



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, 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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July 26, 2017

President DON CONWAY rang us to order at 10am. BOB MORGAN led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our song leader was JERRY SCHWENDEMAN. He led us in God Bless America, Deep in the Heart of Texas, and Sunny Side of the Street, accompanied by the gifted BOB MORGAN on the Steinway.

GENE SCHWARTZ introduced "Marilyn" who talked about a volunteer program she heads for all 13 Stamford elementary schools. She's looking for RMA volunteers to read to children once a week for one hour. These kids have no one at home who reads to them, and respond enthusiastically to these volunteer readers. GERRY BOYLE seconded Marilyn's message, and he solicited members and guests to volunteer, saying their reward will be a lot greater than the one hour they spend reading to the kids.

The CORRESPONDING SECRETARY told a joke about a sea captain whose ship was in danger of being boarded by pirates. He had a magic red shirt that seemed somehow to keep the pirates at bay.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. PETER UHRY announced that RMA hats and shirts have arrived for those who have ordered them. See him at the break.
2. MIKE RYAN gave a MEMORIAL for LEON FREEMAN, past president of RMA, who passed on July 18, in Morristown, NJ, where he was brought up on his father's farm. LEON was 90 years old. A graduate of the University of Virginia, LEON served in the Army as a first lieutenant. He pursued a career in finance and retired in 1987. He headed up the golfing group for many years, and was a good tennis player. He volunteered at Greenwich Hospital, Greenwich Point, and preparing tax returns for low income families. A service of remembrance will be held at First Congregational Church of Old Greenwich at a September date to be announced. Rest in peace!

3. President DON announced returnees for July 19: GRAN BURGESS from Kiawah Island, SC; SAM MARASSO from Cape Cod; Larry Posner and WAYNE DE VRIES from Maine. Returnee today was AV RIVEL, from Niagara Falls, Ontario.

4. President DON pleaded for someone to step up to fill the late LES CHEIKIN's Treasurer position. Ever-faithful former Treasurer STEVE BOIES has been serving since LES passed earlier in July.

5. SERGE GABRIEL heaped praise on World War II's nearly 2,000 unsung Jewish heroes who were born in Germany but ironically came to serve in the American army intelligence program.

COMMITTEES

PROGRAM: HOLLISTER STURGES announced that today's speaker will be Peter Sherr, Chair of Greenwich Board of Education.

BOB PHILLIPS confided that next week's speaker will be Tom Molito, baseball author.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE gave us the numbers for today: 86 members, 3 candidates: Marshall Toppo, Bob Jameson and Paul Keeler. We welcomed three guests: Fred Goodstein, g/o FRANK SCARPA; Larry Spahn g/o CHARLIE JENSEN, George Dey, g/o TOM NACINOVICH; and Hal Doshan g/o PETER UHRY. Those celebrating birthdays were SAL DE ANGELO, 93; CHUCK STANDARD, 98; SAM YORK, 87; and JOHN HOFFMAN, 87. Warm felicitations, gentlemen!

INDUCTEES: BOB JAMESON was introduced by JACK WEIR. BOB was chairman and CEO of RCA Music, worked for them in Australia and NYC. HORST asked for our votes, and we responded with a resounding "Aye". PAUL KEELER was introduced by BOB MORGAN, who has known PAUL for 35 years, first as classmates at Columbia. PAUL served as a U.S. Marine in U.S. and at Guantanamo. He is an avid sailor, auto racer. He built MCI Telecommunications. We welcomed him into RMA enthusiastically.

SPECIAL EVENTS: ABBEY SMOLER gave us info on the next two special events. See details below.

VOLUNTEERS: ALAN GUNZBURG reported 317 volunteer hours by members in outside activities; 89 in RMA internal activities. BRIAN MAHER had the most outside hours: 32.

THE SCOREBOARD

GOLF: ROS CURTIS dealt with this info: There were 15 golfers on July 25. Two had scores under 90: TONY COCCHI, with 84, and RICH BARTHOLOMEW with 89. Closest to hole on 7: RICH BARTHOLOMEW; on 15: JIM SANTORA. Longest drive: RICH BARTHOLOMEW.

HEARTS: JAY SCHONDORF gave the Hearts news: Winners were JACK SWEGER, PETER BERG, MIKE AMBROSINO, GRANT PERKINS and TONY PARISI.

BRIDGE: Winners were BRUNO SCHRAGE with 3730, JOHN FEBLES with 3530, and WAYNE DEVRIES, 3450

TODAY'S SPEAKER

TODAY'S SPEAKER was **Peter Sherr**, chairman and longest serving member of the Greenwich Board of Education. His talk was entitled "What's Next; Greenwich Public Schools". It was he who organized the nationwide search for our new Superintendent of Schools, Jill Gilday. First off, he affirmed that "Greenwich Public Schools are good schools, and that GHS students are getting into the best colleges. Going forward, the objective is "to educate each child to the best of his potential" with individual attention, prodding them to go as far as they can possibly go. They are being prepared for jobs that don't even exist today.

However, our schools until recently were still teaching the way we were taught in the 1950's. In today's classrooms, students no longer sit in neat rows front to back. They gather around tables, several to a table, and collaborate to master the subject at hand. They find their lesson plans on their I-pads or their laptop computers. They send their homework to their teachers online.

Looking forward, the state of education will be personalized, individual student-centric. Grades will be eliminated in favor of mastery. It will be data rich, focused on outcomes instead of inputs (lesson plans written, tests given). The State of Wisconsin is the prime example of the success of this model.

Teachers have been attending summer courses at Eastern Middle School to teach them this model of individualized instruction, one-on-one.

But much remains yet to do: 1) Complete the digital curriculum

- 2) Design an end test for personalized learning
- 3) Measure and get insight
- 4) Create the right environment

A spirited question and answer session followed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Events are open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. For reservations contact trip coordinators ABBEY SMOLER (203-531-0236) and MIKE FERRARESE (203-554-0678). Checks for payment are to be made out to the RMA, and must be received within two (2) weeks following the making of the reservations or the reservations will be cancelled.

- **SOUND WATERS CRUISE.** August 31, 2017. Drive your own car. \$35.00 p/p. Lunch: snacks and water. Meet at dock at 1:30 pm and schooner sails at 2pm: Status 6 spaces still open.
- **GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE.** The musical, "Oklahoma", September 21, 2017. Lunch; Gelston House Cost; \$120p/p. Bus departs St. Catherine's 9:45 am. Status: 1 space still open.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Tom Molito, "Mickey Mantle: Inside and Outside the Lines" author.

GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE, Scribe

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HUDSON VALLEY HONOR FLIGHT

A previous article in the CBB reported on the Hudson Valley Honor Flight that hosted, among other veterans, RMA's long-time member, **Dr. PETER ARTURI**. Below is PETER's personal account of that trip.

I found out about the HVHF program honoring American Veterans while reading the Greenwich Time a few years ago. A friend encouraged me to apply for the program this spring. As a World War I Veteran, I qualified for the Honor Flight. I received a welcome for the 5/20/17 flight and instructions. We met to acquaint ourselves with the program in Westchester County on May 7th. Mission 16 started very early on May 20, 2017 at the Westchester Airport. We were greeted regularly by hordes of people saying thank you and waving American flags. The trip to Washington, DC was very cordial and we had a police escort for the buses all day. We visited the memorials, World War II, Korean, Vietnam and visited the Iwo Jima Memorial on the bus. We stopped at the Lincoln Memorial and took a group photo. The last stop was Arlington Cemetery and then the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Personally, the World War II Memorial was my major interest and meeting Senator Bob Dole was a real treat. The organizers, greeters, guardians (volunteers personally assigned to each veteran) and workers could not have been more cordial. They made sure we were healthy, fed, watered and safe. The trip was fantastic, magnificent and I would recommend it to anyone who qualified.

Editor's note: An article in the Port Chester Westmore News reported on the same flight. Of the 69 veterans, two were from Port Chester. Silvio Buccieri, Korean war veteran, recognized "Dr. Peter Arturi from Greenwich Hospital. We grew up on Midland Avenue. He lived on one side of Red's Garage and I was on the other side. I was so happy to see him".