

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Volume 62, No. 10

July 9, 2014

"You're not going to come out of this alive, so you might as well live fully in it" (Anonymous)

President BOB PHILLIPS opened the meeting at 10 a.m. and called up RALPH VIGGIANO who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, JIM SANTORA presided at the 88 while GRAN BURGESS waved his hands to lead "America", "Blue Skies" and "Pennies from Heaven". BOB LUCE regaled us with a wild story about St. Peter at the pearly gates interviewing a talented dog.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Tom Hauser of Community Plates (www.communityplates.org) urged RMA to include among our volunteer activities his organization which serves the "food insecure" folks in our vicinity, supplying 25,000 meals per week to soup kitchens, that otherwise supermarkets like Whole Foods would have to put into the dumpster as outdated. Volunteer to make a pick up from a restaurant or store, using your own car. Just go to the website.

BOB PHILLIPS summarized last week's Board meeting which changed the date of the RMA picnic from 9-11-14 to 9-18-14; made October 8 (not September 8) RMA Recognition Day when First Selectman Peter Tesei will issue a Proclamation recognizing our 60th anniversary.

SERGE GABRIEL waving French flags, announced the celebration July 14 of Bastille Day, at Town Hall, 8 a.m. Three WWII veterans who helped liberate France in 1944 will be honored..

TOM HEALY said that all 32 seats are taken on the bus to the Mets game on August 12 where the Melody Men will sing. He urges car pooling for the rest of us, as there is a \$22 parking fee, in addition to the \$47 admission charge. He needs a head count today.

BOB PHILLIPS told us that Returnees today are ARNOLD GORDON, back from Athens, Venice, and vicinity; SAM MARASSO from Cape Cod; and TOM CAHILL from Italy and Paris. Welcome back to the fold, guys!

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Visiting:** CHUCK STANDARD, assuring us that “every day is a good day” reported that STEVE PIERSON is in rehab at Greenwich Woods; MIKE HARRIS is re-habbing at Nathaniel Witherell; and welcomed back BOB MEYER.

Membership: DOUG TAYLOR reported there were 134 members in attendance, one candidate, Bruno Schrage; and three guests: Joe Deluca g/o SAL DeANGELO, Jim Ebzery g/o JIM BUTLER and Ted Ewing g/o MIKE SMITH. Those members celebrating birthdays were DAN GRIMISICH, 83; BOB LUCE, 77; BERNARD SCHNEIDER, 71, JOHN MARTIN, 83, and BOB BISHOP, 80. Congratulations guys for making it this far (refer to anonymous quotation above).

Volunteers: MIKE HAYDEN advised us that for the week ending July 8, there were 638 hours reported for outside agencies by 52 RMA members and 114 hours for RMA activities.

Special Events: GERRY LESSUK reported (see details below)

GAMES: **Bridge:** KURT SCHAFFIR gave us scores for July 2 by 15 players: 4240 points for WAYNE DE VRIES, 3380 points by .HUGO GRUENDEL and 2830 points by KURT SCHAFFIR.

Golf: MIKE RYAN announced closest to pin on 7th hole was Ted Ewing, on the 15th hole TOM HEALY, and the longest drive was by DICK BARTHOLOMEW. Players scoring under 100 was 14; lowest score was 84 by 83 year old Ted Ewing.

Tennis: TED SPOOL urged us to come out Monday and Thursday mornings 9 to 11 a.m. at the Laughlin Avenue courts in Cos Cob.

Walking: TAD LARRABEE signaled that the walkers will walk on Thursday, July 10 at 10 a.m.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: **Captain Jay Dirnberger**, of Westport, spoke on “Introduction to Unmanned Aircraft” commonly referred to as “drones”. Used for military and civilian purposes, the first crude models he showed dated from 1968 when he began flying helicopters coordinating naval and field artillery firing on military targets. Advantages of drones are several: They do not need anyone in the cockpit; they are inexpensive, elusive, precise, can stay up for long periods of time, and can communicate with several layers of supervision. Disadvantages include accidents, loss of control, invasion of privacy, and the obvious danger of sparking a war. Drones range in size from a superjet costing \$93million for gathering intelligence clandestinely; over \$100,000 for Blackhawk surveillance helicopters; \$10K to \$15K drones by smaller manufacturers for

agricultural purposes; and about \$1,300 for photographing. Some classed as “insect drones” are smaller than the tip of your finger, and look like dragonflies.

The talk was followed by many incisive questions and well-informed answers.

GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE -Editor

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, their ladies, candidates, guests.

Sunday, July 27: Tanglewood; Cost \$102/pp, lunch at Appletree Inn. Bus leaves Eastern Civic Center 9:15 a.m.. Five places still available.

Thursday, August 7: Goodspeed Opera House/ “Fiddler on the Roof” Cost \$112/pp; lunch at Gelston House. Bus leaves St. Catherine’s at 9:30 a.m. There is a wait list.

Thursday, October 2: 9/11 Memorial& Museum: Cost \$104/pp. Lunch at Blue Water Grill. Bus leaves St. Catherines 8:45 a.m. There is a wait list. .

NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER

Nelson Tebbe, son of HORST TEBBE, will speak about the controversial “Hobby Lobby” decision by the Supreme Court last week. His talk is titled “Freedom of Religion and the Hobby Lobby Decision”.

TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY: Stephen Lash, Chairman of the famed Christie’s auction house, will speak on the current state of the market for art. Be sure to invite your art collector friends to this July 23d lecture here and to the lunch following.