

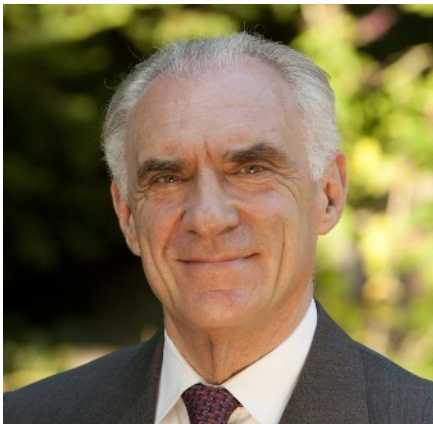


**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**  
Invites you to its meeting **May 10** at 11:00 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT

The program will also be shown on Webinar: <https://bit.ly/30IBj21>

## **John Blankley**

### **“What would Alexis de Tocqueville say about Democracy in America today?”**



What would Alexis de Tocqueville think of our democracy today? John Blankley, RMA member, businessman, entrepreneur, local politician (now retired) will offer thoughts based on his life-long affinity with the earliest, and still foremost, interpreter of the American experiment in democracy. Drawing on his own experience and his reading and knowledge of Tocqueville’s works and modern interpretations, John’s conclusions may surprise you.

John’s presentation will start with some history because in order to answer the question it’s important to understand the times de Tocqueville lived in and his particular life story from his family’s aristocratic background in France, his journey to America and his attempts at a political career. They were all essential components of the thinking that went into Tocqueville’s masterpieces: “Democracy in America” written in the 1830’s and the “Ancien Regime,” written in the 1850’s, a study of what led to the French Revolution.

Tocqueville’s “Democracy in America” was the first account and analysis not only of what made democracy work in America (Vol 1) but what was required to make it work anywhere (Vol 2). Equality and liberty are the two touchstones of his work - and it is important to understand how Tocqueville viewed their interaction and how they are both needed to make a true democracy work.

Born in England, John came to the USA 40 years ago but unlike Tocqueville he stayed and became an American citizen. From his roots in the UK, his degree in Modern History from Oxford University, and his journey to citizenship, he brings a special perspective and appreciation of our country. Beginning his career as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse, he became the CFO and board member of BP North America, Stolt Tankers and Terminals, and other companies. In 2000 he co-founded Flagship Networks, Inc., a computer consulting company and is currently its chairman.

Like Tocqueville John has been active in politics. Locally he served on the RTM and the BET and ran for First Selectman. He also ran for state office: for State Representative, for the

State Senate, twice, and for State Treasurer. He currently serves as a trustee of Greenwich Library, as Chairman of Greenwich Green and Clean and as First Vice-President of the St. Andrew's Society of the State of New York, the oldest charity in the state, founded in 1756. John and his wife, Vera, have lived in Greenwich since 1983 and have three children and five grandchildren.

**Next week, May 17, Peter McCornick, Ph.D.**, Professor of biological systems engineering & Executive Director of Water for Food Institute, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. **“Water and Food Security in a Changing World.”**

*The Greenwich Retired Men's Association offers a free program every Wednesday that is open to the public, both men and women; no reservations are required. Our social break starts at **10:40AM** followed promptly by our speaker at **11:00AM**. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam in Greenwich. For additional information see [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org) or contact [info@greenwichrma.org](mailto:info@greenwichrma.org)*