

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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**SCRIBE: AV RIVEL**

*"For true patriots to be silent, is dangerous" - Samuel Adams*

Nattily dressed in a green shirt and tie President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting and immediately called upon **DON CONWAY** to lead the pledge, which he did admirably. **DON** then assumed the role of song leader and, accompanied by **BOB MORGAN**, led the assembled in singing "God Bless America," "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" and "Danny Boy." You could tell it was the day before St. Patrick's Day.

## **PRESIDENTIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS**

President **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 urged members to walk in Greenwich's March 20 St. Patrick's Day Parade, for which RMA member **JOHN TONER** will serve as Grand Marshal. Those wishing to participate should meet at 1:30 pm at the Town Hall employee parking lot. The parade begins at 2:00 pm. He then went on to announce that **MIKE RYAN** had accepted the role of Golf Chair.

**MICHAEL** then repeated his request to have people volunteer for vital jobs within the RMA. Help your association!

Video and AV people - see **HORST TEBBE**

Visiting Chair - see **MICHAEL**

Scribes - see **TIM BROOKS**

As de-facto visiting chair, the president announced that there are two members suffering medical conditions, but they have chosen to keep it private.

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](mailto:jjunker@optonline.net).”

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

**Corresponding Secretary: TOM HEALY**, after admitting that NO ONE could possibly replace **ARNOLD GORDON**, pinch hit for him as corresponding secretary. **TOM** informed us that those who were of a mind to, could acquire additional COVID-19 tests from [usps.com](https://www.usps.com). He then proceeded to read a couple of Irish one-liners supplied by **ARNOLD**. The real humor started as **AV RIVEL** spun a couple of knee slappers appropriate to the morrow's holiday.

**Membership: PETER STERN** reported that 58 members and one guest were present, with eight members participating on Zoom. The guest, David Michonski, was the guest of **BOB MEANEY** and **HORST TEBBE**. Zoom participants included the irreplaceable **ARNOLD GORDON**.

**PETER** reported the following birthdays: **LEE LUNDY** and **MICHAEL ROSS**, both 79 this week. The duo was duly serenaded with the traditional “Happy Birthday.” **PETER** welcome backed returnees, all from various parts of the Sunshine State: **TONY FITZPATRICK, SAM MARASSO, PETER TUNLEY** and **AV RIVEL**. Welcome back to the frozen zone, fellas. **PETER** reminded members that they should vaccinate, boost, and wear masks, and carry proof of their vaccinations.

**Volunteer Hours: BOB FRISHMAN** reported that we had 63 outside volunteer hours signed in by nine members and 19 RMA hours for the week by three men. Highest report of the week was by **MAURICE KROHN** with 11 hours.

**Speakers: HOLLISTER STURGES** did the honors for this week's as well as next week's speaker. This week is State Senator Ryan Fazio (R) 36th District, Greenwich and parts of

Stamford and New Canaan, on “Creating a Brighter Future for Connecticut.” Next week Robert Henrey returns to the RMA to speak on “China 1981.” Henrey, an experienced China hand, has written a book by the same title based on insights gathered while working and living in China and the Far East.

## THE SPORTS PAGE

**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 last Thursday, four walkers took a nice long hike in the Rye, NY area, starting in Crawford Park. Near the end of our walk, we wandered into Port Chester to visit Neri’s Bakery where we each bought some delicious baked goods as a reward. We may have been a smaller group than usual, but we had good conversation and reasonable weather.

**Golf:** **MIKE RYAN** teed up to report that he had a good meeting with the powers-that-be at the Griff and he is looking forward to better, more positive relations this season. The first outing will be on April 5. Sign-up sheets for April 5 and 12 are on the bulletin board. In April RMA will lead the women on the course. Tee-off will be 8:30. Fees will be \$20 and **MIKE** will be collecting them at meetings. He will also be signing up captains.

**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](mailto:andyholmes56@gmail.com). As for last Friday’s winners:

Court 1, Round 1, **RANDY MOTLAND** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI**

Final, **JOE MANCINELLI** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI**

Court 2, Round 1, **DON BREISMEISTER** and **JOE MANCINELLI**

Final, **BOB GRAYSON** and **BILL FAKUNDINY**

**Hearts:** **TOM HEALY** shuffled the results. Winners were **TOM HEALY (2)**, **GRAN PERKINS (2)**, **JOHN KNIGHT (1)**, **JOHN STANKUNAS (1)**. Moon Shooters were **TOM HEALY (2)**, **JOHN STANKUNAS (2)**, **JOHN KNIGHT (1)**, **GRAN PERKINS (1)**.

**Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** did not get a chance to report at the meeting, but he sends this report. "This fast-paced activity continues to astound players with its surprising demands of skill and wit. Join your RMA colleagues 9:30 am indoors at the FCC-Old Greenwich. Email **WILL** to register at [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com). Also, safeguard against falls, with this just in from the Harvard Medical School: 'Find physical activities, such as tai chi or yoga, that can improve your balance, coordination, and muscle strength'."

**Bridge:** No report

**Paddle tennis:** No report

### **SPECIAL END-OF-THE-MEETING REPORT**

Fittingly, **PAT MACCARTHY** gave an interesting and informative report on Ireland's Patron Saint, the man we celebrate every March 17. Surprisingly, St Patrick is not a son of the *ould sod* but was born in Britain. At age seven he was kidnapped and pressed into servitude as a shepherd in Ireland. After his escape he returned to Britain and studied for the priesthood. He was ordained at age 30. He then returned to Ireland and converted the Irish to Catholicism. Ireland went from 95% Pagan to 95% Catholic in the 30 years of St Patrick's service to the Church. This was at a time that most of Europe was mostly Pagan (5th Century CE).

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER**



**HOLLISTER STURGES** introduced State Senator Ryan Fazio. A Republican, Ryan was elected to the Connecticut State Senate in a special election in August 2021, following the resignation of Democratic member Alexandra Kasser. He represents the 36<sup>th</sup> District which covers Greenwich and parts of Stamford and New Canaan.

Fazio set out to discuss the challenges currently facing Connecticut, its state government, and the reforms needed to protect our community and make our state thrive for the future. He spoke on the state government's precarious fiscal situation, stagnant economy, high cost of living and tax burden. He also addressed ways to improve public education and reform the state's 8-30g housing law.

Fazio peppered his talk with statistics comparing Connecticut to other states and the past and future. Some of the challenges include Connecticut having the second highest sovereign debt among U.S. States, the second highest tax burden, and the highest energy and electricity cost nationwide. There are fewer jobs in Connecticut today than there were in 1997.

He stated that our public schools rank only #10 out of 50 states. Then he cited two schools of excellence, Stamford Charter School and our own Eastern Middle School to show that better public education is possible.

He was particularly harsh on recent police reforms which he claimed prevent police from enforcing gun control laws or taking steps to prevent frequent young offenders from re-offending.

Fazio also cited the difficulties that small businesses face in succeeding in Connecticut. High taxes, multiple, onerous and confusing state regulations which instead of helping small business, favor special interests. He felt that the state was discouraging, rather than encouraging small business.

During the Q & A Fazio answered a question on "What to do about I 95" with the comment that "the amount of waste in infrastructure is mind-boggling".

He is a strong advocate of local control, citing the added expense to having the "state do it" and local authorities being closer the situation and being smarter than the State on issues. Although he didn't say so outright, this writer felt that Fazio's solution to the problems in Connecticut governance was to elect more people with an "R" after their name to the state legislature and executive.

### 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 when and where was this committee meeting, and what was the committee? Believe it or not, it was the RMA Scribes meeting at the Riverside Yacht Club in 2011. (*Ed note: I'm jealous! If we had this many Scribes today, we'd have a banquet too!*)



Finally, PETE offers the following. "RMAers were certainly willing to part with their money in exchange for raffle tickets and the 50-50 drawing in this picture taken in September of what year?"



Do you have any pictures of past RMA activities?

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

**TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** Scribe for the next meeting, on March 23, will be →**ED FARRELL**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to [ejf1038r@gmail.com](mailto:ejf1038r@gmail.com).

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

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Visit our website at <https://greenwichtma.org>.

## RMA 2022 CALENDAR

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

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