



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community
Service



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Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment. **Editor/Chairman:** Chet Risio. **Scribes:** Av Rivel, Gran Burgess, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Chet Risio, Gerry Lessuk, Steve Elliot, and George Stockbridge, Emeritus. **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Jack Cuff, and Andrzej Mazurek. **Reproduction/Distribution:**, Chet Risio.

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May 17, 2017

President DON CONWAY called the meeting to order at 10:02. **JOE DOWLING** then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance before **GRAN BURGESS** enthusiastically guided the audience through a rousing songfest, ably assisted by pianist **GEORGE UBOGY**.

Today's story involved Saul, a wealthy New York art collector who was called by his attorney, who said, "I have some good news, and I have some bad news." The art collector replied, "I've had an awful day. Give me the good news first." The lawyer said, "Well, I met your wife today, and she informed me that she had just invested \$5,000 in two pictures that she thinks will bring \$15-\$20 million, and I think she could be right." Saul replied enthusiastically, "Excellent! My wife is a brilliant businesswoman! You've just made my day. Now, I know I can handle the bad news. What is it?"

The lawyer answered, "The pictures are of you and your secretary."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PETE UHRY announced that if you care to **purchase a RMA hat (tan with logo) or RMA polo shirt (blue with logo)**, please contact him by email (uhry@sbcglobal.net) or phone 203-637-9482 to reserve your hat or shirt.. The hats (about \$14) are adjustable. You will need to supply a shirt size with your order (approx. \$28).

VIN MASI asked for **help placing American flags on the graves of veterans at Putnam Cemetery** on Putnam Road, beginning at 4:30 pm on May 24. Anyone with questions can call 203-661-8341.

JOHN DECSEPEL extended an open invitation to the **Program Committee's picnic at Todd's Point on June 1st** (rain date—June 8th) from 5:00-8:00 pm. Bring your own food and beverages.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: Once again, **CHUCK STANDARD** had no one to visit and no one to report about, so he had to settle for the good advice of, "Stay Well, and Be Happy!"

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** reported attendance of 112, consisting of 110 members and 2 guests—**Harold Doshan** and **Steve Prvors. (???)** There were 2

returnees—**ARNOLD GORDON**, back from Nashville, where he was rumored to have brought them to their feet at the Opry and **JOHN CRAINE**, returning from several stops in Florida and a visit to Williamsburg, VA.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS: Lots of birthdays in this week of May: **STEVE ELLIOTT** (76), **MIKE FINLAY** (75), **TOM HEALY** (79), **MAURICE KROHN** (68), **BILL O'DONNELL** (72), **LOUIS ROTHMAN** (69), **KARL SCHULZE** (72), **KLAUS TANDER** (77), **TOM WOOLEY** (90).

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **MARIO BONAPARTE**, for the week ending May 17, 2017, reported 48 men completed 418 volunteer hours on behalf of outside agencies, and 30 men reported 144 volunteer hours on behalf of RMA. **HOLLISTER STURGES** reported the most hours, 36.

SCOREBOARD

GOLF: A sunny day with pleasant temperatures drew 18 players in 5 groups on May 16, 2017, according to **PETER UHRY**. Among the 3 players who shot below 100, **TED EWING** had the lowest score, 95, and the longest drive. Closest to the pin went to **ANDRZEJ MASUREK** on #7 and **PETE UHRY** on #15.

BRIDGE: **KURT SCHAFFIR** reported that the May 10, 2017 bridge gathering attracted 8 players, with **FRANK LEE**, **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK**, and **BERT KLEBANOW** taking the top three spots in that order.

HEARTS: The Hearts card group filled two tables for its May 10, 2017, competition. Table 1 completed two games with **JACK SWEGER** and **PETER BERG** each winning a game, while at Table 2 one game was completed with **TONY RIGGI** the winner. The group meets every Wednesday from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Civic Center in Old Greenwich. New players are welcomed. Contact **JACK SWEGER**.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

A good crowd, with many questions about American foreign relations, listened carefully to **Ambassador Tom Niles** as he reviewed the nation's current foreign policy in the context of the guiding principles since World War II. His career in the Foreign Service included ambassadorships to Canada, the European Community, and Greece, as well as a tour as Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Canada. After retiring from the Foreign Service, he served as President and Vice Chairman of the United States Council for International Business.

Ambassador Niles felt that his remarks could only be speculative because current U.S. foreign policy is unclear, but he was slightly more optimistic on the eve of President Trump's first overseas trip than he was when Trump was inaugurated. He characterized the State Department as "adrift" because so few high appointments had been made by the new administration and because he was concerned about budget proposals. Economically, trends since World War II, with broad trade agreements such as GATT eventually followed by more recent bilateral trade agreements, have been successful. For foreign policy, he believes that Six Nation (U.S., Japan, Russia, China, North Korea, South Korea) talks and actions are the most promising direction and hopes that intelligence gathering and analyzing, known as "Five Eyes" (UK, Canada, Australia,

New Zealand, and U.S.) will be a structure of which President Trump will take advantage.

SPECIAL EVENTS

*Open to all members, spouses, candidates, and guests. Checks made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks following the reservation or the reservation will be cancelled. For reservations contact trip coordinators **MIKE FERRARESE**: [203-554-0678](tel:203-554-0678) or **ABBEY SMOLER**: [203-531-0236](tel:203-531-0236). All buses depart from the St. Catherine's parking lot.*

NYC Botanical Gardens, May 25, 2017, lunch at Mario's on Arthur Avenue, cost \$98. Bus departs at 8:30am. Status: wait listed.

Belmont Race Track, June 15, 2017, buffet lunch, cost \$80. Bus departs at 10:45am. Status: wait listed.

Mark Twain Home and Museum, July 20, 2017, box lunch, cost \$76. Bus departs 8:45am. Status: 2 places open.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Attorney **Robert B. Fiske, Jr.** will speak to the RMA on May 24, 2017, discussing his view of "Prosecuting and Defending Important Law Cases" from his position at the center of several memorable, major law cases. A past president of the American College of Trial Lawyers, he served as attorney, prosecutor, or independent counsel in such cases as the Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident, recovery of investor losses from the Madoff Ponzi scheme, and the suit of Donald Trump and the U.S. Football League against the National Football league. In 2016 he published his memoirs, "Prosecutor Defender Counselor."

STEVE ELLIOTT, Scribe
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