

D A R I E N

SMA

Senior Men's Association

Volume 36, Number 5

May/ June, 2013

NEWSLETTER

MARCH MADNESS WINNERS—2013

Austin Schraff, front

Standing l to r:
John Barston
Bob Ready
Dick Paterniti
Ed Mulock
Peter Spielman
Bill Bellis

Grand Prize winner,
Dick Paterniti



Message from the President

At our meetings in late March and early April, our members completed a survey designed to help in our efforts to revitalize our Association. If you missed those meetings, you might log onto our web site and complete the survey, and submit it or bring it to one of our next meetings.

As we discuss alternatives to make our club more attractive to recent retirees or “younger seniors” and to stimulate greater participation by current members, we are considering expanding our list of activities. The survey results to date indicate the



highest interest in: hiking, local walking tours, current event discussions, investing, etc. Also, among other changes that we are considering is the removal of “senior” from our name, becoming, for example, the Darien Men’s Association. These and other changes are being thoroughly studied by Tom Lom and his committee, and

by the Board of Directors. Any changes in our name or charter will be submitted formally to the Board, and if approved, then submitted to the membership for a vote in time to be a part of our

communications for the next program year. Tom and his group welcome any suggestions you may have to help us in this revitalization effort.

Our Nominating Committee has finished its work, and will be presenting the new slate for the approval of the membership in the coming weeks. Since this is my last newsletter message, I wanted to express my thanks to all of you who brought guests to our meetings. As a result of your help, we have added 25 new members thus far this year, a considerable increase over prior years. Thanks to the officers, committee chairs, and volunteers for their help in making this another very successful year for our Association. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as your President.

Bob Ready, President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Meet our new members:

Vagn Fausing was born in 1944 in Copenhagen, Denmark. He graduated from the Copenhagen School of International Business specializing in ocean transportation, logistics and operations. He then served 24 months in the Royal Danish Air Force as a sergeant in a radar and missile squadron that included training in Texas and New Mexico.



Following military service, Vagn spent 17 years in ocean transportation working in Denmark, the U.S., the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Greece that involved bulk carriers, oil tankers and container vessels. For the past 14 years he worked in Liquefied Petroleum Gas transportation with frequent travel to the Middle East. Today he is a consultant for transportation and distribution to a Malaysian food company.

Vagn lives in Stamford with his wife, May. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. His

interests include golf, history, reading, and travel.

Gehr Brown was born in 1946, Norwalk, graduating from Brien McMahon High School in 1964. He received a B.B.A. degree in accountancy practice from Pace University in 1968 and an M.B.A. in financial management from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business in 1970.



Gehr joined Haskins & Sells in 1970 and in 1975 became a senior financial analyst with Warnaco, Inc. He later joined Cadbury Schweppes, USA, and served in several financial management positions before being named chief financial officer for Peter Paul Cadbury, Naugatuck, Conn.

He also was chief financial officer, Mona Industries, Inc., Paterson, New Jersey. In 2001, he joined Fuji Film Medical Systems U.S.A., Stamford, Conn., as a consultant, retiring in 2012.

Gehr is a member of the Financial Executives International, the American Institute of CPAs and the New York State Society of CPAs.

He and his wife Joanne live in Darien and have one adult daughter. His interests include sports, sports memorabilia collecting, music and jazz guitar in particular.

Charles England was born in 1941 in Glenwood, New Jersey, and received a B.S. degree in economics from New York University.



He joined IBM as a small business salesman and left to attend Columbia University where he received an M.B.A. in finance. He then went to work as a research salesman for White Weld, Oppenheimer, Morgan Stanley and SoundView Technology.

Making a career change, he joined Automotive Restorations, Stratford, and was a founder of Collectors Car Garage, Bedford Hills, New York, and the Darien Collectors Car Show, that raises funds

funds for Aging in Place + Gallivant.

Charles lives in Norwalk, and is the father of two adult children and four grandchildren. He served as a warden with St. Lukes church and as a member of the Darien Commission on Aging.

John Zerbst was born in 1946 in Frederick, Maryland. After graduating from Cheshire Academy in 1964 he attended Parsons College for two years. He then joined the U.S. Navy serving four years in Iceland and the New London, Conn., submarine base. Upon leaving the Navy, he attended Connecticut College where he studied history and economics. In 1972, he joined Eastern Airlines as a management trainee and then became a sales manager in New York City for Braniff International.



In 1976, John began a 37 year career in the insurance business when he joined Johnson and Higgins. He worked in Brazil and, returning to the U.S., served airline companies in South America and Europe. In 2002, he joined Medical Quadrangle which later became American Reciprocal Management Group where he served as a managing director.

John retired in 2012 and lives in Stamford, with his companion Alina Andersen.

They have four children and two grandchildren. He is past president of the Greenwich Cotton Club and serves on the board of the Pickwick Society where he is chairman of the membership and nominating committee.

James Crane was born 1946 in Miami, Fla., graduated from Deerfield Academy and received a B.A. degree in economics from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he played soccer. Enlisting in the Navy, he attended officer candidate school and served as a sonar intelligence officer. Upon leaving the Navy he received a M.B.A. in finance from Columbia Business School.

After graduating from Columbia, Jim opened the first North Sail loft in Annapolis, Md., He was later named business manager and then president of North Group with sail lofts in 12 countries. Upon selling North Sails, he bought a remanufacturer of vehicle transmissions that grew into an organization serving eight automobile companies. He sold his company in 2003 and retired.



Jim and his wife Brenda have two children and live in Darien. He is a member of the Noroton Yacht Club, the Silvermine Golf Club and enjoys skiing and playing tennis.

Thomas Haack was born in Maine in 1945 and raised in Wisconsin. He graduated from Williams College cum laude with Honors in economics in 1967 and then served in the U.S. Navy as a commissioned officer on the USS Summit County, LST 114, based in San Diego, CA.

In 1970, Thomas became a specialist clerk on the floor on the New York Stock Exchange. He received an MBA from the Stanford School of Business in 1972 and joined Merrill Lynch in New York City. In 1974 he joined Lazard and was named a general partner in 1983. He retired in 2009 but remained on the board of the private Lazard company.



Thomas and his wife Olga live in Darien. They have two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

He is a member of the Woodway Country Club, where he was chief financial officer and vice president. He is also a member of the Matthew Gaffney Foundation, served as a director of the Hollenbeck Fishing and Hunting Club and served as an elder of the Noroton Presbyterian Church.

Hugh Brewer was born in 1947 in Bronxville, New York, and graduated in 1965 from The Pingry School, Elizabeth, New Jersey. He received a B.A. degree in English in 1970 from the University of Connecticut where he was senior class secretary.

Hugh began his business career in 1970 with General Reinsurance in New York City and in 1984 joined Aon Re, Stamford, retiring as a senior managing director and practice group leader in 2010.



A resident of Darien, Hugh and his wife Karen have three children. He is a member of the Country Club of Darien, Camp Fire Club and the First Congregational Church of Darien.

Hugh's hobbies include golf, fly fishing, boating hunting, shooting and reading.

The **Membership Committee** and the Board of Directors have been collecting dues since the first meeting in September. Normally all dues are in by the end of December. E-mails, Post Cards and Phone calls have been used as reminders to all delinquent members. We are now in April and, after more phone calls we still have delinquent members. This means a lot of unnecessary work for a few dedicated members. We have constantly been checking our own and the DCA records to keep mistakes down to a minimum.

Attendance has have been good with the exception of Wednesday, April 17 when 78 members and two guests attended.

There were 7 new members admitted since I reported 8 in the last newsletter. Six either resigned or passed away.

The current membership is 266

*C. Schribner, Chair
Membership Committee*

SMA SPEAKERS MAY/JUNE 2013

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Patricia Brooks the NY Times food critic for Connecticut will talk about the 4th edition of her "Food Lovers' Guide to Connecticut". The book will hit bookshelves in May, and she will bring copies for sale to anyone interested. She will talk about the regional restaurant changes (e.g. stronger focus on international cuisine, addition of wine lists, wider range of menus, and new words to describe menu options). Fairfield County has experienced major changes because of the "California" influence coming from that state's early Asian and Hispanic communities, immigration reflected in the many nationalities of current owners of town restaurants, and the locals' extensive travel to foreign countries

Arranged by Bob Smith

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Jayne Stevenson, Darien First Selectman, will speak on the "State of the Town". Jayne has lived in Darien twenty years and has been an active volunteer in variety of different organizations. She will talk about the problems facing Darien that include land use (including affordable housing), flood mitigation, senior center relocation/renovation, tax burden, continued downtown redevelopment, town swimming pool and more.

Arranged by Wally Pugh

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Former Connecticut Congressman Robert Steele will discuss the background to his novel, "The Curse: Big-Time Gambling's Seduction of a Small New England Town" (Levellers Press, Amherst, MA). The story is set against the casino gambling explosion that hit Connecticut during the 1990s, when two Indian tribes built the world's two biggest casinos in the southeastern corner of the state, resulting in what has been termed "a gambling Chernobyl." Steele represented eastern Connecticut in Congress before the arrival of the casinos (Foxwoods

and Mohegan Sun) and subsequently lived on the edge of the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation, giving him a keen appreciation of the political maneuvering that brought the casinos into being and a firsthand view of their impact.

WNPR/Connecticut Public Radio's John Dankosky calls the novel "fascinating" and Connecticut author Martin Shapiro has described it as "compelling and timely...an epic story of history, money and politics that will make you wonder where America is headed." The book comes at a time when Connecticut's casinos face the prospect of heavy new competition from New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, and there is growing political pressure to legalize Internet gambling."

Arranged by Bob Smith

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Greg Van Antwerp will talk about his passionate second "career". For the past 35 years Greg has been digging for historical treasure through every estate, garage and tag sale he could find. He will be sharing some of his discoveries and search techniques with us. In 2009, Greg began blogging about his discoveries by creating: Confessions of an Urban Archeologist. There he presents hundreds of posts with photos, videos, and stories documenting the "best of" what he has discovered in his journeys. He also writes a weekly column for Patch titled "The Urban Archeologist" that is published in an average of 15 Patch towns each week. Greg's professional life has been spent working in community television for over 20 years. During his treasure hunts Greg is known to travel with his favorite companion/assistant - his daughter by his side.

Arranged by Bob Smith

Wednesday, May 29, 2013

Mark Albertson, historical research editor at Army Aviation magazine and a member of the United States Naval Institute as well as being a member of the Navy League will return to speak to us about America, Europe and the War of 1812 . It is not merely another rendition of the conflict itself; rather, it delves into the status of the fledgling Republic at the outset of the 19th century. For this is the beginning of the American Empire, Manifest Destiny. And the talk explores this theme with such developments as the Louisiana Purchase; the decline of France and Spain as New World colonial powers; the War of 1812 as a backwater to the main event in Europe, the Napoleonic Wars; and, the long-slow thaw in Anglo-American relations that eventually resulted in the two powers becoming allies on April 6, 1917.

Arranged by Bob Smith

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

This Songsters' performance will mark the end of the 2012/2013 year for the SMA. They are a bunch of stout hearted senior men who enjoy performing a selection of Barbershop Harmony, Broadway, and Spiritual songs.

Arranged by acclamation and Joe Holmes

SOCIAL EVENTS

On our May event, our first stop will be at The Shore Line Electric Railway. On board an antique suburban trolley, we will journey through the local Connecticut countryside and waterfront and then see the old time equipment used when a ride like this cost only a nickel. Then there will be a luncheon at the newly renovated but still old fashioned Old Lyme Inn. A choice of three entrees will be available as we dine in this charming setting. As a final treat, we will see the world class collections of renowned American impressionists at the Florence Griswold Museum, tour the Griswold house (the centerpiece of the Lyme Art colony in the early 1900s), and wander the gardens and waterside where the artist boarders painted

“en plein air”.

Mel Orr is chairing this event. Sign up at the Wednesday meeting or contact Mel at morr605560@aol.com.

In June there will be a BBQ and Jazz Concert at The Country Club of Darien on Sunday, June 23rd. Music will be performed by The Joe Holmes’ Swing Band accompanied by vocalist Nicole Pasternak. Peter Hallock is managing this affair.

Our annual picnic is scheduled in August and our first Fall event will be a lunch at the Culinary Institute of America and visits to the homes of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Lastly, after four years of chairing the Social Events Committee, I am stepping aside and Bill Winship will be taking my place. I want to thank not only those who organized these past events but also Ed Mulock and Joe Sexton who worked behind the scene to make things happen. I look forward to attending the upcoming events this summer and beyond.

Frank Johnson, Chair

Social Committee

SMA ELECTION!!!

At the April 17 meeting, the Nominating Committee presented the proposed slate of officers, directors, and committee chairmen. Additional nominations from the floor may be received at the April 24 meeting. At the May 1 meeting, the election of officers and directors for the June 2013 to June 2014 period. Be sure and attend and vote. Below is listed the proposed new slate of leaders for this period:

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	William Ball
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Robert Smith
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Alexander Garnett
SECRETARY	Scott Hutchason
TREASURER	Cecil Wade

FIRST TERM

Robert Baker
Thomas Brayton
Chris Filmer
David Mordy

SECOND TERM

Thomas Lom
Anthony Murray

PAST PRESIDENT DIRECTORS (2)

Kirk Jewett
John Podkowsky

OTHER OFFICERS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY John Fitzgibbons
ASSISTANT TREASURER Robert Ready

As noted during the April 17 meeting, Bob Ready will automatically become a director. Bill Winship will be taking over as chair of the Social Committee and Chick Schribner will continue to lead the Membership Committee.



Strolling at the Edison Residence

For our final issue this term, a special thanks to helpers Ray Meurer for the bios and to Michael Poler for all the timely photos.

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