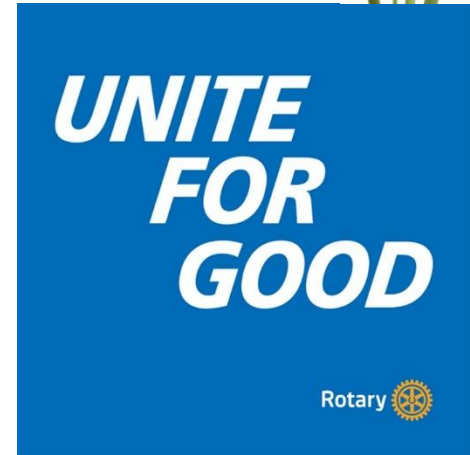


Milford Rotary Chat March 26, 2026



Meeting Minutes: 3/19/26 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

WELCOME:

Tom Margius got us started by leading us in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Father Dick Popilowski gave us another heartfelt Prayer:

God of grace and goodness, Thank You for this meal and for the fellowship we share. Guide us to treat one another with kindness, to serve our neighbors with open hearts and to live each day in the spirit of Service Above Self. Bless our food, our conversations, and the good we will do together. Amen.

Win Smith fresh back from his Vietnam trip rattled off The 4-Way Test with ease.

GUESTS:

Alvin (who was not one of the chipmunks) O'Neal, President-Elect for the Stratford Rotary Club visited us and was hoping to learn new things. He was reciprocating the recent visit that Lorna Sura made to his club. He gave a little info on the Stratford Club and his interest when president for the 2026-2027 year. He wants to bring local clubs together for some shared events and meetings.

Christine Prete (along with Club Member, her husband Buddy), our speaker today was a welcomed guest.

FIRST POSTING FOR MEMBERSHIP:

First Posting of a new member Joshua Torres who was brought in to the club by Ray Carissimi.

DO GOOD:

Dick said it was his 81st birthday on the 16th. Happy Birthday Dick!

Bob Bogert said his son Tommy and Tommy's family are moving back to Milford from Florida. The housing market is crazy. He was out looking at homes with Bill Parry as we speak.

Lorna Sura said today's Do Good is being used to help our State Champion Wrestlers from Foran to buy champion rings.

Greg Schmitt said he was going down to Florida to visit his parents to celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary.

Tom said though he does a full version, you can use AI to help condense the Chat!

Dan German said as a former wrestler, he likes to help the kids financially so they can buy their rings.

Both Ray and Gary Opin wished Dick a Happy Birthday.

Buddy Prete said he and his wife applied to go on Shark Tank with their new venture.

Alvin was happy to be here.

Do good collected \$47 to put toward the wrestlers rings.

SPEAKER:

Christina Prete and our very own Buddy Prete have developed a business and they taking it nationwide. It is called Shopping Anyway. Their slogan is " A lot of people helping a little, helps a lot". They have a free downloadable app (for either Apple or Android).It is a convenient way to connect those who ask " How can I help" with those who say "Here is what we need". The website is Shopping Anyway | Making a Difference for Non-Profits The idea is giving should be easy.



are

They started developing the idea in 2015 and in 2022 began a development plan and worked with local software engineers. It is now free to the non-profits but once up and running the annual participation fee will be \$2400/ year. This is a way to help all non-profits. So far there are 14 organizations signed up but it is soon to be 16. 440 people have downloaded the app so far. The hope is to keep donor engagement throughout the year.

[Shopping Anyway | Making a Difference for Non-Profits](#)

[We're dedicated to making a difference by connecting those who wish to donate food, and provide basic necessities.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 3/26 5PM is the next lobster bake meeting and it is at Lise's office at 612 Wheeler Farm Rd
- 4/9 Norm Parcells lunch Monroe Rotary hosting. Our recipient Dave Adams is flying up from Florida to receive the award.
- 4/12 & 10/19 are the next Shred events. Matt Fama has agreed to head these events to benefit Boys and Girls Club
- 4/18 is the next Beth El service
- 5/16 is the Epic day of service. We will be collecting food which will go to Food2Kids. The idea started in Stratford and it is now worldwide. It was a small idea that took off.
- 6/14 5K Run in the Park – Starts at 9AM Eisenhower Park. Runners can sign up at [Runsingup website](#)

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS:

- 3/26/26 Dominic Mantuano – [CT Burns Care Foundation](#)
- 4/2/26 Michele Steinlauf – [Food-2-Kids](#)
- 4/9/26 No Lunch Meeting for Milford Rotary** (Norm Parcell’s Luncheon at Whitney Farms)
- 4/16/26 Leonora Rodriguez – [Milford Senior Center](#)
- 4/30/26 Marie Nierenberg – [Prolete Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine](#)

Scribe:Greg Schmitt

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

[Who's Who for the July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026 Rotary Year](#)

Officers:	Sergeant-At-Arms: Dave Adams	1+ Year Board of Dir:	2nd Year Board of Dir:
President – Lorna Sura	Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms: Joe Barnes	Matt Fama	Gary Johnson
President-Elect – Bill Parry	Treasurer: Tracy O’Brien	Evelyn Karam	Cherie Malona
Vice President – Lise Robinson	Asst Treasurer: Adam Kasowitz	Joe Barnes	Bob Bogert
Secretary – Dick Popilowski	Phil Ucci III (Immediate Past President)	Carrie Reed	Dave Adams
Membership Chairman – Gary Johnson	Beth-El meal leaders- Dave Adams		Phil Ucci III - IPP

Your Rotary Chat Team: Scribes: Greg Schmitt & Win Smith, Jr Setting/Editing/Circulation: Tom Margius
Milford Rotary, PO Box 381, Milford, CT www.milfordrotary.org

Despite the forecast, live like it's spring.

— Lilly Pulitzer