who is interested in spending a gap year in Argentina, so we will be hosting an exchange student during Richard's presidential year.
 - d. We will be reaching out to other clubs in our area to see if we can collaborate on an international project.



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4. Carnival: 12-13-14 September at the Tennis Courts. Still need help for ticket sales on Saturday night. See Patrick. Posters are now available. Eleven local businesses have signed up so far to sponsor individual rides at \$250 each.
5. Sympathies: Our condolences to Luis Garcia who lost his sister recently.
6. Membership Proposal:
 - a. Name: Christene Freedman
 - b. Classification: Youth Organizations
 - c. Sponsor: Karen Strickland

Any objections to this membership proposal must be expressed immediately to Carol Johnson. If there are none, Christene will be considered elected to membership with an induction to follow.

Today's Program

Our two returning exchange students, Sasha Gilles and Erin O'Connell, shared with the club their experiences as exchange students in different parts of Ecuador this past school year. Sasha stayed in a relatively small farming community, while Erin resided in a large city setting. Both spoke enthusiastically about their experiences, including travel throughout the country, trying different foods and making life-long friendships with other exchange students and their host families. Both Erin and Sasha wore sport coats heavily adorned with pins and buttons representing places they visited and items exchanged with other exchange students. This fall, Erin will be attending Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, CA, and Sasha is off to McGill University in Montreal. Luci will make a presentation to the club later this year.

Editor's Note: this is also my last meeting for a while, as I will be returning to the classroom next week. Perhaps I'll see you around town and at the carnival next month. I'll be back at Marly's on the next school holiday that falls on a Friday! So long for now..... Bill