

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment: **Editor:** George Stockbridge, Chair; **Scribes:** Gran Burgess, Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Peter Uhry, Bernard Schneider, Jim Butler, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell; Martin Grayson, Emeritus; **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Fred Waldron; **Archivist:** Harold Frost; **Printing:** Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz

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March 11, 2015

"Sacred cows make the tastiest hamburger." Abbie Hoffman

President **BOB PHILLIPS** called the meeting to order. **DICK BERGSTRESSER** led us in the Pledge. **DON CONWAY** as Songmaster, and **JIM SANTORA** on the ivories, led us in *America the Beautiful, My Blue Heaven, and Peg O' My Heart*. Corresponding Secretary **BOB LUCE** offered a cautionary tale about what not to do at a job interview. **Returnees:** **MARIO BONAPARTE** (North Carolina and points South); **BOB PHILLIPS** (Sunday River, Maine) and **GENE SCHWARTZ** (Ft Lauderdale and Sarasota, Florida).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1.) The RMA bid a fond farewell to our long-term member (26 years) and past President **LEON FREEMAN**. He has moved to 8113 Fellowship Road, Basking Ridge, NJ, (908-542-1550) and invites Members to stay in touch. 2.) **TOM MORRISON** announced the 55th annual Pancake Fry of the Old Greenwich Lions Club, to be held at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center on Saturday March 14 from 8 a.m. to 1p.m. Door prizes and entertainment are a special treat for children and grandchildren. 3.) **BOB PHILLIPS** offered kudos to **TIM NOLAN** for his long-standing leadership of ROMEO (Retired old men Eating Out), for more years than anyone could remember. **BOB ROBINS** will be the new leader, and he asked for volunteers to help him with the three lunches (usually at a country club) that ROMEO organizes each year. If interested call him at 203-992-1950; his email is robins@tulane.edu. 4.) **STEVE MARINO** announced the Pink Cloud Initiative sponsored by Microsoft to encourage young women (ages 18-24) to undertake careers in science by attending a 5-day conference in Milan Italy, beginning May 18, 2015. Further information can be found at: <http://www.wileurope.org/articles/details/Microsoft-Pink-Cloud-Conference-to-Empower-Girls-in-STEM-and-ICT>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **VISITING:** **CHUCK STANDARD** noted that **DAVID DOWNS** has been convalescing. **WELCOME BACK** to **HORST TEBBE**. **PROGRAM:** **JOHN CARON** announced today's speaker, James Lee on the topic of Hospital Mergers and the Future of Hospital Care in Connecticut **BERNARD SCHNEIDER** announced next week's speaker, Debra Ponzek and Rich Addonizio speaking on "Behind the Scenes at Aux Delices." **MEMBERSHIP:** Chairman **JIM FAHY** reported attendance at 125: 122 members, 1 candidate (Rick Holz) and 2 guests (John Provino, guest of **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE**; and Boris Simms, guest of **WIN ADKINS**). **BIRTHDAY BOYS:** **TONY PELLICANO** (92); (**ROSWELL CURTIS**, 91); **FRANK ZAVATTARO**, 84); **MILES MCDONALD** (77); **MIKE RYAN** (77); **BILL HOWLAND** (74); **JOHN**

FEBLES (71). **VOLUNTEER: STEVE MARINO** reported that, for the week ending March 11: 438 outside hours by 54 men, and 99 RMA hours by 14 men. **MARTIN WAINE** reported an accumulated 182 hours.

MIKE SMITH reported on the Nominating Council's recommended slate for the year commencing May 1, 2015, set forth below. A membership vote will be held on March 25; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Officers: President, **RALPH VIGGIANO**; First Vice President, **PETER UHRY** Second Vice President, **DON CONWAY**; Third Vice President, **TAD LARRABEE**; Secretary, **JIM SANTORA**; Treasurer, **STEVE BOIES**.

Standing Committees: CBB, **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE**; Membership, **HORST TEBBE**; Program, **HOLLISTER STURGES** and **JIM FISHBEIN** (co-chairs) Publicity, **BERNARD SCHNEIDER**; Special Events, **RICH LIMBACHER** and **GERRY LESSUK** (co-chairs); Volunteer, **JOHN FEBLES**.

At-Large Directors: **AL KNIGHT** and **GERRY SCHWENDEMAN**.

Nominating Council: **AL KNIGHT**.

FUN AND GAMES: TENNIS: **RON FRIEDMAN** and **MIKE WARNER** won on Court 1; **MIKE SMITH** and **JOHN KNIGHT** won on Court 2. **RALPH VIGGIANO** announced that those interested in playing next year should contact him. (203-344-1188, bid2clubs@optonline.net). **BRIDGE:** Per **KURT SCHAFFIR**, the game on March 4 had 10 players. Top three scores – **RON FRIEDMAN**, 3,990, **DICK CASE**, 3,640, and **RALPH VIGGIANO**, 2,900.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: **James Lee**, C.O.O. of New York Presbyterian/ Lawrence Hospital Center discussed the ever growing consolidation in the hospital industry, as hospitals merge and buy up physician practices, creating fewer but ever larger institutions. The underlying question is one of value, the nexus of cost and quality of service delivered. On the one hand, some believe that since hospitals and providers compete with each other, mergers allow them to eliminate competition and drive up prices. Others believe that only larger institutions with capital and concentration and integrated services can meet the tremendous accountability that's required of hospitals today.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all Members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks are made out to the RMA.

LAMONT DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY: Thursday, March 19; lunch is in house. Cost is \$104 per person. Wait list. Departs from St. Catherine's Church at 9:00am.

GUYS AND DOLLS, GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE: Thursday, May 28; lunch at Gelston House. Cost is \$115 per person. Wait list. Departs by bus from St. Catherine's Church at 10:00 am.

TANGLEWOOD, LENOX MA: Sunday, August 9, 2015. Cost is \$125 per person; lunch at Apple Tree Inn. Departure by bus from Eastern Civic Center at 9:30 AM. Open all places.

For more details contact **GERRY LESSUK** (gerrless@att.net, 203-698-9451) or **RICH LIMBACHER** (limbacher29@Verizon.net, 203-532-9515).

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Debra Ponzek and her husband Greg Addonizio own and operate Aux Delices, a Greenwich institution, now in its 20th year. They will reveal the secrets of starting and operating a successful takeout food store and catering establishment—*“Behind the Scenes at Aux Delices.”*

Visit the RMA's website at greenwichrma.org.

Scribe: BERNARD SCHNEIDER