

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: JOE ANGLAND

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." - Mae West

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting, and **ANDY HOLMES** led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. With **JIM SANTORA** accompanying on the piano, **TOM HEALY** led members in singing "This Land is Your Land," "Bye, Bye, Blackbird," and "Anytime."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MICHAEL AMBROSINO advised that masks are still required for our meetings, but that the situation may change soon. He also advised that our April 20 meeting would be solely by Zoom because the Fellowship Hall is not available. He also reported that the Board and Program meetings will revert to their pre-Covid schedule, the first and second Wednesday of each month, respectively.

MICHAEL urged members to walk in Greenwich's March 20 St. Patrick's Day Parade, for which RMA member **JOHN TONER** will serve as Grand Marshall. Those wishing to participate should meet at 1:30 pm at the Town Hall employee parking lot. The parade begins at 2:00 pm.

MICHAEL reported that we were in good financial shape, with almost \$75,000 in the bank account.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, **RUSS HARDEN** notes that “Attached is the Nominating Council 2022 New Slate for RMA Board of Directors. We will vote on its acceptance at our March 30 RMA Members Meeting. If you prefer to vote via email, address your vote to Jeff Junker, jjunker@optonline.net.”

For Nominating Council candidate list, [CLICK HERE](#)

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** reported that sadly we have lost another member, **JAN MEYER**, who joined in December 1999. He was 87 years old. **RUSS HARDEN** will deliver a memorial for **JAN** at next week’s meeting.

For Jan Meyer obituary, [CLICK HERE](#)

ARNOLD recently reported that **CHARLIE MARSHALL** had passed away at the age of 91. **ERF PORTER** will have the honor of providing a memorial on March 23rd.

For Charlie Marshall obituary, [CLICK HERE](#)

With no news of particular importance, **ARNOLD** read some stories from a tiny book, *Life Stinks: A Look at Hopelessness, Despair and Disaster*, which reminds us that we are all bound by Murphy’s Law. One tale involved Monsieur Guilloton, his head slicing machine, and the king of France; the second story related a geography mishap by American pilots on a bombing run in WWII; the third, an interesting piece of trivia concerning the infamous Edsel automobile – after it had been on the market for four years, police had only one report of a theft of the car. **ARNOLD** finished his role as jokester with a tale of elderly love-making that proved dangerous.

PETER STERN reported that 85 members and one guest were present, with 13 of the members participating on Zoom. The guest was David Michonski, who is sponsored by **BOB MEANEY** and **HORST TEBBE**. Zoom participants included the “usual snow birds” **FRANK SCARPA**, **GRAN BURGESS**, and **TONY FitzPATRICK**, as well as **BO JARNSTEDT** and **ED PARKER** who are convalescing locally. **PETER** noted that **BOB MENDELSON** has a 100% attendance record – an accomplishment somewhat diminished by the fact that he was inducted only last week.

PETER reported the following birthdays:

DAVID	WEISBROD	75
MIKE	RYAN	84
DON	BREISMEISTER	80
STEVE	MESKERS	64
LOU	TROVATO	82
FRANK	ZAVATTARO	91
JOHN	FEBLES	78
BILL	HOWLAND	81
BO	JARNSTEDT	79

PETER reminded members that they should vaccinate, boost, and wear masks, and carry proof of their vaccinations.

HORST TEBBE advised that he will soon relinquish his video editing role with respect to our guest speakers. He has served for ten years, editing videos for 478 meetings, and he will step down when he edits number 500. Without a replacement, there may not be speaker videos in the future. In addition to needing a new video editor, we need backups for our Zoom operator, cameraman and audio man.

JOHN CRAINE reported that we had 107 outside volunteer hours and 133 inside volunteer hours for the week, with the leader (who opted for anonymity) recording 95 hours.

HOLLISTER STURGES noted that today's speaker will be Governor Ned Lamont. Next week's speaker will be State Senator Ryan Fazio.

FUN AND GAMES

Pickleball: **PAT MacCARTHY** reported that ten members had participated this week, and he urged others who wished to participate to contact him.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that ten walkers met at the Greenwich YWCA and explored some residential neighborhoods to the north and west for a total of about 3.5 miles without any hills. They ended by walking through the cemetery grounds at

the Second Congregational Church and visiting the Civil War Memorial next to “Crocus Hill” just east of the church, where there were a few early crocus blooms showing their colors. Some of the group extended their walk a bit by visiting the new Neighbor to Neighbor building and the cemetery grounds at Christ Church before returning home.

Bridge: **TONY COCCHI** reported that there were seven players this week and that the winners were **ANDRE MAZUREK** (4,710), **RON MURRAY** (3,810), and **ALEX KOSSEIM** (3,630).

Paddle Tennis: **JIM DEAN** reported that seven members had played this week and that the season was grinding to a halt.

Golf: **MIKE RYAN** advised that he will talk to the Griff this week about restoring pre-Covid booking procedures and flexibility with respect to the weekly number of tee times. Weather permitting, the first outing will be on April 5. At next week’s meeting sign-up sheets will be posted and **MIKE** will begin collecting \$20 season fees to cover weekly prize money competitions on holes 7, 15, and 17.

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** reported that we are already getting organized for the next indoor tennis season, which will run from September 2022 to May 2023. We will play on Fridays from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. **ANDY** has already emailed those playing this year, soliciting their interest in and deposits for the coming season. Any others who would like to participate should contact him at andyholmes56@gmail.com. As for last Friday’s results, in the opening round on court one there was a very tight match with **PAT MacCARTHY** and **ANDY** squeaking by **BRIAN MAHONEY** and **JIM FISHBEIN** in a tie breaker. On court two, the winners were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI**. In the final round, the winners on court one were **PETER** and **ANDY**, while the winners on court two were **RALPH NEWITTER** and **JIM**. The captain for this Friday will be **BILL FAKUNDINY**.

Hearts: **JOHN KNIGHT** reported that at table one the winners were **GRANT PERKINS** and **BOB SHULLMAN**, with **GRANT** and **JIM DEAN** recording moon shots. At table two, winners were **CHARLES GRAVES**, **JOE DOWLING**, and **TOM HEALY**, with **CHARLES** recording two moon shots and **TOM** and **JACK SWEGER** one each.

Tai Chi: WILL MORRISON reported that the group continued to meet at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich. He also announced that a group was being formed to address wellness research, with a focus on steps that can be taken to stay out of the doctor's office rather than to address chronic diseases. Members who are interested in participating should contact him.

TODAY'S SPEAKER



Hollister Sturges and Gov. Ned Lamont. Photos: Pete Uhry

STEVE MESKERS introduced today's speaker, Governor Ned Lamont, commending the Governor for what he has done for the state in terms of revitalizing the economy and guiding it through the Covid crisis. Governor Lamont returned the compliment, explaining that in addition to fighting vigorously for Old Greenwich, **STEVE** had proven particularly effective in Hartford because of his ability to work across the aisle and bring people together.

In his opening comments, Governor Lamont noted that it was two years to the day since he had raced to Danbury in response to the state's first reported Covid infection. He recalled that his initial reaction to the appearance of the pandemic in Connecticut was to ensure that hospitals did not get overwhelmed, as happened in some other places. He also recalled the challenge of balancing the need for protecting against the virus and the importance of keeping certain critical functions such as manufacturing and outdoor

construction going. He acknowledged that the state was hard hit by the initial wave of Covid but noted that Connecticut was now the most vaccinated and least infected state.

The Governor also recalled that one of his earliest priorities was to get the state's fiscal house in order. He noted that the state had achieved three straight years of budget surpluses and that it had done so without increasing taxes. He observed that he had often said "you don't need more taxes, but I want more taxpayers." To that end, he had worked to make the state more attractive to businesses and individuals. He mentioned the reduction of taxes on real property, cars, and 401(k) withdrawals, as well as programs that incentivized businesses to pay off student loans of their employees. The Governor emphasized that when he assumed office he changed the approach to recruiting businesses. Rather than the traditional, defensive approach of offering tax abatement to businesses that moved in, he emphasized the state's highly skilled work force and enlisted businesses that have been in the state for a long time to sing its praises to prospective newcomers.

Governor Lamont noted that the economy had recovered so well that one of the key problems now was that there were about 100,000 jobs that employers could not fill. To address that issue the state is ascertaining the nature of the jobs that are open today and will likely be open within the next few years, and it is offering free training, which benefits both the trainees and companies that will hire them.

The Governor was then interviewed by **HOLLISTER STURGES**, who began by discussing the war in Ukraine. The Governor said that the state was open to welcoming some Ukrainian refugees, as it had refugees from Afghanistan. He said that most of the Afghan refugees settled with either immediate family or distant relatives, and he expected that the same would be true for refugees from Ukraine.

Governor Lamont said that he agreed with President Biden's decision to stop oil purchases from Russia, noting that "you're not serious about sanctioning Russia unless you're sanctioning oil and gas." He recognized that the greatest impact of the Ukrainian war on the state would be felt at the gas pump, and he said that he is exploring a reduction in the gasoline tax as a short-term offset to that problem.

HOLLISTER asked the Governor about the state's ranking 46th in a CNBC ranking of states' attractiveness to business, and the Governor noted that that was a ranking several years

ago, and that we had moved up 15 places in a short period of time. A large factor in this improvement was the surpluses run in the last three years, which led to the state's having a large rainy-day fund which helps ensure the financial stability that is so important to businesses. Informed by how slowly the state had reacted at times when he was a businessman, he had also worked hard to speed up some of the state's dealings with businesses. The Governor concluded that the wind is now at our back when it comes to attracting businesses. Speaking of wind, Governor Lamont said that Connecticut is ideally situated to develop wind power because of the fairly constant wind levels several miles off shore.

In response to questions about infrastructure, Governor Lamont noted that the state will receive about \$1 billion per year for five years as a result of federal legislation (with an obligation to match about 20-30% of that amount with state funds). He said that he hoped to cut fifteen to twenty minutes off the commute from Stamford to both New York City and New Haven in about five years, both for trains and cars. With respect to trains, he noted that old bridges that force trains to slow down were a specific problem to be remedied. As for cars, he said that the solution was not generally adding more lanes, but dealing with specific choke points that caused delays. Another infrastructure need he is addressing is moving power substations out of flood zones, something that is especially critical now that "100-year storms" come about every twenty years.

The Governor then responded to questions from the audience. He endorsed the exemption from State statute 8-30g's affordable housing provisions for cities and towns that have a good five-or-ten-year plan to meet or approach the 10% statutory target within several years. He believed that localities should have flexibility to figure out how best to get to the target. When asked "where do tolls stand," the Governor bluntly said "nowhere." He acknowledged that the idea of imposing tolls had not been popular, even though half of the money they would have raised would have come from out-of-state vehicles that use our roads for free. He noted that given the absence of tolls a fee had been imposed on the largest tractor-trailers that use our roads.

Governor Lamont also mentioned an initiative to reduce the number of illegal guns in the hands of juveniles. He said that all too often what once would have been a fist fight would now turn into a gun fight. The focus of the initiative will be on the gun traffickers that bring the guns to the state.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

State Senator Ryan Fazio on “Creating a Brighter Future for Connecticut.”

SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few “historical” RMA pictures, with a question of the week. Last week, the question was who are these four RMAers from 2017, and where are they? They’re at the annual picnic and the three on the right are current President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, **TAD LARRABEE** and **CHARLEY LAND**; however, the gent on the far left is unidentified. Anyone recognize him?



When and where was this committee meeting, and what was the committee?



Do you have any pictures of past RMA activities?

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on March 16, will be →**AV RIVEL**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to av@rivels.org.

ALL MEMBERS: Do not forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours to **JOHN FEBLES** at jfebles13@gmail.com.

ALL MEMBERS: The CBB Team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members' enjoyment. We welcome new members to join the CBB Scribe Tribe. Please contact **TIM BROOKS** at tbroo@aol.com if you are interested.

ALL MEMBERS are reminded that in addition to streaming on the Internet, RMA speakers are normally shown on the local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum (Cablevision) channel 79.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA.
 Visit our website at <https://greenwichrma.org>.

RMA 2022 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities*			
Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	9:30 am	Tai Chi Workout	Will Morrison - wdmorrison@gmail.com
Mondays	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00 am	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	John Dean - jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe - onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi at lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 pm	Hearts at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center	John Kavanagh - jjkct176@gmail.com
Wednesdays	12:30 pm	Bridge	Andre Mazurek - mazurek.a.j@gmail.com
Thursdays	8:00 am	“Tai Chi Fundamentals” – First Congregational Church, Old Greenwich	Will Morrison - wdmorrison@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - tadlarra@optonline.net
Thursdays	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Tennis	Andy Holmes - andyholmes56@gmail.com)

*Day & time of some events may vary; check with contact