

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

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## HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY RMA !

It was like every other Wednesday as BOB PHILLIPS rang the bell and 243 members and guests rose for the Pledge. CHUCK STANDARD, USN Ret. reminded all that there was no comma between “one nation” and “under God” before leading the recitation.

President PHILLIPS returned to welcome all and remind the members that this celebration is about *them* and their accomplishments.

Then the party started! The Melody Men, back from their latest world tour led the assembled in *The Star Spangled Banner* which was followed by spirited performances of *In The Mood* and *There is Nothing Like a Dame*.

BOB CAREY making his debut as corresponding secretary de-jure delivered a medley of three ethnic jokes about astronomy, Italian inheritance laws and a unique Irish business model. We look forward to more from BOB.

The History of the RMA was next with BERNARD SCHNEIDER, running true-to-form, starting with a Biblical quote to chronicle the RMA from 13 members in 1954, meeting on Wednesday mornings at the YMCA till today's 250 and still meeting on Wednesday mornings, but not at the Y. PETER SCHIEFERDECKER, who admitted to being a member only 20 years, humorously reminisced about the informal (read funny) history of our special group.

BILL DYNAN, veteran corresponding secretary, delivered the second joke of the day about home repairs.

BOB PHILLIPS then introduced three Greenwich professionals whose volunteer agencies are staffed in part by RMA members. They are: Chitra Shanbhogue, E.D. Community Answers, Stacey Green, Director of Volunteers at Greenwich Hospital and Lynne Stewart, Director of Operations, Meals on Wheels. Each told of the work of their agencies and of opportunities for volunteering. Then each, in their own way, thanked the RMA membership for contributing to their agency's success and for our contributions to the community at large.

JOHN CRAINE introduced, to great applause, all the former presidents present. LEON FREEMAN - 1997-98, CHUCK STANDARD-1998-99, SAM MARASSO-2006-07, RICH LIMBACHER-2007-08, MIKE RYAN-2008-09, JOHN CRAINE-2009-10, TOM HEALY-2010-11, DICK BARTHOLOMEW-2011-12, and MIKE SMITH-2013-2014.

ARNOLD GORDON read a poem written by RMA poet-laureate MARTIN GRAYSON –*ODE to the RMA*.

A special anniversary cake graced the Social Break.

After the break Peter Tesei, First Selectman declared October 8, 2014 “**RMA Appreciation Day**” citing our accomplishments and contributions to our community over the last sixty years.

Mr. Tesei was also our featured speaker and was introduced by the bi-partisan team of DICK BERGSTRESSER and PETER CRUMBINE.

Peter Tesei has been involved in Greenwich politics since he was, at the age of 18, the youngest member of the RTM ever. He is now in his fourth term as First Selectman. In his talk he contended that one of the things that make Greenwich great is the spirit of giving and sharing that exists in our community. This spirit involves families like the Witheralls and the Bruces, as well as individuals like the members of the RMA. His concern is how we transmit this spirit to the next generation. He then outlined some programs that the Town was trying in order to involve teen-agers in volunteerism. The usual RMA Q&A followed.

The celebration ended with the singing of *We Are the RMA* written by BOB MORGAN and led by the Melody Men.

Honored to be scribe for this special day: Av Rivel

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Although there were no regular announcements at the meeting, the **following are of interest.**

1. REID McINTYRE is recovering at Greenwich Hospital after a medical incident on the golf course.
2. Golf: PETER UHRY is host for the final outing on October 14.
3. At the Oct. 15 meeting the “speaker” will be a panel focusing on competitive rowing in conjunction with the Library’s “Greenwich Reads Together” of *The Boys in the Boat*.

**SHORT FORM SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR**

- Oct. 30 – Goodspeed – Holiday Inn- Available-\$112
- Jan 22- Lincoln Ctr Opera –Back Stage Tour-Available-\$80
- Feb 5 – N Y Philharmonic Rehearsal –Ticket Exchange-\$98