

***RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting on Wednesday, Feb.18, 2015
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT.***

JIM CAMERON

METRO-NORTH, FROM FIRST TO WORST



Metro- North is much in the news nowadays--from accidents and derailments to how the quality of transportation will perhaps be the single most important issue affecting the quality of your life and the value of your property. Everyone seems to have an opinion, but the RMA is fortunate to have the “expert’s expert” on Metro-North and transportation issues generally throughout the region.

How does a world-class railroad go from winning international accolades to a series of deadly derailments in a single year? Commuter rail advocate Jim Cameron explores what happened to Metro-North and what the future holds for the railroad’s rebuilding. In May of 2013 a Metro-North train derailed near Bridgeport and ran head-on into another, oncoming train. There were many injuries but no fatalities. Months later, a Hudson line train derailed near Spuyten Duyvil, approaching a 30 mph curve at 75 mph because the engineer was falling asleep. Four passengers were killed. In the following months there were investigations by the Federal Railroad Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board, each finding more problems than the next with Metro-North’s operations.

Jim attended Lehigh University to study Civil Engineering and pursue his passion for trains with a career in railroad design. In his freshman year he discovered the campus radio station and instead opted for broadcasting as his future. Graduating in 1972, he had already earned the Major Armstrong Award for excellence and originality in radio broadcasting. He worked at many radio stations from New York City to Boston and was hired in 1979 by NBC as News Director of “The Source” young adult radio network, where he earned a George Foster Peabody Award for excellence in electronic media.

In 1982 he launched his own communications consultancy, specializing in media strategizing for C-level (CEO, COO, CFO) business executives. He moved back to Connecticut in 1992, and in 1993 he joined the Connecticut Metro-North Rail Commuter Council, an independent board appointed by the governor that acts as an advocate for commuters on rail lines throughout the state. He served 11 years as Vice Chairman and four years as Chairman, resigning in 2013. Since 2005 he has authored a twice- monthly newspaper column and blog, “Talking Transportation”, syndicated to 26 weeklies across Connecticut. In January 2014 he issued The Commuter Manifesto and launched “The Commuter Action Group”, empowering commuters to complain to Metro-North and elected officials using a website and social media.

Our business meetings begin at 10, and our speakers are scheduled for 10:30. No Charge, and No Reservations are required. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558;bgsesq@gmail.com. See our website greenwichrma.org.