

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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September 2, 2015

Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your education and enjoyment: Editor: George Stockbridge, Chair; Scribes: Gran Burgess, Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Peter Uhry, Jim Butler, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell; Martin Grayson, Emeritus; Format and Layout: Gene Schwartz and Jack Cuff; Archivist: Harold Frost; Printing: Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz

"It follows then as certain as that night succeeds day, that without a decisive Naval force we can do nothing definitive. And with it, everything honorable and glorious." (George Washington in a letter to Lafayette - November 15, 1781)

Naval veteran RALPH VIGGIANO drew us to attention for the pledge to the flag, led this morning by HENRY BAKER. Song leader, JERRY SCHWENDEMAN projected the words for *The Star Spangled Banner, Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah and the RMA Marching Song* (written by member BOB MORGAN). A noticeable improvement in the volume of the singing was observed as everyone was forced to look up at the wall to see the projected verses. JIM SANTORA, on the piano simply played louder. Over in the corner the scribe noted our keeper of funds, STEVE BOIES and his able associate treasurer, DICK CASE were in attendance.

President RALPH gave shout outs: 1) Get a RMA parking pass or get a \$75 parking ticket. 2) Health Fair at Eastern Civic Center in OG is on OCT 1. Contact DON CONWAY or RALPH VIGGIANO to volunteer. (2 men needed). 3) DON CONWAY is leading our team on October 4 for a 3 mile, 3 hour walk in Norwalk in support of Alzheimer's disease. 4) For RMA publicity purposes, if you are interviewed by the local media, and it is appropriate, mention your affiliation with RMA. 5) RMA needs a person to become a media contact. If interested in this important assignment, contact RALPH. 6) If you become aware of the death of a member, please contact an officer so that we can inform the entire membership. Regretfully, we have lost a fair number of individuals this year and want to be sure we are properly remembering our fellow RMAers. 7) The donation of an old laptop computer for use by RMA is requested. Notify RALPH at 203-344-1188.

Having recognized Corresponding Secretary, JERRY SCHWENDEMAN once again, we heard a long golfing joke....or was it a three wishes from a Genie joke. This was followed by more **ANNOUNCEMENTS**:

1. **SENIOR GATHERING** - Friday Sept 4 at St. Catherine's Church in Riverside at 4:30pm (At Home in Greenwich, St Catherine's Seniors and RMAers). Wine, crackers and cheese. Attend the party and hear about AT HOME. Contact: GERRY MAYFIELD 203-422-2342.

2. **375th ANNIVERSARY GREENWICH PARADE**: Sunday September 27th. Ride or walk. Cars, RMA marchers, banners and placards will underscore RMA's contributions

to the Town. Contact: JERRY SCHWENDEMAN to sign up to participate. 203-622-9205

3. **ROMEO LUNCHEON** - Wednesday Sept. 16th after the RMA meeting. Fairview Country Club 1241 King Street, Greenwich. \$45 per person. BOB ROBINS is our contact man: 203-992-1050. (BOB needs a person to give a member a ride to the event from our meeting. Call if you can help.

4. **MELODY MEN** - September 14th at 9:30am, the Melody Men will hold auditions at the First Congregational Church in OG. TOM HEALY says the group is seeking several new participants who enjoy singing. Contact TOM at 203-661-2954. BOB LUCE also at: 203-637-0533.

5. **TODAY'S SPEAKER** 9/2 - Captain Carl Lahti, Commanding Officer of the Naval Submarine Base in New London, CT. (Details below) - JOHN CARON

6. **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER** 9/9 - Dr. Ronald Kagan, will speak on "Medicare Decision Making: Choosing and Using Your Coverage" - JIM FISHBEIN

7. **GREENWICH READS TOGETHER**- The Oct 28th RMA speaker will discuss immigration issues. This prompts a reminder that now is the time to get a copy of AMERICANAH from the library and read about what faces immigrants coming to the United States from their point of view.

8. **RMA SHIRTS AND HATS**- PETER UHRY announced the last RMA hats and shirts on order for the year would be distributed at the break.

9. **PICKLEBALL** - UHRY advised that anyone interested in learning to play pickleball should register while there is still room. (Go to the Greenwich Department of Parks & Recreation for details or call: 203-618-7649.) Play is at the Eastern Civic Center in Old Greenwich.

10. **RMA DINNER** - Wednesday, November 4th is the date for this key all-member luncheon at the Burning Tree Country Club. Cost is \$50 per person and table hosts (our members who collect the money and sign people up to sit with them at the event) are beginning to do their jobs. UHRY seeks volunteers to help make this a successful event so if you care to help out, see PETE UHRY or email him at: uhry@sbcglobal.net.

11. **RMA PICNIC: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10** - Every member, plus one guest (wife, friend), is invited. No Charge. Greenwich Point. TAD LARRABEE is in charge aided by prize collector ARNOLD GORDON. MARK YOUR CALENDARS. **VOLUNTEER**: call TAD at 203-637-4023

EULOGY: ERF PORTER gave us all a heartfelt eulogy for EDWARD "TED" BURNS. Ted was raised in Stamford, CT, served in the Korean War, worked in Old Greenwich at Electrolux and several local bakeries. He quietly contributed to the RMA and more visibly to his community as Drum Major of the legendary American Legion Drum Corps of which he was Drum Major for many years. He also volunteered at Greenwich Hospital and served as a volunteer IRS tax preparer. He will be remembered as well for grilling a great hotdog at our RMA picnics and, like so many of us, complaining about his golf.

RETURNEES: BILL CLEWORTH from a Great Lakes Tour; PETER MC SPADDEN from Maine; GEORGE CHELWICK from Ohio (What's round on the ends and hi in the middle...O-HI-O), RANDY MOTLAND from Martha's Vineyard and FRAN AUGER (jokingly) from Greenwich, CT.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE said today's attendance was 122 members, 0 candidates and 0 guests. **BIRTHDAYS:** Six birthday boys were noted. LEO FUTIA 96, RUSSELL HARDEN 73, MIKE SMITH 76, WILLIAM WURST 84, SAM MARASSO 76 and NICK TOURNILLON 83. Many happy returns, gentlemen! **SPECIAL EVENTS:** Upcoming events were reported by GERRY LESSUK (see details below).

VOLUNTEERS: RUSS HARDEN reported that 56 RMA members volunteered 463 hours to outside agencies; and 28 men reported 175 hours for RMA activities. (NOTE: Member RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW was the member reporting the most hours - 52).

GAMES: For **Bridge** – KURT SCHAFFIR said 12 players played on August 26th. TOM McEVOY came in first with 4510 points; JOE ROE second with 3580 and DICK CASE was third with 3350. For **Golf** -- KURT SCHAFFIR (he switched hats and accents for this report) reported only 18 golfers signed up for a late start and only 5 played. Of that only two braved the heat and finished 18 holes. No scores were provided. ROS CURTIS will host next week when starting times will be about 10:30am.

TODAY'S SPEAKER was **Captain Carl Lahti**, Commanding Officer of the Naval Submarine Base in New London Connecticut. His remarks focused on the significance of the submarine force and the role submarines play in our national defense and security. Using visuals, he described the classes of submarines used by the Navy and how the fleet will change in future years. Captain Lahti's comment also reminded us of the dedication and service provided by men and women who volunteer for submarine duty. Clearly, describing long underwater deployments, screening of personnel, fighting for budget money and knowing that the length of time a submarine hull is serviceable (43 years) all added interest to his remarks. A lively Q&A followed his presentation which will be archived next week on the RMA Website for all to see. (rماغreenwich.org)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks payable to RMA.

For details, contact: GERRY LESSUK (gerrless@att.net) 203-698-9451

Westchester Broadway Theater, "Backward in High Heels" - Thursday, Sept. 17, \$85 p/p, including lunch. 1 space available.

Goodspeed Opera House, "It's a Wonderful Life" - Thursday, Oct. 22, lunch at Gelston House, \$115 p/p. Leaves St. Catherine's at 10am. 12 places are available.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER:

Dr. Ronald Kagan will speak about Medicare and what you should know about choosing and using your coverage. Each fall an opportunity to review one's coverage and make adjustments happens and if you care to get the most from the options available to you, knowing more about navigating the selection system is important for you to know. Dr. Kagan, a former practicing physician in Norwalk, has authored books on Medicare and is currently a sought after health care lecturer and consultant. Come hear him next Wednesday September 9.

Visit the RMA website at www.greenwichrma.org ;

Prepared with humility and humor in mind. PETER UHRY