



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.
37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830



www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Joe Mancinelli**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Tim Brooks**
Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Len Carusi** Print/Distribution: **Joe Mancinelli**

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"There is no winter without snow, no spring without sunshine and no happiness without friends."
Korean Proverb

The meeting started at 10:00 am with an all-**BOB MORGAN** program. First the RMA hymn composed by **BOB** followed by himself, in person, reciting the pledge.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

As is our Zoom custom, **ARNOLD GORDON** led off the Announcements.

1. Our longest serving member, **WAYNE WRIGHT**, died peacefully at home in Stamford, Connecticut on February 11; he was 87 years old. Wayne was inducted in 1990. Below is the link for his obituary.

[OBITUARY FOR WAYNE WRIGHT](#)

Another member, **HANS R. JACOBSEN**, resident of Greenwich, CT, passed away on February 14. He was 88 years old. Hans joined RMA in February 2016. If anyone who was close to either of these men and would like to give a memorial at a future meeting, please let **ARNOLD** know (ajgordo@verizon.net). May they rest in peace.

2. The PTA Council and the League of Women Voters Greenwich will co-sponsor a virtual forum on the 2021-2022 School Budget on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Included will be two 20-minute Q&As with town officials, such as Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent of Schools, Peter Bernstein, BOE Chairman, Fred Camillo (First

Selectman), Mike Mason (BET Chairman), and others. The forum is open to the public. Registration is required and can be made via this link:

<http://bit.ly/LWVGBOEForum>

Registrants may also submit two questions before February 20, 2021, for the discussion.

3. While the RMA Board continues to explore possible timing for resumption of in-person meetings, some volunteer services are beginning to act. Call-a-Ride has issued a draft protocol that contains a strict process for drivers (must be vaccinated), riders, and the vehicles used. The document may be accessed using the link below. It could serve as an object lesson in what organizations and volunteers are facing when close contact with service recipients is possible.

[CALL-A-RIDE DRAFT PROTOCOL](#)

4. He then introduced **TOM HEALY**, today's jokester, who told two stories about memory loss, I think.

PETER STERN, as usual, followed **ARNOLD** with his check-up on our far-flung membership.

1. Attendance: 65
2. Birthdays:

TOM	MCGUIRE	94
CHARLIE	GRAVES	84
RICK	WOLFF	76

3. "Nomad" Attendees (vs. Returnees):
 - a. **FRANK SCARPA** faithfully attends from Florida.
 - b. **HOWARD RICHMAN** wanders between Florida and Greenwich.
 - c. **BOB PHILLIPS** fakes us with his Golden Gate Bridge background.
 - d. **DAVE HARDMAN** checked in from Hawaii by phone; ZOOM @ 0500 is just a little early even for a USMA grad.



A rousing recorded Happy Birthday Song followed his report.

JEFF JUNKER opened his money bags to report: While activity in the Treasury remains low, that with the help of: 1. **TAD LARRABEE**, we successfully submitted the RMA annual report to the Connecticut Secretary of State, and 2. **ANDY HOLMS** we closed out the Tennis League financials for calendar 2020.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO smiled as he noted that no health news was good news and reminded the attendees to notify him if any members have a health situation to report.

JIM FISHBEIN shared preliminary data from the members survey:

1. There was an 85% response rate, which is excellent.
2. Average attendance at Zoom meetings was 1.9 times/month.
Average attendance at in-person meeting was 2.9 time/month.

There were 32 possibly viable suggestions for improving the meetings.

These findings, in detail, will be discussed at a future Board Meeting.

In the absence of a Human-Interest story, **RUSS HARDEN** entertained us with a very funny suggestion on how to avoid the high cost of retirement housing by staying at a Marriott hotel.

Volunteer Hours person **JOHN FEBLES** complained that he was not receiving inputs on hours served. **PLEASE** keep him informed at (jfebles13@gmail.com).

He then reported on hours received from December -February 17

487 Outside hours were reported by 11 men.

64 RMA hours were reported by 4 men.

The person reporting the most hours was ALAN GUNZBURG with 190, hours accumulated over several months.



PROGRAM NOTES

Today – **HOLLISTER STURGES** reported that Congressman Jim Hines of the 4th Congressional District, in his sixth visit to the RMA would enlighten us on 1) the priorities of the Biden administration and 2) the state of politics in the US. It promised to be, and was an enlightening talk followed by a spirited discussion.

Next Week - **GEORGE UBOGY** informed all that the speaker on February 24 would be Barry Strauss PhD. Professor of History and Classics at Cornell University. Dr Strauss would speak on “How to stay free under an empire: Lessons from Imperial Rome.” Check your email for a full bio of this interesting guest.



ANDY HOLMES set the scores for indoor tennis: four tennis matches were played last Friday. In the 1st round, the winners were **MIKE SMITH** and **JOE MANCINELLI** on court 1 and **BRIAN MAHONEY** and **DON BREISMEISTER** on court 2. In the finals round, winning again were **JOE MANCINELLI** and **BRIAN MAHONEY** on court 1 and **PAT MACCARTHY** and **TOM HEALY** were the winners on court 2. This week's captain will be **MIKE SMITH**.

RUSS HARDEN and **TONY COCCHI** reported that both platform tennis and pickleball had been snowed out and they hoped to renew play on the regular schedule.

WILL MORRISON calmly announced that the greater RMA Tai Chi activity is pleased to announce that the movement of the day is "Hold the Moon". Join us at 3:00 today and Wednesdays to learn the deep secrets involved. Note, be careful, don't try this at home, the Dark Side is to be avoided. Contact **WILL** at (wdmorrison@gmail.com). He also promised to present a demonstration of Tai Chi at next week's meeting, stay tuned.

TAD LARRABEE ambled on about the intrepid walkers last Thursday. The Walkers had a safe walk on the cleared roads of Greenwich Point where the drivers respect the many walkers on the roads, especially considering the snow and ice conditions.

DON CONWAY dealt two weeks' worth of **hearts** scores:

Games won – **GRANT PERKINS 3, LOU TROVATO 1, TOM HEALY 1**

Moon Shots – **GRANT PERKINS 2, LOU TROVATO 2, TOM HEALY 1**

Games won - **TOM HEALY 2-1/2, JOHN STANKUNAS 2-1/2** (one tie)

Moon Shots -**TOM HEALY 6 times, JOHN STANKUNAS** twice

Bridge scores were presented by **ANDRE MAZUREK**, there were 5 players. 1) team **RON FRIEDMAN** and **FRANK LEE** 4,800 2) **ED MASTOLONI** 4,240 3) **TONY COCCHI** 4,220.

POST MEETING GABFEST

At 10:27 President **HARDEN** stated that we had completed all the items on the agenda, and it was time to break for coffee and sweets before the speaker. He asked, "has anybody got anything they would like to add before we go off the air?"

A lively discussion followed.

DON CONWAY informed all that the BET was currently discussing the budget for the next fiscal year and that RMAers should be informed and be heard. To get a schedule of when these public (on the 'net) meetings will be held, call the Controller's Office at Town Hall and request a copy of the BET Calendar.

JOHN FEBLES reminded all that even with the pandemic in process there were opportunities to volunteer out there. He suggested that people who were aware of opportunities share them with the group. **JOHN** will act as a focal point for this information. If you know of a volunteer opportunity contact **JOHN** at (jfebles13@gmail.com) and he will inform the membership. In this light, **ARNOLD GORDON** reports that Temple Sholom in Greenwich is looking for volunteers for "Mitzvah Projects" in RMA terms that means "volunteer opportunities" contact: Scott Kramer (skramer175@gmail.com).

PETER UHRY shared that he had found some wonderful videos of America Cup vessels in action. Simply GOOGLE "sailing...Prada....America's Cup."

You should be able to access a video showing these marvelous machines in action.

ALAN GUNZBURG shared the story of the nine catalytic converters stolen from TAG buses recently. TAG ordinarily provides transportation for disabled Greenwich residents to medical and other critical services. During the pandemic they have, in partnership with Neighbor to Neighbor, undertaken delivery of food packages to 500 needy families in Greenwich. The loss of 9 buses severely impacts their ability to deliver the food. **ALAN** suggested that RMAers who might want to help defray the cost of the replacement converters turn directly to TAG <https://www.ridetag.org/>.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Our Congressman, Jim Hines appeared before this august group for the sixth time in his seven terms in Washington. As usual he was articulate and inciteful as he spoke about the legislative priorities of the Biden administration and his thoughts about politics in the US in the time of Covid. Representative Hines spoke for about 30 minutes leaving ample time for questions the RMA loves to ask.

As far as priorities are concerned, he opined that number one was the pandemic, economic recovery legislation. President Biden is asking for \$1.9 Trillion package. Hines believes that it will pass, probably with a slightly smaller price tag. Next, he sees the President pushing for an omnibus transportation bill. Everybody (Rs & Ds) is in favor of improving our physical and cyber infrastructure, but nobody is quite sure how to pay for it.

In a discussion of how to get things done in Washington he suggested that “The senate is a mechanism for stopping things from happening” e.g., the filibuster.

He also pointed out that major legislation has passed without a super-majority, i.e. The Affordable Care Act, The Tax Reform Bill of 2017 and probably the Covid Economic Relief bill of 2021.

He also pointed out that no other developed democratic country required a super-majority to pass a law.

When talking about the state of politics today, Hines was openly partisan, noting the split in the Republican Party between what he called the “establishment” and the “Trump Wing” which he labeled dangerous. In a democracy, he said, it is up to the citizenry to be open to thoughtful dialog allowing consensus faithful to our beliefs.

A spirited Q & A followed the talk which lasted beyond the scheduled 12:00 end time.

NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER

Barry Strauss PhD. Professor of History and Classics at Cornell University - “How to stay free under an empire: Lessons from Imperial Rome.”

NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week’s CBB scribe will be **FRANK SCARPA**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **FRANK** at fjscarpa@optonline.net.

NOTE TO RMA Members: The CBB Team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members enjoyment. We can truly use new members to join the CBB Team. Please contact **JOE MANCINELLI** at jlmanc@optonline.net if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort.

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Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

RMA 2020 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	1:00pm	Outdoor Pickle Ball at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi @ anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu
Tuesdays	9:30 to 11:00	Platform Tennis, Loughlin Ave. Cos Cob	James Dean @ jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	10:00to 11:00	RMA Weekly Zoom Meeting	Horst Tebbe @ onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi @ lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00	On-Line Bridge	Andre Mazurek @ mazurek.a.g@gmail.com
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: "Tai Chi New Joiners"	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee @ tadarra@optonline.net
Fridays	1:00 PM	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes @ andyholmes56@gmail.com
	Various Times TBD	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com