



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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*"Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought"*

John F. Kennedy

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President TAD LARRABEE'S bell ringing at 10:02 am brought an abrupt end to GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE'S delightful pre-meeting lounge music. PETER UHRY proceeded his pledge leadership with a short history of the pledge. It was composed in 1892 by Francis Bellamy to instill patriotism in school aged children. Following tradition, JACK SWEGER, accompanied by the aforementioned GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE led the assembled in *Battle Hymn of The Republic*, and in a show of optimism, *On the Sunny Side of the Street*, and *Oh! What a Beautiful Morning*. HORST TEBBE handled the slides flawlessly. This week's jokester, BOB CAREY, regaled us with examples of how a caddy and a golfer may see the same things differently. There were no returnees to be announced at this time.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. TAD LARRABEE: WAYNE WRIGHT, who handles Visiting has taken a bad fall. He is in rehab at Cassena Care in Stamford and is not sure when he will be able to return to active duty. Anyone interested in filling in for WAYNE on either a temporary or long-term basis is invited to talk to TAD.
2. We were also reminded that those coming late to the meeting have the opportunity to pay their weekly \$2.00 by placing it in the box on the welcome table in the back of the room.
3. BOB LUCE: The Greenwich Symphony will perform this weekend's performances in the High School Performing Arts Center, and not in the First Congregational Church as previously announced.

4. STEVE MYERS: Additional copies of the booklet by last week's speaker Bill Baker are available. See STEVE to order a copy.

#### **IN MEMORIUM – BOB OPPENHEIMER**

BOB died in his sleep last week, just weeks after his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was memorialized by PETER UHRY and JOHN CRAINE. PETER was a neighbor and JOHN a fellow sailor at the OGYC. They shared warm and humorous stories about BOB and his love for sailing and family.

#### **SPECIAL MEETING EVENT**

GEOFF BURGE, AL KNIGHT and CHET RISIO presented a skit "based on a true event" about a Yankee's fan trying to explain baseball to a Brit. Written by CHET RISIO the skit was received with multi laughs and applause.

#### **COMMITTEES.**

**PROGRAM:** HOLLISTER STURGES gave a heads up on today's speaker Betsy McCaughey, Ph.D. She is a former Lt. Governor of New York, an outspoken critic of the Affordable Care Act, a member of at least two conservative think tanks, an author and a columnist. Her topic is *Beware of Health Policies That Will Shorten Your Life*. PETER UHRY promised that next week's presentation, a media enhanced talk by Benoit and Victor Ansart, a father-son team who crewed in the 2017-2018 Clipper Round the World Race, 45,000 miles in 11 months would be exciting, scary and inspiring. We know that PETER never exaggerates, right?

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** RICK HOLZ read the numbers- 305 outside hours by 34 men and 138 RMA hours by 21 men. High scorer, STEVE BOISE with 32.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** ABBEY SMOLLER announced that for the Elmsford Dinner Theatre trip, the departure time is 10 am!! Other events and details are listed below.

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE gave the meeting attendance:101 members, 3 guests and 2 candidates for a total of 106. He introduced Dwight Chapin, g/o PETER STERN, Keith Roe g/o RUSS HARDEN and ROGER CLARKE, and Tom West g/o SAM MARASSO.

Birthday felicitations were bestowed on ABBEY SMOLLER 88, PETER STREICH 88, JIM MACKAY 98 !!! LEN SAARI 81, BOB GRAYSON 74 and BERT KLEBANOW 93 !!.

#### **INDUCTIONS**

GERRY MAYFIELD proposed Joe Fahys for membership. Joe is a long time Greenwich resident with a 44 year resume in the insurance industry, most notably with Ace/Chubb as an EVP. A member of the RTM, Joe has several volunteer gigs in Greenwich. He is an avid golfer and has four children and eight grandchildren. Welcome aboard Joe! DAVE WEISBROD proposed Bob Strong for membership. Bob just moved to Stamford from New Jersey to be closer to his kids and grandkids. Bob is a financial services guy having held senior positions in several first-tier banks in the US and abroad. He stays fit by biking, playing golf and chess and boating. Welcome to the RMA Bob!

#### **FUN AND GAMES**

Since the meeting was running late, these game scores were not presented at the meeting but are included here for posterity.

**BRIDGE:** #1 KURT SCHAFFIR 3,440, #2 RON FRIEDMAN 2490, #3 FRANK LEE, 2450.

**HEARTS:** Game winners - MIKE AMBROSINO two games, while PETER BERG, JACK WEIR, ANDY HOLMES, JAY SCHONDORF, JACK SWEGER each won one game.

Moon shots - JOHN STANKUNAS, GRANT PERKINS, PETER BERG, MIKE AMBROSINO, JACK SWEGER, JAY SCHONDORF and TOM HEALY – 3 times.

**TENNIS:** Court 1 - GEOFF BURGE and DON BREISMEISTER, Court 2 – ANDRZEJ MAZUREK and SAM MARASSO . Next Week's Captain is MIKE AMBROSINO.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Open to all members, guests, candidates, and spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks or the reservation will be canceled. The contact person is listed for each event.

Elmsford Dinner Theater, *Ain't Misbehavin'*: Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019. Lunch at the theater, \$95pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 10:00 am, Status: 2 openings. Contact ABBEY SMOLER 203-531-0236.

Bush Holly House Museum: Thursday, March, 28. Buffet with wine, \$25pp. 10:00am, self-drive. Status; 35 openings. Contact HOLLISTER STURGES 203 861-2279.

The Cloisters: Thursday, May 2, Bus departs St Catherine's 9 AM cost \$105 includes lunch at the new Leaf Café Contact HOLLISTER STURGES 203-861-2279.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER**

HOLLISTER STURGES introduced Betsy McCaughey, Ph.D. Dr. McCaughey started off by reading out several statistics showing how the effectivity of medical care in the U.S.A. has improved over the years, such as cancer survivorship and life expectancy. She then gave the credit for these improvements to "medical innovation", new drugs, equipment and modalities of care. Most of her talk was dedicated to describing the current bill in Congress associated with "medicare for all" MFA and how it would hamper medical innovation, minimize further improvements in the health of the nation and force doctors and hospitals to reduce the quality of healthcare. The current bill would outlaw all commercial and private insurance. That would force 156 million people to lose their existing employer insurance and they could only be covered by the federal medical insurance program. Currently, Medicare covers 86 cents on the dollar, with the other 14 cents being picked up by those with private or commercial insurance. Under this current bill, there will be no alternative to charge private insurance, therefore doctors would be losing approximately 30%. Naturally this would force doctors to see more patients per hour and seniors will be severely impacted by these changes if the bill is approved as is.

The "third leg of her stool" was that inadequate infection control in hospitals. Studies have shown that pathogens are everywhere in hospitals and inadequate cleaning routines lead to unnecessary illness "caught" in hospitals. There has been progress, 30 plus states require hospitals to report infection rates. Some government reimbursement programs now tie the level of reimbursement to the hospital's infection control numbers. A lively RMA Q&A followed.

**NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

Benoit and Victor Ansart to discuss: *Winning the Clipper Sailing Race Around The World*

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