

Milford Rotary Chat October 8, 2026



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

Welcome:

Michele Tenney led us in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Dick Popilowski (Pope Dick) gave an appropriate and heartfelt Prayer:

Gracious and ever-present God,

As October settles in with its crisp air, bright colors, and gentle turning of the seasons, we pause to recognize the beauty of change and the blessings it brings. This month reminds us that growth often comes through transition, and that generosity-like autumn's leaves—can be offered freely, abundantly, and with grace.

*We thank You for the fellowship we share as Milford Rotarians, and for the calling You place on our hearts to live out **Service Above Self**. In this season of harvest, help us sow kindness, gather hope, and share compassion with neighbors who need encouragement, support, or simply a reminder that they are not alone.*

Strengthen our hands for service, steady our spirits for leadership, and guide our club as we work to make Milford brighter, more welcoming, and more resilient.

Bless our meal, our conversations, and the good we will do together today. Amen.

Tom Margiu s bumbled but was able to give us The 4-Way-Test.

Guests:

Our speakers Chris Walksnoris (Milford Fire Chief) and Steve Rabel, (Milford City Fire Marshall); Erin McGrath, Louis Trevisan, and Deb Smith.

Member Posting:

Erin McGrath (3rd Posting), Lou Trevisan (3rd Posting), Luis Rosa (3rd Posting)

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

Dave Adams about where he went to see the house he grew up in. He said the house looked the same and neighborhood didn't change. He went up and knocked on the door. The door opened and Dave explained that he grew up in the house and it would mean a lot to him to see the inside of the house again. After a brief pause, his parents let him in. ;).

Dan Smith was happy and sad. The Red Sox are now going to play in triple A and the Yankees will be playing without Stanton and Judge.

Dave Adams is confused, he grew up watching the Indians, not the Guardians.

Gary Johnson gave \$2 for do good, 1 for each Yankee win.

Frosty Smith was happy to see Deb Smith joining us today.

Tad Smith said he is buying a home in Vermont, just down the road from his brother, Win. He is starting the process toward retirement. It should take about 2 years. He has a trip coming up where he is going to Indonesia for about 3 weeks.

Phil Ucci volunteered at Devon's Octoberfest. It was shortened to 1 day because of bad weather. He did get to do a lot of beer tasting though. One sad note though, his new shed got smashed by a falling tree in the recent storm.

Louis Trevisan was in a bike riding fund raiser on 9/19 and will be in Spain the next 2 weeks with friends from med school.

Laurna Sura had sad and happy news. A 5 year old member of her church was riding his scooter but he was hit by a car and died. Terrible loss. On a happy side, Phil had a great party for his son. The house was all decorated for Halloween and looked great. Phil was very gracious and he very talented at cornhole.

Win Smith, Jr. introduced his wife, Deb, and thanked her for 44 happy years.

Dave Adams said next week he will be talking about open enrollment for Medicare.

Ray Carissimi was presented with a check for \$160 to support his efforts to support the Uganda farmers water projects.

Do Good today raised \$54.



Speakers:

Our speakers for today were Chief Waiksnoris and Assistant Chief Rabel from the [Milford Fire Department](#)(fb) Chief Waiksnoris has had 31 years of service in [Milford Fire Department](#)(wp) and more than 27 of those years he was also a Paramedic.

The Fire Department has 4 functions in the City of Milford. First, as the Fire Department to deal with structure fires, grass fires, boat fires, etc. 2nd They lead in emergency management. The last storm the chief was in the department for 30 straight hours. 3rd They are a full EMS system. They transport in the city to the ER. They are highly trained paramedics. They have one of the highest save rates in cardiac arrest. 4th They are the fire Marshall. They oversee 7.3 billion dollars worth of property which includes gas plants, power plants, train lines, highway and marine units. This year the marine unit has picked up 29 people who got stuck out on Charles Island so far.

There are 4 stations in the city but coverage is slightly lacking in the north by Costco. Their goal is to respond to any call within 3 minutes. Their Paramedics carry blood which very few in the state do and it is acknowledged that it has saved lives. EV fires need a tremendous amount of water to put them out. That is why charging stations are not put in enclosed areas. These fires create hazardous materials which if not managed properly, can go in to the sound.

They are a Class 1 Fire Department with a budget of 15 million dollars annually and a force of 112 people. There are only 3 Class 1 Fire Departments in the state, Hartford, New Haven and Milford. They have to get recertified every 5 years.

Deb Smith went on a tour of the facilities with school kids and they were impressed with the jaws of life and they were surprised how tight the space is inside the trucks.

The Fire Marshall does building inspections annually. He also does a smoke detector program, a fire prevention program, they run a poster contest where kids artwork ends up on billboards. The Fire Marshall also investigates all fires to determine what happened and why which hopefully will prevent future fires.

Post Scripts:

Gary Johnson's name was incorrectly listed as Dave Johnson in the Oct 1 Chat (for Sept 24th Meeting's Pledge of Allegiance). Sorry about that Gary!

Accolades to Win Smith Jr and Jim Wilson for their future patience & respect for Dick Popilowski while giving his thoughtful prayers!

Announcements and Upcoming Dates:

10/8 is the next board meeting being held at Phil's home at 204 Oranoke Rd. Food at 5:30 meeting starts at 6:00.

10/11 is the Shred event. We are looking for sponsors.

10/13 6:30PM Carrie is having an AED/CPR training course at her office. Cost is \$45 each attendee.

10/17 is a Saturday and it is the next Beth El service day. Come about 9:30 and wear a hat.

10/19 is the ground breaking for the new home of Beth El Center. The construction should take about 20 months.

11/6 Food2Kids Winter Gala at Grassy Hill Country Club \$125pp

12/19 Keeping Milford Warm event being held at Grassy Hill. It is a great event. We are forming tables of 10.

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

Upcoming Speakers:

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: Greg Schmitt

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

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson