Milford Rotary Chat October 29, 2026



Meeting Minutes 10/22/2026 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Bob Bogert lead us in The Pledge to start the meeting.

Reverend Dick covered us with a well thought out Prayer: (although Dave Adams said his clothes went out of style during the prayer!)

Heavenly Father,

We gather today in gratitude for this food, for fellowship, and for the opportunity to serve. We thank You for the members of Milford Rotary and for the many ways they live out the spirit of *Service Above Self*.

Guide us to use our talents, resources, and compassion to strengthen our community. Help us to recognize those in need, support local organizations, encourage our youth, and work together to make Milford a place where all people can thrive.

Grant wisdom to our leaders, kindness to our neighbors, and generosity in our hearts. May our actions reflect our commitment to service, integrity, and goodwill.

Bless this meal, those who prepared it, and the conversations we share today. May we leave here inspired to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Amen.

Win Smith, Jr worked thorough The 4-Way-Test.

Guests:

Lou Trevisan, a retired Psychiatrist, new member and recent world traveler. Matt Wreath joined us for the second time but he was a little confused on the starting time of our meetings. He is also in the process of becoming a new member. Speaker for the day was Maggie Mitchell Salem who is the executive director of IRIS.

Do Good: (Dave Adams was our Sargent-At-Arms)

Dave Adams said this is his favorite season of the year. Baseball, basketball, football and hockey are all being played at the same time.

Dick announced last Monday was the ground breaking for the new Beth El home. Everything went well and they had great media coverage.

Ray Carissimi was at another event that had extra cookies so he brought some in for dessert for today's lunch.

Lorna Sura was happy the ground breaking went well and was well attended. There was a rookies fund raiser meeting yesterday to brain storm about a possible event to have.

Don Wetmore let us know Tracy O'Brien lost her Mom. Our condolences to Tracy and her family. He thought the ground breaking was great, but Rosa was there and she looked like a stolen car.

Phil Ucci thought the event went great also. He also just celebrated his 1 year anniversary of his new business. This week at Beth El they served 115 meals which is a record for us. You still see people show up that are living out of their cars, sad to see.

Lorna said she saw Bill Parry this morning and he said he was doing well. He is seeing a cardiologist but he feels good.

Lou Trevisan thanked the group for support for his close to free ride. He raised about $1500 of which we gave about a third. The whole event raised $14,000. Had a good time on his trip to Spain/Portugal. It was an 8 day trip with 7 of them on bikes. They rode 170 miles but there was a 10K change in elevation over the 8 days.

Bob Bogert said it was good to be back. He had been in Virginia with Kate's family and then was with his brothers in North Carolina. Bob admitted he lost his bet with Win. The Mets had less wins than the Red Sox, he owes $50.

Carrie reed was sad for Tracy who was very close with her Mom. They even shared the same birthday. They had a very energized meeting with the rookies group. Paul Gargano agreed to chair the committee. They have a couple of ideas on what to do for their fund raiser. They meet again in 2 weeks and they hope to raise about $20K.

Win Smith, Jr was sad he had missed the last couple of meetings, he had want to see Chief Mello's presentation. He is happy to see Roger is being inducted as a third level Mason.

Roger Pocock outed himself again because he took his badge home again. He also outed Win for the same thing but Win said he actually lost it.

Tad Smith said he was supposed to be in Indonesia but his girlfriend got sick and they had to come home for healthcare needs.

Tom Margius was in Montreal last week and this week he is going to Delaware to ride a metric century. His change in elevation should be about 100 feet (as opposed to Lou's 10k change).

Frosty Smith was happy the Giants are 3-2-1 but they lost their quarterback and their #1 defender. It does not look good. On a sad note Yale lost to Rhode Island.

Do Good raised $94 today.

Speaker:

Maggie Mitchell Salem is the executive director of IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services). In 1980 there was a refugee act that gave some process to imigration, before that things happened in chaos. IRIS started in an Episcopal Church in 1972.

Doing the work of IRIS takes empathy and compassion. Refugees are in a difficult place and most don't speak the language. In 2021 the organization had 6 million, then in 2024 the number was 20 million but in 2027 it is back down to 6 million. In January 2025 the doors to the US closed. The executive branch controls immigration. A refugee is a person who is under threat from their government and they are forced to leave their country. Gender is not part of the bias of those persecuted. For refugees, the vetting process usually is not in their home country. Through the vetting process the average placement time has gone from a few years to close to 20 years. Only white South Africans are coming through the system now. Money in the system dried up in Jan 2025.

When asked what is going on in Isreal/Palestine, the speaker said they are looking for ways for Isreal and Palestine to coexist.

Through human history, people migrate and they will continue to do so. But we need secure borders. What happened with open borders in 2020-2021 is not good for us or the community. There is a need for immigration. With our aging population, we need people but we have to look at from where and with what skills.

Announcements and Upcoming Dates:

10/29 Fifth Thursday. Supposed to be at Breakwall in West Haven but changed to Orange Ale House. Starts about 5:30.

11/4 is the next rookies fund raiser meeting. Possibly a bourbon tasting event.

11/5 1st Lobsterbake Mtg This year we want to try to do better getting sponsors for the event.

11/6 Food 2 Kids fund raiser dinner at Grassy Hill. We think it is sold out.

11/12 is the next board meeting but location is still to be determined.

11/15 is District Luncheon in Branford at Woodwinds. Goal is to celebrate donors.

12/19 Keeping Milford warm fund raiser at Grassy Hill. $125 per person

Photos of Bake & Awards Luncheon by Ray Carissimi Lobster Bake photos Scholarship Photos

Potential projects: joint effort with Devon Rotary to build a pavillion at the senior center. Discussion about the Rotary Foundation. (We used to be #1 donators in the state. Can we reach that level again?)

This week's speakers are 3 state reps to talk about bills that have been passed.

Upcoming Speakers:

10/29 Milford Legislative Reps –Rep MJ Shannon, Rep Kathy Kennedy, & Rep Frank Smith

Scribe: Greg Schmitt

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

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

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

Clothes make a statement. Costumes tell a story.

—Mason Cooley