



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **JOE MANCINELLI** Graphics: **AV RIVEL**

This Bulletin is brought to you each week by these volunteers:

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Dan Fredland, Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Marshall Toppo.** On leave: **Steve Elliott**, Archivist: **Harold Frost**. Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz.** Print/Dist: **Chet Risio.**

Volume 66 Number 20 September 19 2018 Scribe: MARSHALL TOPPO

"Courage is fire, bullying is smoke" Benjamin Disraeli

President **TAD LARRABEE** rang the bell at 10:05 and the meeting came to order. **BOB BISHOP** led the members in the pledge to the flag.

GERRY SCHWENDEMAN led the group in a rendition of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the spiritual "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" with **GEORGE UBOGY** at the piano.

TOM HEALY brought laughter to us all with two amusing stories. The first was about an over amorous bull and the second about a woman comically befuddled by our language.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **TAD LARRABEE:**

a. Reminded us that the League of Women Voters is presenting a discussion on "*Fixing Connecticut's Finances*" on Tuesday, October 2, at the Greenwich Library, Cole Auditorium, from 7:00 to 8:30pm.

b. Added that parking in the church lot remains an issue especially since school has started again. RMA will soon assign three handicap spaces indicated by the church. If you want to be considered for a space, please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the membership table or see **GERRY SCHWENDEMAN**.

c. Mentioned that he has received a request from Lynn Mason, Program Specialist at the Greenwich Senior Center. They are seeking two or three RMA volunteers to do current events presentations weekly or every other week. Contact Lynn Mason at 203 862-6721 or

lynn.mason@greenwichct.org. **CHET RISIO** and **BOB BISHOP** are

presently doing this at Nathaniel Witherell.

2. **FRANK SCARPA** presented a memorial for our fellow member **WILLIAM (BILL) BURKE**. He was born in 1941 and died in 2018. Frank shared with us BILL'S impressive education, interests and professional history. Services will be held Friday at St. Michael's Church.
3. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** offered his thanks to all the volunteers that contributed to the success of our annual picnic. In addition, he thanked the community donors that made our raffle so exciting. **MIKE's** efforts paid off in putting smiles on peoples' faces with a combination of food, drink, raffles, and entertainment. **MIKE** called it a labor of love.
4. Program:
 - a. **PETER BERG** informed us about today's speaker, **Chris Bruhl**. He will expound on the topic "*Connecticut and Fairfield County Business Trends*".
 - b. **BOB RIMMER** announced that next week's speaker will be Associate Justice Andrew McDonald. He will present the topic "*Judicial Independence*".
5. **GERRY SCHWENDEMAN** shared with us that our annual dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, from 10:30 am to 3:00pm. This event will be at the Tamarack Country Club, 55 Locust Road, Greenwich. About 19 table hosts are needed to organize tables and collect the dinner fees.
6. **TOM MAHONEY** mentioned that the Greenwich Reads Together book selection is "*Code Girls*" and will be discussed at the Greenwich Library.

COMMITTEES.

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** reported that there were 77 members in attendance and two guests for a total of 79. The guests were Ron Murray, g/o **RUSS HARDEN** and Paul Campion, g/o **MIKE RYAN** and **TONY RIGGI**.

Birthdays: **STEVE LIEFER** 80, **PETER ORBANOWSKI** 74, **HARRY TWITCHELL** 97.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: The total outside hours were 293 by 26 members and 191 inside hours by 21 members. The most hours were 42 by **PETER BERG**. **JOE MANCINELLI** and **RICH BISK** advised us that this year's recording of volunteer hours ends Wednesday, September 26, 2018. Please remember to record your hours before the deadline at the next meeting or email RICH, at rbisk@optonline.net.

SPECIAL EVENTS: **MIKE FERRARESE** again reminded us that we can see "*The Drowsy Chaperone*" at the Goodspeed Opera House on October 25, 2018. Tickets are \$125pp which includes lunch at Gelston House. The bus departs St. Catherine's at 9:15 am. Eight places are still available. Contact **MIKE** at 203 554-0678 or **ABBEY SMOLER** at 203 531-0236.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** reported 6 players; **TONY COCCHI** scored 3980, while **FRANK LEE** scored 3940 and **BERT KLEBANOW** scored 3540.

OUTDOOR TENNIS: JOHN KNIGHT reported that the winners on court 1 were GEOFFREY BURGE and TOM HEALY. The winners on court two were BOB GRAYSON and GERRY GIBIAN. Next week's captain is DON BREISMEISTER.

PICKLEBALL: TONY COCCHI indicated that pickleball had been cancelled last week due to the RMA picnic. This Thursday the regular weekly pickleball will be held at Loughlin Field at 9:00 am and indoor town pickleball will now begin at the Eastern Civic Center 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

HEARTS: GEORGE DIPPY reported that on table one for games 1, 2 and 3 the winners were LOU TROVATO, JOHN KNIGHT and LOU TROVATO again. For table two, games 1, 2 and 3 the winners were ANDY HOLMES, JACK WEIR and TOM HEALY. Shooting the moon once were LOU TROVATO, ANDY HOLMES and JOHN STANKUNAS. Twice for JOHN KNIGHT and a big three for TOM HEALY.

WALKERS: JIM FISHBEIN and DON HERMANN will be leading a walk from BRUCE PANTANO's home at 9:00am.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks to be made out to RMA, and must be received within two weeks or the reservation will be cancelled. Contact MIKE FERRARESE (myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0235).

Goodspeed Opera House, "The Drowsy Chaperone" Oct. 25. Lunch at the Gelston House, \$125pp Bus leaves St Catherine's at 9:15am Status: 8 openings.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Christopher Bruhl, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Business Council of Fairfield County spoke on "*Connecticut and Fairfield County Business Trends.*" He presented an incisive look at the present day labor pool, transportation facilities, educational institutions, and demographics in this area. He drew a comparison with New York's burgeoning labor pool and Connecticut's lack thereof. Although the area is confronted with a myriad of problems brought about by technology, globalization, and climate change, he is optimistic we will meet the problems and eventually succeed.

Planners must recognize the issues that are inhibiting growth and create solutions that are imaginative and applicable not only for the present but in the future.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Andrew J. McDonald, associate justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court "Judicial independence"

Visit us at www.greenwichrma.org

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