



Wed, March 26, 2025, 12:00pm (Lunch= \$15)

Guilford Community Center

This Week's Speaker: **Michael Mikolay, Corporate Jets**

President's Message:

As spring approaches, LobsterFest planning is picking up speed—we're deep into budgeting and logistics, and excitement is building. This event is one of our signature fundraisers, and it takes all of us pulling together to make it a success. If you haven't joined a committee yet, it's not too late!

I also want to highlight our growing engagement with the Interact Club. While Interact has always been up and running, we're more connected than ever—and looking forward to helping it grow even bigger and better. This week, we're thrilled to welcome one of our Interact members to the meeting. Please take a moment to say hello and show them the warm spirit of Rotary. These students represent the future of service, and it's inspiring to watch them step up.

Let's keep the momentum going—there's a lot to be proud of, and even more to look forward to.

Upcoming Events:

- Guilford Rotary Budget Committee Meeting #2- Wed, March 26th 5:30 - Hartmann's Office
- Earth Day on the Guilford Green, Sunday, May 4th (we need to respond go/no-go)
- Shred Event- Saturday, May 10 (9-12PM)
- Keeping Society House Tour-May 31st (Volunteers needed!!)
- District 7980- Magical Mystery Tour District Conference - May 30- June 1
- LobsterFest!!! - June 21

Member Announcements:

- TBD

Future Speaker Schedule:

- 4/9- Steph Jacobs, Memorial Education Fund

Member Updates:

- Birthdays this week: Ed Walker, March 24th
- Rotary Anniversaries: none this week

Community News:

- Guilford Budget Meeting April 1st (Budget Referendum is April 8)
- Guilford ranked #52 in 100 best places to live in CT

Recent Club Donations:

- Sept 13th- Native American Veterans Assistance (NAVA)- \$2,000
- Oct 3rd- Soundview YMCA LiveStrong Event - \$100 (partnering with 4 other local Rotary Clubs)

- Oct 3rd- The Cove Center for Grieving Children- \$1,000 donation to sponsor 1 child for a year.
- Oct 3rd- Meals on Wheels- \$9,400 donation to cover budget shortfall due to drastic increase in food costs.
- Oct 3rd- Grass Island Red Shack restoration - MATCHING donation \$5,000
- Oct 8th- Rotary District 7980 for Hurricane Helene Relief- approx \$500 in supplies + various individual donations from Club Members (about \$1,000 total)
- Nov 7th- New Haven Reads - \$1,800 to support their Chapter Book Challenge, which promotes literacy through incentives for students.
- Nov 7th- Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) - \$2,500 to cover “activity costs” for their program assisting young immigrants with secondary education preparation
- Nov 7th- Guilford Rotary Memorial Education Fund - \$7,500 which will go into the endowment to support scholarships for local students in need.
- Nov 7th- Warm the Children - \$2,500 to support the program’s efforts to provide clothing to children in need in the Guilford/Madison area. (Partnership with Madison Rotary Club)
- Dec 5th, Columbus House - \$2,500 to support outreach, shelter, and housing for New Haven County’s homeless.
- Feb 6th- SCORE- \$500
- Feb 6th- Guilford Keeping Society- \$2,500- to underwrite the Inaugural House Tour, that will raise money for Guilford historic museum upkeep and education
- Feb 6th- Feed Our Neighbors (Rotary District 7980) - \$1,250 - for shoreline food banks
- Feb 6th- Native American Veterans Assistance- \$2,500- firewood for up to six veterans and their families.
- Mar 13- Call to Care Uganda- \$6,000 for a new water-well
- Mar 13- Project Graduation - \$500 donation for after-graduation celebration
- Outstanding Requests, On-hold until budget is complete and/or we have more information- Guilford Interfaith Volunteers, IRIS, NAVA, Memorial Education Fund, Columbus House

Club Donations Total (since Sept, 2024) - \$48,550

Volunteer Opportunities:

- May 4th, Earth Day on the Green
- May 10th, Shred Event
- May 31st- Keeping Society House Tour- Guilford Rotary is a sponsor- need volunteers

Sponsorship Acknowledgments:

- Sponsor’s are still coming in! Keep it going...

Rotary International & District News:

- Interesting article at rotary.org

Club Member Highlight:

- Work in progress called “Providing Public Toilets: Early Rotary Service”

Call to Action:

This week, let’s lean into the momentum we’re building as a club.

✅ **LobsterFest:** Join a committee, share your ideas, or offer a helping hand. Whether it’s budgeting, logistics, sponsorships, or day-of support—there’s a role for everyone, and your time and talents matter.

✔ **Interact:** Take a moment to connect with our visiting Interact member. A simple conversation or a few words of encouragement can go a long way in showing what Rotary is all about.

✔ **Grow Our Impact:** Think of one person in your life who would make a great Rotarian. Invite them to a meeting. Share what our club is doing. Let's grow our network of service-minded leaders.

Every action counts—let's make this a week of progress, purpose, and connection.