



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

December 21, 2012

Vol. 32, No. 24

Editor: Carol Johnson

President Karen Strickland presided at our Annual Holiday Luncheon, with 20 club members in attendance, and one visiting Rotarian, from a club on Long Island, Chris McBride, a past district governor, and a past and incoming president.

We began our meeting by welcoming our 39th member, Ileana Barns-Slavin. After an introduction by her sponsor, Elaine Tai-Lauria, Ron Barlow stepped up and performed the official induction.

Announcements/Upcoming Events:

1. Karen thanked Paul and Karen for their warm hospitality and for their effort in making our holiday party such a success!
2. Carol thanked Patty, Susan, Kathy, Pat, and Bill M. for helping with the distribution of the dictionaries to the third graders at Cider Mill this morning.
3. Karen reported the following from last evening's board meeting: a.) The board approved the \$7245 in grants, as recommended by the grants' committee, b.) The club will be making a contribution to the Sandy Hook Families Fund, in January. Those who wish to donate personally may do so through the Newtown Rotary Club at their website, c.) Paul B. will further explore placing a bench at the high school tennis courts in honor of Charles Jones, d.) \$3500 will be donated to Social Services as a result of the Beatlemania fundraiser, and we will explore another joint fundraiser with Kiwanis after the new year.
4. Rotary International is sponsoring a National Immunization Day in India in February. If you are interested in participation, the fee is \$2400 plus airfare.
5. Karen reminded everyone to consider giving to the Foundation. "Every Rotarian Every Year" is an international goal. You may also want to consider becoming a sustaining member. Giving to the foundation helps fund district grants and international humanitarian efforts. Donations may be made on-line or through the club.
6. We received holiday cards from the ABC Scholars and the Greens at Cannondale. We also received a thank you note from the Interact Club, for our donation.
7. Remember to bring a guest/prospective member!
8. After this week, 25% of our weekly fun and fines will go to our club operations.



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A Message from District Governor Brain Amey

Friday December 14, 2012 – Sandy Hook Elementary School, Newtown CT

Who would ever think that we would see and be so close to a tragedy such as occurred last Friday; we read and hear of similar events such as Columbine and that somehow was remote, something that happened way out West, not on our doorstep!

As a member of the Rotary Club of Newtown it was very much on our doorstep, and it has jolted us into action, out of our somewhat complacent world where Peace through Service was for others who would attend conferences in Berlin or Hawaii. Our state of mind at present wants to resolve the health system; ban every gun from sight and edit out violence from our TV and game screens. We realize we must leave this to the politicians.

The action of the Newtown Rotary club is to think how to help the victims and their families, to help the first responders and the others we don't even know about at present; to recover and repair the effects on their minds and their lives. We are no experts so will need to rely on the expertise of the skilled counselors, the local agencies who are trained to look after the Community. The club has set up a fund dedicated to support the Newtown and Sandy Hook community in this manner. It has been wonderful the numbers of calls, emails and tweets the club has received from all over the world, messages of support, and of advice from places like the Rotary Club of Bridge of Allan and Dunblane in Scotland who had a very similar tragedy on March 13, 1996. That advice was invaluable. We are waiting to hear from the Districts 5440 and 5450 in Colorado.

We have local clubs visiting us with a physical demonstration of support. On behalf of Newtown – Thank you. Check the district website

www.rotary7980.org and the club's site at www.newtownctrotary.org for further information.

Today's Program

Susan Snider, Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Friends of the Norwalk Island spoke about her environmental organization that connects people with nature, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Norwalk Islands are a 25 island National Wildlife Refuge which were actually once inhabited up until the depression, and then subsequently, the hurricane of 1938. Friends of the Norwalk Islands top priority is preserving the habitat and the wildlife. Their challenge is to keep these priorities relevant in today's "plugged-in" society. In order to build awareness and reach their goals, the organization has fundraisers and activities that allow them to educate both children and adults, and by creating opportunities to spend more time outdoors.



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And lastly, this action-packed meeting ended with our very own Santa, disguised as Pat Russo, delivering the holiday gifts from our members, to our members. The holiday spirit and warm smiles throughout the room seemed to be a sweet prelude to a happy holiday season.