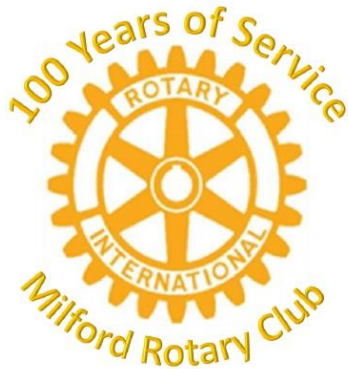


# Milford Rotary Chat August 1, 2024



Meeting Minutes: 7/25/24  
El Toro Restaurant  
12:15PM



## Welcome:

Dick got us started with the Pledge  
Lise did the Blessing – nice job.  
Dave powered through The 4-Way-Test.

## Visitors:

Alevis Ucci joined us again.  
Chief Mello was with us and he was our speaker.

## Speaker:

Chief Mello had to leave early so we changed the order of the meeting and Chief Mello spoke first. He gave some summaries and some statistics. It has been a good summer and they are almost at full staff. Retail theft is up. There have been 3 shootings which were in residential areas. Illegal pot is still an issue. They are working on a public safety plan. Domestic violence is high, they had to hire a fulltime social worker and they have over 300 clients. Street take overs have come through and the board of Alderman have ruled that they can seize vehicles. To help combat aggressive driving, they now have 2 new motorcycle cops. Stolen cars continue to be an issue and there has been an increase in assaults on police officers.

Retention and selection of officers is an issue. You used to have 1000 people test to be a cop, now there are 100 and 80% of those are not qualified. Adding to the problem is the fact that wages are not competitive.

Plans for the future include getting license plate readers. Milford is the only town in the area without them. They help to identify stolen cars but it takes infrastructure to have them which takes time and money. They would like to get cameras for red lights and to detect speeders. The cameras should have a significant impact on traffic safety and they could bring in millions in revenue. The tickets would be \$75 for first offenders then go up to \$100 each (tickets written by the Police are more expensive). The Chief thought the future of law enforcement is heading toward using drones. The response time is seconds, not minutes it takes for the police. They would be very useful at the beaches. So far they have 30 pilots trained. Looking for ways to fund this program, perhaps from the red light camera revenue.

They want the best people on staff. But staff requirements are gender dependent and they are getting lower. The police accountability bill has some good points but some points are tough on cops. Police have stopped chasing cars because it is not worth the fact that innocent people were dying for non-violent offense. To protect the public, there is a no choke hold guideline because you don't know the medical condition of the suspect. The Chief then went on to discuss the Michael

Brown case. There is a video out showing what happened and the Milford police did a great job. Some said it should be used as a training video but watch the whole thing. Police drones are expensive and they can run from \$40K to \$150 K each. Chief Mello did a great job as always when he comes to speak to us.

**Do Good:**

Win was happy for the Milford Police and the great job they do but he was sad the Red Sox had 20 runs scored against them.  
 Jorge was a happy Mets fan as the Mets swept the Yankees. He was also happy his teenaged daughter wanted to go to the movies with him.  
 Bob was happy to be doing the Lobster Bake and thankful for all the help.  
 Phil was looking forward to the Bake.  
 Gary was a sad Yankee Fan.  
 Lorna said we had a great wrap party and we did well with the sponsorships, \$21,085.  
 Dan had a good time at the wrap party and it was great seeing Chief Mello.  
 Dave said after the wrap party, he was home on his deck and he saw 2 eyes looking at him from the woods. It was a Bobcat. He also thanked Lorna for doing a great job with the sponsorships.  
 For general knowledge, Carrie said if you want to keep the Bobcats away pee on the bushes around your house. Also, she went to the Bridgeport Arena and saw Lover Boy and a bunch of other bands. It was a great time.  
 Gina (who is a new member) said thanks for having her in the group. She feels like she has a new family now.

**Announcements:**

8/1 is our next luncheon and it will be the Scholarship awards luncheon. It will be at Gusto's at the usual time and the same \$20 fee. Please turn out to honor our awardees.  
 Trees for Charles Island raffle has kicked off. Now the bake is over, try to sell your tickets. They are \$10 each with the only prize is \$10,000. Winner takes all. Raffle to be drawn October 8th.  
 On October 1st we will be collecting school items for the Nambale School.

*Greg Schmitt*

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

**Who's Who for the July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025 Rotary Year**

Officers:	Sergeant-At-Arms: Win Smith, Jr	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Board of Dir:	2nd Year Board of Dir:
President – Phil Ucci III	Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms: Dan German	Don Wetmore	Tracy O'Brien
President-Elect – Lorna Sura	Treasurer: Adam Kasowitz	Chris Durkin	Jill McGoldrick
Vice President – Bill Parry	Asst Treasurer: Tracy O'Brien	Cherie Malona	Tad Smith (IPP)
Secretary – Lise Robinson	Tad Smith (Immediate Past President)	Bob Bogert	
Membership Chairman – Dan German	Beth-El meal leaders- Ray Guido		

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)

*Scholarship is to be created not by compulsion, but by awakening a pure interest in knowledge.*

*-Ralph Waldo Emerson*