

# Milford Rotary Chat November 17, 2022



## Meeting Minutes: 11/10/22

Tad got us started with a very traditional prayer.

Visitors/Visiting Rotarians:

Visiting Rotarian was Julie Blackman assistant District Governor and she is from Valley Rotary  
Barry Berman and Cynthia Conrad. Barry is the CEO and President of Milford United Way and Cynthia is the assistant to the President.

Happy Fines/Do Good

Mark was showing his colors with a Happy Birthday to the U. S. Marine Corp - 100 years!

Tad was sad for Win III who worked very hard but lost his election bid. Great Effort! Tad is happy though that next week he is going to St Croix.

Bob - Happy that we can vote but, very happy the political adds will be gone ( Can you say run off?)

Dan gave a hearty Birthday cheer for the Marines (and a comment to Mark about the Marines!)

Lorna wished all a Happy Veteran's Day. She is glad to be seeing her grand kids tonight.

Win Jr said Win III lost by only 178 votes - Very Close! Win III is going to Vermont to recoup but win or lose Win Jr thought Win III was a better man for the experience of running. He said they spent lots of time together and he became best friends (BFFs) with his son.

Youseff thought maybe 3 times is a charm for Win(arg!). If he wants it...I hope he gets it.

Frosty said what a great guy Win III is! He and brother Dan went to the Yale/Brown game where it was 59-3 at the half which set a record for Yale for the most points in the first half ever!

Tom - great weather 4 biking & on the bright side, Win III will have time to spend with his family

Phil went to see Aladdin on Broadway for his wife's birthday. Also, the boy scouts are putting together 300-400 boxes of food for the needy for Thanksgiving. They collected food for 3 days at Wasson Field. Next, they are having a Christmas fund raiser of decorated ( \$17) or undecorated (\$12) wreaths Please support them. Frosty & Dan gave \$100 for the turkeys.

Barry thanked us for the invite to the meeting.

Dan said the scouts are great and that Win is the hardest working politician he has ever seen.

Julie, our visiting Rotarian wants to make us her newly adopted club.

Don said his son and daughter in-law were stuck in the Disney area due to the storm, no planes or trains were going out. He said his son was happy though because the only thing they could find was a Hookah lounge and a Hooters (chip off the old block). He went to the District Conference and met the District Governor. He went out to California and 2 days later he came back. He is tired. There was a board meeting last week.

On Nov 29th we are having the first organizational meeting to celebrate the "100 Year" Anniversary of Milford Rotary. It is at 6:00 at Win's office at 9 Depot St.

Guest Speaker:

Barry Berman and Cynthia Conrad talked about what United Way is doing around town.

Barry thanked the club for being a Founder of the United Way and he mentioned that Dave, Gary, Greg, Danforth and Frosty were Founders also. Barry's father was a Rotarian and his first speech he ever did was in front of a Rotary club. He finds the values of Rotary is what the United Way is all about. He started Connecticut Radio Network and was able to build it into a very successful marketing

company. With this background he has come to United Way. As with almost all non-profits as we look backward, revenues have been declining. In the past we relied on a couple of companies for most of our revenue but now we need a new model (and this has been happening across the country). The new model focuses on needs based issues for our community and we are trying to make better use of technology for fund raising. Generation Z people donate differently i.e. through apps, and this is part of the target audience we are trying to reach. United Way has to get younger.

Our United Way is all about Milford and everything they do stays local. There are 21 partner organizations that they interact with but now they want to focus on the needs of Milford and the primary needs seem to center on food insecurity, homelessness and mental health. The United Way has an acronym for the target population they are trying to serve, it is ALICE-Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed. They are the working poor. In Milford that makes up almost 1/3 of the population and it is getting worse. The United Way wants to raise money to be the hub for info. Let everyone know of the need and that those in need know where to go. They believe "Milford is the small city with a big heart". United Way wants to break down the stigma and let people know it is OK not to be OK. 211 is a help line but it is too busy now. Barry feels if he fails, people don't eat, people sleep outside. He needs Rotary's help.

Greg Schmitt

Just to let everyone know of the passing of **Brad Gesler**. He was a longtime member of our club (from February 1993) and a gentleman. He volunteered in many capacities including Red Cross, Milford Hospital & Bridges. He was also the owner of Minuteman Press. His obituary is at: <https://www.codywhitefuneralservice.com/tributes/Bradford-Gesler> His service will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10AM at Orange Congregational Church.

### Upcoming Milford (and other) Rotary Club Events:

- **Lunch meeting** - Thursday, Nov 17, 12:15-1:15 at Kimberly Restaurant. **Speaker** will be Mark Krom with the Boy Scouts in Milford
- **Nov 24<sup>th</sup> No Meeting – *Happy Thanksgiving!***
- **Lunch meeting** - Thursday, Dec 1, 12:15-1:15 at Kimberly Restaurant. **Speaker** will be William Legere from Milford Historical Society in Milford
- **December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas Party at Mark Sandillo's house. Please RSVP so appropriate plans can be made. Thanks**

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: Scribes: Win Smith, Jr. & Greg Schmitt Setting/Editing/Circulation: Tom Margius

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

*Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.*

W.T. Purkiser