

Milford Rotary Chat May 21, 2026



Meeting Minutes: 5/14/26 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Ray Carissimi got us started with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Bishop Dick Popolowski (our designated Chaplin) gave a reverent Prayer:

Gracious God, we gather today as neighbors, friends, and servants of this community we love. Bless this meal and bless each person here whose hands, hearts, and hopes are devoted to lifting others up.

*Strengthen in us the spirit of **Service Above Self**. Let it shape our decisions, guide our conversations, and inspire us to notice the needs around us – the lonely, the hungry, the discouraged, the forgotten – and to respond with compassion, courage, and generosity.*

May our Rotary work today deepen our commitment to building a kinder, safer, more hopeful Milford. Let our service be steady, our fellowship strong, and our impact felt by every life we touch. Amen.

Evelyne Karam did the 4-Way-Test. She stumbled a little on the English version but the French version was perfect. Well done, Evelyne!

Guests/Visitors:

William Fama joined us. He is Matt Fama's son from Hamden and recently purchased a home in Milford.

Welcome Neighbor!

Kathy Bradley from Orange Rotary joined us and invited us to join them in their day of service which was 5/16/20 Saturday. They are starting at 8 AM and they are doing service for Seniors with a pancake breakfast at the High Plains Center on Orange Center Rd.

Do Good:

Dave Adams got us started with a joke. He was in a convenience store with his 4 year old grandson and he noticed the boy had taken a candy bar without anyone seeing him do it. Dave thought this was not right and he had to do something. Next he brought him to a jewelry store.

Last week at the Beth El service they served 80 people. The food was catered from Lassie's and it was another great event.

Dick said the Tribus fund raiser for Beth El raised \$6000. Also the Great Give fund raiser had a goal of \$16K and they actually raised \$16084. Dick said the final approvals were in for their new building. There is a 90 day waiting period but the ground breaking is scheduled for July 27.

Christine Early said The Milford Garden Club was having a fund raiser on Saturday 5/16 at Lisman Landing. She had seed samples for those interested.

Tom Margius is just back from a trip to Italy. It was a great trip and the food was excellent. His granddaughter turns 5 on Sunday.

Frosty Smith is just back from South Carolina where his grandson graduated from Clemson University. He said they did it in groups of 1000 people at a time. It was an impressive affair.

Phil Ucci said he has been busy. He was in Las Vegas for the Raymond James Conference. Then he visited his daughter at Marist in Poughkeepsie where he went to the Vanderbilt Mansion. Now, after today's meeting he has to go back to pick her up to come home for the summer.

Matt Fama said his son is a new home owner and he is adding to the tax base. He is working in data analysis.

Lorna Sura's granddaughter turns 7 on Tuesday. Last Friday they went up to Mohegan Sun and made their donation to the Indians. They also saw an ELO tribute band that was very good.

Summary of "No needle, no fear, no pain" (Rotary Magazine, May 2026 – AI summary)

The article describes how Afghanistan's polio eradication program is using **needle-free vaccine technology** to overcome fear, distrust, and resistance in remote communities.

It follows **Dr. Arsala**, a frontline health worker traveling through the rugged, mountainous **Laghman province**, particularly the district of **Alingar**, where he has worked many times before. The region's terrain, conflict history, and cultural hesitancy have long made vaccination difficult.

The introduction of **needle-free injectors** is proving transformative. These devices deliver the vaccine without a traditional needle, reducing:

Fear among children and parents; **Pain** and anxiety; **Suspicion** toward vaccinators

This new method is helping health workers **build trust**, increase acceptance, and reach families who previously refused vaccination. The article emphasizes that these innovations are strengthening the final push to eliminate polio in one of the world's most challenging environments.

Announcements:

At the last Lobster Bake meeting it was decided they were going to hire Angel Santiago to work on PR for this year's Bake.

5/20 there is a Chamber event in West Haven at Veterans Museum and Learning Center from 5-7. \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

6/6 is the Stratford Street Festival. We were invited to participate. Might be a good opportunity to hand out Lobster Bake info.

6/10 is the instillation dinner at Milford Yacht club. It is a Wednesday. Expect about \$60/ person. More info to follow.

6/14 is the Run in the Park from 8-11. We need volunteers for that day. Sign up to run/walk by 6/13 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+ 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

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.

— Ronald Reagan