



The Old Guardian

Month 8 of our 61st year

September 2026

“Good morning Old Guard”

Gentlemen,

Here's what's in the Newsletter:

- The President's Corner
 - Board Messages
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 - This Month's Speakers
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-

The President's Corner – Bob Cave

Welcome Back!

Our 1st meeting of the year will be on September 8th, and we will be starting our 62nd program year. I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to be your President for this year.

We are fortunate to have great leadership with Larry Carr (V President). He has prepared an excellent schedule of speakers for the year. In addition, Bernie Weiss & Jon Dixon have prepared an excellent list of Storytellers for the year.

Through the summer several Special Events were scheduled and many of you participated. Hank Bolton & Rhon Ernest Jones have prepared several additional Special Events for us for this year. Under last year's President (Clem Sawyer's) the Old Guard continued to provide volunteer assistance and money to nonprofits throughout the area. I'm proud that the Old Guard has expanded its service volunteering & contributions especially in the food insecurity area. As Old Guard members we should continue to encourage our organization & members to assist the community when possible. We appreciate suggestions, recommendations and new opportunities that are helpful to our organization and to our community. We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to our meetings to help us to continue to grow. Together we can make the Old Guard even better.

Bob

Exec. Board Messages

To all Old Guard Members,

To expand just a bit on Bob Cave's message, I believe that The Old Guard has become a World Class Service Organization, possibly one of the best around. Look what we do for Food Insecurity, The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, just to name a few! I encourage you to talk to the committee chairmen and co chairman and get involved! You will not regret it!

Here's to a great and rewarding 2026/2027 season!

All the Best,

Clem

Past Presidents Annual Gathering



“Past & Upcoming Old Guard Presidents enjoying a day on the river.”

A Message from the Program Chair for 2026-2027 – Larry Carr, VP

We once again have a great slate of speakers for our new program year. We have been able to book folks on a wide range of topics, from a behind the scenes look at life in the foreign service, to an insider’s assessment of the evolving college sports landscape; and so much more. We will hear from a global leader in deaf education, how AI represents the new frontier in medicine, and some sober thoughts on how history can lead us into the future.

These are just some of the topics we will be hearing from and about, so stay tuned and stay engaged!!

We-Ha article about the Old Guard

For those that missed the email announcement. Click on the link below to read the article

The real OGs of West Hartford: Old Guard serves up tradition and community service with a fresh twist of modern energy

<https://www.lifepublications.com/post/the-real-ogs-of-west-hartford-ld-guard-serves-up-tradition-and-community-service-with-a-fresh-twist>

Committee Reports:

Music Committee – Dave Mangs

As we begin another exciting year of Old Guard meetings, fellowship, service, and fun, we look forward to sharing our voices in song. Singing has always been an Old Guard tradition that strengthens our bonds with one another, and we are grateful to our pianist, Michael Cervas, and our Old Guard Singers for continuing this important tradition. . If you enjoy singing, please join us by the piano at the beginning of each meeting.

We are currently updating our songbook and would love your help. If you have any favorite songs you would like us to sing, please email your recommendations to Dave. Please include the song title, composer, and performer (if known) so we can ensure our new songbook reflects the preferences of our members.

Thank you for your assistance.

Dave Mangs, Old Guard Music Director
Michael Cervas, Old Guard Pianist

Best regards,
Dave

Special Events Committee Co-Chaired by Hank Boulton and Rhon Ernest Jones

The had an interesting summer where we found ways to continue the interaction among friends that we so enjoy during the rest of the year.

- Tuesday lunch at the Back Nine continued throughout the summer. Attendance was mixed but healthy.
- Talcott Mountain Research Institute Lecture on May 12th was especially interesting to our STEM members. The students interacted with us and really impressed our group.
- Old Guard Tour of the CT State Capitol Building - May 26th - was a huge success with 21 members, some with spouses, enjoying a highly informative and interesting tour.

Richard Kisiel gave us a grand and fascinating tour of the Capitol and the Legislative Office Building. It was well enjoyed by all. In the end there were about 15 of us, and we were very pleased to include several wives in the group. Although we were on a very informative extended tour of about 90 minutes, there remained a great deal more to see, mostly of historical interest. It became clear that Connecticut has made a disproportionately large contribution to the history, character and government of our country, compared to its size. We were able to enjoy both chambers in a relaxed mode, since the Senate and House were not in session. We plan to schedule another Old Guard tour for those that missed this one, and hope to encourage further participation. More on this later.

- 30+ members and spouses attended Mystic Seaport tour on August 11. Remarkably interesting and enjoyable. John Keleher (past president) hosted a Waterside Lunch – such a treat! Thank you, John.
- Historic Luxury Experience at the 55 Elm Club apartments in Hartford brought back memories for our insurance members on August 11.
- Modern experience at One West Hartford apartments on August 15. Members and spouses had a look at the future. The tour was well attended. Lots of questions and interest. Good OG bonding.
- The Bob Hoffman lunch on August 25th marked the end of the summer and the welcoming of a new year for the Old Guard

Upcoming

- New England Air and Space Museum will be scheduled this fall.
- Our annual Holiday celebration is locked in with the Town and County for December 15. Save the date.

We have several additional ideas but are looking to our members to;

Let us know what you want.

OG & Friends Gold – Chuck Hasbrouk

In May, the Old Guard hosted the ***Swing for the Kids Golf Tournament*** at Stanley Golf Course and the Back Nine Tavern. On a beautiful day, golfers enjoyed a morning of golf and were joined by more Old Guard members for a delicious catered dinner in the early afternoon. Lots of door prizes were given out. We appreciate the outstanding support of our sponsors and donors. **The event raised \$13,150 for the West Hartford YMCA Camp Scholarship Fund**, providing camp opportunities for many youngsters.

Since mid-April, the Old Guard & Friends Golf League has been playing on Thursday mornings at Rockledge Golf Course – as weather has permitted. (This year, we lost six outings to weather and two more due to events scheduled at the course.) But, on the days we played, there was great camaraderie. We will continue to play golf until October 13. On Mondays, Mike Dore has arranged for casual play at Rockledge, obtaining two tee times for Old Guard golfers.

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

Food Insecurity - Jeff Lee

As we begin a new program year it's always just a bit unbelievable just how many of our neighbors are food insecure.

CT Foodshare estimates that over 560,000 people in CT are food insecure every month...of that number 137,000 are children.

It takes a team with strong leaders to take on that challenge and we have the leaders to fight the battle against food insecurity.

When Bob Schaefer, Mike Dore, Ted Ruby, Rhon Ernest-Jones, Dave Simpson, and Mike Feehan reach out for your help in that fight please continue to offer your generosity in sharing your time and financial donations in the battle...

When our community needs our help, the Old Guard steps up to meet the challenge!

Meals on Wheels – Bob Schaefer

Unfinished business -



Dale Richter was announced as the 2026 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award and he was not present to receive it. Appropriately, the award was presented to Dale when he arrived to deliver Meals on Wheels.

The Old Guard is well-known for providing opportunity without obligation. For many, attending the weekly meeting when they wish for intellectual stimulation and camaraderie is what they seek. Friendships are quickly made in this congenial group of retired and semi-retired men.

For those interested, however, there are opportunities to serve the wider community. As one example: For decades, the Old Guard has provided volunteers to deliver Meals-on-Wheels, year-round, to those in need. Each volunteer is paired with another member and assigned to deliver one morning per month. The route takes less than two hours to complete.

Those receiving the food may be incapacitated by disease, in recovery from hospitalization, or otherwise infirm. One pleasant lady, grateful to see us, always sent us off with "Have a blessed day". Another waited near the door of her facility in a

wheelchair to say good morning and have a moment of human connection. Yet another, in decline from cancer, came to the door with a warm smile and a thank you...until days before he passed. Some are unseen. There is sadness when a “client” is no longer on the list. Volunteers report being profoundly moved, and grateful to have been part of the effort.

There is availability to join the Meals-on-Wheels gang - even on a trial basis. You would be welcome. Reach out to Bob Schaefer (860) 478-6887 if you'd like to inquire.

Loaves and Fishes – Team (photo from May 14th)



West Hartford Youth (Backpack) Food Program – Ted Ruby

The organization that we support with our “Backpack Program” is the Fern Street Food Ministry.

The backpacks program delivers bags of food to West Hartford school children once a week throughout the school year.

They also have a food pantry that provides quality food to its members once a month.

They also have a Mobile Food Pantry and community breakfast for all.

They bring 200 to 400 sandwiches to House Of Bread every Tuesday.

They are a very special group of people.

I know that this is long winded but they just do so much.

Our first food donation date for the 2026-2027 program year is Tuesday September 22.

The most needed food items are:

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 again for all your support

Ted

CT Foodshare – Mike Dore

The Old Guard has been volunteering as warehouse sorters for many years, but a year ago Foodshare closed their Bloomfield facility and consolidated all warehouse work to the Wallingford facility. The Wallingford facility is three times the size of Bloomfield and just off I-91, at exit 15, which enhances their distribution of food to all their statewide facilities and local truck pop up stores. But Wallingford is 10 plus miles farther for us to travel at peak commuter time for our 8:30AM to 11:30AM sorting shift on the first Friday of each month. October and November, 2025, we shut out of volunteering.

We started in Wallingford on December 8, 2025, with a car-pooling program to ease the commute. We meet at Rockledge CC. south parking lot for an 8:00AM departure for the 25-minute trip to Wallingford. With many new Old Guard members this year my initial roster of those who had volunteered at Bloomfield grew from 20 to 35, with 5 of the initial bowing out, for a gain of 20 members. Foodshare has 12 spots for sign up each month and we have exceeded that number 7 of the 8-month YTD. We have 10-12 cars coming to Rockledge with three cars going on to Wallingford, a great time for

male bonding! We also have 2-4 who drive solo. Year to Date, we have provided 58,804 meals to Foodshare clients!

Here are some photos from one of our July 31st volunteer date.



If you are interested in joining our group, please send me an email and I will happily add you to our list. Foodshare Wallingford has just announced a new construction project that will more than double current volunteer sorting space, so new recruits are needed.

Our next volunteer date is **Friday September 4th**. Still time to join the September team.

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

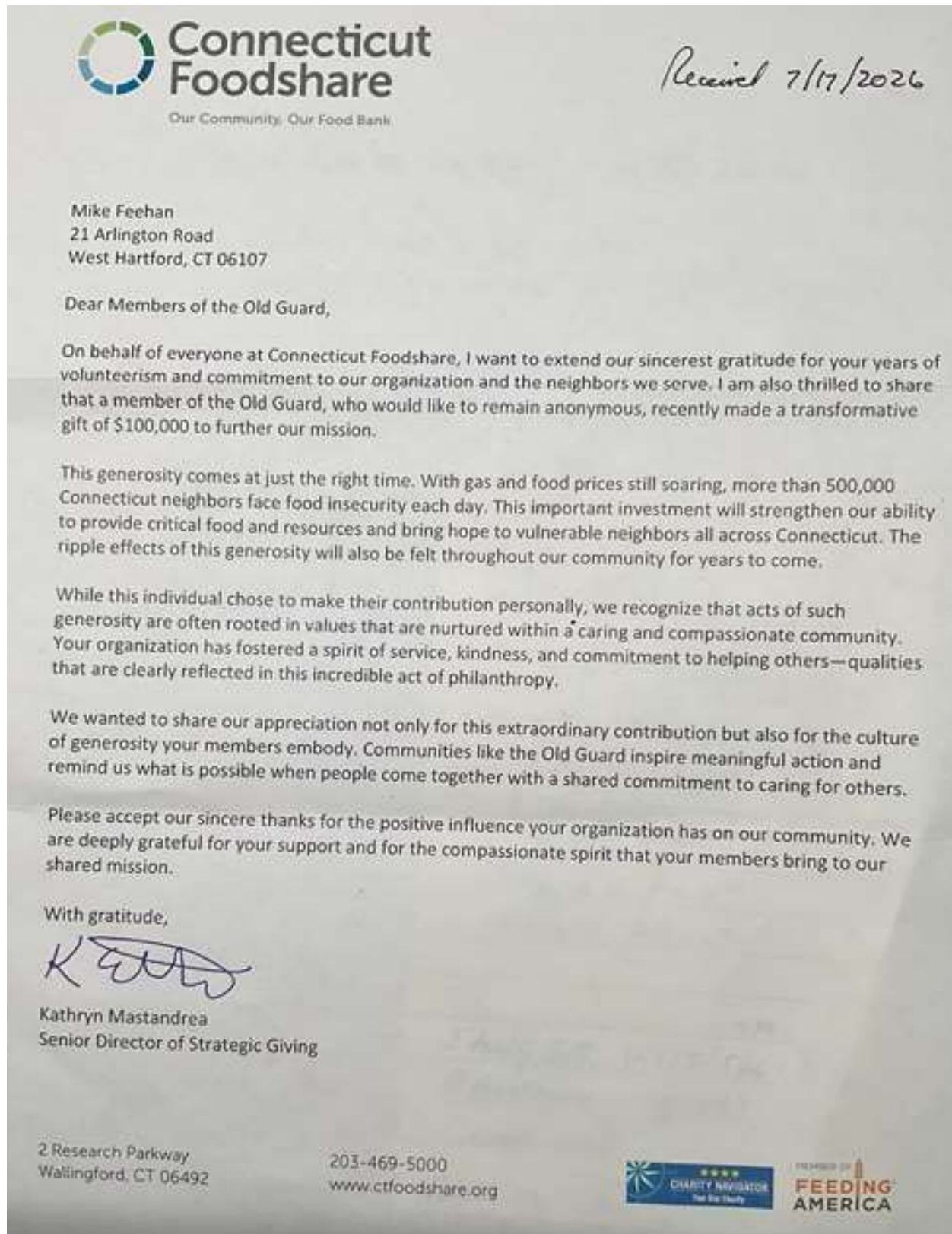
FoodBank – Mike Feehan

Jeff Lee's June 14 email to all members generated an extraordinary response from our membership.

In fact, July 2026 was the largest single month of member giving in Old Guard history.

This reflects an increased number of gifts this summer vs prior summers. There was also more than one extraordinarily large gift to Foodshare. (Those members wish to

remain anonymous and we respect that wish. In fact, Foodshare will not release any details to us about such gifts, except to confirm the gift amounts - which they have done)



As we are aware, food charities face increased difficulties acquiring sufficient food to meet demand, plus rising distribution expenses, mainly the cost of fuel. These threaten

Foodshare's ability to deliver food to our neighbors across Connecticut who are in need. Old Guard's unprecedented generosity this summer could not have come at a better time.

How large is the overall financial impact of Old Guard gifts this summer?

Counting cash and in-kind gifts, plus matching grants, plus the usual 5Xs multiplier applicable to Foodshare gifts, the total financial impact of Old Guard giving this summer was in excess of \$550,000. That's no typo. More than a half-million dollars.

Foodshare has expressed its total and complete gratitude toward Old Guard for the extraordinary support this summer. It understands this summer's enormous Old Guard impact is a unique occurrence but that obviously does not diminish its importance to Foodshare.

All I can add is "Amen".

Reminder -You can donate directly to CT Foodshare on its website at www.ctfoodshare.org.

When you see the Foodshare splash page, just click on the green button "Donate Now".

Be sure to mention Old Guard on the form,

Also let Mike Feehan know the date and amount of your gift to any food charity. He needs the date, name of the charity, and amount of your gift.

Thanks to everyone!

Mike Feehan

Habitat ReStore – Ron Robinson

We continued to do some very valuable work during the summer and actually welcomed new participants.

We gather at their warehouse on Cottage Grove Road in Bloomfield from 9:00-12:00 on the second Wednesday of each month and most often prepare and display donated items.

Some of the work we do is sizing and merchandising donated doors



Use the link to register, but feel free to contact me with any questions.

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

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.

Ron

Bowling – Tom Goodrum

Come and join us for Fellowship and Fun.

Bowling will start on Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 9:30 am and continue every Thursday morning.

Bowling will be at Callahan's Bowl-O-Rama, 2143 Berlin Turnpike in Newington.

No experience necessary.

Inflation has hit us; the price this year will be \$9.00 for the three games, which also includes shoes and balls if you need them. And free coffee is available also.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Storytellers – Bernie Weiss, Jon Dixon

September - 8 E.T. Price - Perfect Happiness

September - 15 Bob Bolgard - Estate Administration Tour

September - 22 Mike McMahon - My Weekend with the Rolling Stones

September - 29 Mark MacGougan - My Mental Acuity Test

Speakers – Larry Carr, VP

September 8th - Michelle Troy

**Director of The President's College @ Univ of Hartford
Future Adult Education Offerings**



Michelle Troy is a professor of English. She teaches English Composition and Literature; English Literature: Romantics, Victorians, Moderns; and Studies in Contemporary British Literature.

“I enjoy seeing them grow into themselves, leaving more capable and confident and inspired than when they arrived,” Troy says of teaching Hillyer students.

Troy’s research interests include:

- Anglo-American culture in continental Europe between the wars
- Modernism and the literary marketplace (cross feed between publishers, authors, agents)
- Modernism and mass market periodicals
- The paperback revolution

Education

PhD in English (with distinction), Loyola University Chicago

MA in English (with distinction), Boston College

Courses at Harvard Extension

Courses at Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

**September 15th - Dan Sterner: Author, Historian and Public Speaker
Lost Hartford**



Daniel Sterner is the author of [two books](#) about the history and architecture of Hartford: *A Guide to Historic Hartford, Connecticut* (which won an award from the Hartford Preservation Alliance) and *Vanished Downtown Hartford*, both published by the History Press. He also has a YouTube channel called [History With Dan Sterner](#), where he presents content about the history of Hartford and other topics. He recently launched a new Substack newsletter called [Remembering Old Hartford](#).

Daniel has [given talks](#) on Hartford's historic buildings and streetscapes at many venues in the greater Hartford area, including the 1892 Club, the Hartford Club, the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford, the Wethersfield Senior Center and the Public Libraries of West Hartford, Enfield and Burlington. He has presented his popular series *Historical Hartford* at the Elmwood Senior Center in West Hartford and the South Windsor Senior Center. He has also taught a course on "Great Buildings of Hartford" for West Hartford continuing education.

A graduate of Wesleyan University with a B.A. in History, Daniel also has Masters Degrees from Trinity College (in American Studies) and the University of Chicago (in Middle Eastern Studies). For many years Daniel was a guide and museum educator at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield and a historic interpreter at two Hartford institutions, the Mark Twain House & Museum and the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center,

**September 22nd - Eversource – Lavelle Freeman, Community Relations
1 Energy Efficiency Provider in the Nation**



Lavelle Freeman is Vice President of Distribution System Planning at Eversource Energy overseeing bulk distribution substation planning, large distributed energy resources (DER) interconnection, reliability and resiliency planning, load forecasting, and integrated energy planning (coordinated gas-electric planning) activities across Eversource service territory in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Prior to joining Eversource, Mr. Freeman was Technical Director at GE Energy Consulting, leading activities in the distribution space with emphasis on advanced distribution planning, DER integration, microgrids and grid modernization. He received an M.S. degree in Computer Engineering from North Carolina State University, an M.S.E.E. in Power Systems from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alabama. He has published over 35 technical and conference papers and holds a patent and an invention disclosure.

Sep 29, 2026 - Rick Ledwith: Town Manager of West Hartford The Current State of We-Ha



Rick Ledwith is the Town Manager of West Hartford, Connecticut, a full service municipality with a population of 64,083. West Hartford is an award-winning community known for its diversity, excellent schools and municipal services, and great quality of life. West Hartford has operated under the Council-Manager form of government since 1919, the first municipality in Connecticut and one of the first in the country to adopt this form of government.

Rick has worked for the Town of West Hartford since 2001 in several capacities. Prior to being appointed Town Manager, he served as the Executive Director of Human Resources, where he has worked extensively with every municipal department as well as the West Hartford Public Schools.

Rick and his wife Tara have lived in West Hartford for 27 years and are proud to have raised three children in town.

Your officers for 2026-2027

Bob Cave, President

Larry Carr, 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

Clem Sayers – Past President

Committee Chairs 2026-2027

Tom Donahue - Membership

Don Kauke - Communications

John Keleher - Nominating Committee

Bernie Weiss, Jon Dixon - Storytellers

Gary Banks, Information & Technology

Bernie Weiss - Senior Job Bank

Hank Boulton, Rhon Ernest-Jones, Bill OConnor, Dave Lewis - Special Events

David Mangs, Music

Parker Simonds, Hospitality

Ron Robinson, Jim Palma - Habitat for Humanity

Food Insecurity - Jeff Lee,

Bob Schaefer, Meals on Wheels

Mike Dore – CT Foodshare

Ted Ruby – West Hartford Youth Backpack Program

Rhon Ernest-Jone – Loaves & Fishes,

Mike Feehan – FoodBank

E.T. Price, Larry Carr - Salvation Army

Bill OConnor - UCONN Health Center

Chuck Hasbrouck - Golf

Tom Goodrum, Art Greene - Bowling

Bob Burnett - Audit

John Keleher – YMCA

Tom Donahue – Awards