



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.
37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: ARNOLD GORDON

“Anyone who goes to see a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined.”

Samuel Goldwyn

WELCOME BACK FELLOW MEMBERS TO THE FIRST MEETING SINCE MARCH 11, 2020 WHEN THE CHURCH CLOSED ITS DOORS AND THE RMA DISCONTINUED ALL MEETINGS DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS. UNTIL NOW, WHEN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY, A VIRTUAL MEETING WAS HELD USING THE ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM ON MAY 27TH. AS MANY AS 98 OF YOU PARTICIPATED. DETAILS FOR JOINING UPCOMING MEETINGS ARE PROVIDED BELOW.

A few minutes before 10am, **JIM FISHBEIN** opened the web site when people gradually joined the party. At 10 there were 57 men on board, which grew to over 90 as the meeting proceeded. **JIM** explained the ground rules for the meeting and then played a recording of the RMA song twice. Our new President, **RUSS HARDEN**, in his opening comments pointed out that we are in uncharted territory but hope to optimize the online experience as more meetings are held. While the Zoom system we used allows up to 100 participants, a different system will be implemented, especially when we begin to feature speakers as part of our meetings. It may then be possible to accommodate up to 500 people, which will allow as many members who wish to join and enable us to invite the community, as we do under ordinary circumstances. **RUSS** announced that our next meeting will be at 10am next Wednesday, June 3rd. Look for a coming e-mail message for details. At the end of this CBB, details are provided on joining our forthcoming online meetings. After all the formal announcements and reports, there was an open Q&A led by **RUSS**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARNOLD GORDON reminded everyone that 21 of our members had died during the past RMA year. He read the list of names, asking everyone to remember them fondly; details are attached. In addition, since May 1st we have lost two other members: **TONY DI ROLLO** and **RALPH VIGGIANO**. Memorials will be delivered for them at a future meeting. **ARNOLD** then introduced **ERF PORTER** and **FRANK SCARPA**, who read eulogies for, respectively, **VIN MASI** and Dr. **TIMOTHY NOLAN**.

PETER STERN mentioned that since March 11th, there have been 49 member birthdays, with **GERRY LESSUK** leading the pack at 94 years of age with **MAURICE KROHN** the youngster at 71. All the details are attached. **PETER** also pointed out that our oldest current member is **CARL VAN AKEN** at 97. **WAYNE WRIGHT** holds the longest membership tenure at 30 years.

HOLLISTER STURGES reported on the deliberations of the Program Committee which had met on March 21st and March 27th. Everyone agreed that we should incorporate speakers into our online meetings. A sizable roster of willing speakers is already available and the Committee is actively communicating with them for suitable dates over the next few months. **BOB PHILLIPS** and **HORST TEBBE** pointed out that other men's groups in the area have done the same, often resulting in meeting attendance greater than at in-person meetings. Tentatively, our first speaker program will take place at our June 10th meeting and will feature David Richards, who will speak about Rudyard Kipling's interesting life and work. Speaker programs will not be opened to the community until we have mastered the process.

TOM McGUIRE expressed his very grateful thanks to all the members who called him with support during his and his wife's illness; she had been at Nathaniel Witherell while he was in quarantine. Fortunately, she is on the road to recovery.

JEFF JUNKER reported that we started the current year on May 1 with 234 members; 157, a healthy two-thirds, have paid their dues. A reminder will be sent to the others.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO told us that people have been playing for the past 4 or 5 weeks at the Griff Golf Course, under strict conditions. Reservations must be made online at least 4 days in advance. The RMA golfers play on Tuesdays from 9 to 11:30am; 9 and 18 hole games are played. If you wish to play, contact **PAUL CAMPION** (203-990-0528 or paulcampion1@optonline.net). Details about the rules can be found at www.griffgolf.org.

When **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** asked about the RMA walking group, **TAD LARRABEE** said that it was still too soon to involve a large walking group.

AV RIVEL and **TOM HEALY** tried mightily to humor the group as Corresponding Secretaries with one story each, but it was hard to tell whether fancies were tickled when everyone else's sound was muted. No one fell to the floor laughing!

SPECIAL EVENTS

TOM HEALY reported that the trip to Belmont Racetrack scheduled for June has been postponed until September. Details will be provided.

DETAILS ON JOINING RMA ZOOM WEBINAR MEETINGS

You are invited to the Retired Men's Association meetings via Zoom webinar, currently scheduled for every Wednesday morning at 10 from June 3rd until December 30, 2020. Subject to change, of course, depending on when and how covid-19 restrictions will change.

With your computer, please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81298501080?pwd=VWZWZTdHcm1PajJQZWthMWU2aGsvUT09>

Webinar ID: 812 9850 1080 Password: 250849

If using a mobile smart phone:

Enter all the characters shown: 13017158592,,81298501080#,,1#,250849#

or 13126266799,,81298501080#,,1#,250849#

If you do not join visually (no camera, e.g.) you can join by audio via telephone:

Dial one of these numbers based on your current location for highest quality:

1 301-715-8592 or 1 312-626-6799 or 1 929-436-2866 or 1 253-215-8782 or 1 346-248 -
7799 or 1 669-900-6833

Password: 250849

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Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org



RMA Deceased
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Birthdays for May 27,
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