



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN



Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community Service
Visit us on the web at www.greenwichrma.org

Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment. **Editor/Chairman:** Chet Risio. **Scribes:** Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, Dan Fredland, Tony Cocchi, Joe Mancinelli and George Stockbridge, (On leave: Steve Elliott, Marshall Toppo, and Arnold Gordon). **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format:** Gene Schwartz, Andrzej Mazurek, and Jack Cuff. **Graphics:** Av Rivel
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Scribe: Joe Mancinelli

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometime taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome" - Anne Bradstreet

President DON CONWAY opened the meeting at 10 a.m., at which time RALPH VIGGIANO led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. GRANVILLE BURGESS directed us in a rousing chorus of *America the Beautiful*, with piano accompaniment by JIM SANTORA. This was appropriately followed up with two mood setting springtime songs, *April Showers* and *My Blue Heaven*. DON welcomed back returnees:-DON HERMAN from Phoenix, AZ, La Jolla, CA and Mill Valley, CA -RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW from Jupiter FL -REID MCINTYRE from Singer Island, FL -AV RIVEL from Paris, France - SAM MARASSO from Charleston, SC. Corresponding Secretary (aka joke teller) BOB LUCE provided us with two groaners, the first about a bartender called "DOC" and the second about a blond female arguing with a ventriloquist's dummy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) DON CONWAY introduced Diane Edwards from the MEWS Senior Living Facility located in Greenwich, CT. The MEWS provides a full range of activities, trips, meals, housekeeping services and laundry services, 24 hour nursing and both independent and assisted living care. Anyone interested in any of these services can contact the MEWS.

2) AL KNIGHT representing the Nomination Council presented the upcoming slate of officers, new board members and standing committee heads for the upcoming RMA year beginning on May 1st. Candidates to be voted on by the full membership are listed below.

OFFICERS

President
1st Vice-President
2nd Vice-President
3rd Vice-President
Treasurer
Recording Secretary

NOMINEE

Tad Larrabee
Jerry Schwendeman
Russ Harden
Mike Ambrosino
Wayne DeVries
Jim Fishbein

BOARD MEMBERS

Membership	Horst Tebbe
Program	Hollister Sturges
Publicity	Jack Cuff
Special Events 1	Abby Smoler
Special Events 2	Mike Ferrarese
Director-at-Large 1 Yr	Jack Weir
Director-at-Large 1 yr	Andy Holmes
Past President	Don Conway
Past President	Peter Uhry

STANDING COMMITTEES

Cigar Box Bulletin	Chet Risio
Volunteers	Peter Stern
Audit	(the position of Auditor is being left open at this time)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bob Robins

Hearing no nominations from the floor, AL recommended the Slate as recommended by the Nominating Committee. It will be posted on the Bulletin Board and voted upon on April 4th.

Both ABBEY SMOLER and MIKE FERRARESE wish to step down from the fine work they have been doing with Special Events, but no replacements have come forward. ABBEY and MIKE will serve until the end of this calendar year. If you care to volunteer in this area, please speak to AL KNIGHT.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee and the entire membership, AL identified several members who are stepping down from assignments they have held over the past couple of years. RALPH VIGGIANO steps down from the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee after volunteering and participating in a wide range of activities since joining the RMA in 2008. RALPH has been active in golf, tennis, and bridge. He wrote the President's book. He went through the VP chairs and was our president in 2015. RALPH has lent his spirit and enthusiasm to us all and he will always BE known as the guy who tried to attack us with his tennis racquet during Wednesday meetings.

JIM SANTORA steps down as our Board Secretary in May. His accuracy and good note taking have made him a solid participant and recorder of the Board's activities for nearly four years.

KLAUS JANDER steps away from the Board in May having served as a member at large.

AL KNIGHT stands down in May having served three years on the Nominating Committee.

One of the RMA great strengths is the willingness for individual members to step up and volunteer to keep us all going. Thanks to all those who continue to help keep RMA a vital and important organization for its members and for the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: WAYNE WRIGHT told members that NICK MECCA is resting at home. He is seeing his oncologist tomorrow to confirm diagnosis and begin treatments. NICK can be reached at 203-637-0058.

ROSINA PRIMO, wife of RMA member AL PRIMO, passed away last week. A graveside service will be held today at noon at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich.

PROGRAMS: HOLLISTER STURGES announced today's speaker, **Mr. Larry Doyle**, who's topic is "Are the Wall Street Police Protecting You."

Next week's speaker, April 4th, will be **Tom Niles** presenting "My Perspective on Foreign Affairs Today."

HOLLISTER also provided an overview of the inner workings of the Programs Committee. This included the goals of the committee and how speakers are selected. In summary there are **four key factors for selecting the RMA speakers:**

1. Want a wide range of topics to address diverse interests, with occasional programs that address issues of particular interest to men of our age, namely health issues, i.e. hearing, eyesight, prostate care, etc.
2. Seek experts or leaders in their field, not just good performers. Want our programs to have some substance and speakers who can answer questions in depth during the Q & A.
3. Want to make an RMA engagement a good experience for speakers so they will come back, be a resource for future speakers, and help us build a network of contacts. We make an effort to show our appreciation to speakers and in turn try to build our reputation as a worthy place to come and present.
4. Want to build our reputation in the community as a welcoming and dynamic organization.

For each speaker, there is a program committee member who is the designated host or presenter, responsible for arrangements of that day's program. He is the primary contact to the speaker, makes clear what topic we want the speaker to address, hosts the lunch for the speaker and so on.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE advised that there were 102 members in attendance. Two guests were in attendance: John Denne, guest of BOB LUCE, and Joe Havranek, guest of JIM FAHY and BILL WIGGIN. Those celebrating **birthdays** were JIM BOARDMAN -75, CHARLIE JENSEN -84, TAD LARRABEE-

77, TED EWING -88, BOB RIMMER -80, PETER RYAN -82 and JOHN HARKINS -76.

VOLUNTEERS: ALAN GUNZBURG advised that there were 561 hours by 38 men for outside activities, and 217 hours by 24 men for RMA activities. The maximum reported was by TAD LARRABEE with 67 hours.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Bridge: RON FRIEDMAN reported there were 5 players on March 14th. The 3 highest were RON FRIEDMAN with 2800, BRUNO SCHRAGE with 2600, and GRANT PERKINS with 2200.

Tennis: TOM HEALY reported the winners for March 23rd, on court #1 were RON FRIEDMAN and JOE MANCINELLI; winners on court #2 were BILL HOWLAND and TOM HEALY. Next week's captain is JOE MANCINELLI.

Hearts: PETER BERG related to us that there were 4 players. Both games 1 & 2 were won by PETER BERG. MICHAEL AMBROSINO and PETER BERG each Shot the Moon once.

Golf: MIKE RYAN announced the kick off of the RMA golf season. The first outing will be next Tuesday, April 3rd, weather permitting. Signup sheets for the next two weeks are posted on the bulletin board. MIKE is collecting \$20 dues for the season and he is also looking for volunteer hosts for any of the upcoming outings.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events are open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks are to be made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks or the reservation will be canceled. **Contact** MIKE FERRARESE myagentmike@yahoo.com 203 554-0678 or ABBEY SMOLER abbeysmoler@gmail.com 203 531-0235

Bruce Museum, 3-29-18. Cost p/p \$60. Drive to Museum. Lunch at Milbrook Club. Meet at Museum 9:45a.m. Status: 14 places available.

West Point Tour, 4-19-18. Cost p/p \$85. Lunch at the Thayer Hotel. Bus leaves St. Catherine's 8:45a.m. Status: Wait listed.

New York Botanical Gardens, 5-24-18. Cost p/p \$105. Lunch at Mario's Restaurant on Arthur Avenue. Bus leaves St. Catherine's 8:45a.m. Status: 15 places available.

Belmont Race Track, 6-14-18. Cost p/p \$85. Buffet in Belmont Room, Bus to leave St. Catherine's at 10:30 a.m. Status 19 places available.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Following the break, HOLLISTER STURGES introduced the **speaker, Larry Doyle**. Mr. Doyle has worked on and around Wall Street since the early 1980's. Having launched his career at First Boston trading mortgage-back securities, he subsequently worked at Bear Stearns, UBS, Bank of America and his career on the sell side of Wall Street culminated when he became national sales manager for Securitized Products at JP Morgan. He has written at length on the worlds of Wall Street, Washington, and the global economy and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his highly acclaimed book, *In Bed with Wall Street* (St. Martin's Press, 2014). He is a founding partner in his investment advisory practice while simultaneously working with partners in an international consulting and oversight effort that investigates wide ranging financial fraud. Mr. Doyle is a 1983 graduate of the College of the Holy Cross (Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa).

In spite of the market crash of 2008 and the resulting regulations, Mr. Doyle still feels there is a great deal of risk for the common investor. He compares Wall Street to an oligarchy where a small few control all participants. The barriers to get into the small group are very high and there is very little transparency of information. In his opinion what is needed is not more regulation, but the appropriate regulation, with real regulators. The big banks need to be broken up and ties with Washington need to be eliminated. "As an investor, you still need to play in the game but understand the risks."

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Ambassador Tom Niles, "My Perspective on Foreign Affairs Today"