



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: Joe Mancinelli Graphics: Av Rivel

**Scribes: Av Rivel, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge,
Joe Mancinelli, Chet Risio, Frank Scarpa, Marshall Toppo**Archivist:
Harold Frost.
Format: Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz. Print/Dist: Chet Risio

VOLUME 67 NUMBER 8 JUNE 19, 2019 SCRIBE: CHET RISIO

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"Better than yesterday, not as good as tomorrow"



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President JERRY SCHWENDEMAN rang the bell promptly at 10:00am and the members gradually assembled.

ARNOLD GORDON led the Pledge of Allegiance and reminded members of CHUCK STANDARD's admonition, "There is no comma between One Nation and Under God". Hence, there is no pause.

TOM HEALY led the ensemble in *Battle Hymn of the Republic* and *Oklahoma*. GEORGE UBOGY, in addition to his stint at the piano, said the last song, *Rain, Rain, Go Away* reflected the inclement weather this week and we could substitute our own names for *Little _____ wants to play*. PETER STERN was the Mentor.

BOB CAREY drew laughs with a story of a Dobermann Mastiff PitBull bred for combat that was swallowed by a dachshund. That animal was 10' long and had been bred with an alligator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. NOTE: The RMA meeting next week, June 29, will be held in the Eastern Civic Center, 90 Harding Road in Old Greenwich.
2. GEORGE UBOGY asked for members to volunteer for Meals on Wheels this summer since many of the regular drivers leave for summer vacation. The need is urgent. Call MOW at 203 869-1312 to volunteer.
3. On a sad note GERRY BERRAFATI, the RMA member who faithfully manned the ID tag table, passed away yesterday. There will be more news forthcoming.

COMMITTEES

TODAY'S SPEAKER; PETER BERG urged all to stay for the address by State Representative Stephen Meskers.

Next week's Speaker: BOB PHILIPPS said Economist **Larry Kantor** will talk on the US and global economies.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE gave the attendance figures; 94 members and one guest and one candidate. HORST introduced Billy London, g/o ARNOLD GORDON. The **birthday boys** this week were BOB CAREY, 87, ART ROBINSON, 88, TONY COCCHI, 78, and MIKE AMOROSO, 82. Inductee John Farrauto was glowingly recommended for membership by BOB ROBINS and seconded by PETER STERN. John, a graduate of Fordham Law School, practiced law for 55 years and retired this year. He has volunteered with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters group and the Yonkers Jaycees. The membership accepted JOHN with a hearty "AYE."

VOLUNTEER HOURS: MICHAEL AMBROSINO declared 382 outside hours by 40 members and 229 inside hours by 30 members. The Melody Men recorded 833 hours for the 2019 Spring season. Way to go, MM!

SPECIAL EVENTS: ABBEY SMOLER regretted that the Botanical Gardens trip was canceled due to a less than viable participation. JIM FISHBEIN gave the details on the Pepsico Sculpture Gardens trip. See below.

GAMES OF THE RMA

INDOOR TENNIS: MICHAEL AMBROSINO is signing up players for the 2019-2020 season. He estimates the cost will be \$525 - #550 per person for the season. They may be using three courts to account for an increase in players. Contact MICHAEL to sign up.

HEARTS: For the week of June 12 ED FARRELL reported there were 12 players and six games. Winners were JOHN KAVANAGH, ED FARRELL, LOU TROVATO, TOM HEALY and JOHN KNIGHT. Moonshotters were JAY SCHONDORF (2) CHARLIE GRAVES, JACK SWEGER and TOM HEALY (2). Next week's captain is TOM HEALY.

BRIDGE: TONY COCCHI dealt the scores: There were seven players and three slams. The three top scores were TONY COCCHI 3940, PATRICK GRAMM 3450 and FRANK LEE 3240. The Slams: 6 no trump FEBLES and COCCHI, 6 spades FEBLES and LEE, 6 diamonds LEE and COCCHI.

GOLF AND PICKLEBALL were rained out.

TENNIS: There were five players and three young women.

TAI CHI: WILL MORRISON lauded the merits of Tai Chi in maintaining balance and mind control. The hourly rate is \$10 for 12 hours of classes at the Greenwich Senior Center.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Kendall Sculpture Gardens at Pepsico in Purchase, NY, on September 19. RMA member ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN will lead a guided tour of the 45 works by the 20th century's leading artists. An upscale buffet lunch will follow at the Doral Arrowwood Resort. The full buffet will cost \$40 and the extensive salad bar is \$25. Transportation will be a self-drive.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

PETER BERG introduced State Representative **Stephen Meskers** who spoke on *Connecticut Crossroads to Growth*. Representative Meskers, having just completed his first term in office, is the first Democrat from Greenwich elected to the State Legislature in over 100 years. With degrees in Economics and Finance, a 35-year career in macro-economics in South American economies and a stint in the RTM, Rep. Meskers came out of retirement to run for State office.

In his talk he mentioned the problems facing Connecticut: people and businesses are exiting the state leaving less revenue to cope with rising costs. Three areas that must be addressed are unfunded pension benefits, and rising health care and energy costs. Funds to cope with these problems are not being applied correctly. His phrase, "we are

not watering the lawn, we are watering the driveway” aptly described the misdirected funding.

In the ample Q & A Rep. Meskers gave detailed answers to complicated questions indicating he is well versed in the problems facing Connecticut.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Lawrence Kantor, Ph.D. will speak on *The Economy, Financial Markets and the Fed: Where Do We Go from Here?*

REMINDER

The next RMA meeting, June 26, will be held at the Eastern Civic Center, 90 Harding Road, Old Greenwich.

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