

# Milford Rotary Chat May 30, 2024



Meeting Minutes: 5/23/24  
Chimichurri Restaurant  
12:15PM



**CREATE HOPE**  
in the **WORLD**

Our 1st meeting at Chimichurri Restaurant in downtown Milford (2 Schooner Landing) was a resounding success. Not only was it well attended, but the Argentine food was a big hit!

Background. Our starting rocky (is that a word?) as an apparent Soviet style coup resulted in no one knowing the whereabouts of our President, our President-Elect, or our Vice President. Realizing his moment in time, Secretary Bill Parry seized control of the meeting and (ala Alexander Haig) declared "I'm in charge here" and proceeded to run a pretty good meeting. If our officer corps is ever re-discovered (or escapes from their secure location), articles of impeachment will follow, as we all liked how Bill ran the meeting.

## **Welcome:**

Sargeant At Arms Carrie Reed (who apparently escaped the above referenced coup), commenced our meeting.

Dick Popilowski started the Pledge

Assistant District Governor Don Wetmore (who swears he had nothing to do with the coup) gave a marginally passable rendition of the 4-Way Test.

Frosty (who hobbled in on his 4th new hip) gave the Prayer (noting that his wife Nancy and her friend happened to be over in the other section of the restaurant having lunch; we all offered to swap out Frosty for Nancy, but the other side was not interested).

## **Visitors/Guests:**

Barry Wasserman, a guest of Dick Popiloski, joined us for lunch, as did Dick's employer, Jen Parades, of Beth-El, who was also our speaker

## **Do Good:**

Don Wetmore gave a sad fine for the Singapore Airlines in flight disaster, which resulted in at least one fatality and hundreds of injured, some seriously, including Rotary Zone Officer Drew Kessler and his wife, who were on their way to the RI convention (we hope they have recovered from their injuries, which we apparently quite serious)

Dave Adams added a fine for Drew, and a happier fine for Jen Parades being with us

Dick Popilowski gave a happy fine for his guest Barry Wasserman and for his employer

Frosty gave a happy fine for having his 4th hip replacement (which is odd, as most of us only have 2 hips; but, whatever, there are some genetic flaws in the Smith gene pool (obviously))

Win Jr. gave a happy fine for the hot streak of the Red Sox (that fine hasn't aged well in the last week)

Carrie Reed gave a couple of happy fines because she has the Lobster Bake tix and is handing them out, and because Ray Guido has agreed to help her run the next Shred Event

Mark Sandillo gave a happy fine because his campaign for US Senate is going so well;

## Speaker:

Jen Parades, the Executive Director of Beth El, gave her usual energetic and upbeat presentation about Beth El, where they are and what they are doing, which is a lot right now, as they are moving along in their plans to relocate and create a new facility. She noted how much fun it was, and how impressed she was with our 100 Year Gala and how grateful she was to be one of the speakers at that event (we appreciated her comments, attendance and participation). Carrie handed Jen one of the brochures from the event! Jen casually mentioned that she has been 10 years as Executive Director (whoa, time passes), and took us through a brief history of the center's development from its founding in the early 1980s, as an all-volunteer effort by 16 different churches, to its present 12 employee and 120 volunteer army (of which Milford Rotary is a part), doing a wide array of programming. There was much discussion about how many people are served yearly, the recent growth in the services provided and their budget and the varied sources for the same. The question and answer session was lively and (for Milford Rotarians) thoughtful. In all, a great presentation from a dynamic speaker, showing how Milford Rotary is helping Milford, and the larger community.

## Scholarships:

Gary Opin gave a quick and inpromtu update on the applications (we got 10 this year), the awarding process, and the plans for the presentations. There was also a discuss of the increased scholarships given to Platt Tech this year (some of the Gary Zink endowment was used).

## Announcements:

6/5 is the next lobster bake meeting. It is at Win's office at 5:00.

6/9 is the 5K Run in the park at Eisenhower Park. Still looking for sponsors but need them soon to get on the T-shirts. Also could use help with registration on day of the race.

6/9 is also the next Beth El event. Talk to Ray. He needs help also.

6/12 Wed is the next board meeting. It is at Win's house at 334 Edgefield Rd. Food at 5:30 and meeting starts at 6:00. It is Wednesday due to Devon Rotary's Induction is Thursday

6/13 is Devon's instillation dinner at the Yacht club. We have 2 tables reserved.

6/20 is our instillation dinner at Grassy Hill

7/27 Lobster Bake. No excuses! Mark your calendar now while it is still May. Don't schedule ANYTHING ELSE! Carrie announced that she has the T-shirts. \$20 for Rotarians. She needs someone to coordinate that, as she is taking care of the tickets this year. Free for volunteers.

Outrageous pink is the color this year, on request from Sam Bergami.

*Win Smith, Jr.*

Board Meeting the second Thursday, 5:30 PM social, 6 PM meeting – every month unless noted otherwise

### Who's Who for the July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024 Rotary Year

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

Your Rotary Chat Team: Scribes: Greg Schmitt & Win Smith, Jr Setting/Editing/Circulation: Tom Margius

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

*A vacation is having nothing to do and all day to do it in.*

*-Robert Orben*