

Milford Rotary Chat May 4, 2023



Meeting Minutes: 4/27/23

Welcome:

President Don started the meeting late (as per usual)

Bob Bogert led us in the Pledge

Youssef gave the prayer

Bill Parry conducted the Sargent-At-Arms duties with his usual aplomb.

Bill made President Don do the 4-Way Test and he gave a fair to midland reading.

There was a special guest appearance from Chris Cody (who was also the last member in the door).

Visitor:

Kate Alessi from the Literacy Center of Southern Connecticut (formerly of Milford)

Do Good:

Immediate Past President Carrie Reed started us off with a classic happy fine about her dog and cat being caught on video engaged in some kind of act or another, and then her Subaru had its hubcaps stolen several times (we were not sure of the two events were related)

Phil Ucci III had a happy fine that Tom Maier continues to recuperate, and that the club turn out at the Boys & Girls Club Gala was good and that event had some pretty sophisticated electronic bidding on their silent auction

Frosty gave a fine because Gary Johnson was dressed to the nines (which he was) and that the first night of the NFL draft (tonight) was cause for a special (and annual) social gathering and Dan Smith's (which was a hoot for those of us who went)

Phil Caporusso ponied up because the Scholarship Applications are coming in strong already (nothing quite like give out a few mega-scholarships like last year to get the word out!)

Bob Bogert offered up a happy fine for the NY Jets getting Aaron Rogers (amen to that!), and for Chris Cody being in the house and because the Lobster Bake is on course and getting set (which was one of the reasons Cody was in the house, which was to get the permit applications all signed up and then filed)

Youssef gave his usual fine that he was glad to be here

David Adams gave a sad/happy fine for the Bruins and Celtics (there were still in the playoffs but had failed to close out there respective series (the Celtics closed out their series later Thursday with a victory and have moved on, while the Bruins are still struggling to close out their series)

Tad Smith gave a happy fine for the PETS program he completed and a sad fine because his dog bite him in the face (the dog's wake will be next weekend)

Don Wetmore gave fine for the PETS program and the fact that he saw Paul Mangles there (who seemed well and let him know that Marcie is progressing along), and Don mentioned that he was asked to be an Assistant District Governor next year (congratulations Don!)

Dan Smith gave a fine for the dog biting Tad's face and improving matters (Dan tried to tell a joke but was wrestled to the ground by several bystanders to prevent the same)

Win Smith, Jr. gave a happy fine for the Jets and Aaron Rogers, and another one for Ioana feeling better now, and a sad fine because the District leadership never asked him to be an Assistant District Governor (good call on that one; there is no telling what he would have tried to do)

Lorna chimed in she was happy to see some new faces at the meeting today.

Speaker:

Kate Alessi from the Literacy Center of Southern Connecticut (formerly of Milford)

Kate started as a volunteer and then moved on to being on the board of the Center. Their goal has been to teach English to refugees and others so they can function better in daily life. The thing that makes the Literacy Center unique is that they do one on one tutoring which can be customized to meet the schedule and needs of the student. In Stratford 14% of the population is foreign born and in Milford it is 12%. This leaves 4-5% of the population linguistically isolated. In real numbers that is 2200 in Milford isolated and in Stratford the number is 3400. Grants make up 42% of

their budget, Fund raising accounts for 19%. Their largest fund raiser is the Leprechan Leap which they do in March. They would love support from Rotary either by donations and /or volunteers which can be trained to be tutors. To be a tutor you do not need a teaching background. They have a training program that goes for 5 weeks and you spend about 2 hours/week in the training. Their annual budget is \$110,000. You can find volunteers anywhere. There is a table in the library called the Family resource center and it has been a source of students and volunteers. They currently have a campaign for tutor recruitment.

Presently the center is in a transition period with a new director. There are plenty of students but need more tutors. They did have a basic literacy program which stopped during COVID but they would like to start it up again. That program is aimed at people who were born and raised here but they are illiterate (native English speakers). The question was asked, Why do they come? They come so they can get citizenship, get a drivers license and some come so they will be able to help their own kids get through school. The Center wants to get back to partnerships with local businesses. It allows companies help their employees and can be a source for additional volunteers. Dan Smith related that he has done the tutoring and he found it to be extremely rewarding.

Thanks Win for doing the first half of the notes.

Greg Schmit

Announcements:

Don told us the Boys and Girls Club Gala was very impressive and that Megan did a great job.

As of the last lobster bake meeting, we reached out to the schools, the Boy Scouts and J Dogs for volunteers. So far we are doing well. Chris Cody is dealing with Milford on moving the permit process along. Tickets and signs are coming. Also, sign up sheets are coming if you have desired positions you would like to do. The next meeting is 5/17 at Mike Granata's office (pink building on the green).

April 27th is the next organizational meeting for the Rotary Centennial Anniversary. It is at Win's office at 9 Depot St at 6:00 pm.

April 28th – 12PM Normal K Parcels Award Luncheon honoring Phil.. Show him our support. Contact Lorna to reserve your spot. Deadline is 4/15.- Milford Yacht Club

May 3rd – 6:30PM Day of Service (May 20th) Organizational meeting at Phil Ucci's House

May 11th – next board meeting – at this point we still need a host.

May 20th is the Rotary day of service. We will be manning both Stop and Shops with 2 shifts at each: 9-12 and 12-3. We are partnering with Food 2 Kids and we are looking for food and cash. With the cash we can buy gift cards for the families to use during summer break. Phil Ucci is having an organizational meeting at his house 5/3 at 6:30. He plans to have pizza and drinks.

The plan is to work with Food 2 Kids. We will have volunteers outside of stores for donations. We will involve the Law, Foran and Platt students which they can use for their service requirements. We think we will need about 30 volunteers.

May 27th 6PM - Milford Lobster Bake Meeting at Mike Granata' Office

June 11th is our Shred event and there will be a 5K race that day also.

June 17th Beth El fund raiser dinner

June 22nd District Governor's Inductions

June 29th Tad's Installation Dinner at Grassy Hill

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

We aren't limited if we can't see. We're only limited if we don't look.

Two Blind To Ride