



The Old Guardian

Month 10 of our 59th year

November 2024

“Good morning Old Guard”

Gentlemen,

Here what's in the Newsletter:

- The President's Corner
- Committee Chair Reports
- November Storytellers
- November Speakers
- Officers and Chairs

The President's Corner – John Keleher

As we approach Thanksgiving and the holidays, I think it is appropriate for the Old Guard to celebrate the vibrancy of our group and celebrate the activities we support physically and financially. We are growing in numbers; our activities continue to move ahead and are well staffed! It is a distinct honor to serve in the leadership team of this great group. So, if you are flexible enough Pat yourselves on the back and resolve to continue to pitch in, attend meetings and RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS to this great organization.

Second and also most important regardless of your political persuasion get out to vote it is a right and privilege that not everyone in the world has.

John K

Committee Reports:

Membership – Mike Cabrey

Greetings Old Guard!

Getting new members to our meetings as guests has gone very well this past month. We have had at least six new guests and several have completed their applications, we just need them to come back in to get inducted. We recently inducted Jerry Chichester and a big thanks to Bob Schaefer for recruiting him. As you may have seen at the last meeting, successful recruiting, getting them inducted will earn you a gold star on your name tag. I have plenty of stars to hand out. Also, new members can fill out an application on line under the new member tab of our website. Gary Banks did a fantastic job of getting this up and running for us. Once again, thank you to all who are out there canvassing your neighborhood, churches, grocery stores and other social organizations to help bring in new members.

Respectfully,

Mike Cabrey, Membership Chair

CT Foodshare & The West Hartford Youth Food Program- Jeff Lee

November brings us elections, turkey dinners and additional opportunities to help fight food insecurity in our communities.

Won't you please make a note to join us in volunteering for an upcoming First Friday at Foodshare in Bloomfield and/or donate a bag or two of food for our monthly donation to support The West Hartford Youth Food Program on the 19th.

The Old Guard generosity in supporting these two critical programs REALLY makes a difference...Thank-you!

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

Habitat for Humanity – Ron Robinson

Habitat - November is when Old Guard members annually participate in our Habitat Build Day (in lieu of our monthly ReStore activity). Many members have shown their support for Habitat's mission of creating affordable housing by volunteering at these activities. Many more have not been able to do so for various reasons but have expressed an interest in supporting this wonderful cause. It is at this time of the year that we give everyone an opportunity to do so by soliciting donations. Our biggest financial supporter had been El Harp, who passed away this year. Hopefully, the rest of us can step-up to more than make up for that loss. Checks can be made out to Habitat for Humanity of North Central Connecticut (or HFHNCC for short) and given to me. Thank you for your generous support.

Ron Robinson

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

Special Events – Paul Dean, Ray Bliss

Couple of Save the Dates:

- Trinity v. Wesleyan football game at Trinity in Hartford Saturday, **November 9th. 12pm**. Please let Ray know of your interest and if you will be inviting a guest(s). More details to follow.
- Holiday Luncheon of the Old Guard - Back Nine Tavern, 245 Hartford Road, New Britain, CT 06053 - **Wednesday, December 11th, 2024**. Music provided by the guitar duo of Judy Handler and Mark

Levesque. Buffet lunch and Cash Bar Registration, 11:30 am to noon.
Lunch, noon to 1:30 pm. More details to follow.

UCONN Hospital - Bill O'Connor

Volunteer service has a long tradition in the Old Guard. Helping at the University of Connecticut Hospital is a great way to fulfill that service. Consider volunteering at the Muscular Skelton Institute where you will have the opportunity to assist patients to get to their appointments safely and on time. Service is 4 hours 8 to noon or noon to 4 Monday, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Some training is required per HIPPA rules. This is a rewarding activity for our service.
See Bill OConnor for details

Historian – Tew DuBois

As Historian I maintain a list of Old Guard members who pass away between 5/1/24-4/30/25.

Should you learn of a member of the Old Guard who passed away—perhaps in the Courant, by word of mouth, or however, let me know.

Thanks,

Tew

Foodbank – Lou Aiello, Mike Feehan

For November will be asking for donations of money for the West Hartford Foodbank, CTFoodshare, Loaves & Fishes and/or House of Bread, donations of food for West Hartford Youth Food Program.

We have received, for CTFoodshare \$12,635 (includes \$2,310 for West Hartford Youth program plus Marching Gifts of \$100 with food value of 5 times donations) final total \$53,935.

A contribution of \$30.00 would feed one person for 30 days based on the CTFoodshare cost. Or your gift helps provide 40 meals to family facing hunger this holiday season.

Let's put the power of community to work this holiday season and make this a Thanksgiving for ALL.

Suggest early donations for Thanksgiving

For information to donate, go to Old Guard Website, ctoldguard.org

If you donate to food charity of your choice, please remember to:

- (a) Advise the Food Charity that you are an Old Guard member
- Confirm your donation to either:

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. Time to get out of the house and be with fellow Old Guard members. Hope to see you there.

For November, no bowling on Thanksgiving. For December / January Holidays, we will take two weeks off; no bowling Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. We will continue January 9.

Salvation Army – Larry Carr - Chairmen

We are pleased to inform you that all 40 time slots for our bell ringing duties have been filled. We are now less than a month from our first engagement on Saturday, November 30th.

Also, The Old Guard will be participating at The Holiday Store kickoff event at Dunkin Park on December 4th. We look forward to this event with our Salvation Army friends each year.

November Storytellers

November 5th - Russ Jones – “Views of Vietnam”

November 12th - Courtney Bourns – “OLD(ER)”.

November 19th - Borden Painter... Saving Damsels in Distress as a Lifeguard at Jones Beach (Long Island)

November 26th - Jim Warner... “Climate Change and My Cars”

November Speakers

November 5th – Darren Hobbs, Commissioner of Admin Services



Over his career, Darren has had a variety of roles in public service, spending almost a decade with the State's Department of Administrative Services. His journey within the State includes positions as a Building Official, Deputy State Building Inspector, and Director of Regulatory Compliance.

Currently serving as a Deputy Commissioner, he provides executive leadership for teams overseeing state construction projects, property management, leasing, regulatory compliance (building and fire codes), and state vehicle fleet management. Darren's experience extends beyond state boundaries, as a municipal building official here and in the United Kingdom, where he was also a senior fire safety advisor to the national government.

Throughout his career, Darren has been an enthusiastic educator, offering support to code officials, design professionals, contractors, and the public through one-on-one coaching and participation in regional, national, and international events.

**November 12th - Steve Loff, “Looking Back on the Featherweight”,
Nov 12, 2024**



The Making of The Featherweight: The Willie Pep Movie

Steve Loff, writer and producer, will discuss the long road to making The Featherweight, the feature film based on the true story of Hartford legend and boxing great, Willie Pep. The movie was filmed in Hartford in November 2021 and premiered at the 80th Venice International Film Festival in September 2023. It is set for a wide digital release in early 2025.

The Featherweight

Set in 1964, a camera crew follows Willie Pep, retired featherweight boxing champion. Down and out in Hartford CT, married to a woman half his age

and with a drug-addled son and mounting debts, Pep decides to make a return to the ring.

Steve is a film & TV industry veteran who has worked in all facets of physical production. He has managed and line produced a number of independent film and TV projects over the last 20+ years. His producing work for Al Gore's Current TV gained him a 2008 Silver Telly Award. He was the lead production accountant for Season 2 of HBO's The Gilded Age. He has worked as an accountant for a bevy of studios, including Netflix, A24, and Apple TV+.

Steve's first feature script, Lester, placed top 10% at the 2008 Austin Film Festival Screenwriting Competition. His writing/directing debut Desert Rain premiered at the 2011 Cinequest Film Festival. The film was nominated for Best New Filmmaker and won Audience Choice Best Feature at the 2011 Staten Island Film Festival.

Steve wrote and produced the critically acclaimed The Featherweight, which premiered at the prestigious Venice International Film Festival in 2023 and is set for a theatrical release in September of 2024.

November 19th - Bruce Putterman, Publisher "CT Mirror"



Bruce Putterman is CT Mirror's publisher and CEO, responsible for the strategic direction of the organization, revenue generation, product innovation, reader engagement, and all business operations.

Before joining CT Mirror in 2017 Bruce owned and operated a West Hartford-based consulting practice for 16 years, providing strategic planning and marketing services to more than 50 nonprofit organizations, advocacy groups, public agencies, private equity firms, and other for-profit clients. His interest in journalism dates back to his college years when he worked in commercial radio and TV news. Bruce served as an elected member of the West Hartford Board of Education from 2003 through 2015, including three years as chair of the board.

He has a Bachelor of Arts in History and an M.B.A. in Marketing from Cornell University.

November 26th – Barbara Foley, Ron Foley Foundation – Fighting Pancreatic Cancer

Ronald Edwards Foley

October 10, 1945 – October 7, 2005



The Ron Foley Foundation was founded in memory of Ron Foley, who lost his fight with pancreatic cancer in October 2005.

The Foundation is dedicated to promoting early detection through awareness and education with hopes to find a cure through research. We are a 501(c)3 charitable organization and sponsor a series of fundraising and annual events to build awareness and raise funds for patient assistance, education and research.

Our Mission

- Fund medical research leading to early detection, more effective treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer.
 - Raise awareness of the disease through education.
 - Provide financial assistance to pancreatic cancer patients in need.
-

Your officers for 2024-2025

John Keleher, President
Clem Sayers, Vice-President
Arthur Greene, Secretary
Stephen Schneeberger, Asst. Secretary
Peter Tiernan, Corresponding Sec.
Stephen Guest, Treasurer
William O'Connor, Asst. Treasurer
Tew DuBois, Historian
John Mitman, Chaplain
Ed Turbert – Past President

Committee Chairs 2024-2025

Mike Cabrey, Membership
Don Kauke, Communications
Russ Jones – Nominating Committee
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

Jeff Lee, CT Foodshare, West Hartford Youth Food program
Lou Aiello and Mike Feehan, Foodbank
Ron Robinson, Habitat for Humanity
Dale Richter, Meals on Wheels
Larry Carr, Salvation Army
Bill O'Connor, UCONN Health Center
Chuck Hasbrouck - Golf
Tom Goodrum, Bowling
Dan Tracy, Audit

Art Greene, Secretary

Old Guard, Inc.