

# Milford Rotary Chat July 16, 2026



Meeting Minutes: 7/9/2626 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

## Welcome:

Prayer by Cardinal Popilowski:

*Gracious God, As we gather today in fellowship and purpose, we pause to give thanks for the gift of Rotary- this community where service is not an obligation but a joyful calling. You have entrusted us with the motto **Service Above Self**, a reminder that our greatest work is done when we place the needs of others at the center of our hearts.*

*We ask your blessing upon the Milford Rotary Club as we begin a new Rotary year. Strengthen our commitment to compassion, integrity, and generosity. Guide our hands as we continue to serve our neighbors, uplift our community, and bring hope where it is needed most.*

*Today we especially lift up in prayer our newly installed Officers and Board for the 2026-2027 Rotary year. Grant them wisdom in their decisions, courage in their leadership, and unity in their collaboration. May they feel supported by the club, inspired by Rotary's mission, and feel encouraged by Your presence in all they undertake.*

*Bless our meal, bless our fellowship, and bless the work ahead of us. May everything we do reflect the best of who we are-- and the best of what Rotary can be. Amen*

Missed Do Good, sorry but caught Dave's joke at the end. Why was the scarecrow given his award? He was outstanding in his field.

## Speaker:

Today's speaker was Aaron Patterson who serves with Midwest Food Bank New England as its development manager. He lives with his family in Tolland CT. He focuses on fund raising and grant writing in his current role. Prior to Midwest Food Bank, Aaron lived in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for 4 years teaching at a Christian International School and before that was in educational sales for 17 years in the Chicago area.

He started us off with a joke (I think he and Dave use the same joke books). Midwest is the largest food bank in America and it is privately funded. They have a total of 2266 volunteers with 41,262 hours of service. They have distributed over 50 Million dollars worth of free food. Over 12 million pounds of food have been distributed. They have 167 nonprofit partners. They are always looking for food, volunteers and money. Their operating budget is only 1.6 million dollars (they have a lot of volunteers). So much food is going to waste and that is where they step in and use what otherwise would be thrown away.

## Announcements:

The Milford Rotary Scholarship Luncheon will be held at 12:15 pm on August 6th at Gusto's Restaurant. Please RSVP by no later than July 31st to Max Case (maxcase9@gmail.com)."

7/29 is the wrap party at Valley Yacht club on Riverside Drive. Starts at 5:30. The work is easy and we have a really good time.

7/30 The tanks get scrubbed and washed and moved to the site.

7/31 is set up Friday. Please show up about 10 AM. There is a lot to do.

8/1 the Bake. Let's serve and have fun.

8/6 there is a Paddle Boat Ride. First come ,first served. Show up at 7:45 and the ride begins at 8:00. It is BYOB and the fee is \$45 per person. See Phil. The pickup location is at the dock behind the library. There is a 20 person max on the boat.

So far ticket sales are slow and significantly behind last year. This year we have paid tickets of 64 so far where last year we were at 200. The break even number of sales needed is 600 tickets. Over that is our profit. Please start asking people you know and meet to help support us in our worthy goal.

## Upcoming Speakers:

7/9/26 Food Bank

7/16/26 Mayor Richard Smith

7/23/26 Milford School Superintendent Dr. Anna Cutaia

7/30/26 All in For Milford

8/6/26 Milford Rotary Scholarship Luncheon at 12:15pm at Gusto's Restaurant. Please RSVP by no later than July 31st to Max Case (maxcase9@gmail.com)

Scribe:Greg Schmitt

## Who's Who for the July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027 Rotary Year

| Officers:                                 |                                                                             | 1 <sup>st</sup> Yr Board Dir: | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Board Dir: |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President – <i>Bill Parry</i>             | Sargent-At-Arms: <i>Dave Adams</i><br>AsstSrgent-At-Arms: <i>Joe Barnes</i> | <i>Roger Pocock</i>           | <i>Carrie Reed</i>              |
| President-Elect – <i>Lise Robinson</i>    | Treasurer: <i>Tracy O'Brien</i>                                             | <i>Gary Johnson</i>           | <i>Evelyn Karam</i>             |
| Vice President – <i>Dick Poplowski</i>    | Asst Treasurer: <i>Christine Early</i>                                      | <i>Gina Gaglione</i>          | <i>Matt Fama</i>                |
| Secretary – <i>Ray Carissimi</i>          | <i>Lorna Sura</i> (Immediate Past President)                                | <i>Phil Ucci III</i>          | <i>Joe Barnes</i>               |
| Membership Chairman – <i>Gary Johnson</i> | Beth-El meal leader- <i>Dave Adams</i>                                      |                               | <i>Lorna Sura – IPP</i>         |

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](http://www.milfordrotary.org)

*Why did the lobster cross the road?*  
*To get to the other tide.*