



Wilton Rotary Drummer
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www.wiltonrotaryclub.org



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Editor: Karen Strickland

On this beautiful October day, there were **21 Rotarians in attendance and one guest**, Brett Beatty, who is the new Program Director at Trakside Teen Center. Brett was invited by Stephanie Barksdale as a potential member to soften the blow of her imminent leaving. But more about that later.

After a hearty meal of giant ham & cheese wraps accompanied by Marly's famous French fries and finished off with delicious cookies, President Luis called for **Announcements** and the following were made:

- Paul Hafter reminded everyone that the town's Hazardous Waste Day is Saturday, October 30 and volunteers are needed. Rotarians have lent support in the past to ensure Wilton's freedom from noxious substances.
- The very next day Sunday, October 31 (better known as Halloween), the Chamber of Commerce will sponsor its annual Halloween Hustle 5K Race, and for the past several years Rotarians have been quenching the thirst of runners and walkers alike by staffing the water station at the halfway mark. The late great Pam Lucas would normally be in charge of organizing this operation, but has declined to return from Vegas to do it. Mr. Hafter and Race Chair Frank Spencer will need a couple Rotarian volunteers, possibly strong-arming A.J. Lucas to stand in for his absent mother. The Hustle will be Stephanie's swan song as Chamber Director and her last day on the job, so don't miss it.
- Cliff Juleson provided information on Angel Food Ministries' low cost food for needy families. \$36 provides a complete holiday meal in a box for 10 family members, friends and neighbors. These can be ordered online and picked up for distribution to those in need. Cliff can provide full details on how to achieve full stomachs.
- Speaking of food donations, Bob Mills is determined to "Stuff the Bus" for Social Services' food pantry. Event will take place in a school bus at an upcoming WHS football game. Rotary has made a \$500 donation to the pantry and President Luis announced an additional \$200 to the bus stuffing as well as Fun N Fines being designated to the cause. Several Rotarians brought food contributions to the meeting to "Stuff the Bus".
- President Luis gave the sad news of Stephanie's departure at the end of October to become the Executive Director of the United Way of Northwest CT, headquartered in Torrington. Never mind that it is an excellent career move for her, she is leaving Rotary in the lurch as a club member, Drummer editor, and Program Chair. Not to mention the void that will be created in the business sector, the community at large, and her wide circle of friends. Party plans are underway for her send-off roast, so stay tuned.

PROGRAM: Jill Russo Foster, author of Cash, Credit and Your Finances

Jill focused on the new financial rules in effect for 2010 regarding personal credit cards, credit reports, overdrafts and gift cards. There were lots of questions from frugal Rotarians who want to be smart about managing their hard-earned money. Jill's website is www.JillRussoFoster.com for those wanting her personalized professional advice.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, October 15. Hopefully Frank Spencer will be back after recovering from knee surgery so he can start doing the Drummer again.