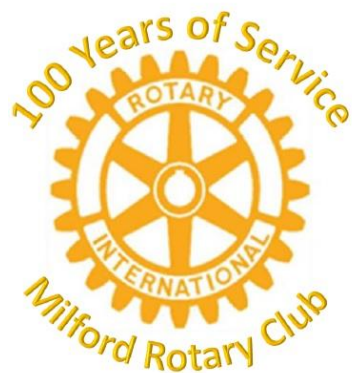


# Milford Rotary Chat March 6, 2025



Meeting Minutes: 2/27/25  
SBC Restaurant  
12:15PM

## Welcome:

Dr. Dave Esposito lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance

Dan German gave us a super weak Prayer (if any of us are going to make it to the Promised Land, we are going to have to pick up our game)

Secretary-Elect (is there actually such a position?) Dick Popolowski gave a solid rendition of the 4-Way Test.

## Guests:

Foran High School Wrestling Coach Dave Esposito had the 3 captains from the newly crowned Foran High School State Champion Wrestling team with us: Antonios Aspras, Jagger Rees, and Bennett Lane (more on them later).

Win Jr. had his two (2) grandchildren (Cornellia (Coco) and Luminita (Lulu)) and his wife, Deb joining us.

## New Member Posting:

Emily Alves.

## Happy Fines:

Dave Esposito gave a happy fine for his team winning the state championship and having the 3 captains there with us for lunch.

Win Jr. gave a happy fine for having his grandchildren and wife here with us.

Win Smith, III, gave a happy fine to remind Frosty that their bet as to whether the NY Giants or the NY Jets would have the better season record was won by the Jets (talk about a race to the bottom), so he owed \$500 to Do Good.

Frosty paid a happy fine because at his advanced age he did not remember the fine, but he paid \$100 to do good because he remembered that the bet was NOT \$500; Frosty also paid because he was proud of the Foran wrestlers (and their Coach) and then he had to spoil the whole thing by mentioning Yale but we weren't paying attention by that point.

Lorna was happy that her auto mechanic fixed her car and did not rip her off (wow, her regard for mechanics is just slightly higher than her regard for lawyers).

Mark Sandillo again announced that he is running for First Selectman in Orange.

President Phil Ucci gave a happy fine for wrestlers joining us and about his children growing up too fast.

Matt Fama was happy as could be about his son's excellence in skiing.

Gary Opin gave a happy fine for having Dave Esposito join us for lunch along with the state champions!

Immediate Past President Tad gave a happy fine because his daughter Madison has returned from Bali before she returns to Costa Rica (he said Milford was in between the 2 locations, so it made sense, until we pointed out that Milford is nowhere near "in between" Bali and Costa Rica) and also noted that there were several former wrestlers in attendance at lunch, especially Dan German, who was a state champion level competitor.

Dan German gave a happy fine for the wrestlers, and noted that he too was a wrestler in high school.

## Guest Speaker:

Coach Dave Esposito and his 3 captains were our program. His 3 captains (Antonios Aspras 157 pound state Champion, Jagger Rees 285 pound 3rd place, and Bennet Lane 126 pound 3rd place) were put on the spot with a series of questions from the Club members. For not having any script and not realizing that they were going to be the program speakers, these young men conducted themselves well. They related to us how their season went

(they were 31-4 or something like that) and how the state tournaments went, the difficulties of being dedicated to a sport like that which demands “weigh-ins” twice (or more) per week, and how they get high school students to join the team. Coach Esposito also described how women’s wrestling has been increasing in popularity in recent years and their team has women wrestlers in increasing numbers. Wrestling is the purest of sports. Just 2 competitors. No special equipment. On a flat mat. Both being roughly the same size and weight, and the better competitor wins. We get why they are so proud of their accomplishments. While these young men paid the personal price to excel at their sport, the fact that Foran Wrestling has now won three (3) State Championships is a testament to good (great?) coaching, which is harder in the modern era than it has ever been. Coach Esposito asked for our help to be sure that every team members gets a championship ring, even if they cannot afford it. We hope that everyone helps out in this.

**Club business:**

*Norm Parcels Lunch* This year is our year to “host” the District-wide Norm Parcels Award Luncheon. Dick Popolowski is hearing up the effort to get the same organized. He reported that as of now April 10th is the date they are looking at, at Bin 100 (good spot) from 12 to 2. Pres Phil has yet to announce our Norm Parcels recipient. We wonder who it is!

*Purple Pantry Box Program* Lise is coordinating that right now. She is working with other clubs to coordinate the food drop off effort. A few members have already told her they would help. If you can help, please let Lise know.

Speaking of the Purple Pantry Box Program, the Golf Tournament for the same is May 5th. Please let Phil know if you are interested in participating.

*Day of Service* Lorna is heading up this effort. More later from Lorna on this, but it appears we will be working the grocery stopes again to collect food for certain needy families in Milford.

*5K Road Race* June 8th. This is Dan German’s baby and he reported that it will kick off at 9am at Eisenhower Park. Same format as last year.

*Installation Dinner* Tad is working on this (the Immediate Past President is responsible for this event, so Tad is on it). More details to follow.

*Lobster Bake* August 2nd. This is a new date. Mark it on the calendar. No excuses. We need everyone there. The Planning meetings are ongoing already. Our notes do not indicate when the next meeting is, but it must be soon!

**Announcements:**

3/8 is the karaoke fund raiser. It is Saturday 5-9 at the Elks club.

3/16 Beth El Service the third Sunday in March.

4/10? – Norm Parcels Luncheon hosted by Milford Rotary Club @ Bin 100?

5/5 The Purple Pantry fundraiser Golf Tournament at Grassy Hill

5/20 Rotary Day of Service – working with Food 2 Kids again collecting donations at the grocery stores

5/30/25-6/1/25 Rotary District Conference in Massachusetts

6/8 Road Race in Eisenhower Park

8/2 Lobster Bake

*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, 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	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](http://www.milfordrotary.org)

*It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives.*

*It is the one that is most adaptable to change.*

*-Charles Darwin*