

Milford Rotary Chat May 14, 2026



Meeting Minutes: 5/7/26 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Ray Carissimi started us off by leading us in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Dan Smith did a nice job with The Prayer which even included a reference to the Red Sox. He was feeling pious this day.

Greg Schmitt managed The Four-Way-Test being that he was so close to it, he could touch it.

Guest:

Today Michelle Harrajaris joined us. She has helped us at Beth El events and at the Lobster Bake. Thanks for joining us.

Do Good:

Dave Adams is back from a 4 month hiatus in Florida. He had a great time in great surroundings such as, the beach, lighthouses, the pool and of course happy hour.

Joe Barnes was happy Dave was back.

Phil Ucci was glad to see Dave back as he had a 4 month morning for Dave. (He filled in at Beth El)

Dan German has been busy as usual. He was in London for his girlfriend's 90th marathon. They took the train to Scotland and saw lots of castles. Then they flew to the romantic city of Paris where he did not get married. Dan was looking dapper today in one of Al Ross's Rotary shirts.

Tad Smith was busy also as he was in Hawaii with his daughters, then visited his son in California and this week he is going to St Croix. His passport is in tatters.

Win Smith seconded the fact that Tad's passport is in because they almost got stuck in Cambodia because of it.

Dan Smith acknowledged that 90 marathons is quite an accomplishment, Tad participated in 183 triathlons. And in case you thought Dan was getting soft on his feelings, he let everyone know the Red Sox suck.

Lorna Sura had a nice weekend with her granddaughters watching them get dirty.

No speaker today.

Rotary Magazine Review May 2026 *(with help from AI)*



The May 2026 issue of Rotary International's magazine focused on how Rotary members are creating practical, local solutions to global problems — especially in public health, peace building, youth engagement, and community service.

One major feature, "So You Want to End Polio?", explored how Rotary's fight against polio now depends not only on vaccines, but also on combating misinformation and building trust in communities. The article highlighted Rotarians who work in everyday settings — from pubs to train stations and festivals — to educate the public and encourage vaccination participation.

Another important theme was global health and malaria prevention. Articles such as "To Scale Up, Go

Local” and “To Catch a Killer Parasite” explained how Rotary and its partners are training local health workers, supporting vaccine research, and expanding malaria prevention programs in vulnerable regions. The magazine emphasized that sustainable health progress depends on community leadership and long-term partnerships.

The issue also showcased “People of Action Around the Globe,” featuring Rotary projects in countries including the United States, Costa Rica, Italy, Tunisia, and Australia. Stories included wildfire recovery efforts in Maui, classroom improvements for children in Costa Rica and Tunisia, accessibility projects for visually impaired visitors in Italy, and programs in Australia addressing family violence and respectful relationships education.

Several articles focused on modernizing Rotary membership. One feature described the growth of “passport clubs,” which allow members more flexible participation without traditional weekly meal meetings. Rotary leaders believe these newer club models are helping attract younger professionals and busy members while keeping long-time Rotarians engaged.

The magazine also highlighted stories of service and innovation in Canada and beyond, including portable kidney dialysis systems that allow patients in remote communities to remain close to home rather than relocate for treatment. Other stories emphasized leadership, youth programs, international cooperation, and Rotary’s continuing commitment to peacebuilding and humanitarian service.

Announcements:

Last weeks fifth Thursday at the bowling alley had a good turn out and was lots of fun.

Last nights Lobster bake meeting was productive. The plan is to increase the sponsorship program where Paul Gargano and Lise will be working on that. We are hiring Angel Santiago for PR for the bake. There was great excitement about this.

5/14 (this Thursday) is the next board meeting which will be held at Gary Johnson's home at 96 Terrace Rd Milford.

5/16 is the Rotary Epic Day of service to be held at Stop and Shop where we will collect food and donations to support Food2 Kids.

5/20 is a Milford Chamber event. It is from 5-7 at West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center at 30 Hood Terrace West Haven. Members fee is \$20 each.

6/6 is the Stratford Street fair. There was some interest in manning a booth there.

6/14 is the 5K Run in the Park at Eisenhower Park. Event runs from 8:00 to 11:00. We need volunteers to help with set up and organization on race day. Also looking for sponsors. So far Milford Bank And Win are sponsors. Join in and get your company on the shirts as a sponsor. Sign up until 6/13. Sign up at Runsignup.com

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS:

5/21/26 Jamie Sterling

5/28/26 Marie Nierenberg: Prolete Physical Therapy & Sport

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 st 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

The difference between the almost right word and the right word is really a large matter—’tis the difference between the lightning-bug and lightning’.

—Mark Twain