The Old Guardian

Month 10 of our 61st year

November 2026

“Good morning Old Guard”

Gentlemen,

Here’s what’s in the Newsletter:

- The President’s Corner
- Committee Chair Reports
- This Month’s Storytellers
- This Month’s Speakers
- Officers and Chairs

The President’s Corner – Bob Cave

Welcome Back!

Old Guard is about to start our third month for this year. We continue to have 100 members and guests each week. (50% of membership). We continue to add new members. (We are at 50% of our yearly goal). We continue to actively support and address Food Insecurity. We continue to have great programs, speakers, and Special Events. I am proud what the Old Guard has done so far this year, and I hope you are proud also. Remember to invite a neighbor or friend to a meeting.

Bob Cave

President

Sharing a thank you note from Rotary

Bob,

On behalf of the Rotary Club of West Hartford, I want to extend a huge 'thank you' to the members of the Old Guard for your generous donations to our October sock and undergarment drive.

Socks and undergarments are among the most-needed yet least-donated items, and your group's contribution is already making a direct, tangible difference for people in our community. Because of your kindness, individuals will have clean, comfortable, and essential basics when they need them most.

Our overall donations will go to benefit at least four area shelters, which will assist them with providing these most-needed items that are in high demand throughout the year.

Thank you for caring, showing up, and helping us spread warmth and dignity.

With deep gratitude,

Alicia Queally, President

Rotary Club of West Hartford

Committee Reports:

Membership – Tom Donahue

Our Membership Continues to Grow

We were fortunate to welcome four new members to The Old Guard in October, bringing our total to nine new members so far this program year.

Let's keep that momentum going! Together, we can continue to grow our membership by inviting friends,

neighbors, and colleagues to check out The Old Guard. It will be good for them and good for us.

By the time you read this, an updated directory should be available on The Old Guard website at www.ctoldguard.org.

Contact Art Greene if you do not have the secret password.

You'll notice a new column in the directory listing each member's alma mater. We hope this provides another opportunity for members to connect and discover shared interests and experiences. If your alma mater is not listed, simply send me the information, and I'll add it to the directory.

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

Good Day Old Guard!

As we approach the holiday season it's more important than ever to focus on fighting food insecurity!

When one of our committee chairs reaches out for your help, please respond in the great way The Old Guard is famous for!

When our communities are in need The Old Guard steps up to help…join the fight, I guarantee you'll feel so good knowing our fellow neighbors will have food when they need it the most!

Jeff

- **MEALS ON WHEELS – Bob Schaefer**

John Walker will be delivering MOW for the last time in November, and we thank him for serving the community for so many years. At the same time,

we welcome Courtney Bourns and ET Price to the MOW team. We will enjoy getting better acquainted with them as we carry out the important mission of delivering food.

- **FoodShare Wallingford Warehouse Sorting – Mike Dore**

We have grown in importance to Foodshare with our increased participation in 2026. We were supplying 8 volunteers on the first Friday of the month as we started the year and now are scheduled for 16 for the rest of the year, YTD there have been 129 shifts covering 387 hours yielding 76,225 #s sorted and packed, which equates to 61,135 meals supplied by Old Guard Volunteers. Carpooling from Rockledge Golf Club parking lot leaving by 8AM continues to be popular with 80% + selecting this method of transport, adding “Fellowship”!

Here are some photos from one of our October 2nd volunteer date - sorting apples and shucking corn. (Reprint from last month’s newsletter)







First Time Foodshare Volunteers
Mike Dolan and Tom Child

If you are interested in joining our group, please send me an email 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 November 4th**. Still time to join the November team.

- **W.H. BACKPACK PROGRAM – Ted Ruby**

Good day gentlemen I was sorry to have missed the October donation day. It was another great success.

A special thank you to all that participated. Also, a special thank you to Jeff Lee who took over my duties.

The next donation day is November 17.

As the holidays approach this program becomes even more important. The school children in West Hartford bring these backpacks home so the entire family can feel more secure that they will have a hunger free holiday.

The Old Guard has become a major player in this fight against food insecurity.

Reminder of the most needed items:

Peanut butter small size

Oatmeal Applesauce Rice under 32 oz.

Pasta sauce

Canned vegetables and beans

Dry pasta

Dried beans under 32 oz

Canned Tuna and chicken

I will have red bags outside the meeting room at each meeting prior to the November 17 donation day.

I will be in the parking lot before the meeting.

Ted

- **LOAVES AND FISHES – Rhon Ernest-Jones**

The Old Guard has now completed almost a year of service to the Loaves and Fishes program, which consists of providing a hot lunch every weekday to those in need.

A team of six Old Guard members serves once per month at the Immanuel Church on Woodland Street in Hartford.

We have been allocated the second Friday of each month, and have a roster of nine volunteers to allow for occasional absences.

The number of lunches served in each session generally totals 90-100.

- **FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM – Dave Simpson**

We have two Retail Rescue teams. Dave Simpson and Kevin Morrison pick up fresh produce on Wednesdays at Big Y Bishop's Corner and deliver to Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen at Immanuel Church in Hartford. Year-to-date deliveries average 3 to 6 boxes weighing just under 100 pounds.

The other team member is Paul Lamonica who on Thursdays picks up a delivery van at the House of Bread in Hartford and drives to Trader Joe's at Corbin Corners to pick up frozen foods, bread and produce (avg. 300 to 500 lbs.) and then delivers the same to St Joseph Cathedral food pantry.

- **THE OLD GUARD'S FINANCIAL IMPACT ON FOOD INSECURITY – Mike Feehan**

The total October impact of Old Guard giving to food charities was $9,560. This total breaks down as follows:

1. Cash gifts = $1,400
2. In kind = $2,560

   (Red Bags)

3. Foodshare Bonus = $5,600

   (5Xs multiple)

TOTAL = $9,560

The above cash gifts were made to Ct. Foodshare. Also noteworthy, the Red Bag initiative set a record in October.

Members donated 45 bags of food for needy West Hartford youth. The highest month before that was 41. This initiative started only a couple years ago and has grown steadily!

When you make a donation, please continue to let the food charity of your choice know that you are a member of The Old Guard, and also advise Mike Feehan, either at one of our meetings in person or via email indicating of the amount and recipient of any donation you make.

Habitat Build Day – Ron Robinson

I am pleased to say that on Veterans' Day the Old Guard will have a team working on a house in Bristol, instead of working at the Bloomfield ReStore facility which we do every other month.

This year the team includes Hank Boulton, Mike Cabrey, Rhon Ernest-Jones, Andy Hogeland, Steve Langan, Gil Olsen, Bill Rose and Joseph Stanford.

This is a very significant contribution of their time and talent for a wonderful cause and deserves our appreciation.

This is also the time of year when we solicit donations for Habitat.

There are 2 matches available - 2X for donations to the national in Atlanta, 2X to the local (made up of 1X from an outside party and 1X from an Old Guard member). (Unfortunately, I learned that they can't all be combined to make it 4X.)

I am happy to collect any contributions toward the local Habitat in order to facilitate determining the Old Guard member's match.

Included here are some pictures from our October activity at ReStore.



Salvation Army – Larry Carr, ET Price

2026 Red Kettle Campaign!

We're delighted to announce the launch of our **2026 Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign!**

As most of you know, the Old Guard has a long and proud tradition of supporting the Greater Hartford Salvation Army. This year, **our fundraising goal is $5,000**, and there are several ways you can help us reach it.

Make a Donation!

Our Virtual Red Kettle makes donating easy. The attached flyer includes a link and QR code that will take you directly to the Old Guard's fundraising page. Flyers will also be available at our upcoming meetings, and we encourage you to share them with family and friends.

Prefer the old-fashioned way? We'll gladly accept cash or checks before and after our weekly meetings.

Volunteer to Ring the Bells!

Beginning Saturday, November 28, and continuing for four consecutive Saturdays (November 28, December 5, 12, and 19), Old Guard volunteers will be ringing the bells outside the Post Office on LaSalle Road, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We need 40 volunteers, each willing to give just ONE HOUR of their time! You'll be paired with a fellow Old Guard member, and as many of us can attest from personal experience, it's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some camaraderie, spread a little holiday cheer, and support a truly worthwhile cause.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the lobby before and after our weekly meetings. Please take a look at your calendar and consider volunteering for a one-hour shift.

Why Your Support Matters

The Salvation Army does extraordinary work throughout our community, providing food, shelter, and a helping hand to individuals and families facing difficult circumstances. Our Red Kettle Campaign is a wonderful opportunity for the Old Guard to make a meaningful difference, especially during the holiday season.

We'll keep you updated on our progress in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, thank you for your generosity and support. We look forward to seeing many of you out there ringing those bells!

Let's make this our best Red Kettle Campaign yet!

Click on Image or scan the QR code to link to Old Guard donation page:



UCONN Volunteers - Bill OConnor

The UCONN Hospital in Farmington is always looking for volunteers to assist patients to locate their appointments.

It is a great service to the many patients who come to UCONN for medical procedures.

Contact Bill OConnor

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

Monday, November 16th is the date set for our planned visit to Stockbridge, MA, where we will enjoy a trip to the Norman Rockwell Museum in the morning, lunch at the famous Red Lion and a free afternoon to enjoy the attractive Stockbridge Main Street. So far, we have 26 signed up, (16 members and 10 wives). At the Rockwell, there is a special exhibit of the work of Calvin and Hobbes.

Not too late to sign up! Just email me.

Rhon

Upcoming:

***Our annual Holiday Party is nearing capacity with just a few seats remaining.**

Members and guests are cordially invited to the Annual Holiday Luncheon

This promises to be a highly memorable gathering you won't want to miss.

Hosted by:

THE Town & County CLUB

- **Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2026**
- **Location: The Town & County Club, 22 Woodland Street, Hartford**
- **Welcome reception begins at 11:00 A.M. Buffet seating at noon.**

- **Cocktail Reception: Gather with friends in the stately club foyer.**
- **Festive Buffet Meal: Enjoy a specially prepared menu.**

HOT BUFFET
Garden Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing
Penne ala Vodka
Baked Herb-Crusted Cod
Chicken Française
Chef's Selection of Seasonal Vegetables
Oven-Roasted Potatoes
Warm Rolls with Whipped Butter
Assorted Cookies, Brownies, and Mini Pastries
Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee / Assorted Herbal Teas
Iced Tea

- **Entertainment: Holiday performances by Choreographed by Old Guard members.**

- **Cost: $60 per person payable to Old Guard.**
- **Sign-up: at the meeting table prior to the next few meetings**
or
contact an events Committee member directly.
Events Committee Contacts:

William O'Connor, Hank Bolton, Rhon Ernest-Jones

The following events are in the planning stage:

- December – New Britain Museum of American Art – special Wyeth exhibit

- January – New England Air Museum – working on finding a knowledgeable guide
- February – Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, Historic house and Gallery (+ lunch!)
- March – Possible tour of the School for the Deaf, following up on the excellent presentation at our last meeting.

The events committee welcomes suggestions for future outings.

Wives and +/1s always welcome.

Bowling – Tom Goodrum, Art Greene

Come and join us for Fellowship and Fun,

Rekindle an old passion, get some steps in, and have a free cup of joe.

Bowling continues at 9:30 am every Thursday morning.

Callahan's Bowl-O-Rama, 2143 Berlin Turnpike in Newington.

Cost is $9.00 for the three games, which also includes shoes and balls if you need them.

No experience necessary.

Please us know if you have any questions.

Tom and Art

Old Guard Singers – Dave Mangs

I want to thank the Old Guard, our pianist Mike Cervas, our Old Guard singers for your ongoing support.

Singing together at the beginning of the meeting has been a tradition at Old Guard from the very beginning and has served to build camaraderie among our members and it is fun.

We have received many compliments from Old Guard members who like to hear music on Tuesday morning as they arrive for the Monday morning.

We are always looking for additional singers to join us at the piano at the beginning of the meeting. If you enjoy singing, simply join us at the front of the room before the meeting.

Second, we are in the process of updating our song book and we could use help with song recommendations, and we also need volunteers to help editing and printing the final document.

Now that we have an outstanding technology team, we will also be projecting the words to our songs on the big screen once our new song book is completed. In this way, those Old Guard members who are visiting with us on-line will have the words so they too can join us in song.

Please let me know your favorite songs for our morning sing along, and if you can help with our new song book, please let me know.

Dave

Old Guard Golf Chuck Hasbrouck

The Old Guard and Friends Golf League season ended on 15 October. For the third consecutive season, the team of Bob Schaefer and Jack Sitarz were the champions. Kudos to them for consistent play all season to claim the top spot.

Following the last matches, we gathered at the Rockledge Grille for a celebratory luncheon.

League statistics for the season or nine-hole matches were shared at the meal. Among the many stats, the best team low gross score was 74, by Jeff Lee and Ron Robinson; team low net score of 61 was recorded by Chuck Hasbrouck and David Kilpatrick. The individual low gross score (34) was carded by Ron Robinson; the individual low net score of 29 was claimed by Bob Cave and Gary Miller. Three golfers had perfect attendance: Bob Murphy, Ron Robinson, and Jack Sitarz.

While Old Guard focuses on bowling now, under Tom Goodrum's leadership, in the new year plans will begin for the 2027 season.

Mark your calendars: *The Old Guard Swing for the Kids Golf Tournament and Luncheon* will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2027 at Stanley Golf Course and the Back Nine Tavern.

All proceeds go to the West Hartford YMCA Camp Scholarship Fund. Since 2022, the tournament has raised over $53,000 for this worthy cause.

Be a part of this special Old Guard event!

Storytellers – Bernie Weiss, Jon Dixon

November 3 - Ted Lindquist - Wanderlust Past, Present, and Future

November 10 - Russ Jones - Veterans Day Reflection

November 17 - Jim Palma - Bush League Productions

November 24 - Jon Dixon Turn Right at the Bottom of the Hill

Speakers – Larry Carr, VP

November 3rd - Cori Mackey: Executive Director of Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA).

Organizing for Justice



Cori brings 25 years of executive leadership experience in social justice work, nonprofit management, and faith-based organizing to the Center for Leadership and Justice, where she has served as Executive Director since 2014. Cori's passion is building power among marginalized and faith-based communities through organizing efforts to bring about systemic change. She is also deeply passionate about the intersection of social justice and congregational life. She holds an M.Div. from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH and is a member of Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford.

November 10th - Dr. Anna Swinbourne: Executive Director of Hill Stead Museum.



Hill-Stead- An American Story

Hill-Stead Museum is a singular place, seamlessly blending the charm of a historic house with the allure of an art museum. This unique combination allows Hill-Stead to offer a more personal and enriching experience for visitors. Set within 152 acres of breathtaking natural beauty, the museum boasts an extraordinary collection of Impressionist and decorative art, meticulously displayed within its original, in-situ domestic interiors. The fusion of historical architecture and world-class artwork creates an immersive experience that distinguishes Hill-Stead from other institutions. Its founder, Theodate Pope Riddle (b.1867)—one of the first licensed female architects in the United States—designed Hill-Stead as her family home in 1901 and transformed it into a museum upon her death in 1946. Her creation and legacy represent a harmonious convergence of heritage, art, and nature.

The museum highlights the remarkable contributions of Cleveland residents Alfred and Ada Pope, and their daughter, Theodate. Alfred Pope (1842-1913), a self-made businessman and pioneering Impressionist art collector, played a crucial role in shaping the museum's prestigious collection and supported Theodate in pursuing architecture rather than adhering to traditional gender roles. Ada Pope (1844-1920), Theodate's mother, was a gracious and community-focused individual who helped establish Hill-Stead as a warm and welcoming home after relocating their family to Farmington. Theodate's vision extended beyond architecture; she founded Avon Old Farms school for boys in honor of her father, championed historic preservation, and supported sustainable farming, creating a legacy that continues today.

Hill-Stead honors these contributions: Alfred's collection and intellectual curiosity are showcased through the museum's permanent installations and rotating exhibitions; Ada's love for hosting and gardening is celebrated with an array of events, which include concerts, lectures, workshops, and family festivals, as well as with the preservation of the Sunken Garden; and Theodate's architectural masterpiece and vision are maintained alongside Hill-Stead's partnership with Clatter Ridge Farm to promote sustainable farming education.

Consider what it might be like to explore a living museum where history and art come to life. How does walking through a home designed by an early female architect deepen your understanding of early 20th-century American culture? Visit Hill-Stead and immerse yourself in the stories and art that continue to inspire and engage visitors from around the world.

Mission Statement

Hill-Stead Museum, a National Historic Landmark, serves diverse audiences in Connecticut and beyond as a welcoming place for learning, reflection and enjoyment. The museum develops, preserves, documents, displays and interprets its exceptional Impressionist paintings, 1901 historic house and 152-acre landscape for the benefit of present and future generations.

November 17th - Tom Buckley Professor Emeritus at UConn-Public Health Pharmacist Researcher:



Working Globally-A Community Approach to Staying Healthy

Thomas Buckley is Professor Emeritus at the UConn School of Pharmacy. He holds joint appointments at the UConn School of Medicine Department of Public Health Sciences, and the UConn Human Rights Institute. He received his pharmacy and public health degrees from the University of Connecticut, and he completed a pharmacy practice residency at the University of Washington, and a global health fellowship with Johns

Hopkins University and the International Rescue Committee. As a public health pharmacist researcher, his work focuses on health disparities and health policy implications, focusing on immigrant and refugee health care in Connecticut and Southeast Asia.

He is a Clinical Consultant and researcher for Khmer Health Advocates, a Cambodian American mental health clinic for genocide survivors in West Hartford, CT. He also provides public health and clinical consultation for the Cambodian Diabetes Association in Siem Reap, Cambodia, and the Mao Tao Clinic in Mae Sot, Thailand. He has authored numerous national and global health publications and been principle investigator or co-investigator on multiple federal grant projects serving racial and ethnically underserved populations.

November 24th - Chris Doyle: Teacher at Avon Old Farms School



A Historical Perspective on The Current State

Chris Doyle loves history: reading it, teaching it, and writing it. He enjoys conversations about ideas—with students, colleagues, parents, and even strangers at a coffee shop. On campus, he runs with the cross-country team, wrestles with his athletes, and walks with his wife, Bev, and their dogs. At Avon since 2017, Chris has launched courses in Global Studies, “Government and Crisis,” and, with English teacher Dan Hodgson, a class on inequality and protest in the Gilded Age and today. He also spearheaded the Evans History Initiative, which became a full academic

conference in 2019 on slavery and its legacies at the 400th anniversary of Jamestown.

Chris holds a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut, an M.A. from Trinity College, and a B.A. from Western Connecticut State University. His commentary has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Hartford Courant, and Education Week, and his teaching has been featured in the New York Times. He began teaching in 1985 after a short stint in sales, inspired by his lifelong passion for books and a desire to do meaningful work. “It was so much harder to teach well than I thought,” Chris recalls. “I had to draw students in with stories—so I kept studying to find more.” Now a veteran, he focuses on helping students think like historians. “Memorizing facts isn’t history. History explains the human condition,” he says. For Chris, this demanding approach creates more thoughtful people and better citizens.

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

<u>Committee Chairs 2026-2027</u>

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 - Jones – 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

Jim Palma, Russ Jones, Mike Feehan - Audit

John Keleher - YMCA

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