

Milford Rotary Chat August 13, 2026

**CREATE
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IMPACT**



Meeting Minutes: 8/6/2626 Gusto's Restaurant 12:00PM

Welcome:

Dr. Dave Espisito got the Scholarship meeting started by leading in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Deacon Dick Popilowski had appropriate thoughts for our award winners and their families as he gave us a Prayer to guide our meeting and day.

Gracious God, We gather today with grateful hearts, celebrating the promise and potential of these remarkable students. Thank You for the gift of learning – for curious minds, determined spirits, and the teachers, families, and mentors who have guided each scholar to this moment.

Bless our students as they step into new chapters of study and discovery. May their learning not only enrich their lives, but also strengthen their character, deepen their compassion, and inspire them to serve others with generosity and courage.

*We thank You for Milford Rotary, for its commitment to **Service Above Self**, and for every member whose dedication makes today possible. Continue to guide us in using our talents and resources to uplift our community and to open doors of opportunity for those who follow.*

As we share this meal, fill us with gratitude, hope and a renewed sense of purpose. May these scholarships be seeds – growing into lives of leadership, kindness, and service that brighten our world. Amen.

Gary Johnson read through The 4-Way-Test clear and steady.

Guests:

Our guests were our scholarship awardees with their family and friends. They helped celebrate both their achievements as well as their helping us look forward to their leading us and our nation.

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

Dave Adams thought the Bake was a tremendous success and had hopes for an even better event next year.

Win Smith gave a \$20 fine to acknowledge the Red Sox caught up to the Yankees in the loss column. He thought it was a great Lobster Bake where we had more fun and great enthusiasm. He encouraged everyone to go back and watch the video of the last Alderman's meeting to see a great example of Democracy at work.

Tom Margius thought the Bake was great and congratulated the students on their awards. Being in front of Bob Bogert during the Bake, he was happy he didn't get burned as per Bob was grillmaster with Burgers & Dogs.

Phil Caporusso gave congrats to the students.

Phil Ucci thought the Lobster Bake was terrific.

Bobby Brubaker was happy to join us and Dave Adams acknowledged that Bobby volunteers at Beth El where we are serving up to 100 guests at each meal.

Don Wetmore was happy for the scholars and their families.

Bill Parry thought the Lobster Bake was great and participation was excellent. Special thanks to the Mola's (Kevin & Samantha) for all their work keeping the tickets organized and accurate. Also, special thanks to Bob Bogart for having his hand in just about everything right down to getting rid of the final pallet of cinder blocks. Thanks to Dr Dave for the support and having his wrestlers volunteering as they do each year. Also, special thanks to Tracy O'Brien for handling the ordering and keeping everything organized.

Carrie Reed was very happy how the Lobster Bake made out. Her observation and an answer to the debate who worked harder, the "crackers" or "cookers". She thought they all worked their asses off. (Food for thought!!!)

Dave Adams said he has been eating Lobster in many forms all week.

Announcements:

If you have any invoices , get them to Adam adam@kasowitzcpa.com. We want to close out the books on the bake.

It was announced Lise Robinson was this year's Rotarian of the year. She has been very busy and productive with all the work she has done writing Foundation grants, her work with the Purple Pantry boxes and all she did work on the Lobster Bake. It was explained to our guests what the Purple Pantry boxes are and how they work and what efforts go in to keeping them full and functional.

Annual Milford Rotary Club Scholarships:

Max Case Chaired this year's Scholarship Committee which included Gary Opin, Dan Smith, Phil Caporusso, Dave Espisito and Max Case. He thanked his committee for all their work and support. Max read parts of the scholar's essays to give us a glimpse at who our candidates are. The Alan Jepson Award was won by Kylie Posey who is going to Rensselaer Polytech to study Civil Engineering. Max explained who Alan Jepson was and what the award recognizes.



The other winners were:

Lexi Kochanowicz who will be attending Sacred Heart University to study music and theater.

Jacob Cichowski will be attending Quinnipiac to study Business for Entrepreneurs.

Adrianna Ariz will be attending University of South Florida where she will study to be a nurse anesthetist.

Lily Magnuson will be attending the University of South Carolina.

Kaitlyn Vigilante will be attending Holy Cross to study PolySci and hopes to continue on to Law.

Maxwell Vickerelli will be studying mechanical engineering and applied math at RPI.

Gabriella Dobkowski will attend College of Charleston to study psychology and behavioral analysis.

Lexi Bonilla is going to University of Hartford to study nursing and hopes to specialize in pediatric oncology.

Kanisk Karntamaneni is going to the University of Florida to study computer science.

Isabella Gecaj is a three-peat award winner and she works (as well as attending school) a lot to make ends meet while paying personally for all her schooling and appreciates our generosity while attending UConn.

Aarush Katyal will attend UConn to study chemistry and pre-med while working to be an anesthesiologist.

Phinneas Lattanzi is attending UConn to study VFA with concentration in design and production.

Upcoming Dates:

Photos of Bake & Awards Luncheon by Ray Carissimi [Lobster Bake photos](#) [Scholarship Photos](#)

8/13 Susan Brown – Purple Pantry

8/20 Milford Rotary Board Meeting at Matt Fama's Home 125 Bayshore Dr Milford

8/20 Paige Miglio, Milford Arts Council – Jazz Fest 10/3

8/27 Paul Gargano – Music Industry and his Collection

9/3 Michael Stearns – School of Rock

9/10 Hunnebee Project

9/17 Milford Police Chief Keith Mello

9/24 Brad Dancer – SHU Radio

10/1 Milford Fire Chief Christopher Walksnoris

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 – Bill Parry	Sargent-At-Arms: Dave Adams AsstSrgent-At-Arms: Joe Barnes	Roger Pocock	Carrie Reed
President-Elect – Lise Robinson	Treasurer: Tracy O'Brien	Gary Johnson	Evelyn Karam
Vice President – Dick Poplowski	Asst Treasurer: Christine Early	Gina Gaglione	Matt Fama
Secretary – Ray Carissimi	Lorna Sura (Immediate Past President)	Phil Ucci III	Joe Barnes
Membership Chairman – Gary Johnson	Beth-El meal leader- Dave Adams		Lorna Sura – IPP

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

Scholarship is to be created not by compulsion, but by awakening a pure interest in knowledge.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson