

Milford Rotary Chat October 1, 2026



Meeting Minutes 9/24/2026 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Dave Johnson led us in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Dick Popilowski (Bishop Pop) gave a heartfelt Prayer:

Gracious God,

As we gather today in fellowship and purpose, we give thanks for the gift of Rotary and for the calling You place on our minds and hearts. In every season, You remind us that our community grows stronger when we choose to serve one another with humility, compassion, and generosity.

*Renew in us the spirit of **Service Above Self**. Help us see the needs around us clearly, respond with willing hands, and lead with kindness. Strengthen our commitment to Milford and to all those who rely on our efforts, our advocacy, and our care.*

Bless our work, bless our members, and bless all whom we serve. May our actions today and every day reflect the best of Milford Rotary and the best of who we strive to be. Amen.

Phil Caporusso easily gave us The 4-Way-Test.

Guests:

Brad Dancer our speaker from [WSHU Radio](#), Erin McGrath, and Andy Greenawalt.

Member Posting:

Erin McGrath (2nd Posting), Lou Trevisan (2nd Posting), Luis Rosa (2nd Posting)

Do Good: (Dave Adams – Sargent-At-Arms)

Dave Adams was happy that his 50th High School Reunion is this Saturday. He said he graduated at age 4 and was so looking forward to the event and the pin he'll get with his High School Picture on it.

Dick Popilowski was happy about the upcoming "Breaking Ground" on October 19th Monday at 2PM for the new BethEl Shelter 225 Bridgeport Ave.

Phil Ucci help deliver the AED Unit to Bridges.

Bill Parry noted that the AED Unit can help respond in 3 minutes if there is a heart issue – it has safety features that you can't kill someone with it and can't screw it up.

Carrie Reed gave a shout out also to Bridges for their [Genoa Pharmacy](#) which is a discounted Pharmacy.

Phil Caporusso remembered the 20 AED Units donated throughout the City of Milford during Mitch Quintner's presidency.

Dan Smith was sad about Aaron Judge's Injury and happy about his 8th Grandchild.

Frosty Smith talked about the Yankees, etc and a past Gold Raffle a few years ago as a potential fund raiser.

Joe Barnes was just in court – delaying the process. He was happy about his recent eye surgery. He said his eye is improving and they removed the ankle bracelet.

Andy Greenawalt was happy about his recent visit to California to visit his son. He was happy to have ridden the 100 mile [Closer to Free ride](#) on Sunday. He asked for volunteers to help in the [National Bike to School Day](#) on October 7th 7:30 to 9:30 at schools throughout Milford.

Carrie Reed helped deliver the AED unit and was inspired by Mike Papale's story and how it has save 1400 people in schools in a year? Carrie was happy about her grandkids including Angel noting her therapy room with 'bars on the ceiling' and her Daughter-In-Law who noted her working with her feet said: "better not have worts" and Carrie said: "I don't".

Aaron McGrath was happy to be at our meeting.

Tracy O'Brien was happy that the Club finally has upgraded to Quickbooks and you will get upcoming bills.

Dave Hulme wanted at least \$10 for lost and missing items that happen to be Dave Adams – sunglasses and portable neck fan.

Christine Early went to last week's Westport Rotary Club's LobsterFest. They had a DJ, 1,500 people, and \$130 per ticket – Twin Lobsters, Corn, Cole Slaw and a lot of Beer. She said she got many thanks from those knowing she was a Milford Rotarian as they appreciated our club helping them start theirs 17 years ago. They have a ton of sponsors.

Tom lamented about state monies spent for a CT Legislator on the lam, etc. He was happy riding the Perimeter of CT..

Ray Carissimi asked if anyone attended the Lobster Roll Fest this past weekend. Due to the weather, it was a bust.

Bill Parry noted about the Lobster Roll Fest that Jimmy from the Rum Runners noted half the chairs in the stand were empty – it was bad. Bill gave the final number for the Lobster Bake Net as \$25,142 and next year will be the 50th and final Lobster Bake. It will be “one more time” for the Bake.

Matt Fama said we have more sponsors or the upcoming Shred Event. He was happy to have planned a trip to Bryce Canyon this Thanksgiving.

The Do Good of \$156 was donated to last week’s group The Uganda Farmers. Ray said thanks!

Speaker:

Our speaker was Brad Dancer from [WSHU Radio](#). He is the President and General Manager in his 3rd year as part of Sacred Heart University’s Radio Station. He worked 21 years for National Geographic and 3 for WWE before WSHU. The station has 21 interns, 26 employees (average time of employment is 20 years) and 250,000 listeners including radio signaling and streaming. The station broadcasts from Connecticut to New York – Litchfield to Long Island. He noted that they broadcast to “more fish than people”. Started in 1983 it has live radio drama, NPR (WNPR) and will be part of the Discovery Center shortly. It broadcasts as 91.1 and 89.9

He spoke about losing federal funding of about \$500k which is about 8% of their budget. Last year was the first time of breaking even. His bent on Federal Funding is that: fund us more or don’t fund us at all. In Europe government funding for Radio Stations is significantly higher. There are a lot of challenges in the industry – you’re either consolidating or collaborating with other stations. As there are 250k listeners, they are looking for more. 15% is from streaming It is all news/all classical. Their budget is \$6 million with 70% of the revenue from individuals, revenue sharing, foundations, and grants. Of the 137 public radio stations, 50% are with universities. Sacred Heart is a Private University.

They broadcast [Randy Kaye](#) currently the Afternoon News Anchor and host of All Things Considered and Good at Heart. They play classical music and have a [Sunday Baroque Show](#). They are part of the community and Brad is happy to be part of our community as per his invite from Dick to speak to our club.

Announcements and Upcoming Dates:

9/25-9/26 [Devon Rotary’s Octoberfest](#)

10/3 is the MAC event [Jazz’n Downtown](#) Milford

10/3 is also the [7980 District Assembly](#) in New London. Admission is \$75.

10/11 is the Shred Event at Spectrum on New Haven Ave

10/13 Carrie is hosting an AED/CPR course at her office. Starts at 6:30 PM. For those looking to renew their certificate, this course can do that and it will be 2 hours or less.

11/6 [Food2Kids Winter Gala](#) at Grassy Hill Country Club \$125pp

Photos of Bake & Awards Luncheon by Ray Carissimi [Lobster Bake photos](#) [Scholarship Photos](#)

Upcoming Speakers:

10/1 Milford [Fire Chief Christopher Walksnoris](#)

10/8 [Dave Adams](#) – Medical Benefits

10/15 Milford [Police Chief Keith Mello](#)

10/22 [Maggie Mitchell Salem](#), Exec Dir IRIS (Integraed Refugee and Immigrant Services)

10/29 Milford Legislative Reps – [Sen James Maroney](#), [Rep MJ Shannon](#), [Rep Kathy Kennedy](#), & [Rep Frank Smith](#)

Scribe: Tom Margius

Who’s Who for the July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027 Rotary Year

Officers:		1 st Yr Board Dir:	2 nd Year Board Dir:
President – <i>Bill Parry</i>	Sargent-At-Arms: <i>Dave Adams</i> AsstSrgent-At-Arms: <i>Joe Barnes</i>	<i>Roger Pocock</i>	<i>Carrie Reed</i>
President-Elect – <i>Lise Robinson</i>	Treasurer: <i>Tracy O’Brien</i>	<i>Gary Johnson</i>	<i>Evelyn Karam</i>
Vice President – <i>Dick Poplowski</i>	Asst Treasurer: <i>Christine Early</i>	<i>Gina Gaglione</i>	<i>Matt Fama</i>
Secretary – <i>Ray Carissimi</i>	<i>Lorna Sura</i> (Immediate Past President)	<i>Phil Ucci III</i>	<i>Joe Barnes</i>
Membership Chairman – <i>Gary Johnson</i>	Beth-El meal leader- <i>Dave Adams</i>		<i>Lorna Sura – IPP</i>

Board Meeting the Second Thursday, 5:30 PM Social, 6 PM Meeting every month unless noted otherwise

Your Rotary Chat Team: Scribes: Greg Schmitt, Tom Margius & Win Smith, Jr Setting/Editing/Circulation: Tom Margius

Milford Rotary, PO Box 381, Milford, CT www.milfordrotary.org

Nothing on Earth is so beautiful as the final haul on Halloween night.

—Steve Almond