



The Old Guardian

Month 1 of our 59th year

February 2024

“Good morning Old Guard”

Gentlemen,

Here what's in the Newsletter:

- The President's Corner
- Committee updates
- New OG Website
- Storyteller schedule for February
- Guest Speaker schedule for February
- List of Officers and Committee Chairs

The President's Corner

The first meeting in each February is celebrated as the anniversary of the formation of the Old Guard. So, we have the Old Guard anniversary year and for that day, February 6, we reckon for it to be “our 1st meeting of our 59th year”.

Happy 58th Birthday Old Guard!

Committee Updates – Ed Turbert

New Committee Formed – Information Technology

Many of you have met and witnessed the genial, can-do Gary Banks over the past 10 months.

Gary stepped right in to the project of bringing us better audio and video for our meetings. He worked over the past summer in collaboration with Don Kauke, Art Greene, Frank Vernelli, Tom Donahue, and others to install and operate the new system. He can be seen these days at the front table amid the devices in Fellowship Hall, all in the service of delivering a good meeting experience. The apparatus of

communication as you know, can be uncooperative, but Gary always seems to find a way.

In our January Board meeting we created a new position in our leadership team. It is the Information Technology Committee. And to fit admirably into that new roll, Gary was voted in as Committee Chairperson.

If you struggle with any part of our communication rig, be it Zoom, or access to our website, call or email Gary Banks and you will get good guidance.

Welcome, Gary to the Old Guard leadership cadre!

Habitat for Humanity – Ron Robinson

Habitat for Humanity – Our next monthly ReStore event is the second Wednesday of February, 2/14, from 9:00 to 12:00 at 500 Cottage Grove Road in Bloomfield.

The money raised from the items sold by ReStore helps to support their building projects. Please consider joining us and reaching out to others who might also be interested in this very enjoyable and rewarding activity – Old Guard membership is not required. To register, please go to the bottom of the Civic Activity section on our website,

(This link is conveniently included)

[Quick Link to Habitat
Sign-up or Sign-in](#)

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

Ron

Foodshare - Jeff Lee

Our February Foodshare Volunteer Date was Friday Feb. 2nd. The group sorted and packed over 3100# of frozen proteins including beef, pork, chicken, turkey, and prepared entrees.

We also off loaded a Pepperidge Farms truck loaded with an assortment of all their breads.

We are proud to share a photo collage of this month's volunteers hard at work.



Join the Foodshare team, our next date is Friday the March 1st.

(This link is conveniently included)

[Quick Link to CT Foodshare
Sign up or Sign in](#)

Also in March,

West Hartford Youth Food Donation Day is on Tuesday the 19th. Please mark your calendar and bring a couple bags of non-perishable food on that day.

Thanks for your continued generosity in fighting food insecurity!

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.

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.

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 \$23,950 (which includes CT. Foodshare \$12,600 Loaves & Fishes \$600, West Hartford Foodbank \$100, House of Bread \$6,000, and monetary value of \$4,650 to support West Hartford Youth program. Total value including matching gifts and 5-time food value is 89,240.

Donations are tax deductible.

All totals include \$900 January's donations for West Hartford Youth program.

Please note that your donation is from the Old Guard Organization

Contact me for information on how to donate, or to report your donations,

Special Events Committee – Paul Dean & Ray Bliss

“Hold the Date:

The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, - Behind the scenes docent led tour of the Thursday, March 21st, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. No charge for this in-depth tour and complimentary parking passes will be available. More to follow.”

Baseball in April / May at the Dunk to cheer on Hartford's own home team, the Yard Goats! Date, time, and opponent “To Be Determined”.

Date is set for the Annual Old Guard Spring Luncheon.

Tuesday, May 14th, 2024.

More details to follow.

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

Golf News – Chuck Hasbrouck

It's winter – it's cold – golf courses in Connecticut are closed. That's the obvious. But spring is on the way!



Plans are underway for the 2024 Old Guard golf season. In this new year our league has a new name! Yet, it's the same great group of guys getting together every Thursday for nine holes of golf and camaraderie.

Why the name change? Our league origins were with the merging of three small leagues of three men's groups in West Hartford. Since that time, two of the organizations have disbanded, and a small number of former members of those groups continue to golf. So, now we are a league comprised of Old Guard members and friends – all of whom enjoy golf and friendships. The new name reflects who we are as a group – Old Guard & Friends Golf League.

About our league: Our golfers have a wide range of skills and ages. The 2024 season-starting average handicap for nine-holes is 13.4, with a wide range of 0.9 to 22.2. The average age is 77 years, with one golfer being 91 years old. With such a range of golf skills and ages, there is a place in the league for everyone – regardless of skill or age. Do you play golf? Old Guard provides the group for you.

OG&F Season Calendar: Our 27-week, Thursday-morning schedule, starts April 18 and ends on October 17. As in previous years, two-man teams will be paired for match play on the back nine at Rockledge. Thursday morning tee times will start at 7:44 AM. (8 AM (or later) start times in the early weeks of the season and again at the end.) Committing to play league golf does not impede family vacation plans, as every league player misses time during the season.

On Monday, Old Guard plays informal golf. For nine-holes of golf, meet up with golfers at 8:00 at Rockledge's 10th tee.

To sign up or for more information, send an email look forward to hearing from you.

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. See Bill OConnor for details.

What's New on the Website – Gary Banks

Our new website is up and running. This endeavor provides a contemporary view into the Fellowship, Volunteerism, Activities, and Fun shared by Old Guard members. We have improved the visuals and added new avenues for members to experience including the Bio's section. Let us get to know you. To add your history and interests send a photo and your bio to Gary Banks.

The goal of the website is to:

1. To get members more actively involved by providing information to help them decide on participating in volunteering, social, and club activities.
2. An informative view of the Old Guard to prospective recruits.
3. To be attractive to high caliber speakers, informing them we are a viable, engaged, intelligent, group that can understand more in-depth discussions.
4. People in the community to get a better look at who we are and our involvement in the community.

In addition, Gary has added a brand-new section called **Miscellany**. This is a private space (Password sent in a separate email along with the current roster) where members can share amusing, educational information, as well as what members are doing outside of the Old Guard. This month's contributors are Rich Voigt sharing his book "My Name on a Grain of Rice" and Michael Cervas shares one of his songs "My Uncle's Life" and a snippet of the history of the band - Fire Town Road.

Check out this section www.ctoldguard.org/miscellany.

Please make the Old Guard Website your go to place to stay informed about all the Old Guard has to offer.

February - Storytellers and their stories.

- 02-06 - **Clem Sayers – “Gifts that Continue to Give”**
- 02/13 - **Jon Dixon - "Aunt Minnie".**
- 02-20 **Hank Boulton – “Ode to the father”**
- 02-27 **Mike Feehan - There are 8 million stories in the Naked City. But don't worry, I won't quite get to that number.**

January Speakers

02/06 Megan Torrey – CEO World Affairs Council of CT



Megan Clark Torrey is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the World Affairs Council of CT. Megan became the Executive Director in March 2014, after having served as Program Director since 2003. She oversees the development and delivery of world class programming that educates the community on global affairs. Recently, Megan implemented a nation-wide World Affairs Council series focused on global women's health, helped pilot a leadership mission to Brazil and produced a mini-documentary on Henry Kissinger that featured several former Secretaries of State. Megan has facilitated the visits of several world leaders to the Council in Hartford. During her time at CTWAC, the Council has expanded the scope and reach of its programming by implementing new technology and communications initiatives.

Ms. Torrey has two degrees in international relations and diplomacy. Her research interests include inclusive security and the role of women in post-conflict situations and citizen participation in foreign policy. Before joining the World Affairs Council in

2003, she worked with UNESCO's International Year for the Culture of Peace at the headquarters in Paris and at the United Nations International Training Research Institute for the Advancement of Women. A member of several professional organizations, Megan has traveled extensively all over the world.

02/13 **Lori Reilly**, Hartford Courant - Women's Sports Writer



Award-winning sports writer and columnist for the Hartford Courant for the past three decades. Has covered a variety of sports from women's college basketball, high school athletics, professional tennis, running and marathons and Olympic sports from curling and luge in the winter to equestrian sports in the summer. My goal is to get people who don't read the sports page to read it. Experienced in social media, digital journalism and on TV and radio.

02/20 **Bob Cave**, Saving the Church Steeple



Last year the members of First Church Congregational decided to restore the Church Steeple located at the corner of S. Main St. and Farmington Ave. West Hartford. The Steeple was built 80 years ago, and this Steeple & Church is an icon to residences of West Hartford. Unfortunately, the exterior of the steeple was in very bad shape and

major repairs were necessary prior to painting. The church voted to spend \$400,000 for this rejuvenation project. Bob Cave was asked to Chair the Restoration Committee and to coordinate this project.

02/27 **Stephen Glass, TI Art Appraisals**



Trinity International is always interested in working with Estates and collections alike in evaluating and arranging sales either through auction or private placement of quality works of art. Unlike many auction houses, we pride ourselves on being able to provide a quick answer on inquiries by an owner who is empowered to decide. Please consider Trinity International Auctions as an excellent source for the placement of your fine art works.

Trinity International Auctions and Appraisals, LLC, (TIA) established in 2006, is a leading auction house of American, European, and international fine art. Located in Connecticut's picturesque Farmington Valley, midway between Boston and New York City, TIA offers its local, national, and international clients an extensive and wide-ranging collection of art at our five onsite and online auctions it conducts yearly. TIA also provides a broad spectrum of appraisal services, including liquidation and insurance evaluations.

Stephen R. Gass, President and founder of TIA, brings a unique and unparalleled blend of business acumen, scholarship and professionalism to buyer and consignor alike. Gass is a respected leader of the Greater Hartford, CT arts community. He has served as President of the Farmington Valley Arts Center, on the Collectors Council of the Wadsworth Atheneum, and on the Acquisition and Loan Committee of the New Britain Museum of American Art. In 1973, Gass received a master's degree in Economics from Trinity College in Hartford, CT. In 2008, he achieved a second master's degree from Trinity College in American Studies with a concentration in Museum Studies. Prior to his starting TIA, he was an Executive Vice President at The Watson Group in Wethersfield, CT for over 20 years.

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
Gary Banks, Information & Technology
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!