



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community Service
Visit us on the web at www.greenwichrma.org



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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September 20, 2017

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, a Bulwark Never Failing" Martin Luther, 1517

President DON CONWAY rang the meeting to order at 10 a.m. DICK BERGSTRESSER led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. JERRY SCHWENDEMAN ably directed us, accompanied at the 88's by PETER RYAN, in *God Bless America*, *You Made Me Love You*, and *Mame*. Jokester of the day ARNOLD GORDON recounted about an elderly couple who shared *everything – even their teeth!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) CHET RISIO called our attention to the 4-page printed CBB for last week, and said there are additional copies available at the back table for those who needed them.
- 2) RUSS HARDEN noted the **success of the RMA annual picnic** last Thursday. **Many stores and individuals donated items for the raffle**, and RMA netted about \$1,000 for our coffers. He and ARNOLD GORDON urged members to **patronize them if possible** and thank the establishments for their generosity.

Restaurants: Elm Street Oyster House, Ginger Man, Mumbai Times, Thai Basil.
Jewelers/Gift Shops: Bennett Jewelers (Old Greenwich), Shreve Crump & Low (Greenwich), Hoaglands (Greenwich). Wine and Liquor: Cos Cob Liquors, Val's Putnam Wine and Liquors (Greenwich), Liquor Pantry (Portchester). Shopping: Richards (Greenwich), Stop & Shop (Stamford), Whole Foods (Greenwich), ShopRite (Stamford), Fleisher's Craft Butchery (Cos Cob), Fjord Fish Market (Cos Cob). Artist and RMA member Dan Grimsich donated one of his beautiful seascape watercolor paintings which sold at auction at the picnic. PETER SCHIEFERDECKER provided a bottle of rum and a member who wishes to remain anonymous donated a golf club.

- 3) ARNOLD GORDON asked for a show of hands of how many picnic attendees liked the idea of letting the raffle winners choose their prize among the several offered.

4) TAD LARRABEE spoke about the **RMA Annual Dinner** Wednesday, November 8, at Tamarack Country Club. Choices of entrees are fish, chicken or beef. He needs volunteers as table hosts.

5) DON CONWAY reiterated, and BOB CAREY seconded, the **need for more volunteers at Call-a-Ride**. They said that last night's fundraiser was quite successful.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) HOLLISTER STURGES advised that **today's speaker** will be **Diedre McDonald**. Details are below.

2) HOLLISTER also told us about **next week's speaker**, **John Blankley**. See details below.

3) **MEMBERSHIP**: HORST TEBBE reported 101 members in attendance, including 2 candidates (see inductees below) and 2 guests, Mark Diamond g/o BOB ROBINS, and Bill London, who came in later. Those celebrating birthdays are STEVE LEIFER, 79; PETER ORBANOWSKI, 73; HARRY TWITCHELL, 95 and STEVE MARINO, 87. Celebrating 67 years of marriage to his wife Eleanor is DOUG FRANCEFORT. HORST presented candidate Andy Holmes for membership. His sponsor, JAY SCHONDORF, told us he had known Andy for 3 years. Andy attended Syracuse University, was a senior credit officer at Philip Morris Capital Corporation. ANDY was voted into membership by acclamation. Then, HORST presented candidate Abbott Jones for membership. Sponsor BOB PHILLIPS reported that Abbott earned his Masters from Harvard Business School and his career was in investment banking and advertising where he was a managing director. ABBOTT was voted by acclamation into membership.

4) **SPECIAL EVENTS**: MIKE FERRARESE gave us the Special Events. Details are given below.

5) **VOLUNTEER HOURS** were given by ARNOLD GORDON: 421 hours for outside activities; 218 hours for inside activities. The most hours reported were 38 by DON CONWAY; HOLLISTER STURGES admitted he had accumulated 38 hours which were included in the 421 hours total.

FUN AND GAMES

1) **Bridge**: KURT SCHAFFIR reported scores for 9-13-17: RALPH VIGGIANO 4300; JOHN FEBLES 3600; BRUNO SCHAGE 3290.

2) **Golf**: JACK WEIR reported that 19 golfers braved tropical wind conditions yesterday at the Griff. JAY SCHONDORF scored 99; closest to the pin on #7 was KARL SCHULZE; closest on #15 was TONY RIGGI. The longest drive on #17 was by BOB MORGAN.

3) **Tennis**: RALPH VIGGIANO reported winners on court 1: RALPH VIGGIANO and RANDY MOTLAND; on court 2: PETER TUNLEY and ANDRZEJ MAZURAK. The captain next week will be PETER UHRY.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Today's speaker was **Deirdre McDonald**. She was introduced by her father. Her subject was "Lobbying in Today's Washington: Navigating the Shifting Sands". She works in Washington as a lobbyist on behalf of Sony Music, owner of Columbia

Records, RCA Victor, and EMI records, among others. Her challenging task for Sony Music is to protect the royalties of the original creators of the music on Sony's records, in the face of threats from many sides. Examples of the erosion of this protection abound: pirating by unscrupulous hackers, especially in China and other Asian countries, of the intellectual property of the creators; the evolution of music sources away from records to the internet, like Napster, Google, Amazon, Spotify, Apple etc. Payments to the creators have become increasingly small as the years go by. They are now infinitesimal. Deidre has a job not unlike that of the Greek god Sisyphus who constantly worked at pushing a huge rock up a mountain, only to have it roll back, and he would push it up again, as time went by, into infinity. Her talk was very well illustrated with slides, and she answered many questions from an audience of members and many men and women from the community.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

*Open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks made out to RMA
Contact MIKE FERRARESE (myagentmike@yahoo.com) 203-554-0676
Or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com) 203-531-0236*

GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE, the musical, "Oklahoma" 9-21-17 with lunch at Gelston House. Cost \$120p/p. Bus departs St. Catherine's 9:45 am. Status 3 places open.

OPEN REHEARSAL of the NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC Jan. 11, 2018. More details next week.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

John Blankley will speak on 9-27-17 "**In Defense of Connecticut**" covering the state's financial crisis but why he rates it still one of "America's best states to live in"

Respectfully submitted: GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

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