



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

www.greenwichrma.org

This Bulletin is brought to you each week by these volunteers

Chair/Editor: **Chet Risio**. *Scribes:* **Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Dan Fredland, Tony Cocchi, Joe Mancinelli.**

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Scribe: TONY COCCHI

President DON CONWAY opened the meeting at 10 a.m., and PETER STERN led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

TOM HEALY then directed us, GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE accompanying on the Steinway on our monthly singing of the Star-Spangled Banner, He's Got the Whole World in His Hands and Good Night, Irene".

Corresponding Secretary (aka joke teller) ARNOLD GORDON spun us a story about a dyslectic nurse and her potential problem with an instruction on how to handle a boil.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **RALPH VIGGIANO** called for a vote on the new nominees for the Offices, Board Members, and Standing Committees for the next year. The nominees were approved unanimously.

OFFICERS

President

TAD LARRABEE

1st Vice-President	JERRY SCHWENDEMAN
2nd Vice-President	RUSS HARDEN
3rd Vice-President	MICHAEL AMBROSINO
Treasurer	WAYNE DEVRIES
Recording Secretary	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 Bullen	CHET RISIO
Volunteers	PETER STERN
Audit	JIM STEEN

2. RMA Summer Tennis: JOHN KNIGHT, TONY COCCHI and PETER UHRY discussed the upcoming summer tennis program and the addition of Pickle-ball as a summer sport. The tennis courts at Loughlin Field in Cos Cob will be used for both tennis and Pickle-ball, on Mondays and Thursday from 9AM to 11 AM. The response of the RMA members will determine the how the court use is divided between the two sports. We are discussing with Betsy Underhill (the local Pickleball Ambassador) to supply us with lessons and some temporary equipment (racquets and balls).

3. Shakespeare Group: The RMA Shakespeare Group will be discussing "Romeo and Juliet" next Thursday, April 12, at the home of KEITH SMITH, 37 Jones Park Drive in Riverside. If you would like to join the group you can email GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE at grspersonal@aol.com or call him at 203-698-0710.

Editor's Note: GEORGE, speaking of the feud between the Montagues and Capulets, mispronounced the latter name as "Copulates". The young lovers would surely have done so were it not for their early demise.

4. Neighbor to Neighbor: JIM SANTORA read a "Thank you" note from the Neighbor to Neighbor organization thanking the members for their generous donations which provided food, clothing and basic living essentials for people in our community.

5. On Saturday, April 7, 2018 there will be a re-dedication of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Veterans Memorial at 10 AM at 280 Greenwich Avenue Havemeyer building. The memorial is in memory of the 69 soldiers who gave their lives in that war as well as the over 450 volunteers (nearly 8% of the towns 1860 population) for the army.

COMMITTEES

VISITING: WAYNE WRIGHT reported that NICK MECCA has been hospitalized in Stamford Hospital. No calls or visits are requested.

Editor's note; NICK passed away later that day at age 89. Family and friends will gather on Monday, April 9, 4-8pm at Coxe & Graziano Funeral Home, 134 Hamilton Ave.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE advised that there were 98 members in attendance. Those celebrating birthdays were JOHN AWDZIEWICZ, 86, LARRY REBAK, 81, ALLEN DEERING, 83, and MIKE FERRARESE 75.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: ANDRE MAZUREK advised that there were 451 hours by 41 men for outside activities, and 157 hours by 27 men for RMA activities. The maximum hours reported was by TAD LARRABEE with 23 hours.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR reported there were 7 players. The 3 highest were KURT SCHAFFIR WITH 4550, ANDRE MAZUREK with 2770, and RON FRIEDMAN with 2720.

TENNIS; JOE MANCINELLI reported the winners on court #1 were TOM HEALY and RANDY MOTLAND; winners on court #2 were MICHAEL AMBROSINO and SAM MARASSO. Next week's captain is PETER ORBANOWSKI.

HEARTS: PETER BERG related to us that there were 8 players. Table #1 winners were PETER BERG and JOHN KNIGHT. At table 2 TOM HEALY and JOHN HOEY won. Those shooting the moon were PETER BERG, JOHN KNIGHT, and TOM HEALY. JOHN STANKUNAS shot the moon twice.

GOLF: MIKE RYAN reported that last week was a washout, sign-up sheets for the next 2 weeks are posted in the back. He will be collecting dues and is looking for golf hosts over the next seven months of the season.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks to be made out to RMA, and must be received within two weeks or the reservation will be cancelled. Contact MIKE FERRARESE (myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0235).

West Point tour, April 19, 2018. Lunch at the Thayer Hotel, \$85. Bus departs 8:45am from St. Catherine's' Church parking lot. Status: Wait listed.

Botanical Gardens, lunch at Mario's Restaurant on Arthur Ave., May 24, \$105pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 8:45am. Status: 18 places open.

Belmont Race Track. Thursday, June 14, 2018. Lunch: Buffet in Belmont Room. Cost: \$85.00. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 10:30 AM. Status: Wait listed.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

After the break, HOLLISTER STURGES introduced the speaker, **Tom Niles**. Tom has 36 years of experience in the United States Foreign Service including Ambassador to Canada, Ambassador to Greece, Ambassador to the European Union as well as Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Canada. Tom gave his perspective on changes that the current administration has made in foreign affairs. Those opinions include:

- There is a lack of a cohesive foreign policy and processes that gather and formulate policy from multiple sources and coordinate and make joint decisions.
- The State department is being destroyed due to underfunding, understaffing and neglect. He pointed out that we are negotiating in the Far East without an Ambassador to South Korea.
- The appointment of National Security Adviser John Bolton is frightening because of his lack of "adult supervision".
- The current administration is dismantling the institutions and working arrangements that have served the country well and been built up since 1945. GATT, the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank, NATO and the opinion of our European allies have all been impacted by the actions of the administration.
- The introduction of tariffs can cause trade wars that damage both sides. The dissolution of NAFTA would create real problems for the US, Mexico and Canada.
- If the US backs out of the Iran treaty, it will be a disaster because the treaty is working and Iran is not proceeding toward developing nuclear weapons. In addition, it would discourage North Korea from entering a deal with the US if it feels the US cannot be counted on to keep an agreement.
- The making of short term domestic political decisions is hurting the longer term and international opinions. He used the decision to move the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as an example.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER
Bea Blahing on "The Indigenous Peoples of Mindanao"

Visit us at www.greenwichrma.org

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