



# 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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September 27, 2017

President DON CONWAY called the meeting to order shortly after 10AM. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by ED PARKER. Song Leader TOM HEALY then led the members through his three selected songs: *God Bless America*, *Bye Bye Blackbird* and *Blue Skies*; the skilled piano support was performed by JIM SANTORA. Corresponding Secretary JERRY SCHWENDEMAN related the story of a doctor's visit by a person whose private part was strangely colored. After ruling out certain possibilities the culprits turned out to be watching TV while snacking on Cheetos.

President DON welcomed the following returnees: HARRY TWITCHELL from a fairly long illness, and ARNOLD STANCELL from a trip up the Adriatic Sea ending in Venice.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. President DON mentioned that both Meals-on-Wheels and Call-a-Ride were in dire need of additional drivers and asked for volunteers.
2. TAD LARRABEE who is handling the arrangements for the RMA's Annual Dinner at the Tamarac Country Club, scheduled for this coming November 8th, from 10:30AM to 2:30PM, needs additional table hosts. Interested persons should contact him. Cost is \$60 per person, and \$30 for widows of former members. The host list will soon be available.
3. STEVE MYERS said that the Lamont Earth Observatory was holding an Open House on October 7, 2017, from 10AM to 4PM. Interested persons should see STEVE for details.
4. BOB PHILLIPS said he received an email from NEVILLE SARGEANT's wife, Josephine, stating that NEVILLE had "Parkinson's", was rehabbing at Nathaniel Witherell, was in low spirits and would probably appreciate visits from RMA friends.

## COMMITTEES

**VISITING:** Nothing to report.

**PROGRAM:** Today's Speaker, **John Blankley**, was introduced by BOB WYLIE. John's talk is titled "In Defense of Connecticut", which will cover the low and high points of life in the state.

ARNOLD GORDON advised that next week's speaker will be **Dr. Paul Bernstein**, an ophthalmologist, whose practice includes eye care for seniors.

**MEMBERSHIP:** As reported by HORST TEBBE there were 106 members in attendance and two guests for a total of 108. The guests were Lou Trovato, g/o PETER STERN, and Bob Frishman, g/o MIKE WARNER. There was one birthday, HORST TEBBE (77). HORST decided to forego the Happy Birthday serenade.

**Induction:** The Inductee Ron Cantwell was introduced by RUSS HARDEN and seconded by HORST TEBBE. Ron is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a Degree in Accounting. He was a partner in the Accounting Firm of Ernst & Young and is currently CEO of Catalyst Energy. Ron's application for membership was approved by acclimation

**VOLUNTEERS:** These hours were reported by MIKE HAYDEN: There were 379 outside hours by 44 members, and 162 inside hours by 27 members. Top RMA member hours were shared by DON CONWAY with 57 hours and BOB HAGMANN with 40 hours.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** Nothing to report.

## THE SCOREBOARD

**BRIDGE:** KURT SCHAFFIR reported that eight members played with the following three having the highest scores - BURT KLEBANOW with 4020, KURT SCHAFFIR with 2950, and RON FRIEDMAN with 2920.

**HEARTS:** As reported by JACK SWEGER there were three tables with four players at each table. Winners at Table 1 were JOHN KNIGHT, TOM MORONEY and RALPH VIGGIANO. Winners at Table 2 were MICHAEL AMBROSINO, ANDY HOLMES and JAY SCHONDORF. Winners at Table 3 were ED FARRELL, TOM HEALY and JACK SWEGER.

Accomplishing "Shoot the Moon" once were JOE DOWLING, ED FARRELL, TOM MORONEY, JAY SCHONDORF and RALPH VIGGIANO. Doing this amazing feat twice were MIKE AMBROSINO, JOHN KNIGHT and JACK SWEGER.

**TENNIS:** MIKE AMBROSINO reported the winners, as follows: On Court 1, MIKE SMITH and RON FRIEDMAN; On Court 2, DON BREISMEISTER and ANDY HOLMES. Next week's captain is PETER ORBANOSKI.

**GOLF:** A 9 holer ROGER PISANI reported the golf news. Twelve members played and no one scored under 100. Closest to the pin on hole 7 was RON FRIEDMAN, closest on 15 was FRANK SCARPA, and the person hitting the longest drive on 17 neglected to sign his name, so the winner remains a mystery.

### TODAY'S SPEAKER

**John Blankley** was born in Great Britain, educated at Oxford, came to the USA almost 35 years ago and became an American citizen. He has held top jobs with accounting and financial firms and is currently chairman of a computer and systems consulting company which he co-founded. John titled his presentation "In Defense of Connecticut".

Despite being the richest state in the country based on per capita income, and a leader in median household income, in the education level of its workforce, in health care, and in life expectancy, the state is in the grip of a fiscal crises and is criticized as being inhospitable to business. State pensions are woefully under funded, the current deficit is projected to pass 2 billion. Hartford is approaching bankruptcy, companies have left (General Electric) or are planning to leave (Aetna), and people are leaving because of high income and property taxes and the high cost of living. John pointed out that all the problems are man-made, and what is needed is competent leadership and a plan to deal with the problem areas. John Blankley is currently exploring a run for State Treasurer in 2018.

### NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

**Paul Bernstein**, a Greenwich ophthalmologist, will be discussing "The Aging Eye" as well as the subject of eye health.

GERRY LESSUK, Scribe of the Week

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### Member Profile of FRANK J. SCARPA

This is the sixteenth in a series of Member Profiles intended to allow members to get to know one another beyond a face and a name tag.

I was born in Derby, Connecticut—six weeks before Pearl Harbor—to parents who were themselves children of Italian immigrants, I was educated in the local parochial school and was an avid participant in the Boy Scouts and Little League baseball. My father, who was a small business owner, had his sights set on my attending Fairfield Prep. He envisioned a career as a CPA for me, but I avidly wanted to become a jet pilot. The teen-age onset of myopia brought me back to reality and re-set my goals toward a future as a physician.

In 1959, I attended the College of the Holy Cross as one of 90 pre-medical students. Our ranks were whittled down to 30 by the time of graduation. Inspired by my freshman honors literature class, where we read 30 books in the first semester, my lifelong appetite for reading was turbo-charged. Guest lectures by such luminaries as Robert Frost, Tom Dooley, William F. Buckley and Martin Luther King, Jr. were inspirational. But I began to chafe at the bitter Worcester winters and the dullness of dorm life. So, when the opportunity to spend my junior year abroad at the University of Vienna arose, I jumped at it. (Five years of German language study had prepared me for this.) Realizing that my medical school acceptances might be jeopardized by this “unorthodox” path, I nevertheless enriched my spirit by frequent trips to the symphony, opera, theater and museums and the liberal use of weekends and holidays to see a lot of Europe. Prior to that year, I had never been outside the northeastern U.S.!

Retrospectively, it seems that this departure from the “usual” route to medical school somehow facilitated my acceptance by the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1963. During those next four years, I married Lorraine (nee) Coogan and decided to pursue a career in surgery. Hopkins allowed me to stay on for two years after graduation as an intern and assistant resident.