

Milford Rotary Chat July 30, 2026



Meeting Minutes: 7/23/2626 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Marcy Mangels lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deacon Dick Popilowski created another inspirational Prayer for us:

*Gracious God, As we gather in fellowship today, we pause with grateful hearts for the gift of Rotary – for friendships that strengthen us, for service that inspires us, and for the shared calling to place **Service Above Self** in all we do. Bless our meal and the hands that prepared it. Bless each person here, and guide us to be instruments of compassion, hope, and good work in the Milford community and beyond.*

*We ask your special blessing on our upcoming **Lobster Bake on August 1** – on the volunteers who labor with love, the guests who join us, and the mission it supports. May it be safe, joyful, and successful, and may its impact ripple outward to touch lives in meaningful ways.*

Keep us mindful that every act of service, no matter how small, helps build a better world. Amen.

Don Wetmore did The 4-Way-Test but kindof' mumbled through it, although I'm sure he knows the words.

Guests:

Dr. Anna Cutaia – our Guest Speaker and Superintendent for the Milford School District, Samantha Mola, and Emily – Christine Early's Grandaughter.

Do Good: (Dave Adams – Sargent-At-Arms)

Win Smith was feeling good about his Red Sox who had won 15 games in a row which is something to cheer about.

Dave Adams said he is an evolving Red Sox fan and is starting to feel better about them.

Dan German was happy to have Dr Cutaia here as our speaker today.

Marcy cheered the Telemundo announcers for their great enthusiasm during the World Cup.

Tracy O'Brien was sorry she missed some meetings but she went to Iceland and had the most amazing trip. There were volcanoes, oceans and glaciers that were shared with our group of 10 empowering women. It was 10 days that were mostly sunny but cool.

Paul Mangels was on the radio with Brian Smith getting publicity for the lobster bake. He went with Barry Bonessi and it was a lot of fun and hopefully will boost ticket sales.

Dan said Woodmont Day is the 25th. The Rum Runners are playing on Saturday from 5-9. He is having a party at his house and all are invited.

Max Case said the Scholarship luncheon is 8/6 at Gusto's at 12:00. If you are planning on attending, please let him or Lorna Sura know so we can get a head count. 13 kids will be getting awards with hopefully their families present.

Barry said Paul was the star of the radio show and he did a great job. He is looking forward to Woodmont Day. He was in Charleston South Carolina at a fair on their green and at the end of the green was a huge statue placed there by the local Rotary which had The 4-Way-Test on it.

Roger Pocock fell and may have broken his thumb. He can't make the bake but will be donating cash. It is his 40th anniversary coming up. He visited a site of a battle from the War of 1812. He took a AARP course for drivers education which saves him \$1500/year.

Lorna thanked Bill and John Stoddard for doing a great job getting sponsors. John even got Tesla to be a sponsor.

Tom Margius said he and Sue have started riding the perimeter of Connecticut, he on a bike and Sue in the car. So far he has gone from Sterling to East Thompson, East Thompson to Somers, Kent to Norfolk, and Norfolk to Granby. He has been caught in the rain but he likes riding in the rain. His brother-in-law is having a cancer procedure in New York

Carrie Reed went to Walnut Beach to do some back work, it was her first time there in 9 years. She had her annual physical and they told her she was a simple patient.

Phil Ucci went to Nantucket with the Scouts. They walked 75 miles through the week. The kids bought the Scoutmasters goofy gifts like peanut juice. They got a big kick out of that. He thanked everyone for the help taking care of Beth El while he was away.

Christine Early was in Upper Michigan last week. The smoke was awful with an index of over 500.

Do Good raised \$117 today.

Speaker:

Dr Anna Cutaia who is the Superintendent of Schools in Milford was our speaker and her topic was what is happening in the system now and where are they going moving forward. Dr Cutaia has been in education for 35 years. She started as a teacher in 1991 and was a school principal by 2000 and was hired as superintendent of schools in Milford in 2018.

Learning in the classrooms today is evolving and they also strive to prepare kids for the work force. Dr Cutaia handed out a pamphlet listing many of the accomplishments that have been achieved this year. It has been a banner year for test scores. Since Covid performance had plateaued but this year there was significant improvement. Orchard Hills was in the top 10% in performance in the state. Both high schools achieved AP gold distinction.

They created 8 tracts to allow kids to explore what they want to do with their lives. Do they go to college? Or go into a career path or the trades? And they are working on expanding on the tracts.

The condition of the schools was discussed, many were built circa 1955. Do you repair or replace. Demographics shows a shrinking school population. Looking forward the plan is to maintain 2 high schools, decrease from 3 middle schools to 2 schools, and go from 8 elementary schools to 6.

There is a change in philosophy for educating special needs kids. Now we try to keep them in town. The kids do better and it is more cost effective. Teaching styles and structure is also evolving, desks may not be in rows but more in groups. They are constantly updating security to protect our kids in a changing world. Phone use and access is also changing by setting more limitations on their use in school.

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)."

Just over 300 tickets sold so far. We will sell through Monday, keep your fingers crossed things pick up.

7/30 Thursday we get the tanks from storage and clean them.

7/31 Friday if people could show up by 9 or 9:30 to start the set up.

8/1 We still need volunteers to work the late hours of the bake from 7-10. Dr Dave said his wrestlers will be helping at the bake (always great help). 9AM Shuck Corn

8/6 is the Scholarship luncheon at Gusto's. Confirm you are going with Max - maxcase9@gmail.com or Lorna

8/6 evening cruise on the Harbor Paddleboat. There are 20 spots left. Tell Phil if you are interested.

Upcoming Speakers:

7/30/26 All in For Milford

8/6/26 Milford Rotary Scholarship Luncheon at 12:15pm at Gusto's Restaurant.

Scribe:Greg Schmitt

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

Officers:		1 st Yr Board Dir:	2 nd Year Board Dir:
President – <i>Bill Parry</i>	Sargent-At-Arms: <i>Dave Adams</i> 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>
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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

This week to Milford Rotarians: The world is your Lobster!