

Milford Rotary Chat August 6, 2026

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



Meeting Minutes: 7/30/2626 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

John Stoddard was our leader and started us with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deacon Dick Popilowski gave another inspirational Prayer in preparation for the upcoming Lobster Bake for us:

Gracious and Loving God, We gather today as Rotarians grounded in Service Above Self, grateful for the privilege of serving our neighbors, strengthening our community, and lifting up those who need us most. Thank You for the fellowship that binds us, the traditions that guide us, and the opportunities You place before us to make a difference.

As we look toward this Saturday's Milford Rotary Lobster Bake, we ask Your blessing on every hand and every heart involved. Bless the volunteers who give their time, the leaders who organize with care, the sponsors and supporters who believe in our mission, and the guests who join us in the spirit of generosity and community.

Grant us good weather, smooth preparations, joyful teamwork, and a spirit of hospitality that reflects the very best of Rotary. May this fundraiser be not only successful, but meaningful – strengthening the programs, scholarships, and service projects that change lives here in Milford and beyond. Keep us mindful that every ticket sold, every meal served, and every moment shared helps us continue the work You call us to do: lifting others, building hope, and creating a community where all can thrive.

Guide us, bless us, and inspire us to serve with humility, compassion, and joy. Amen.

Tad Smith easily recited The 4-Way-Test with ease to the admiration of all.

Guests:

Andrew Rice was a guest of Ray Carissimi. He is running for Congress against Rosa DeLauro (and promises not to dye his hair purple). Our speakers for the day were Rachel and Teresa from All In For Milford.

Procrastinators like many of us, was the explanation for the late surge in tickets for The Lobster Bake. Whatever the reason, Thank god they came.

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

Tom Margius showed off his lobster hat and butter for his lobster tie.

Win Smith warned us the Red Sox are closing in on the Yankees.

Frosty Smith was in Alaska when the Sox won 15 in a row but they are still 5 games behind the Yankees. He wished everyone good luck with the bake.

Dan Smith informed us the Red Sox still suck.

Tad Smith was in California to see his grandkids and see his daughter run in a half marathon. Then he went to DC and got a tour of the Capital.

Ray thanked Andrew for coming to lunch with us and wished him good luck in his race.

Phil Ucci said the wrap party went well but why did they put 800 set ups if we only sold 600 tickets.

Dick was pleased to have Rachel and Teresa with us and he was eager to hear what they have to say.

Max Case was happy to be sitting at the Smith table. It is last minute but he needs you to tell him or Lorna if you are coming to Gusto's next week for the Scholarship luncheon. They need a head count.

Tracy O'Brien said the best part of the Treasurer job is she gets to write the checks for the money we donate.

Carrie Reed said the Wrap Up Party was fun but she hates the red shirts this year. She will cut her's up to make something more interesting.

Bill Parry said there were lots of late ticket sales. We were at almost 700 and still going.. He made a special thanks to the Mola's for all their ticket work.

Dave Hulme asked everyone to be flexible. Don't ask "Why are we doing it that way?"

Please bring back the lawn signs so we can use them next year.

Speakers:

Rachel and Teresa joined us and spoke to us about All In For Milford. The organization focuses on public policy, housing and food insecurity. Rachel has been in the community just over 6 years and she is learning how things work in town government. It is not transactional but is relational. It is different people working together. Teresa shared people should not have to worry about getting food or having a place to stay. When they interview people, the first question they ask is "What do you need?" Everyone has a story. They are in it for the long haul and to get people to thrive.

Various non-profits have provided space for their meetings. During story circles they have learned deep things about each other. The highest family expense is day care. the organization is all volunteer. There is no director, there is no budget and it is open to everyone. They hold zoom meetings Thursday mornings at 8 AM.

Rotary Magazine – August 2026 Highlights

The August issue of **Rotary** magazine focuses on the many ways Rotarians improve lives through innovation, compassion, and lasting friendships.

Featured stories include:

Food as Medicine: Doctors and Rotary partners are demonstrating how improved nutrition can strengthen tuberculosis treatment and improve patient outcomes.

Navigating Life's "Lifequakes": An inspiring article explores how people can adapt and thrive through unexpected personal challenges and major life changes.

A Friendship That Endures: The magazine celebrates a remarkable 48-year friendship between two Rotary Peace Scholars, illustrating the lasting global connections that Rotary creates.

Growing Rotary: The issue also highlights Rotary's goal of reaching **1.25 million members by 2030**, emphasizing that welcoming new members strengthens clubs, expands service opportunities, and increases Rotary's impact around the world.

The August edition reminds us that whether we're improving health, supporting one another through life's challenges, or building lifelong international friendships, Rotary continues to demonstrate the power of **Service Above Self**.

Announcements:

Photos from the Bake by Ray Carissimi [Click here to view the Lobster Bake photos](#)

8/6 is the Scholarship luncheon at Gusto's, starts at 12:00.

8/6 is the Pedalboat Cruise. It starts at 7:00. Everyone must sign the waivers.

Please bring back the lawn signs for the Lobster Bake so we can use them next year.

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>
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

Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

-Theodore Roosevelt