



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

www.greenwichrma.org

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Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow"

Mark Twain

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 43 MARCH 27, 2019 SCRIBE: JOE MANCINELLI

President TAD LARRABEE called the meeting to order precisely at 10:00 am and enlisted ANDY HOLMES to lead us in the Pledge. DON CONWAY then led the singing with *God Bless American, April Showers, and There's No Business Like Show Business.* Lyrics were provided by JOE DOWLING. GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE was at the piano.

The mentor was PETER STERN.

Corresponding Secretary, AV RIVEL, entertained everyone with several "alternative definitions" as well as a groaner involving a pig dressed up in sunglasses and a straw hat.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. TAD introduced Lise Jameson who provided us with an overview of *AT HOME in Greenwich*, a membership organization similar to the RMA. They focus on providing services to help seniors live well. These services include home maintenance, health care, home safety, financial assistance and more. In addition, they offer their members a variety of social activities such as excursions to museums, concerts, and art exhibits.
2. TAD provided a reminder to all that members should fill out the announcement sheets provided in the back of the room prior to the meeting. The sheets may be used to identify returnees, visiting, special celebrations or any other notable event. They will then be announced during the business meeting.
3. In accordance with the RMA By-Laws, the annual election by the RMA membership shall be held at the last meeting in March. DON CONWAY announced the full slate of nominees for 2019. A motion was made from the floor for a vote and the RMA membership voted on and elected the proposed list of officers and standing committees. See page five for the complete list.
4. MIKE SMITH announced that the Greenwich Chapter of Room to Read will present *An Evening with Best selling Author David Grann*. On April 10th at 7:00 pm for \$35.00 per ticket at the Greenwich Country Day School, he will discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon*.
5. PETER UHRY presented the Greenwich Reads Together initiative to select a classic book for 2019. The RMA will be able to participate in this program by providing entries for your favorite classic. So, put on your thinking cap and come to next week's meeting prepared to vote for your classic book!
6. PETER UHRY discussed the RMA mentor program, where RMA members are available during meetings to help newcomers, guests and candidates become familiar with the workings of our organization. New mentors would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested, please see PETER.
7. CHET RISIO presented the topic of Human Interest and reminded us that often we are not fully aware of conflicts and struggles that occur in foreign countries. With that, he introduced TOM MORONEY. TOM told us of a terrifying, true to life situation where he came face to face with fully armed British soldiers in Belfast, Ireland. The year was 1972 and the political unrest and violence between the north and the south was at its peak. TOM suddenly found himself immersed in frightening and potentially violent confrontation that he vividly shared with the RMA membership.
8. RICH BISK arranged for Julie Faryniarz, the Executive Director of the Greenwich Alliance for Education to enlighten the RMA about AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). This mentoring program for first-generation college bound students. Information and literature regarding AVID were provided at the back of the meeting hall.

9. Returnees were: WAYNE DEVRIES from Florida, GERRY BOYLE from the Bahamas and Oklahoma, and RUSS HARDEN from Cabo San Jose, Mexico and Baja, California.

COMMITTEES.

PROGRAM: HOLLISTER STURGES announced today's speaker as Mark Pruner who will be discussing *The Greenwich Real Estate Market and the Trends Affecting Prices*.

Next Week's Speaker: HOLLISTER STURGES also announced that next week's speaker will be ambassador Tom Niles, presenting *My Perspective on Foreign Affairs Today*.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: GEOFFREY BURGE turned in the following: for the week ending March 27th, 496 outside hours by 50 members and 212 inside hours by 35 members. Top honors went to DON CONWAY with 63 hours.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE informed us that there were 109 members present and one guest, Carl White, g/o JACK CUFF. Birthdays included, HANS JACOBSON 87, JIM BOARDMAN 76, CHARLIE JENSEN 85, TAD LARRABEE 78 and BOB RIMMER 81.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: RON MURRAY gave the scores for March 20th: JOHN FEBLES 3340, RON MURRAY 2930 and BRUNO SCHRAGE 2620.

HEARTS: Winners were JACK SWEGER and PETER BERG on Table #1. MICHAEL AMBROSINO, CHARLIE GRAVES and ANDY HOLMES on Table #2.

TENNIS: TOM HEALY reported that JOE MANCINELLI and GEOFFREY BURGE won on Court 1 and BILL FAKUNDINY and RANDY MOTLAND won on Court 2. Next week's captain is RANDY MOTLAND.

WALKERS Last week was rained out. This week there will be a Thursday walk in the Cos Cob park area. Those going to the Bush Holly House Museum event will be almost on-site and can do both.

GOLF: Reminder that the first outing is April 2nd with the first tee time at 8:30 am.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS are open to all, Guests, Candidates and Spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA, must be received within two weeks following the reservation or the reservation will be cancelled. Contact **MIKE FERRARESE** at

myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678 or ABBEY SMOLER at abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0236 for information.

The Cloisters, May 2nd, lunch at New Leaf Café, \$105pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 9:00am. Status: Wait listed. Contact HOLLISTER STURGES at hollistersturges@aol.com or 203 861-2279

Belmont Race Track, June 15, buffet at Belmont, jackets and tie required, \$85pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 10:30am. Status: 14 places open. Contact TOM HEALY at 203 661-2954.

Botanical Gardens, a Roberto Marx exhibit, July 11, lunch at Mario's Restaurant, \$115pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 8:45am. Status: 30 places open. Contact MIKE FERRARESE at 203 554-0678.

NOTE: For information regarding The Cloisters events please contact HOLLISTER STURGES at hollistersturges@aol.com.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB ROBINS introduced Mark Pruner whom he touted as the "Premier realtor of southern Fairfield County". Mr. Pruner began by presenting statistics on single family and condo/co-op sales and home rentals. He compared 2018 numbers with 2019 year to date numbers regarding sales and inventories. Generally speaking, 2019 is a disappointment so far, but they are expecting better numbers in late second quarter.

He then discussed trends affecting the real estate market in Greenwich. He cited communities where people wanted smaller lots closer to town and the effect of the 2017 Tax Act making less of total real estate taxes deductible. In addition, he talked about the absence of new buyers seeking summer or weekend homes.

An interesting quirk is the new real estate websites that rate schools and then tell you what homes are available in those districts. Young buyers shy away from less highly rated schools.

The good news is that Greenwich has the second lowest mill rate in Connecticut, with Simsbury being first. The last revaluation plus tax considerations have made Riverside and Old Greenwich much more attractive than the back-country for all the reasons above.

He explained several steps being taken to encourage home buying in Greenwich, including the establishment of Greenwich Economic Forum and neighborhoods using social media that promoting social events to entice buyers. A spirited RMA Q&A followed.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Ambassador Tom Miles

My Perspective on Foreign Affairs Today

Visit us at www.greenwichrma.org

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