



The Old Guardian

Month 3 of our 61st year

April 2026

“Good morning Old Guard”

Gentlemen,

Here's what's in the Newsletter:

- The President's Corner
- Committee Chair Reports
- This Month's Storytellers inclusive of May 5th.
- This Month's Speakers inclusive of May 5th.
- Officers and Chairs

The President's Corner – Clem Sayers

It does not seem possible, but we are moving quickly to the end of our 25-26 Program Year. We have accomplished a lot this year! We have increased our membership, given back in many ways to our Community, and in every instance have lived up to our Old Guard Motto, "Fellowship and Service!"

You should all be very proud of yourselves and the Organization. Thank you for allowing me to be your President, it has been an honor and privilege for me.

Clem

Committee Reports:

Upcoming Speaker Chair Request – Larry Carr

Gentlemen,

I would like to ask for any recommendations you might have for speakers for our new program year, beginning in September 2026 through May 2027.

Any and all ideas are gratefully accepted.

Thanks for your help!

Larry

Food Insecurity Committee – Jeff Lee, Mike Dore, Rhon Ernest-Jones, Ted Ruby and Mike Feehan.

Food Insecurity - Jeff Lee

As Spring begins to bloom all over the State of CT, 516,000 fellow residents remain Food Insecure and need help from groups like The Old Guard!

We help in so many ways like working directly with and financially supporting Foodshare and Loaves and Fishes...delivering food via Meals on Wheels. We also significantly support the food insecure in our local children with our ever growing donations of food to the Backpack Program.

When Bob Schaefer, Mike Dore, Mike Feehan, Rhon Earnest Jones or Ted Ruby reach out for your help, please continue the TRULY AMAZING Old Guard RESULTS of stepping up to help those in need. Thank-You.

West Hartford Youth (Backpack) Food Program – Ted Ruby

We had the best donation day of the year on March 17. Thank you to all who took part in this very successful day. The final count was 63 bags and boxes and \$80.00 in cash donations. I almost filled my Explorer but I think I have room for about 10 more bags.

Our next donation day is April 21st. I will be in the parking lot at 9:45 to accept your donations. I will bring the red bags will be distributed at the next few meetings. Please take as many as you need.

Reminder of the most wanted items. (You are not restricted to these items)

All donations help.

Peanut butter small sizes

Oatmeal

Applesauce

Rice under 32oz

Pasta sauce

Canned vegetables and beans

Dry pasta

Dried beans up to 32oz

Canned tuna and chicken

Thank you, gentlemen, for your support of this very important event.

Ted

CT Foodshare – Mike Dore

Starting with 300 pounds of Kale and then on to heavier fruits and vegetable we packed 9,820 #s of food for 8,183 meals.

An outstanding accomplishment!

Thanks,

Mike



Bob Hooper, Bill O' Connor, John Rhine, Bob Houde, Ron Robinson, Dave Lewis, Art Greene, Peter Van Beckum, Sandy Hight, Rhon Ernest-Jones, Mike Dore, and Hank Boulton

Some photos of the day:



FoodBank – Mike Feehan

FoodBank update, current Program Year to March 31 2026

The total impact of Old Guard member giving has reached \$227,260 for the current program year. This breaks down as follows

	Donations	Cumul
	In MAR 2026	Prgm YTD
TOTAL MEMBER DONATIONS	\$ 4,280	\$ 39,151
Cash	\$ 1,050	\$ 26,651
Cash-equivalent (WH Youth / Red Bags)	\$ 3,230	\$ 12,500
Foodshare Matching & 5Xs Multiple	\$ -	\$ -
Totals	\$ 4,280	\$ 39,151
Cash		\$ 26,651
Cash-equivalent (WH Youth / Red Bags)		\$ 12,500
Foodshare (Matches & 5Xs Multiple)		\$ 188,109
Total food- & food-purchase value, Program Year to Date		\$ 227,260
OG member donations thru Feb 2026 reached \$39,000		
And because of matching gifts from local benefactors and organizations, together with CT Foodshare 's ability to obtain food below retail, our members' cash donations actually generated food -purchase value of an additional \$188,000 over and above member donations.		
Total impact of cash plus cash-equivalent donations of food, OG food-purchase is now \$227,000 for the current program year, September 1, 2025 thru March 31,2026.		

All information about individual donations is kept strictly confidential

Thank you, Old Guard!

Special Events – Ray Bliss

"Old Guard Annual Spring Luncheon"

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Registration begins at 11:30 am, meeting and delicious buffet style luncheon to follow.

Venue:

The Pond House Cafe

Elizabeth Park

1555 Asylum Avenue

West Hartford, CT 06117

www.pondhousecafe.com for venue information.

More details to follow!

Ray Bliss and Bill O'Connor"

Habitat ReStore – Ron Robinson

Habitat ReStore – Volunteer date is April 8th 9:00-12:00

Please consider joining us at their warehouse to experience some fun and the satisfaction of doing good for a great cause - affordable housing.

ReStore is located on Cottage Grove Road in Bloomfield.

Please use the link to register.

New to ReStore, you can create an account at the top of the sign in page.

https://vhub.at/OLDGUARD_hfhnc

Monetary donations are always accepted. Catch up with me at the meetings.

If you have any difficulties and/or questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Old Guard Golf – Chuck Hasbrouck



League Golf: When daffodils bloom it's a sign of spring – and that's a sign of the start of golf season.

The Old Guard & Friends Golf League starts playing the week of April 20th at Rockledge Golf Course.

Beginning that week, on Mondays, informal golf is played, with nine-hole tee times arranged by Mike Dore.

Thursdays are league play days.

This year 14 pairs of golfers play nine holes in the morning, early enough to be home for lunch.

While teams are filled, there is room for subs – if interested in playing contact me at: oldguardgolf@gmail.com.



Swing for the Kids Golf Tournament: With Bacon Financial Group joining us as the tournament title sponsor, the golf tournament will be held on Tuesday, 19 May. The tournament has two parts. 1. At 9:30 AM, golfers play nine holes at Stanley Golf Course. 2. We gather at 1:00 PM at The Back Nine Tavern for a delicious buffet dinner. If you don't play golf, sign up for lunch only. There will be a Silent Auction with a variety of great items to bring home. Door Prizes will be awarded as well. In addition to a great day with good company and fun, participating in this event helps raise funds to support the West Hartford YMCA Camp Scholarship Fund. In the past four years, the tournament has raised over \$40,000, enabling lots of kids to have the life-changing experiences of Y camps.

Be a part of something greater!

Registration form is attached

See Jim Palma before or after Old Guard meetings to sign up.

Bowling – Tom Goodrum, Art Greene co-chair

Just 2 weeks left to the season – Throw some strikes and get some spares. If you haven't bowled in a while your missing out on a good time, lots of laughs, and free coffee.



Harry Meyer, Ron Robiinson, Russ Levere, Hank Boulton, Bob Murphy, Art Greene, George Stephans, Bill Rose, Steve Langan, Tom Goodrum, (Missing – Ed Trifari, and Bob Loomis)

Bowling continues every Thursday morning through April 16th 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.

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

Special Events – Hank Boulton, Rhon Ernest-Jones Co-Chairs

Hank and Rhon announced that they are putting together a program that will take us through the summer months with various events beginning with the;

Docent guided Capitol Tour beginning at the Legislative Offices, scheduled for Tuesday May 26th, at 10:30.

The tour will take approx. 90 minutes.

An email and flier will provide additional information.

Room for 25.

Thank you!

Hank Boulton and Rhon Ernest-Jones, Special Events Committee Co-Chairs.

Storytellers – Bernie Weiss, Jon Dixon co-chair

April 7th - Bob Ike - "Registrar of Voters Town of Bloomfield "

April 14th – Mike Cervas – "The Power of Stories."

April 21st – Gary Banks – "A Tour of Our Website".

April 28th – Bernie Weiss – "Some Ohio Adventures"

May 5th – Old Guard Tech Team - "A Year in Review"

Speakers – Bob Cave

April 6th - Renee Bernasconi "Senior Living Today, What's Changing? And What it Means for You"



Renee Bernasconi is President & CEO of Seabury, Inc., a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community in Bloomfield, Connecticut. She holds an MBA in Healthcare Management, is a licensed administrator, and has spent her career in senior living and aging services, focusing on mission-driven leadership, community, and innovation. Renee serves on the Connecticut Department of Social Services Advisory Committee, is a member of the LeadingAge Connecticut Board. She was instrumental in changing state legislation to enable Life Plan at Home programs in Connecticut—the first such program in the state and the fifth in the country.

April 14th – Bob Cave – Traveling Across China in 22 Days

This is a Cave substitution –

Due to a scheduling conflict affecting Todd Cave’s discussion on “New Technologies for Surgery”

Bob has stepped up to be our speaker for this meeting.

April 21st – Larry Ward, President-U of Hartford “U of Hartford– Today and Tomorrow”



Lawrence Ward became University of Hartford's seventh President on July 1, 2024. He previously served as Vice President for Learner Success and Dean of Campus Life at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He served as Associate Dean for Academic Programs at American University's Kogod School of Business in Washington, D.C.

Ward earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from UConn, his Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Michigan, and his Doctorate in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania.

He has held multiple leadership positions in higher education: as member of the NCAA Board of Governors, chair of the NCAA Division III Management Council, and Trustee at Albertus Magnuss College in New Haven, CT.

April 28th – Bill Rose, member - “A Connecticut Spy During the Revolutionary War”



Bill Rose spent 45 years working in electronics design and management in consumer electronics, aerospace, electronic controls, computer, smart grids, networking, video streaming and others.

He has 17 patents and developed over 100 products. Grew up in Queens, NY and moved to West Hartford in 1982. Graduated from UCONN School of Engineering. Bill founded WJR Consulting, for the past 25 years he has been consulting startups through fortune 500's on product; technology; business & standards development and market strategies. His interests are Family; fixing anything that is broken; golf and keeping busy.

May 5th – Walt Ansel – Refurbishing Old Ships – Mystic Seaport



WALT ANSEL grew up in a boatbuilding and sailing family in Mystic Connecticut. He has taught restoration and boat building at the WoodenBoat School for 25 years. Walt is recently retired from directing the HB duPont Shipyard at Mystic Seaport. He has worked on restoring the Whaleship CW Morgan, Dragger Roann and the Grand Banks Schooner LA Dunton. He has built dories, whaleboats and skiffs; some with his boatbuilder father Will. Walt lives in Mystic with his genealogist wife Carol and two beloved grey farm cats. They are proud parents of a son Douglas, a film maker in LA and a daughter Evelyn who is a maritime curator and author. Walt spends too much time at sea catching striped bass.

Your officers for 2025-2026

Clem Sayers, President

Bob Cave, Vice-President

Arthur Greene, Secretary

Mike Dore, Asst. Secretary

Jim Palma, Corresponding Secretary

Stephen Guest, Treasurer

William O'Connor, Asst. Treasurer

Peter Tiernan, Historian

John Mitman, Chaplain

John Keleher – Past President

Committee Chairs 2025-2026

Mike Cabrey, Tom Donahue, Membership

Don Kauke, Communications

Ed Turbert, Nominating Committee

Bernie Weiss, Jon Dixon, Storytellers

Gary Banks, Information & Technology

Bernie Weiss, Senior Job Bank

**Ray Bliss, Bill OConnor, Hank Boulton, Rhon Ernest-Jones - Paul Dean
(Emeritus), Special Events**

David Mangs, Music

Parker Simonds, Hospitality

Jeff Lee, Mike Dore, Ted Ruby, Rhon Ernest-Jone, Mike Feehan, Food Insecurity

Ron Robinson, Habitat for Humanity

Bob Schaefer, Meals on Wheels

Larry Carr, E.T. Price, Salvation Army

Bill OConnor, UCONN Health Center

Chuck Hasbrouck, Golf

Tom Goodrum, Art Greene, Bowling

Open, Audit

John Keleher, YMCA

Clem Sayer, Bob Cave, Tom Donahue, Bill O'Connor, Awards