



# The Old Guardian

Month 12 of our 57<sup>th</sup> year

January 2024

## **“Good morning Old Guard”**

Our first meeting of the upcoming month will be January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Gentlemen,

Here is what's in the Newsletter:

- Recruiting Message from the President
- Committee updates
- Storyteller schedule for January
- Guest Speaker schedule for January
- List of Officers and Committee Chairs

## ***The President's Recruiting Corner***

Dear Old Guard members:

I am asking each member to look about himself and identify a friend or colleague with an eye towards inviting them to consider joining The Old Guard.

Here is a tip to help you avoid some recruiting pitfalls:

How NOT to show your interest in continuous learning during an Old Guard interview:

- a) Express your desire to learn how to juggle flaming swords
- b) Tell the interviewer you've already learned everything there is to know
- c) Challenge the interviewer to a trivia quiz to test their knowledge

If a man you know is interested in putting a little more social activity in his life, and you see him as having good character, tell him a couple of reasons why you like the club. Invite him to attend a meeting. Your candor would be appreciated.

Thank you, Ed

## **Committee Updates**

## **Communications – Don Kauke**

### **Hearing Assistance**

The new audio-visual system that includes the video camera also includes different options for those who use hearing assistance. The loudspeaker system in the room has been enhanced and provides better audio throughout the room than earlier. But the assistance system will remove background noise.

There are several receivers at the registration desk which include over the ear phone. The sound provided comes directly from the room amplifiers.

If you use an assistive device that can use Bluetooth, you can place an application on your personal phone (iOS or Android) [ **WaveCast** from WilliamsAV] which will receive a wi-fi signal from the Presbyterian Church Fellowship system. Your phone will then pass it on to your aid using Bluetooth. When you search for the wi-fi signal, the password to the system is: “ pray3rful “(substitute the number 3 for the letter “e”.) While not an expert, Don Kauke will be happy to work with you in setting up your system.

Ask Don for additional information if necessary and he will attempt to answer.

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## **Salvation Army – Mike Cabrey**

Happy New Year Old Guard! Christmas came, and thanks to so many of you, the Salvation Army was able to provide for so many in need during the holidays. I personally saw the toys, clothes, home goods and food that our donations helped provide to the community. We exceeded \$5,000 in our virtual red kettle campaign and we averaged close to \$275 dollars each week at the actual kettle in West Hartford with our crews of professional bell ringers. A special shout out to Bill O’Connor, as I think he did six shifts. As I told many of you who rang the bells, it was a pleasure getting to know you all just a little bit better. We were fortunate with the weather this year, you are welcome. We also had the smooth voice of past President and my favorite Marine, Jeff Lee on the WTIC 1080 Holiday Store radio broadcast. Jeff and I both took advantage of the opportunity to show our support for the Salvation Army as well as get the word out on what a great organization the Old Guard is. I think they were surprised by how many other entities we support with our members. I want to thank all of you for your participation, generous donations of time and money and overall support to the Salvation Army this Holiday season. We were edged out by the Home Builders and Remodelers Association this year, but they relied on a couple of \$1000 + donations. I would take our numerous supporting donations any day. Well done all around Old

Guard! I look forward to leading this effort again next year. For now, I hope your Holiday season was everything you hoped for and I wish you all the best in the New Year.

Respectfully,

Mike Cabrey

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### **Habitat for Humanity – Ron Robinson**

Our next monthly ReStore event is the second Wednesday of January, 1/10, from 9:00 to 12:00 on Cottage Grove Road in Bloomfield. Please consider joining us and reaching out to others who might be interested in this very enjoyable and rewarding activity – Old Guard membership is not required. To register, please click on this link.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you, Ron.

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### **Foodshare - Jeff Lee**

Happy New Year Old Guard!

Our first “First Friday” of the month volunteering at Foodshare in Bloomfield falls on 1/5/24.

Our usual hours remain at 8:30-11:30.

Our January food collection day for The West Hartford Youth Food Program will be on 1/16/24. Please mark your calendars accordingly for these opportunities to help give back to those in need. Thank you for your tremendous generosity in so many ways in 2023!

Jeff

### **Bowling - Tom Goodrum**

Come and join us for Fellowship and Fun. Bowling continues every Thursday morning at 9:30 am at Callahan’s Bowl-O-Rama, 2143 Berlin Turnpike in Newington.

No experience is necessary. The cost is \$8.25 per person for the three games, including shoes and balls that are provided.

We start back up on Thursday, January 4.

Reminder, if West Hartford schools are delayed or cancelled, we will not be bowling.

**Time to get out of the house and be with fellow Old Guard members.**

Hope to see you there.

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### **Food Bank - Lou Aiello**

West Hartford Foodbank, CT. Foodshare, Loaves & Fishes, West Hartford Youth Program and/or House of Bread. Also, donations of food for West Hartford Foodbank.

Total donations are \$22,950 (which includes CT. Foodshare \$12,500 Loaves & Fishes \$600, West Hartford Foodbank \$100, House of Bread \$6,000, and monetary value of \$3,750 to support West Hartford Youth program. Total value including matching gifts and 5-time food value is 87,440. Donations are tax deductible.

Please note when making donations that your donation is from the Old Guard Organization

For information on how to donate, reach out to either Lou Aiello or Mike Feehan.

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### **Special Events Committee – Paul Dean & Ray Bliss**

We are gearing up for the spring, 2024 season. Under consideration are several activities and just a taste of what's coming up.

- Saturday evening, February 10th, West Hartford's Ballet Theatre Company ("BTC") will be presenting One Night in Paris at the West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium commencing at 7:00 pm. You and your companion will be transported to the "city of love" for a romantic date-night, with French hors d'oeuvres and French inspired cocktails, both vintage and contemporary in nature. Highlights will include Artistic Director Stephanie Dattellas' ballet, American in Paris and a vibrant can-can by the BTC's dancers and members of the Junior Corps de Ballet. Tickets are \$48.25 which includes the processing fee of \$3.25.
- March session, TBD, docent led tour of The Bushnell, a/k/a Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, the venue central to the artistic and civic life of the Greater Hartford area, serving as the capitol city's unique gathering place for the arts, education, and community activities. Frank Virnelli, Jr., a volunteer at the Bushnell recommended that we consider a "back stage" docent led tour to see and witness just how the magic occurs during performances. This tour would be an "eye-opener" for all.

- April at the Hartford Yard Goats...baseball is back! A number of home games are scheduled for later in April (meaning warmer temperatures!). Stay tuned as the schedule gets firmed up.

As always, please let Paul or Ray know your thoughts and any other activities that you may be interested in, this season or next.

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## Old Guard Golf – Chuck Hasbrook

Happy New Year 2024!



With the coming of winter, golf courses across the area have closed until springtime. Diehard golfers may be playing at indoor ranges or traveling south. For the rest of us, with our clubs stored away, patiently we wait for warmer weather. Mark your calendar: Old Guard golf will resume on Monday, April 15, with the SROG league play beginning three days later. We play each week until mid-October.

If you play golf (skillfully or badly) but haven't been a part of Old Guard golf – please consider it in 2024. It is a great group of men who enjoy one another's company regardless of levels of play (well or badly – very few of us would consider ourselves good golfers).

The golf tournament committee is already at work, preparing for the May 21 Kilwins West Hartford *Swing for the Kids* Golf Tournament.

As you are aware, in 2023 the tournament raised an amazing \$10,655 for the West Hartford YMCA Camp Scholarship Fund. Pretty impressive for a nine-hole tournament and a banquet buffet luncheon!

Kilwins West Hartford has already committed to be the tournament title again for 2024, for which we are very grateful. As you read this newsletter, committee members are meeting with other potential sponsors for the tournament. There are four financial levels of tournament sponsorship. We hope the 2024 golf tournament will be as successful as last year's event. So, mark your calendar for May 21!

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## **UCONN Hospital Volunteers – Bill OConnor**

The Old Guard has a longstanding history of volunteer service to the community. Set your plans for 2024 and consider volunteering your service at the University of Connecticut Hospital in Farmington. Patients at the University Muscular Skeleton Institute frequently need assistance with directions to their appointments sometimes requiring the need of a wheelchair. Volunteers serve a 4 hour shift 8 to noon or noon to 4 Monday, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Some training is required.

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### **January - Storytellers and their stories.**

- 01-02 - Bob Hoffman – “Isabel Anderson's history of the Beecher family Including the Founding of Westminster Presbyterian Church”
  - 01/09 - Borden Painter Jr. - "The Most Exciting Football Game I Ever Saw”
  - 01-16 John Mitman - “Ruminations from an Old Guarder”.
  - 01-23 Gary Banks – “A Lesson Learned”
  - 01-30 Mike Cervas – “It Is Never Too Late to Do Something You Love and Have Always Wanted to Do”, or “How I Retired from Teaching and Joined a Rock 'n' Roll Band”
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### **January Speakers**

#### **01/02 Dan Sparks - Honor Flight Connecticut**



To better accomplish the Honor Flight mission and serve our military veterans of the State of Connecticut, in April of 2019, Honor Flight Connecticut was formed as an

official hub of the National Honor Flight Network. The Honor Flight Connecticut mission is to honor our veterans by transporting them to Washington, DC to visit and reflect at their memorials. Honor Flight Connecticut proudly joins with 131 other Honor Flight Hubs in 45 other states sharing in that same mission.

**01/09**      **Samantha Iness**, West Hartford police social worker,  
Subject: De-escalation of police calls

**01/16**      **Dana Buchin**, CT honorary consul to Rumania Eastern Europe



Dana R. Bucin is a partner and chair of Murtha Cullina's Immigration practice.

She represents businesses and individual clients on a wide range of immigration matters, including green card applications, work visas, student visas, foreign investor visas, asylum, naturalization, religious work visas, as well as various other employment and family-based immigration matters.

As an immigration attorney with a business/corporate legal background, Dana's experience includes counseling foreign investors and entrepreneurs on setting up businesses in the U.S. or investing in existing U.S. ventures and obtaining a visa or green card based on such investment or entrepreneurship pursuant to the E-2, L-1 "new office", H-1B "entrepreneur" and EB-5 visa options.

Dana regularly provides multilingual legal representation in English, Spanish, French and Romanian. She also has a basic knowledge of Italian, German, Hungarian and Latin. She is often quoted as an expert by publications such as Bloomberg/BusinessWeek and the Hartford Business Journal on immigration law topics.

Dana serves as Murtha Cullina's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee chair, where she is responsible for the oversight of the firm's diversity and inclusion strategy and initiatives, ensuring that the firm's core principles of inclusiveness and diversity are reflected across its internal and external policies, work and practices.

In addition, Dana handles a variety of cases to assist immigrants and refugees with humanitarian legal needs. Examples of humanitarian cases she assisted with include:

- Representing Muslim refugee and her three children at JFK airport during the promulgation of the Muslim Ban in January 2017
- Representing Cuban nationals with habeas corpus release from ICE custody in 2018 and 2019
- Representing 70 Afghan nationals with applying for Humanitarian Parole after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan
- Representing several immigrants from various countries with applying for asylum based on political, religious and ethnic persecution
- Traveling to the Tijuana – San Diego border checkpoint to assist 2,000+ Ukrainian refugees enter the US on humanitarian parole
- Setting up the “Connecticut for Ukraine” Matching Program which matches Ukrainian refugees to CT sponsors
- Honorary Consul of Romania to CT, running diplomatic programs that assisted the reunification of families separated at the border (Roma populations) and coordinates assistance for vulnerable Romanian citizens in CT, as well as assists the transfer of Ukrainian refugees from Romania to CT
- Advocating for pro-immigrant bills at the state and federal level and offering testimony in support of state bills protecting the rights of CT immigrants

**01/23**      **Tom Mullaney**, Founder and President of Mullaney, Keating & Wright, Inc. - Financial Market Update



Prior to founding Mullaney & Associates in 1994 (forerunner to Mullaney, Keating & Wright) he was Executive Vice President of Shawmut Banks (CT and MA) and Business Line Manager for Investment Services (investment management and related fiduciary services for \$12+ billion in personal, endowment and employee benefit assets) and for Capital Markets (bond dealer, discount brokerage and government finance). Earlier, Tom was Vice President of The First National Bank of Chicago.

He is a graduate of Beloit College (BA), Northwestern University (MA-Economics) where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, and the University of Chicago (MBA-Finance). Tom served to in the U.S. Navy and participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis and Operation Deepfreeze.



Active in civic organizations, Tom is past Chairman of Riverfront Recapture and was a director of St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center. Tom is the past president of The 1892 Club. He is a former Chairman of Capitol Housing Corporation and has served as a director of the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce, the Connecticut Development Authority, where he was vice chairman, and the Connecticut Public Expenditure Council. He chairs the investment committee of the American School for the Deaf. He is a Fellow of the American Leadership Forum.

He has been registered as General Securities Principal, Municipal Securities Principal, Financial Operations Principal and Uniform State Securities Agent.

Tom lives in West Hartford. He has two adult children.

**01/30**      **Bob McCue**, West Hartford Volunteer Community Response Team



As part of the Town of West Hartford's commitment to increase the emergency preparedness of the community, a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was re-established on March 3, 2021.

West Hartford CERT is a group of local volunteers from different neighborhoods that receive special training to enhance their ability to recognize, respond to, and recover from a major emergency or disaster situation. As an organized team, individuals can provide vital services in the absence of and while waiting for the arrival of emergency responders; they often also assist once responders arrive.

The team is considered an integral part of the Town's Office of Emergency Management which is under the direction of Fire Chief Greg Priest.

CERT training consists of a basic standardized 20-hour course followed by additional training in shelter management, first aid and disaster preparedness. Teams are trained by professional responders in areas that will help them take care of themselves and others before, during and after a major emergency. CERT members will also take an online FEMA training course.

## **Your officers for 2023-2024**

Ed Turbert, President  
John Keleher, Vice-President  
Arthur Greene, Secretary  
Stephen Schneeberger, Asst. Secretary  
Kevin Slane, Corresponding Sec.  
Stephen Guest, Treasurer  
Paul Dean, Asst. Treasurer  
Tew DuBois, Historian  
John Mitman – Chaplain

## **Committee Chairs 2023-2024**

Don Kauke, Communications  
Bernie Weiss and Jim Doran, Storytellers  
Bernie Weiss, Senior Job Bank  
Paul Dean & Ray Bliss, Special Events  
David Mangs, Music  
Parker Simonds, Hospitality  
Clem Sayers, Membership  
Dan Tracy, Audit  
Jeff Lee, Foodshare  
Lou Aiello and Mike Feehan, Foodbank  
Ron Robinson, Habitat for Humanity  
Dale Richter, Meals on Wheels  
Mike Cabrey, Salvation Army  
Bill O'Connor' UCONN Health Center  
Tom Goodrum, Bowling  
Chuck Hasbrouck, Golf

**Please reach out to any of these Committee Chairs if you would care to help!**