

Milford Rotary Chat February 23, 2023



<https://www.rotary.org/en/pedaling-toward-prosperity>

Meeting Minutes: 2/16/23

Tom got us started with the pledge.
Win said a short prayer.
Youssef got through the 4-Way-Test (with a little help).

Guests:

Ashley Grant and Michelle Steinlauf from *Food 2 Kids* and were our speakers for today.

Do Good:

Frosty was happy to have Ashley here and have her speak to us. Also happy to have Eric Tashlein make the meeting today (good seeing you Eric, it has been a while. Glad you could make it)

Phil was happy to have Food 2 Kids here with us. His father is at Lord Chamberlain rehabbing. Mike had him out late last night after the meeting.

Tom thanked Lorna for getting his picture from his trip to New Zealand that was in this week's Chat - it had the Rotary symbol on top of a directional road sign – she gave it her "Seal of Approval".

Tom's trip was great, even with a 2 day plane delay and changes to the schedule. There is something called The Milford Trek in New Zealand that is a 4 day trip through a really beautiful place. They were on the last plane out to get home before they closed the airport due to a cyclone that was approaching.

Mike said they had a great Lobster bake meeting last night.

Youssef was happy to be here.

Lorna said they were having an event at Beth El on Sat from 9-1. All help is welcome. She just saw her grand babies this weekend!

Eric is happy to see everyone.

Dave had dinner with Frank and Janine. Frank is doing great! Dave's grandson in Florida just turned 1 on Valentine's Day.

Don said his granddaughter who attends Laurelton is going to Panama to help build a school.

Win had his granddaughter which he loves but it is exhausting. The Super Bowl was a good game and he was happy the Eagles lost. He said they have the worst fans (Sorry Tom).

Ashley was happy to see Do Good in action. She had never seen anything like it. Her Church is going to have a bottle drive. The First United Church of Christ.

Eric said he has been working with students at Southern Connecticut. 80% are first generation kids, many from broken homes. The kids are so thankful for any help they can give them and he finds it very rewarding.

Don went to the district meeting to try to get up to speed with what is happening in the district. The shelter box program has boxes they want to send to earthquake torn Turkey. It is \$1000/box and he would like to support that.

Speakers: Ashley Grant and Michelle Steinlauf from *Food 2 Kids* <http://www.milfordfood2kids.org/>

Their mission is to feed local school children who have little to no food resources during the weekends away from school. Their vision is to break the cycle of food insecurity so that every young person thrives. They started in February 2016 where they provided food for 26 kids from 2 schools for the weekends. By February 2022 they served 160+ youths in 16 schools in Milford. They share what they do with others towns to help them get their own programs up and running. The pandemic altered things some on how they operated but they were still able to keep the program going. They work closely with social workers to help identify where the need is. The program is always attempting to figure out where the gaps are and try to fill the gaps. They started scholarship programs, started to stock snack closets and help to plan a life skills program. They also want to cultivate a sense of volunteerism and community with the kids. March 22nd the high school is having a day of service. Food to Kids is all volunteer. They pack the bags Thursday mornings and they are distributed on Fridays. They do a great job and help fill a tremendous need.

Announcements:

The Lobster bake will be July 22 which is good that this year there will not be a conflict with Woodmont Day. They think they are going to keep the price the same (there wasn't too much push back last year about it). Things are moving along and Bob has hit the ground running. The next meeting is March 15th at the United Way office.

Feb 22nd 6-7PM The Centennial celebration next meeting is at Win's office behind Milford Bank.

Feb 28th Double Blood Drive from 8 AM to 7 PM at the Kingdom Life Church at 597 Naugatuck Ave. It is the old gym in the back. We hope to get 92 pints. Red Cross does everything. We can help supply snacks.

March 30th Fifth Thursday in March, Ax throwing anyone???

May 20th Rotary's Day of service.

May 22nd District Assembly

June 4th is our Shred Event and possibly a 5K race.

Greg Schmitt

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 st 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

*A friend is someone who knows all about you
and still loves you.*

Elbert Hubbard