

# Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut  
[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)

September 14, 2018

Vol. 38, No. 10

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Fifteen members of Wilton's finest service organization (Boucher, Burnham, Dulberg, Edwards, Freedman, Glass, Goldman, Hafter, Johnson, Lavin, Meehan, Mills, Russo, Tai-Lauria, White) were joined by prospective member Phil Sharlach and presenter Joe Rog (a member of the Fairfield Rotary Club, psyching up for the Carnival stating that very evening.

Pat reported that all volunteer slots are filled for the Carnival but the more the merrier. Weather looks terrific, in contrast to where we have been this week and where the Carolinas expect to be this weekend.

There will be a meeting at the Graduate Club in New Haven (Elm Street) on September 24 at 6:00 PM for anyone interested in serving our Rotary District in some capacity. Dinner will be served – contact the District if you expect to be there.

Christene has been trying to make sure everyone's e-mail address per the records of RI, the District and the Club are the same, so if you are not getting her most recent e-mails (or this Drummer), let her know.

Your humble scribe managed to purchase the correct 50-50 ticket, but in the correct noble spirit of Rotarian generosity pulled the 10 of hearts – leaving almost \$200 available for someone else.

After introducing Joe Rog, Christene had to skedaddle and Carol stepped to the fore.

Joe is the Director of Development of the FTC (the Fairfield Theater Company). This is a largely member supported entertainment provider in downtown Fairfield (by the railroad station). It is a public private partnership – the buildings and land is owned by the Town of Fairfield, but the FTC through its fundraising efforts has put at least \$6,000,000 into the property and is now on its third major capital drive. There are currently two venues – Stage One which seats up to 225 and The Warehouse which can seat up to 400 – the Warehouse does not have fixed seating – so chairs can be arranged and re-arranged, or dispensed with, as may be appropriate for a particular show.

(The FTC also produces 4 to 5 shows a year at the Klein Auditorium in Bridgeport and in the past has used the Norwalk Concert Hall.)

While the initial idea of the FTC was to provide an Off-Off-Broadway venue, it has become clear that the biggest draws at this time (and for the last ten years) is live music. The FTC produces almost 300 shows every year.

The current capital drive seeks to renovate space above Stage One so that it can function more effectively as an educational center. As school budgets tighten, local public schools have been able to provide less for the arts. The FTC seeks to do more for the children of Fairfield and Bridgeport and is seeking help from the community – it expects that the new facility will be open in March.

Joe mentioned that in years past, entertainers looking for a venue between New York and Boston for a mid-week night might think about the FTC, the Fairfield County market is now seen as sufficiently robust so that such groups think of Fairfield County most as a destination in and of itself.

Talk to Paul H. – who is an enthusiastic member – if you'd like to know more about FTC.

***See You Friday.***