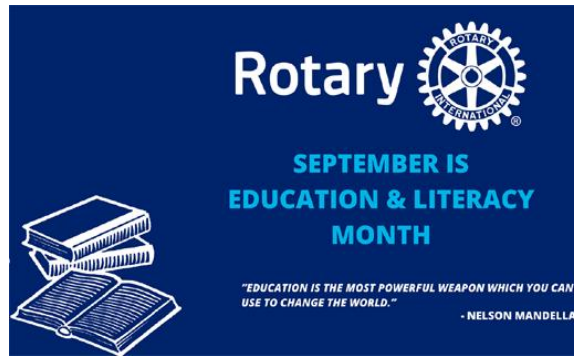


Milford Rotary Chat September 17, 2026



Meeting Minutes 9/10/2026 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Ray Carissimi gave The Pledge of Allegiance.

Dick Popilowski gave another heartfelt Prayer:

*Gracious and ever-present God, On the solemn anniversary, 25years since the tragedy of September 11, we pause as Rotarians and a s neighbors to remember the lives taken, the families forever changed, and the communities whose hearts still carry the weight of that day. We honor the fallen - mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, friends and colleagues, whose absence is felt even now. We remember too the extraordinary courage shown in the face of terror. First responders who ran toward danger, strangers who became helpers, and everyday people who revealed the very best of humanity. Their bravery reminds us that even in the darkest moments, light breaks through. As Milford Rotary gathers today, let the legacy of that courage inspire our own commitment to **Service Above Self**. May we serve with the same spirit of unity that swept across our nation in the days that followed - lifting others, healing wounds, and strengthening the bonds of community. Bless our fellowship and the work we undertake. Guide our hands to serve with compassion, our hearts to lead with integrity, and our voices to speak for peace. May our actions honor those we remember today and help build a world where hope rises stronger than fear. Amen.*

Barry Bonessi completed The 4-Way -Test with a little help (too far away to read the banner).

Guests:

Sophie Glassman, our speaker, from the [Huneabee Project](#), Louis Trev...

Member Posting:

Andy Greenwalt.

Do Good:

Barry Bonessi - Remembering a dear friend of his brother's and himself, Michael Miller, who was on the 86th floor of one of the Towers on 9-11, who perished 25years ago tomorrow.

Dan German - Had a great Porch Fest event with 90 bands in Woodmont this past Saturday.

Phil Ucci - Got to see John Fogerty & Steve Winwood

Dick Popilowski - Excited for the upcoming Yacht Lobster performance at the Parson's Center this Saturday. Already sold 664 seats, and hoping to sell more.

Ray Carissimi - Asked that we take some lawn signs for his upcoming [5K run/walk, Running for Water for Africa](#) on October 3rd, organized by his group Uganda Farmers Inc., that is a fundraiser to support clean water projects in East Africa

Tracy O'Brien - Making plans to revisit Iceland next year for a hiking trip.

Carrie Reed - Lantern flies are outrageous this year!

Frosty Smith - Sorry for being late. The board meeting is tonight at United Way, not today for lunch, as he went there for today's meeting and told brother Dan and Dora that's where our lunch meeting was being held.

Lorna Sura - Finally bought a car, a Jeep Compass, after 3 years without one.

John Stoddard - Also echoed Carrie's outrage at the number of lantern flies around, and how to approach them from the side to squish them as their eyes are focused forward.

Lou - Just got back from Australia. Saw kangaroos, went diving and had a great time after the 17 hour flight there and longer coming home.

Speaker:

Sophie Glassman from the [Huneebee Project](#) spoke to us about the non-profit who uses beekeeping therapy to assist youths to heal, grow and build a future. This program is similar to equine therapy. Through beekeeping, urban agriculture, environmental stewardship, mentorship and paid employment, young people build skills, confidence, relationships and professional experience while contributing to their communities. She invited us to a guided honey tasting on Sunday Sept. 27th from 3-5 at Gioia in New Haven.

President's Remarks:

Bill Parry - Passed around a Chat from 1970 that Frosty brought to the meeting. Devon's October Fest will be Sept 25th & 26th. September 23rd we will be presenting Bridges with an AED. October 3rd is the inaugural Jazz 'n Downtown event presented by the Milford Arts Council, also the date of the District Council's leadership meeting in New London. Oct 11th will be our Shred Event, where we need volunteers. Oct 13th is a CPR class at Carrie's business, 6:30 with David Mitkowski. A check for \$45 should be made out to him.

Post Script:

Chief Mello will not be joining us as speaker on the 17th as he's very busy with cameras and such.

Announcements and Upcoming Dates:

9/23 at the Bridges Healthcare facility Dave and Bill will be installing an AED at about 12 noon.

9/25-9/26 [Devon Rotary's Octoberfest](#)

10/3 is the MAC event [Jazz'n Downtown](#) Milford

10/3 is also the [7980 District Assembly](#) in New London. Admission is \$75.

10/11 is the Shred Event at Spectrum on New Haven Ave

10/13 Carrie is hosting an AED/CPR course at her office. Starts at 6:30 PM and fee is \$45. For those looking to renew their certificate, this course can do that.

11/6 [Food2Kids Winter Gala](#) at Grassy Hill Country Club.

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

Upcoming Speakers:

9/17 Ray Carissimi - [5K Water for Africa](#)

10/1 Milford Fire Chief Christopher Walksnoris

9/24 Brad Dancer – SHU Radio

Scribe: Lorna Sura

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

A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.

—Chinese Proverb