

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

www.greenwichrma.org

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"The wise build bridges, the foolish build walls"
Chinese Proverb

President **TAD LARRABEE** called the meeting to order at 10:02am. The member response was delayed due to hallway conversations. **MIKE AMBROSINO** led the pledge and **GRAN BURGESS** opened the song fest with *This Land is Your Land*. Then, with a nod to Columbus and Italian heritage, we sang *That's Amore* and closed with the fun song *Mairzy Doats*. **GEORGE UBOGY** played the piano with aplomb. Corresponding Secretary **BOB CAREY** related a story, in accented English, about a Jewish man giving away his wife's clothes. The mentor for the day was **GERRY GIBIAN**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JERRY POLLACK urged all to stay for today's speaker, **Mark Pazniokas**, from the CT Mirror.

PETER UHRY told us that next week's speaker program will feature six panelists discussing the Greenwich Reads Together organization's book selection, **Code Girls**. **PETER** will moderate the panel of five RMA members plus Kate Petrov, publicist for the Greenwich Library, describing how the selection was made.

PETER will also lead a group in planting daffodils at Binney Park's Hillside Annex on Saturday, October 27th, from 10:00 am to 12:00pm and on Sunday, October 28th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Please come, dig, plant, and make Binney more beautiful.

WILL MORRISON is forming a small group to do Tai Chi, a meditation and martial arts exercise. If interested, speak to **WILL**.

TAD welcomed back **MARTIN WAINE** from Dartmouth, Massachusetts, **WAYNE DEVRIES** from Maine and **GEORGE UBOGY** from Charleston and Savannah, Georgia.

TAD also announced that the board approved an amendment to our Certificate of Incorporation. In 2012, the RMA filed an earlier amendment that indicated that RMA was a 501(C)(3). The IRS recognizes the RMA as a 501(C)(7). A notice of this proposed Amendment was emailed to all members on October 6th. The minimum ten-day notice having expired, the membership was asked to approve the amendment. A chorus of “ayes” approved the change.

ARNOLD GORDON reminded everyone to register to vote. For anyone needing a ride, a signup sheet is on the bulletin board along with instructions on how to register. The deadline is October 30th.

COMMITTEES

Membership: **HORST TEBBE** said today’s meeting attendance was 106 members, two candidates and one guest for a total of 109. Roger Clarke was the guest of **GERRY GIBIAN**.

The two candidates for induction were Paul Campion sponsored by **MIKE RYAN** and **TONY RIGGI**, and Arnold Welles sponsored by **JACK WEIR** and **TONY COCCHI**.

Paul started in industrial furniture sales and was lured into Wall Street and eventually into institutional equity research. Paul lives in Greenwich with his wife of 54 years.

Arn Welles is a graduate of Yale and served in Army Intelligence in Vietnam. With an MBA from Harvard Business School, Arn embarked on a 40-year career in banking at JP Morgan Chase. He is married with three children and currently serves as a docent at Bruce Museum.

With resounding approval, PAUL and ARN were accepted as members into the RMA.

The **birthday boys** this week were **MARSHALL TOPPO** 85, **JERRY BERRAFATI** 89, **JOEL BLUMBERG** 78, and **JOHN HOEY** 72.

Volunteer hours: **PETER STERN** reported 282 outside hours by 32 members and 119 inside hours by 24 members. Top RMA member was **ALAN GUZBURG** with 30 hours. **PETER** reminded members that have not reported their hours to send them to **RICH BISK** at rbisk@optonline.net.

GAMES OF THE RMA

Pickleball was rained out.

Bridge: **JOHN FEBLES** gave the bridge scores for October 10th: **JOHN FEBLES** 3840, **RON FRIEDMAN** 3180, and **FRANK LEE** 2300. **JOHN** will serve as recorder next week.

Golf: **GEOFFREY BURGE** said there were 14 players on a cold October 14th morning. Nearest to the pin on hole seven was **JIM BOARDMAN** and on hole fifteen was

ANDRZEJ MAZUREK. Longest drive on hole seventeen was **GRAN BURGESS** who also had the lowest score at 94. Three players shot under 100.

Tennis: **JOE MANCINELLI** announced the tennis winners for October 12th. For the preliminary match, **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **MIKE SMITH** won on court 1. **RANDY MOTLAND** and **GERRY GIBIAN** won on court 2. For the final match **RANDY MOTLAND** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI** won on court 1. **TOM HEALY** and **SAM MARASSO** won on court 2. Next week's captain is **BOB GRAYSON**.

Hearts: **RICH HOLZ** reported the results for October 10th. Eight men played two games each at two tables. Table 1 had **GEORGE DIPPY** shooting the moon and winning the first game and **RICH** taking the second game. At table 2 **TONY GRAHAM** won both games. No other moon shots were accomplished. **JOHN KNIGHT** is next week's captain.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

JERRY POLLACK stated the main speaker was **Mark Pazniokas, Capitol Bureau Chief of the CT Mirror**. Prior to Mark's presentation, **Bruce Putterman**, CEO/Publisher of the CT Mirror, made an opening comment. Stating, "The Connecticut Mirror is a nonprofit, non-partisan, independent online publisher of news, opinion, and data covering policy, government, and politics in Connecticut."

Mark Pazniokas opened his remarks by relating a question from a Japanese tourist, "Is Connecticut blue or red?" Mark found it difficult to answer because Connecticut has a political identity crisis. From 2008 to 2016 Republicans were irrelevant, keeping only 37 seats to the Democrats 72 in 2016.

There is tension in the state with dissatisfaction in state taxes, an unpopular governor and a desire for change. The current Republican candidate for governor, Bob Stefanowski, once a Republican, then a Democrat, then back to Republican illustrates the turmoil in politics.

The Democratic candidate, Ned Lamont, like his opponent, wants to step away from public financing. The allowable contribution to candidates is \$3,500. The hazy area regarding political contributions is the funding that is not direct but is allowed as speech. These "end runs" only contribute to the voter's disillusion.

The Q & A following Mr. Pazniokas' presentation produced some interesting items: Despite Governor Malloy's disapproval rating by 80% of voters, he improved criminal justice and ended homelessness.

Unfunded pension liability is Connecticut's biggest fiscal problem.

Connecticut has recovered most private sector jobs lost in 2008.

Advertising no longer supports periodicals. The prediction is that newspapers will no longer exist in five years.

Voters respond to where they get their news. Young people have no idea as to what media to trust for news. Rumors are heard and believed to be news.

Mr. Pazniokas displayed his timely knowledge of candidates in the coming election and conditions in the state capitol.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

October 25th, Goodspeed Opera House, “The Drowsy Chaperone”, lunch at the Gelston House, \$125.00pp. Bus leaves St. Catherine’s at 9:15am. Status; three openings.

January 10th, 2019, The NY Philharmonic. Lunch at the Atlantic Grill, \$95.00pp. Bus departs St. Catherine’s at 8:00am. Status; 18 places. Contact **GERRY LESSUK** at 203-698-945

February 14, 2019, Westchester Dinner Theater, “Ain’t Misbehaven” Lunch at theater, \$95.00pp. Contact **ABBEY** at 203-531-0236.

NEXT WEEK’S PROGRAM

A six-member panel will discuss the Greenwich Reads Together book selection, **Code Girls**.