

# Milford Rotary Chat October 27, 2022



## Meeting Minutes: 10/20/22

"As Don Wetmore was not at the meeting (claiming COVID as an excuse - Wussyman) President Elect-Tad Smith chaired the meeting (with the proverbial deer in the headlights look as he stumbled from thing to thing). Not being sure what to do, Tad led the Pledge of Allegiance, our assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, Mike Granata, tapped Curren Bishop to do the prayer (which was done with great reverence and style, unlike the usual rendition), and Immediate Past President Carrie gave us a stirring reading of the 4-Way test. Then the meeting got down to business."

Guests:

Young Jeff Bishop (in his Cub Scout uniform!) & Cindy Penkoff of the Trumbull Rotary Club

Club Business:

President-Elect Tad Smith announced the formation of a committee to start the planning of our 100th Anniversary Celebration. The plans are not set in stone yet and ideas are being solicited. A dinner celebration is a natural idea, but with a year and a half to plan this, all ideas are being solicited, as are volunteers to help. Any thoughts? Please share them with Tad (:

Happy Fines (all going to Polio Plus)

IPP Carrie Reed gave a classic Carrie happy fine that went on for hours, including a friend she has who wanted to give money to Rotary for the Ukrainian relief effort, but since we didn't have anything like that going on, the friend was good with giving the money to Polio-Plus (there is a certain symmetry between Polio and socialists like Vladimir Putin, so we see the connection there), followed by a dazzling rendition of her niece's wedding at Manchester Park which apparently has many "sub-parks" including one that is known as the Lotus Garden, which was not where the wedding was, but it was fabulous anyway, and there was a car accident involved and someone got out of the car or died... frankly, my notes got a little lost at that point, but, anyway, Carrie had a great time and she is back and we are all glad to see her again!

Curren gave a sad fine for the five (5) weeks he has missed meetings (with some lame excuse about being busy or something, ... blah, blah, blah) and a happy fine for the Cub Scout fundraiser his son was there for (they had boxes of candy, so they were a big hit!)

Lorna Sura gave a happy fine for Polio-Plus and all the good work it has done over the decades and included a contribution from Treasurer Tracy O'Brien (hi Tracy!).

Dave Adams gave a big happy fine for the Polio Plus effort and a sad fine for the police officers in Bristol and that whole tragedy.

Buddy Prete gave a happy fine for the successful Italian-American Club Dinner Dance (or is it the Milford Columbus Day Committee; the notes are a little sketchy on that) last Saturday (Buddy is the President of that fine organization this year), in which Rotarians Gary Johnson and Dave Esposito were among the honorees and at which dinner there were several other Rotarians among the 185 attendees.

Gary Johnson gave a follow on fine for the fine event Buddy staged.

Tad gave a happy fine for the weekend he spent with Dan Smith up at Middlebury College (one of Dan's Alma Maters) at which they went to a football game and did other things that grumpy old men do on college campuses.

Our guest Cindy gave a happy fine, but I didn't write down what that was for (she seemed nice enough, so it was probably something thoughtful, unlike some other of our happy fines).

Win Sr. gave a happy fine for the great event that his son Win III had last night and at which there were no fewer than ten(10) Rotarians! (to wit: Win III, Ioana Alexandrescu, Win Jr., Tina DeNapoles, Mike Granata, Chris Cody, Bill Parry, Tom Margius, Dan German and Buddy Prete: back in the old days, we would have all gotten a "make-up" for that one!)

### Surprise Guest Speaker:

Cindy Penkoft of the Trumbull Rotary Club visited us with the expectation that she was our speaker, which seemed to be a surprise to Speaker Program Chairman (and Vice President) Phil Ucci. In fine Rotary fashion, Phil and the Milford Club adjusted and put Cindy on first, so that she could apprise us the Trumbull Rotary Club's efforts to renovate and re-open the VFW hall in Trumbull (apparently, the facility was closed "temporarily" five (5) years ago, then Covid hit and it remains closed to this day). The vision is to make this a first-class VFW and First Responder facility for the entire region (not just Trumbull), which is why Cindy was in Milford (among several other Rotary Clubs she has visited in the area). The idea was generated by Ray Baldwin, a former mayor of Trumbull and former police officer. The plans are for a 3 million dollar 5.5 thousand square foot regional facility, with a full kitchen, and education room, and a gathering room. They are having a wine tasting (which my notes indicate is next week, but our guess is we have not heard the last of this matter!). They are hoping for sponsorships from the various clubs (up to \$500, which includes a couple of tickets), ads for \$100, and ticket purchases for \$50 pp. The idea that they are having a Bourbon and chocolate tasting portion of this event seemed to elicit attention and interest from several Milford Rotarians. Cindy noted that there are 30,000 veterans and first responders in the region/area. Cindy circulated a great informational hand out with all the details on the facility and the fundraising.

### Second Speaker:

There followed our planned speaker, our own Phil Ucci, on the Polio Plus Program and the great work done over the decades by Rotary and others in the international community (including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) in almost eliminating Polio from the world. Phil handed out a five (5) point fact sheet about Polio (1. It effects mainly children under five. 2. There is no cure but it is preventable with the vaccine. 3. Only two countries remain endemic (Afghanistan and Pakistan). 4. Worldwide cases have declined 99.9% since 1988. 5. Every child remains at risk until Polio is ended forever). Phil gave a good talk on the history of the Polio disease and the vaccination (with a humorous interlude when some was asked Phil the name of the person who first developed the vaccine and Phil couldn't pull it up (senior moment, Phil; get used to it)). Apparently, the vaccine costs only \$3 pp, and can be administered orally. Phil informed us that there were only 137 cases globally last year. Phil's use of words like "endemic" and such addled most of us, but we got the drift. Certain members did their usual rain on the parade thing by asking why Rotary and others are putting so much money, time and effort into this when there are only 137 cases globally, and there are so many other massive needs everywhere. Carrie Reed gave a spirited defense of the program generally and the fact that Rotary is actually expanding its efforts into other areas, using this program, and some of its funding, as a model.

### Announcements:

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> - Lunch 12:15PM Kimberly Speakers will be the Director of the Beth-El Center Jennifer Paradis and Tregon District Governor will be with us Nov 3rd.

The club roster has been updated and it is available.

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> - 4th Thursday breakfast meetings will continue on an informal basis meeting at 7:30AM

### [Upcoming Milford \(and other\) Rotary Club Events:](#)

October 27th Lunch Meeting - Director of the Beth-El Center Jennifer Paradis and Tregon  
Board Meeting the second Thursday, 5:30 PM social, 6 PM meeting – every month  
unless noted otherwise

### [Who's Who for the 2022-2023 Rotary Year](#)

Officers:	Sergeant-At-Arms: Frank Perry	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Board of Dir:	2nd Year Board of Dir:
President – Don Wetmore	Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms: Mike Granata	Gary Johnson	Dave Adams
President-Elect – Tad Smith	Treasurer: Tracy O'Brien	Darcy Lapp-Rabinowitz	Jill McGoldrick
Vice President – Phil Ucci III	Asst Treasurer: Youssef Boutros	Bill Parry	Sam Bergami
Secretary - Lorna Sura	Carrie Reed (Immediate Past President)	Frank Perry	BJ Frazier
Club Historian- Ken Hawkins	Beth-El meal leaders- Shaileen Landsberg and Lorna Sura		

Your Rotary Chat Team: Temp Scribe: Win Smith, Jr (10/20 Mtg) Scribe: Greg Schmitt Setting/Editing/Circulation: Tom Margius

[Milford Rotary, PO Box 381, Milford, CT](#) [www.milfordrotary.org](http://www.milfordrotary.org)

*Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year.*

Chad Sugg