

Milford Rotary Chat May 28, 2026



Meeting Minutes: 5/21/26 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Gary Opin lead us in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplin Dick Popolowski gave a reverent Memorial Day Prayer:

Gracious and loving God, On Memorial Day, we pause in gratitude for the men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. Their courage, their sacrifice, and their willingness to stand in harm's way remind us that the freedoms we enjoy were dearly won.

*As we honor their memory, let their example call us to live with deeper purpose. May their selflessness inspire our own commitment to Rotary's motto of **Service Above Self**-- to serve not for recognition, but because others depend on us; to step forward when it would be easier to stand back; to build peace, understanding, and hope in our community and beyond.*

Bless this meal and the fellowship we share. Bless the families who carry the weight of loss. And bless our efforts, that the service we offer may honor those who served before us. Amen.

Jamie Sterling nobly gave us from memory The 4-Way-Test.

Guests/Visitors:

Onuralp Unal, an upcoming Graduate of Jonathon Law High School joined us. He was a guest of Dr. Greg Schmitt as he is interning in his office. He came from Turkey at the age of 4.

Do Good:

Dave Adams noted 'tongue in cheek' that his foursome with Bill Parry, Dan German, and Phil Ucci won the Purple Pantry Golf tournament on Monday. They had some words about Golf Tourney Champion? Also, he noted that his youngest son, who was at a recent Milford Rotary Meeting, started work recently with RD Scinto as a building engineer and came home with his 'company car', a GMC Sierra 3500.

Bob Bogert noted that Phil Ucci is frequently on Champion Teams as he noted one time he won a Dart Championship in Orange. He called him: 'Phil the Gamer'.

Evelye Koram let us know that she has a birthday coming up on Saturday (if you came to the meeting, she gave her age) and will be going to Montreal to attend a concert with a French Singer. She was asked how is the French in Montreal and she said that 'they change French French' it's a mix with English.

Joe Barnes tried to speak a few words in French to Evelyne but it took a while. He said that he was given tickets year ago for a Famous French Singer that was world renowned in New York City. The tickets were from Win Smith's wife, Bonnie, and Joe said that she probably got them from a pocket of one of their clients.

Dan German was happy about golfing on Monday but on his first swing in the event it felt like he had pulled his hip out. He was happy to have attended the Connecticut Republican Convention at Mohegan Sun recently and happy that his girlfriend finished the Mystic Half Marathon.

Frosty Smith asked how many members in attendance were under 65 as he noted that his Milford High School 65th reunion is this year!

Carrie's Dad is 89 today and he is a veteran.

Tom Margius said he and Jamie were inducted the same day (Jamie is with us today). He is going to Spring Lake, NJ (The Irish Riviera) for the weekend and a 5 mile Race on Saturday with 15,000 people in it.

Jamie was happy to be with us today. He was inducted 35 years ago. Then he recited a Sara Teasdale poem called "Peepers" which he did with great enthusiasm.

Marcie Mangels said last month she was with a group of 65 year olds in New Orleans. Great time. Then she recited part of a speech called Mark Anthony and included all the punctuation from her high school days. Great!

Tracy O'Brien told us her sister-in-law has cancer and doesn't look hopeful. Angel did his first video for the Lobster Bake and it's out on Facebook. She did yoga in the rain. She & Ellen did a flag drop on Memorial Day.

John Stoddard was on Portugal islands of Azores and Madeira. There were Rotary plaques there on the side of the roads. He was glad to be with us.

Lorna Sura said her granddaughter turned 7 yesterday.

Ray Carissimi is taking over the club runner software and he is doing a great job.

Speaker:

Jamie Stirling, a Milford Rotarian, and Retired Claims Processing Specialist, was our speaker.

He gave a Rotary Foundation lecture and his observation is that "Service above Self" is a gift to self. Rotary was formed in 1917 and they made their first gift to crippled children through Easter Seals in 1930. Jamie gave an informative, creative and fully enjoyable lecture that interspersed Rotary history and Russian history. For those in attendance, it was terrific. For those who missed the meeting, you missed a good one. Great job Jamie.

Russia had 4 clubs in 1989 and now there are 80 clubs.

Paul Mangels also talked about the foundation and it's goal is peace in the world. Paul Harris Fellowships propel their work. Lise was awarded a Paul Harris pin to acknowledge \$2000 given. The foundation makes sure the money goes to the right place.

Announcements:

The Interact club collected toiletries for Beth El.

There is a Lobster Bake meeting at Lise's office, looking to work on Sponsors.

6/6 Stratford Street Festival-We were invited to participate. Might be an opportunity to hand out Lobster Bake info.

6/13 next Beth El service which is the second Saturday

6/18 is the next board meeting (not the second Thursday) and it is at Carrie's home on Hobson Ave.

6/6 is Stratford Day from 10-4. They invited us to participate. It is a good opportunity to sell lobsterbake tickets and get out info. We need volunteers to man the booth.

6/10 is the Instillation dinner to be held at the Yacht Club at 6:00 PM. The expected cost is \$60/person.

6/14 Run in the Park at Eisenhower lower field from 8-11. Last day to sign up is 6/13. Looking for volunteers for that morning, need about 8 people. Also looking for more sponsors. Sign up to run/walk at runsignup.com

6/25 is Devon's instillation, also at the Yacht Club.

6/27 Orange Rotary is having a fund raiser at High Plains Community Center. They are having bands and activities.

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

Then followed that beautiful season... summer. Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape lay, as if new-created in all the freshness of childhood.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow