

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: Tim Brooks

Scribes: **Joe Angland, Paul Barbian, Jim Dean, Bob Giaquinto, Arnold Gordon, John Kavanagh, Michael LaGamma, David Michonski, John Reese, Av Rivel, Frank Scarpa, Bob Shullman, Fred Wu**
Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Len Carusi, Mark Geimer**

VOLUME 70 NUMBER 29 March 22, 2023

SCRIBE: AV RIVEL

Next Week's Scribe: **JOE ANGLAND, JANGLAND@OPTONLINE.NET**

"We are prone to speak of the resources of this country as inexhaustible; that is not so!"
- Theodore Roosevelt in 1907

President **JOE MANCINELLI** opened the meeting with a warm welcome. The opening stuff proceeded smoothly with **JIM BUTLER** leading the pledge and the dynamic musical duo of **DON CONWAY** and **BOB MORGAN** leading the assembled in singing "This Land Is Your Land," "Sunny Side of the Street" and "The Tennessee Waltz" (now there's an oldie but a goodie).

President **JOE** gave a shout-out to all the members who contribute to making the meetings happen: scribe **AV RIVEL**, projectionists **LEN CARUSI** and **TONY COCCHI**, volunteer advocate **MIKE AMOROSO**, greeter **JOHN KAVANAGH**, mentor **PETE UHRY**, refreshments, **JOHN KNIGHT**, audio/video, **ED PARKER**, **MARK GEIMER**, **PETER DODGE**, **HORST TEBBE**, **BARRY RICHELSON**, set up, **BOB BISHOP**, **JIM BUTLER**, **JOHN CRAINE**.

JOE then turned the podium over to **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** who conducted the annual election of officers, committee chairs and other major players in the governance of our organization. The slate prepared by the nominating committee was elected by a show of hands.

[CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF THE ELECTEES](#)

In the absence of Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON**, who is sojourning in sunny Florida, **JOE** introduced the jokester de jure **AV RIVEL**, who told a story about welcoming a son-in-law into the family.

President **MANCINELLI** reported on the RMA's participation in the Town's St. Patrick's Day Parade. It didn't happen! There seemed to have been some confusion regarding meeting locations that left potential participants stranded in various places around town. He promised a better planning process next year.

JOHN KAVANAGH, pinch hitting for vacationing **PETER STERN**, gave the membership report. There were 85 people attending in person, plus 17 on Zoom. The following visitors were at the meeting today:

Enrico Viselli, guest of **AK KASSABIAN**, 2nd visit,
Vic Caruso, guest of **FRANK SALEM**, 1st visit,
Michael Mack, guest of **MIKE AMBROSINO** and **ED MASTOLONI**, 1st visit.
Howard Ressler, guest of **PETE UHRY**, 3rd visit.
Ted Lawlor, guest of **TOG PEARSON**, 1st visit.

There were three birthdays celebrated with song: **HOWARD CHICKERING**, 81, **TONY KANE**, 73, **JIM BOARDMAN**, 80.

Undaunted, **JOHN** then conducted his first induction. The inductee and newest member of the RMA (that's a spoiler) was Steve Small. Steve was proposed by **TONY FITZPATRICK** and seconded by **JACK WEIR**.

TONY introduced Steve, saying "I'm pleased to sponsor my long-time friend, Steve Small, for membership in the RMA. I met Steve about 28 years ago at the Milbrook Club where we're both members and where we've enjoyed many rounds of golf and social events together over the years.

"Steve was born and raised in the Syracuse, New York area. He's a graduate of Hamilton College where he played varsity soccer among other activities. After graduation, Steve embarked on a 48-year career in the banking industry. Steve started his career at Chase Bank where he served in corporate finance positions in New York City, Chicago and Geneva, Switzerland. Later, Steve was recruited by a Japanese bank to establish its New York City corporate office. That bank, now known as MUFG Bank, is the largest full-service bank in Japan and 12th largest bank in the US. Steve served as co-head of the Financial Institutions Group.

“Steve has resided in Greenwich since his return from Switzerland in 1985. His wife Debbie, to whom he has been married for 45 years, grew up in Greenwich and their two sons went to school here and were active in sports among other activities. Steve is a past treasurer of the Greenwich Soccer Association and has coached Greenwich youth travel teams. Steve is a former president of the Milbrook Club and has served on various committees of his Hamilton College class. He also advises Hamilton upperclassmen on applying for jobs and working in the financial services industry.



Weir, Small, Fitzpatrick

“Steve retired in December 2021. His sons and four grandchildren live in the Boston area and, when not visiting them, Steve and Debbie especially enjoy golf in Greenwich and golf and skiing in Vermont where they have a second home. Steve already has several friends among the RMA membership and looks forward to meeting more and getting involved in our activities and volunteer opportunities. I’m counting on him to join the golf group and, guys, I know from first-hand experience that we can expect to see him at or near the top of the RMA golf leader board on a regular basis!”

Following a unanimous vote of approval, **ANDY HOLMES** then took the celebratory photo of the induction.

SPEAKER NOTES

SKIP AUCH gave a heads’ up on the day's speaker, Robert Doubek, who will speak on “Creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial: The Inside Story.”

JEFF JUNKER previewed next week's speaker, Dr. C. Griffith Mann, who will present a talk titled. "Unicorns and Heroes: John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Tapestries at The Met Cloisters," an in-depth look at the Unicorn Tapestries and the Heroes Tapestries. Dr. Mann was appointed The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Michel David-Weill curator in charge of the Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters in 2013. He received his B.A. in art history

and history from Williams College and his Ph.D. in medieval art from Johns Hopkins University. A specialist in the arts of late medieval Italy, he has published on civic patronage, painting, and devotion in Tuscany. Dr. Mann is a graduate of Greenwich High School, class of 1987.

JEFF JUNKER, subbing for **MAURICE KROHN**, reminded the assembled of the Red Cross CPR course to be offered on April 30, at the Red Cross headquarters. Cost is \$105 for the course and certification.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

MIKE AMOROSO was the volunteer advocate today. The advocates help you find a volunteer opportunity that meets your skill and time commitment requirements. **MIKE** is the chair of the Volunteer Advocates.

With understated fanfare, **WILL MORRISON** presented the first version of the much anticipated Volunteer Opportunity Book. It contains one sheets for NPO's that have been identified by members as needing more volunteers, especially from the RMA. A one sheet lists the skills needed, the availability options, as well as the member to contact to engage. It can be found at the volunteer table next to the hours log sheet.

Log your hours online (even from Florida) and see key reports at greenwichrma.org/log.

THE SPORTS PAGES

Pickleball: **PAT MACCARTHY** reported that there were competitive games both last Monday and Thursday in spite of the temperature being in the high 30's on both days. Playing were **ANDRE MAZUREK, TONY COCCHI, BILL FAKUNDINY, PETER CRUIKSHANK, LOU RUPNIK** and **PAT**. Pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 10 am until 12 pm on Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Field. If you want to join the pickleball contact list, please email **PAT** at pmacCarthy415@gmail.com.

Tennis was served by **ANDY HOLMES**. Last Friday over at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy, we had eight players play four matches. In the opening round the winners on Court 1 were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **PAT MACCARTHY** and over on Court 2 the winners were **BRIAN MAHONEY** and **JOHN REESE**. In the finals round, the winners on Court 1 were **ANDRE** and **JOHN** and over on Court 2 the winners were **DON BREISMEISTER** and **RON FRIEDMAN**. This week's captain will be **JEROME COLEMAN**.

Platform Tennis results were reported by **JIM DEAN**. On Tuesday, March 21, paddle attendance was **JEROME COLEMAN, JIM DEAN, RUSS HARDEN, JOE MANCINELLI, JOHN REESE, BOB FRISHMAN, ANDRE MAZUREK, ARN WELLES, and FRED WU**. We played 11 sets under blue sunny skies.

Bridge results were dealt by **ED MASTOLONI**. The top three scores on March 15th were **RON MURRAY, 2410, ED MASTOLONI, 2320, and RON FRIEDMAN, 2030**.

Walkers and Talkers, as related by **TAD LARRABEE**. The Walkers met at the Milbrook Golf Club parking lot, which is just south of Greenwich High School. We walked up the east side of the golf course and onto the Post Road. **JERRY POLLACK** came away with a pocket full of golf balls lost by winter golfers. We learned that there were no sidewalks on Indian Field Road, but we exited very soon into the Sachem Nature Preserve. One of our goals for the walk was to explore the 3.5-acre park that none of us had seen before. We cut back to the Post Road on Sachem Street next to the Cos Cobber restaurant, proceeded past the Milbrook golf course and walked south on West Brother Drive, a private street that follows the course of Greenwich Creek which flows into Byram Park and into the Sound at Indian Harbor. We walked a total of about 3.2 miles for another enjoyable walk exploring yet another area of Greenwich that was previously unknown to most of us.

Tai Chi: WILL MORRISON announced that Tai Chi Labs need more time to sort out the quandary as to how a brontosaurus can move such a long neck. The answer may help persons that have a propensity to lean backwards and extend their head forwards. The report may be available next week as long as the researchers aren't doing tai chi all the time. In regular business, the easy going, drop-in tai chi class is scheduled from Monday, 9:30 am in Old Greenwich. If you have an interest, contact **WILL**.

Hearts, as reported by **JAY SCHONDORF**. On Table 1, three games were played and **JOHN KNIGHT** won all three. He also shot the moon once. On Table 2, three games played, winners were **JACK WEIR (2)** and **JOHN STANKUNAS (1)**. Moon shots were **JACK SWEGER (1)**. On Table 3, four games played, winners were **DON CONWAY, MICHAEL AMBROSINO, JAY SCHONDORF** and **ANDY HOLMES**. One moonshot, by **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**.

Golf (it must be spring) information was driven by **MIKE RYAN**. The first outing will be Tuesday, April 4. April tee times are 9:30, not 8:30. Sign-up sheets for April 4 and April 11

are on the bulletin board. **MIKE** is collecting \$20.00 for annual membership and is signing up captains.

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

After the break **SKIP AUCH** introduced Robert Doubek who spoke about *Creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial - The Inside Story* based on his memoir of the same name.



Doubek grew up in an American family with Czech roots. They were bakers and confectioners for three generations, including his. In 1962, he enrolled at the University of Illinois, studying political science, German, and Russian. Soon after graduating from the university, Robert was commissioned in the Air Force. He served as an intelligence officer in Vietnam, focusing on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, among other projects. After his service, he earned a law degree at Georgetown University.

In 1979 Doubek and two other Viet Nam veterans, John Wheeler and Jan Scruggs, co-founded the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. Doubek served as its executive director and project director until completing the project in 1983. This was an incredibly short time to plan and execute a major monument project in Washington D.C. (The WWII Memorial took 11 years from congressional approval to opening.)

This talk was truly an “inside story,” told by the man who was there, in the middle of the controversy, with all the trials, disappointments and triumphs. As told by Doubek, it was a grassroots effort launched by veterans with no funds and it sparked an emotional national debate about aesthetics and the interpretation of heroism, patriotism and history, a debate that nearly doomed the project. Doubek’s account related the complete story of the memorial's creation amid Washington politics, a nationwide design competition and the heated controversy over the winning design and its creator. As a public art project meant to "honor all who served and a memorial to all who did not return (58,220 American troops from all services), it faced some powerful enemies including Pat Buchanan, Ross Perot and Secretary of the Interior James Watt. The project was supported by all major veterans’ organizations, including the American Legion, the VFW, and the DAV.

The talk was followed by a spirited RMA Q&A

To see the full presentation, go to <https://greenwichrma.org>, cursor to “Speakers” and click on “Speaker Videos.”

Note: The views expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker. They are not intended to represent the views of the RMA or its members.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting will be →**JOE ANGLAND**←. Please make sure you give a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him, preferably via email.

ALL MEMBERS: The CBB team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members’ enjoyment. We can always use new members to join the Scribe Tribe. Please contact **TIM BROOKS** at tbroo@aol.com if you can support this effort.

ALL MEMBERS: Do not forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours at www.greenwichrma.org/log.

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.

Thanks to **ANDY HOLMES** for pictures this time.

Retired Men’s Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA. Visit our website at <https://greenwichrma.org>

RMA 2023 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities*			
Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	9:30 am	QiGong and Tai Chi Workout	Register in advance with Will Morrison – wdmorrison@gmail.com

Mondays	10:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Tuesdays	Resumes in Spring	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Mike Ryan – ryantomac@netscape.net
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00 am	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	John Dean - Jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe – onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi at lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 pm	Hearts	Bob Shullman – bob.shullman@gmail.com
Wednesdays	12:30 pm	Bridge	Andre Mazurek - Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - tadlarra@optonline.net
Thursdays	10:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Michael LaGamma – mdlgamma@optonline.net
Friday	Resumes in Spring	Outdoor Tennis, Bruce Park	John Knight - johnknight7@gmail.com
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes - Andyholmes56@gmail.com

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