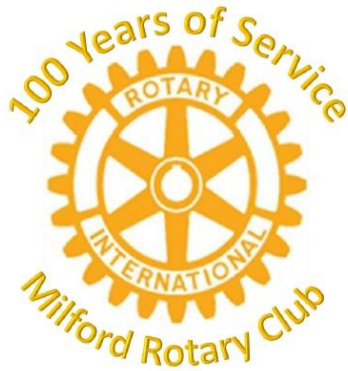


Milford Rotary Chat October 31, 2024



Meeting Minutes: 10/24/24
SBC Restaurant
12:15PM



Welcome:

Dick started us out with The Pledge.
Curra did his usual very Professional Prayer.
Tad powered through The 4-Way-Test.

Guests:

Christine Early was with us and she is looking to become a new member. She is retired and looking to give back to the community.
Elle Bishop joined us again.
Mark Olsen and Tom Mercaldo were with us and our speakers. They are part of a nonprofit called Prepared to Help and they have a Thanksgiving Food drive they are organizing and looking for support.

Do Good:

Gary J had a great time golfing with Coach Jones from Yale basketball.
Tad went to Morocco with his daughter, Jackie and his youngest daughter, Madison.. They had a great time but it really makes you appreciate what we have here in the USA.
Lorna reported they had the Lobster Bake Wrap-Up meeting and we ended up making over \$29,000 for the event.
Dick reminded us that October 26 is the Trick or Trot that will benefit the Beth El Center. They could still use volunteers between the hours of 7 AM to 5 PM.
Frosty got together with 120 classmates from Yale one of which was Robert Trent Jones. They were having a golf fund raiser.
Ray said we had 7 members show up for Beth El service which did a great job serving over 80 guests.
Elle said she was selling snacks for a fund raiser to the benefit of the girl scouts (no cookies this time).
Tom took a long bike ride and is loving the Fall. Also, he went to NYC to an Indian restaurant and he is happy to report no upset stomach.
Phil took his daughter to see Hunter College in Manhattan. He was slightly relieved she did not love being in the city.
Dan was going to visit his Mom in Tennessee just outside of Knoxville. He was flying Avelo out of New Haven and Greg noted one of his staff would be on that flight too.
Win said depending on your side it is either a happy or a sad fine, but the Giants and the Jets are dreadful.

Speakers:

Mark Olsen and Tom Mercaldo were our speakers for the day. They participate with a nonprofit called Prepared to Help and right now they are working on a Thanksgiving food drive. The first food drive was after hurricane Katrina in 2005 and they fed 50 families. This year is their 20th anniversary, and they are looking to supply between 350-400 families which will be about 1000 people. They expect to supply over 150,000lbs of food with 5000 turkeys and about \$50,000 in donations. They have a 3-day event planned for Nov 15th - Nov 17th. They will be working with the fire department, but they need a lot of

volunteers. Donations can be dropped off Friday at Wasson Field. They fill boxes with food that should be enough food for 1-2 weeks and not just one meal. Any food that is left over is divided between 4 or 5 organizations in town such as Beth El or Food 2 Kids and others.

Another event they are organizing is the Nick Felisco Scholarship in honor of a 14 year old boy who had a heart attack and died. The event will be May 17, 2025. Tom said he started working with charities by helping Scouting. He likes helping others and giving back to the community. Their charity now is separate from the scouts and every dollar raised goes to the mission of the charity. They support every food bank in Milford and sometimes they help in Bridgeport. The annual budget for the charity is about \$11,000, of which \$6,000 for food and \$5,000 to help others. (Phil U has been involved with Scouting and has a sign up sheet for volunteers.) They (Mark and Tom) are looking to set up a website and they are looking for food donations and/or cash. Venmo is set up for Thanks For Giving food drive. Frozen turkeys or large breasts would be appreciated. Nothing goes to waste.

First Posting: Christine Early – Retired School Administrator

Announcements:

10/24 was the Good Child Gala at the Yacht Club at 6:00 with \$60 per person.

10/26 was the Trick or Trot fund raiser, starting from Lisman's Landing.

11/9 Dick announced a Special Olympics event at Yale Bowl before the Football Game. Nick D'Ambrosia from the North Haven Club will be hosting a tailgate in the parking lot and is requesting \$250 from the club. There will be a tailgate, then the Special Olympians will march into the Yale Bowl.

11/14 is the next board meeting at Gary Johnson's home at 96 Terrace Road. Food at 5:30 and meeting starts at 6:00.

12/12 is the Christmas Party which will be held at Mark Sandillo's home. They will be looking to get a head count.

5/30/25-6/1/25 Rotary Foundation Meeting in Massachusetts

Cornhole is still in the works. Also, the Centennial project is moving forward.

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 st Year Board of Dir:	2nd Year Board of Dir:
President – Phil Ucci III	Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms: Dan German	Bob Bogert	Dave Adams
President-Elect Lorna Sura	Treasurer: Adam Kasowitz	Chris Durkin	Joe Barns
Vice President – Bill Parry	Asst Treasurer: Tracy O'Brien	Cherie Malona	Tracy O'Brien
Secretary – Lise Robinson	Tad Smith (Immediate Past President)	Gary Johnson	BJ Frazier
Membership Chairman – Dan German	Beth-El meal leaders- Ray Guido		Tad Smith 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



There is a child in every one of us who is still a trick-or-treater looking for a brightly-lit front porch.

- Robert Brault