



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

www.greenwichrma.org

This Bulletin is brought to you each week by these volunteers
Scribes: **Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Dan Fredland, Tony Cocchi, Joe Mancinelli.** On leave: **Steve Elliott, Marshall Toppo.** Archivist: **Harold Frost.** Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz.** Print/Dist: **Chet Risio.**

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 49 April 25, 2018 Scribe: JOE MANCINELLI
"We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing."
George Bernard Shaw

Today's meeting was kicked off by President **DON CONWAY** at 10 a.m. when he introduced **STEVE MARINO** who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **GRANVILLE BURGESS** directed us in a patriotic chorus of Yankee Doodle Boy, with piano accompaniment by **JIM SANTORA.** This was followed up with two RMA standards, *When the Red, Red Robbin Comes Bob, Bob, Bobbin Along* and *You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby.* DON welcomed back returnees: **-GEORGE UBOGY** from Saratoga, NY, **-BILL O'DONNELL** from Lauderdale by The Sea **-JOE COLEMAN** from Palm Beach, FL **-HAROLD KUPLESKY** from Boca Grande, FL. Corresponding Secretary (aka joke teller) **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** treated us to a story of "Claude The Hypnotist" whose presentation to local senior center lulled his audience into a trance that ended with an abrupt explosion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1.) **DON CONWAY** proceeded to make the following announcements;

- a. REMINDER: Dues for 2018-2019 are due by May 1st. Please bring your check made out to RMA for \$100 by next week.
- b. Due to the unavailability of the First Presbyterian Church, the RMA will be meeting off-site on December 19, 2018. The alternate location will be announced in the future.
- c. **BOB MORGAN** has put out a call to any piano players that the RMA is looking for some additional support on the keyboard.
- d. **TOM HEALY** prepared a Monthly Calendar that identifies the various RMA activities in one integrated view. The Calendar will be posted on the bulletin board for members to review.

2.) **TAD LARRABEE** announced the “Joyous Jazz” presentation by the Greenwich Choral Society. They will be featuring the “Big Band” sound as well as soloists Eddie Pleasant, Jessica Ann Best and tap dancer Kazu Kumagai. The presentation will be held at the Norwalk Concert Hall on Saturday, May 5th, 4:00 PM.

3.) **KLAUS JANDER** announced a fundraiser by The Women’s Club of Greenwich called “Appraisal Mania,” scheduled for May 10th, 2018 at the Woman’s Club, 89 Maple Ave. Greenwich, CT. All profits will be dedicated to the many Women’s Club philanthropies. They are requesting help from the RMA to provide parking directions to visitors as the RMA has done in the past. You may contact Carolyn Trachtenberg at 203-324-7911.

4.) **CHET RISIO** extended thanks to BOB BISHOP and Julio for the new CBB scribe writing table.

Summary and highlights from Presidents and Vice Presidents 2017-2018 report to members:

DON CONWAY, Outgoing RMA President Remarks

- Very much enjoyed being the President of the RMA
- Discovered the true reason for joining the RMA is getting to know a very nice group of men.
- Appreciated the wonderful men that provide great advice to support continued RMA growth.
- Accomplishments include; a new Mentor Program, new sports and games, the overall growth of the Association, the growth and evolution of Speakers Program as well as the Special Events Program.
- Thanks to all, and he is looking forward to shedding his coat and tie, next meeting he hopes to be wearing shorts.

TAD LARRABEE, First Vice President RMA Remarks

- Most obvious job this past year was to arrange the Annual Dinner
- Also focused on rewriting our Policy and Procedures Manual along with a review of RMA operations to ensure consistency
- Looking forward to establishing a formal Technology Committee to work in an advisory capacity, a variety of areas need a small amount of work by a solid backup team of volunteers
- Acknowledged the generous cooperation of RMA team including the President, the Vice Presidents and various Officers

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, Second Vice President Remarks

- Continued to be musically active as scheduled RMA meeting Song Leader and Melody Men Business Manager.
- Provided input/comments in the development of the Mentor Process, RMA Membership brochures and co-sponsor of one new member.
- Continued to provide humorous, semi-humorous, semi-risqué “Groaners” for RMA enjoyment.
- Became a member of the Program Committee and recommended two speakers in 2018. Following Committee acceptance, he interfaced with presenters to clarify format and guidelines for their upcoming presentations.
- Facilitated numerous vendor donations in support of the RMA Picnic.

RUSS HARDEN, Third Vice President Remarks

- Official responsibilities include Annual Picnic, Bridge, Golf, Health, Guys & Dolls, Historian, Legislative Tax Counseling and R.O.M.E.O. All of which were ably supported by the delegated leads.
- Primary duty was the management of the Annual RMA Picnic.
- Activities include but not limited to town permits, attendee registration, table set up, games, beverages, ice, brownies, watermelon, raffle items and auctions
- It was decided to cater the past year’s Picnic and it was a great success.
- Thanks to **ARNOLD GORDON**, recognized as the Rafflemeister and a prime force in the success of the picnic raffles, including the 50/50 that provided the major Picnic revenue stream.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: **WAYNE WRIGHT** reported that **PETER RYAN** is at the Greenwich Hospital, no visitors or calls at this time. **CHET RISIO** reported that **JIM MACKAY** and his wife have moved in with his daughter in Stamford. Jim has some mobility issues, but he is doing well. He sends his regards to the RMA.

PROGRAMS:

JOHN TONER announced today’s speaker, **Mr. Peter Tesei**, who’s topic was “First Selectman’s Vision for Greenwich”
Next week’s speaker, May 2nd, will be Meg Tocantins discussing “How Medical Hypnosis Can Serve Patients.”

MEMBERSHIP:

HORST TEBBE advised that there were 109 members in attendance. Three guests were also in attendance, John Denne guest of **BOB LUCE & HORST TEBBE**, Mike Warner guest of **PETER UHRY & MIKE KANE**, and Gerhard Peter guest of **HORST TEBBE & STEVE BOIES**. Those celebrating **birthdays** were **BOB ROBINS (80); GERRY BOYLE (80); RON WILSON (76), ANDY DOMMERICH (78)**.

VOLUNTEERS: **RON CURTIS** advised that there were 323 hours by 34 men for outside activities, and 161 hours by 24 men for RMA activities. The maximum reported was by **MARTIN WAINE** with 28 hours.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Bridge: **RALPH VIGGIANO** reported there were 4 players on April 18th. The 3 highest scores were **RON FRIEDMAN** with 3760, **JOHN FEBLES** with 3010, and **FRANK LEE** with 2280.

Tennis: **RANDY MOTLAND** reported for April 20th, on court #1 were **RON FRIEDMAN** and **ANDRE MAZUREK** who battled **JOHN KNIGHT** and **TOM HEALY** for over an hour in a match that ultimately ended in a tie; winners on court #2 were **MIKE SMITH** and **SAM MARASSO**. Next week's captain is **SAM MARASSO**.

Hearts: **RALPH VIGGIANO** related to us that there were 12 players at three tables. Game 1 was won by **MIKE AMBROSINO, GEORGE DIPPY** and **RICK HOLZ**, respectively. Game 2 was won by **JACK WEIR, TOM HEALY** and **JOHN STANKUNAS**, respectively. **RALPH VIGGIANO, LOU TROVATO, JAY SCHONDORF** and **JOHN STANKUNAS** all shot the moon once. While **TOM HEALY** shot the moon twice. **LOU TROVATO** will be the captain next week.

Golf: **MIKE RYAN** announced that April 24th was a beautiful day for golf. There were 13 golfers. Closest to the pin on #7 was **MICHAEL ROSS**, closest to the pin on #15 was **JIM BOARDMAN**. The longest drive on #17 was **MIKE SMITH**. Seven players shot below 100 with the low score of the day going to **GRAN BURGESS**, with a score of 89.

Summer Tennis/Pickleball: **JOHN KNIGHT** announced that summer tennis will be played every Monday at the Loughlin Ave. courts from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. **TONY COCCHI** reported a nice turnout of ten men for the RMA Pickleball lessons last Friday. Summer Pickleball will be played every Thursday at the Loughlin Ave. courts from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events are open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks are to be made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks or the reservation will be canceled. Contact **MIKE FERRARESE** myagentmike@yahoo.com 203 554-0678 or **ABBEY SMOLER** abbeysmoler@gmail.com 203 531-0235.

Upcoming events:

New York Botanical Gardens 5-24-18. Cost p/p \$105. Lunch at Mario's Restaurant on Arthur Avenue. Bus leaves St. Catherine's 8:45a.m. Status: 16 places available.

Belmont Race Track 6-14-18. Cost p/p \$85. Buffet in Belmont Room, Bus to leave St. Catherine's at 10:30 a.m. Status: 2 places available.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Following the break, **JOHN TONER** introduced the speaker of the day, **Peter Tesei**, Greenwich First Selectman. Peter is a fifth-generation Greenwich resident and is now serving his sixth term as First Selectman.

He emphasized the fact that Greenwich is a great community in which to live, work and raise a family. The community is composed of a variety of neighborhoods with unique schools, firehouses, churches and landmarks. It provides a diverse combination of villages, beaches, downtown areas and rural settings.

Peter spoke at length about the plan for improvements at the Roger Sherman Baldwin Park at Greenwich Harbor. He summarized two key elements of this improvement plan. 1.) The relocation of the existing Maintenance Facility to improve and expand the Park. 2.) The dredging of the Greenwich Harbor to possibly expand the Park to make the Park and the town of Greenwich a destination that is accessible by water.

He also discussed improvement plans for Havemeyer Park. The Park is under the care and control of the Board of Education; however, Peter is hopeful that cooperation between the town and the BOE can lead to improvements that will include a Performing Arts Center and other recreational improvements.

Peter also announced his recent decision to team with New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart as Republican running mates for governor and lieutenant governor in the upcoming election.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Meg Tocantins, Certified Hypnotist, "How Medical Hypnosis Can Serve Patients"