

D A R I E N

SMA

Senior Men's Association

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NEWSLETTER

SMA ELECTS 2012-2013 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



On May 2, the SMA Membership elected its slate of Officers and Directors for 2012-2013. Bob Ready was elected President after serving as 1st Vice President and Program Chair. Bill Ball moves up to 1st Vice President and Program chair. Robert Smith from the post of Secretary. George Brookner is our new Secretary and will be assisted by Doug Wyse as Assistant Secretary. Tom Taylor has agreed to a second time around as Treasurer and will be assisted by William Nolte. The new team assumed their posts for the final meeting of the 2011-2012 year on June 6.

We also welcome the three new Directors-at-large.

First Term Directors are Alexander Y.P. Garrett, Scott Hutchason, and Anthony Murray. Continuing Second Term Directors-at-large are Colin Costello and John Fitzgibbons and added is Tomas P. Lom taking the place of George Brookner.

Past President Directors are John Podkowsky and R. Kirk Jewett. Committee Chairmen are Frank M. Johnson, Social Events and Charles Scribner, Membership and Hospitality.

Congratulations to Kirk Jewett and his committee for assembling this great team!!

Message from the President

It is an honor to serve as your President for the coming year. Our Senior Men's Club has completed yet another highly successful year, thanks to the continuing efforts of its officers, committee chairs, activity leaders and the Board.

I would like to accomplish two major objectives in our coming year. The first is to increase our membership and the second is to make our web site a dynamic program that is accessed weekly by a growing majority of our computer savvy members.

My proposal for increasing our membership is quite simple and straight-forward. By far, our best source of new members is our present membership. I would like to challenge each and every member to bring at least one guest to one meeting in the coming year. If we do this, I know that our membership will increase by at least 30 in the coming year, or roughly three times the average of our past years.

With respect to the web site, Bob Smith and his team have already made tremendous progress working during the past spring and summer. At our fall meetings, we plan to exhibit the web site before the members at several meetings in an effort to train our members to rely on the web site, and rely less on paper bound communications.

I hope each of you will accept the challenge to bring at least one new member to one meeting in the coming year and dedicate yourself to becoming a regular user and visitor to our web site.

Respectfully, Bob Ready
President

Do you have a suggestion for an interesting speaker for one of our meetings? Get in touch with Bill Ball, our new Program Chair. Suggestions are always welcome.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT.

With the beginning of the meetings in September members are reminded that it is time to collect dues for the coming year. According to our By-Laws all dues should be paid by November 1st. A lot of extra work is involved when dues come in late.

On another subject the Darien SMA prints a Membership Directory which is brought up-to-date and renewed each year. All members are entitled to this new Directory and enough are printed to cover the membership with several extra for new members. Apparently many members are not getting copies as indicated by the number of left overs each year. Directories are not mailed out like the Newsletter. The only way to get one is to attend a meeting or have someone pick up a copy for you. Extra copies can be found on the membership table.

We found two members who had fallen through the cracks and have not paid their dues for 2012. We have been unable to contact either one. Assuming they are no longer interested, they will be dropped. We will be starting in September with 272 members.

We welcome the following new member:

John Strand, a former teacher and principal, John is a retired Superintendent of Schools, having served in that capacity in the public school districts of Pelham, New Yor.; Newton, Massachusetts; and Peoria, Illinois. His interests as a Superintendent included early child education, the use of computers in schools, and programs that enable low income and minority children to succeed in school. Since his retirement, he has worked in the



non-profit world as a national education trainer and consultant for the Efficacy Institute in Boston and as a Senior Program Officer for New Visions for Public Schools in New York City, where he oversaw the development of several new small NYC public high schools. He is a Board member of the

South Norwalk Collegiate Academy, a charter school, which is currently being planned. He is a former Moderator of the Church Council and current Deacon of the First Congregational Church in Norwalk. He received a B.A. in German from Carleton College in Minnesota, a M.A.T. in history and teaching from Wesleyan University, and an Ed.D. in educational administration from Teachers College, Columbia University.

John and his wife of 42 years, Susan, have two children, a daughter who is a middle school teacher in Connecticut and a son, who is a business owner in Bangkok, Thailand. A native of Nebraska, John's hobbies include travel, reading, bicycling, tennis, movies, and watching sports.

SMA Programs-Sept/Oct 2012

Wednesday, September 5: Bob Smith and Cecil Wade of the Internet Support Team will demonstrate the new SMA website and present how the new site can provide more timely and relevant information to the SMA membership. We also will include information and discussion of how the SMA website will integrate with the DCA and Darien Library sites.

Wednesday, September 12: Jack Cavanaugh, writer of baseball books will speak on his new best seller, "Season of '42", the story of major league baseball during the first year of WWII.

Wednesday, September 19: Mike Baker, ex-CIA agent, is president and co-founder of an intelligence and risk management firm. During his CIA career as a covert field operations officer Mike specialized in counter-terrorism, counter-narcotic, and counter-insurgency operations. He engaged in, organized, and supervised operations around the globe. Mike will talk about the top three crises facing the U.S. as cyber security, Iran, and North Korea.

Wednesday, September 26: Kip Bergstrom, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Economic & Community Development will speak on Connecticut's new tourism initiative.

Wednesday, October 3: Captain Drew Bisset set up in 1994 a pre-training initiative called SEAL Recruiting District Assistance Council. A volunteer-run program to mentor and train SEAL candidates that resulted in a 70% SEAL graduation versus 20-25% for those not taking the program.

Wednesday, October 10: Burdin Hickok, will discuss his experience as the US State Dept Economic Development Section Head for the Kirkuk Provisional Reconstruction Team (PRT). PRTs are civilian-led teams working with US military and Iraq government for political stability and economic development.

Wednesday, October 17, Dr. Sherman Bull, a retired Darien/Stamford surgeon who is the oldest person to climb Mt. Everest and the second father/son team to reach the summit will talk of his experiences climbing with a group of disabled soldiers.

Wednesday, October 24: Philip Berns a Stamford immigration lawyer will debunk immigration 'lies, myths, and urban legends'. He will speak on the latest immigration laws and how they will affect us.

Wednesday, October 31: Kevin Roman, author and former CEO of Ogilvy, Mathers Worldwide. In his 26 years with the company he helped build business with major clients (i.e. Amex, Unilever, Kimberly-Clark, General Foods) and expanded the network into Asia and Russia. He will speak on the history of advertising and how it has impacted our lives..

WE REMEMBER

Members who passed away during the 2011-2012 term of the Darien Senior Men's Association:

Fred Farwell
 Bob Ferguson
 Sal Giarranta
 Jim Harris
 John Hinrichs
 Don Miller
 Phil Morehouse
 Jack Ritchey
 Phillips Terhune

OUR VIDEO TEAM



**George
Bookner**

**Bill
Sterns**

**Tommy
Thompson**

Tommy is our video recording guru, George is our DVD author and creator, Bill is our DVD librarian. All DVDs in our SMA library are free to check out and view at home in case a member missed a meeting or would like to review a speaker of interest.

OUR REFRESHMENT TEAM



The Refreshment Committee consisting of (l to r) Bill Stearns, Al Metayer, Bill Cox, and George Brookner assures that the weekly break following our business meeting is fully prepared with an assortment of delectable pastries. The committee members share multi-week on site duties as supervisors for our cake cutter volunteers.

SOCIAL EVENTS

On August 15 we picnicked together at Weed Beach. Sixty SMA'ers and their guests enjoyed a perfect afternoon. The weather was ideal-cool and bright, the food-abundant and delicious, and the fellowship-extremely congenial. Thank you to Scott Hutchason and Tom Braydon for organizing this event and to those who arrived early to move and set up the tables.

A week later, we bused to NYC to first tour Yankee Stadium. We saw the memorabilia of several famous Yankees in their Museum, read the two dozen plaques in Monument Park, sat in the dugout and imagined that we were up at bat next, and looked into the clubhouse lockers. Then we walked among the colorful flowers and water lilies in Monet's gardens at the NYBG and lastly had a superb lunch, which was topped off with a decadent dessert of vanilla ice cream and a chocolate filled cupcake, at La Panetiere in Rye. Our applause to Mel Klugman for putting this all together.

Mark on your calendars the dates of September 20 for the trip to the Goodspeed Opera House (your check is your confirmed reservation) and Dec. 6 for our annual Christmas luncheon at the Country Club of Darien.

We are also planning four events between January and June. Stay tuned for the next letter.

Frank Johnson
Chair, Social Events Committee.

Wanderers alert!! Mark your calendars for September 13, October 18, and around November 15. Destinations to be announced at the next meeting.

YANKEE STADIUM & NYBG EXCURSION



The bus breakdown on I-95



Monet' Garden at NYBG



Monument Park-Yankee Stadium



NYBG Water Lillies



Murderers Row-Yankee Stadium



La Panetiere dining

Taylor Strubinger, Publisher
Frank Kemp, Labels
Bob Miller, Proofreader
Dave Jaycox, Printer