Milford Rotary Chat November 5, 2026





Meeting Minutes 10/29/2026 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Lorna Sura lead us in The Pledge to begin the meeting.

Reverend Popilowski gave another well thought out Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

As the days grow shorter and Halloween approaches, we smile at the thought of ghosts, goblins, costumes, and the excitement that fills our neighborhoods. While playful spirits may soon be at our doors, remind us that the things we truly have to fear are indifference, division, and forgetting our responsibility to one another.

As citizens, we have been blessed with the opportunity and privilege to make our voices heard. With Election Day approaching on Tuesday, November 3rd, inspire each of us to participate thoughtfully, respectfully, and with gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy. Help us remember that good citizenship, like Rotary Service, begins with caring for the common good.

Today, as Rotarians, keep before us our guiding principle of *Service Above Self*. May we be people who bring light where there is darkness, hope where there is uncertainty, and friendship where there is loneliness. May our actions strengthen our community and reflect the values we cherish.

Bless this food, this fellowship, and the work we do together. May we leave here renewed in our commitment to serve others and to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us. Amen.

Tom Margius eased thorough The 4-Way-Test.

Guests:

Rob Secondi a guest of Bob Bogert, works at Colony Paint and had some history about the Secondi Truck Stop.

Induction:

Paul Mangels inducted 3 new members into the club today. The new inductees are Erin McGrath, Andy Greenawalt and Michele Tenney. Paul did his usual good job giving the new inductees snippets of what Rotary is about and examples of some of those activities including the start of eradicating Polio by *ONE* Rotarian in 1978 from the Philippines.

Do Good: (Joe Barnes was our Sargent-At-Arms)

Tom Margius gave a happy fine for the ability to continue biking and noted his recent ride with his Optometry Roomate, Fred in Delaware. Fred's wife died about 10 years ago from bone cancer and Tom asked about the difficult time about 1 ½ years before Sherri died. He gave a story about how he (Fred) and his daughter (Sarah-Beth) were at the hospital and Sherri was screaming at the doctors and staff "that can't be, that can't be". Though they though it was her diagnosis she was screaming: "I am not 4 foot 8, I'm 4 foot 10"!

Christine Early was happy about the "language of plants"noted Milford Garden Club's upcoming event at the Library.

Dan Smith gave a $20 happy fine to acknowledge the birth of his 8th granddaughter.

Erin McGrath was celebrating a birthday.

Bob Bogert wanted to settle up his bet with Win Smith, Jr. for $50. They have another bet set up for next year already.

Andy Greenawalt is a new member and he was thankful for the great support for the Bike to School event he worked on.

Paul Mangels said yesterday (28th) was the 40th Anniversary of the Mets over the Sox. It was a rare moment of joy for Mets fans.

Lorna Sura wanted everyone to know Tuesday is Election Day and it also is her birthday!

Bill Parry was happy to be back after passing out at Carrie Reed's office during CPR training 2 weeks ago. He did not have a heart attack. He was just doing too much and he didn't eat. He stayed in the hospital overnight. He now feels 95%-98%. He needs to eat and sleep better and relax more. He said Milford Hospital was great.

Phil Ucci said the Boy Scouts gave out 172 merit badges (the Bishops earned half of them).

Curran Bishop said he just learned that his family had a yearly stop through Connecticut and every year they stopped at Secondi's rest stop. That is before he ever knew about Milford or where it would be in his life in the future.

Robert Secondi matched Curran's donation and thanked him for the mention.

Do Good raised $125 today.

Speakers:

Dick introduced our speakers for the day, Rep Kathy Kennedy and Rep MJ Shannon. They talked about what happened in the legislation last year and what could happen this year. Kathy is running for her 5th term. She said she is not a politician but is a people person. She gets people to work together. Kathy showed us the Major issues book which the legislation uses to record what happened during the year.

MJ Shannon is a new legislator. Since the Democrats have a super majority, the republican must work with others. He is in his first 2 year term and by the time you learn how the system works it is time to run again. This year they had a very busy short session. Issues they dealt with were education and special education, AI and data privacy.

The representatives fielded questions from the club.

Phil asked what is being done to encourage businesses to stay in Connecticut? It was acknowledged that we are the 5th highest taxed state in the country. One thing they pointed out was that caps were put on licensing fees.

Bob asked what can be done to help seniors that are being taxed out of their home? They said property taxes are used to fund local government and their activities. Veterans that are disabled do get tax forgiveness and they are working on removing tax from social security or possibly capping the tax.

The question was asked if we can work on getting more starter homes built. Bill said it is a matter of economics that starter homes are less profitable to build so that is not what the builders produce.

Kathy said over her time in the legislation she has learned people want to be heard. MJ has found that contrary to popular opinion, in the state, the Democrats and the Republicans work well together.

Announcements and Upcoming Dates:

11/5 1st Lobsterbake Mtg and will be held at Lise Robinson's Office. Any ideas on things we could change to improve the event..

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

11/12 is the next board meeting at Christine Early's home at 7 Flax Mill Lane.

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

12/10 is the combo board meeting and Christmas party. Mark and Maria are generously hosting the party at their home on Racebrook Road.

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 speaker is Tom Mercaldo – Please bring non-perishable items to the meeting.

Upcoming Speakers:

11/5 Tom Mercaldo – Prepare 2 Help & Boy Scouts
11/11 Megan Altomare, CEO Boys & Girls Club of Milford
11/19 Jacob Yoder, Natural Highs
11/26 Happy Thanksgiving
12/3 John Waller, AI
12/10 PDG Ronald Webb, Rotary Foundation Chair

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

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.

—Albert Einstein