

**Summit Area Old Guard
Historian's Annual Report
for 2024**



Our 94th year

“Come for the Programs. – Stay for the Friends.”

Summary

2024 was another banner year for the Summit Old Guard!

This annual Historian's report summarizes the 2024 activities of the Summit Old Guard. Our final meeting of the year, December 17, 2024, was our 4297th meeting since our founding December 2, 1930, our 239th meeting with Zoom videoconferencing, and our 118th hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting since emerging from Covid in 2022. For a third year, we continued to enjoy meeting at the New Providence Presbyterian Church in their lovely Parish Hall.

Continuing our evolution into digital communications, a new [Director's Bulletin Board](#) allows members may see important information; e.g., list of chairs and officers, the Directory, new members, and more. The Council has its agendas, committee reports, etc. posted online and archived. In addition to our paper directory, we now offer an up-to-date [on-line directory](#), where you can find the usual directory information.

Throughout the year, we also held social events and trips, as described in the body of this report:

- Picnic in June,
- An outing to a Somerset Patriots baseball game in July,
- Ladies Day in October,
- A visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art with our own Mike Martin as docent,
- A docent tour of Bell Labs in December, and
- We rounded out the year with a holiday party on December 17th, with live entertainment and refreshments.



Tour of the Anechoic Chamber at Bell Labs, Murray Hill, November 2024

In addition to our Tuesday plenary meetings which are the essence of the Summit Old Guard, we continued with nineteen activity and interest groups. Some of these are quite lively, not only providing members with opportunities but also building friendships!

Under the Directorship of Mark Edelman and the Council, we were supported by a cadre of officers, committee chairs, trustees and other leaders who kept our club humming along!

Every year, we welcome new members, say good-bye to a few who resign and mourn the deaths of members. This year we lost two particularly valued members: Nolan Asch, who presented many exciting plenary lectures, and Werner Wolff, a past director. Details are in the In Memoriam section, below.

As we enter 2025, the Summit Old Guard is healthy, vigorous, and enjoyable. Our motto, “Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends,” has never been more true!

Leadership

Council

The Council establishes policies and approves budgets and expenditures. It comprises the Director, Vice Director, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Membership Chairman, Treasurer, Historian, the immediate Past Director and three Members-at-Large who advise the Director.

Position	2024
Director*	Mark Edelman
Vice Director*	Pete Bolton
Past Director	John Dory
Recording Secretary	Rich Jaeger
Corresponding Secretary	Marv Gersten
Treasurer	Peter Fasold
Membership Chair	John Dory
Historian	Mitch Erickson
Member at Large 1	Lee Schumann
Member at Large 2	Tom Pate
Member at Large 3	Ken Lindhorst
Associate Rec Secy 1	Tom Pate
Associate Rec Secy 2	Tom Leane
Assistant Treasurer	Warren Braunwarth

The council met each month in 2024. Minutes of these meetings are [here](#). In 2024, the council addressed many issues, including

- Established the Director’s Repository (Bulletin Board, resources for Council)
- Handled By-Laws amendments

- Reformed our dues and budget structure (project next year and monitor)
- Created the Al Mac Rae fund with \$5,000 for social events
- Continued to address policies associated with Covid

Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for oversight of the Council, assuring that the Corporation operates in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations; that its digital, physical, and financial assets, are properly identified, managed, recorded, and safeguarded; that financial assets are properly invested, disbursed, and accounted for; and receiving and reviewing the audit report and then conveying its recommendations to the council.

The Trustees met four times in 2024. The audit report was reviewed by the Trustees on March 25, and the revised report was delivered to the Council on April 19.

Office	Role	Name
Trustee thru 2025*	Chair	Mike Katz
Trustee thru 2026*	Vice Chair	Steve Varley
Trustee thru 2024*	Member	Mike Martin
Director	Ex-officio member	Mark Edelman
Immediate Past Director	Ex-officio member	John Dory
Agent	--	Peter Fasold
*Elected		

Honorees of the Year

In 2024 the Old Guard honored members for their exceptional service and contributions with *Life Membership* and the *Unsung Hero Awards*.

Award	2024
Life Membership	Dick Aiken
Unsung Hero	Joel Yudkovich

In Memoriam

Fourteen members passed away in 2024. They were more than just members; they were good and loyal friends whom we remember fondly and miss deeply. This year we lost two particularly valued members:

- Nolan Asch, only 74, was an active participant in many of our interest groups and presented at 17 plenary sessions on a variety of topics. He was passionate about history, especially Alexander Hamilton. He also recounted his successful lobbying Congress to fund research on **Saving the Human Race from Comets & Asteroids**.
- Werner Wolff, 96, was our director in 2001. He was a Holocaust survivor, Korean War veteran , and a member for over 33 years.

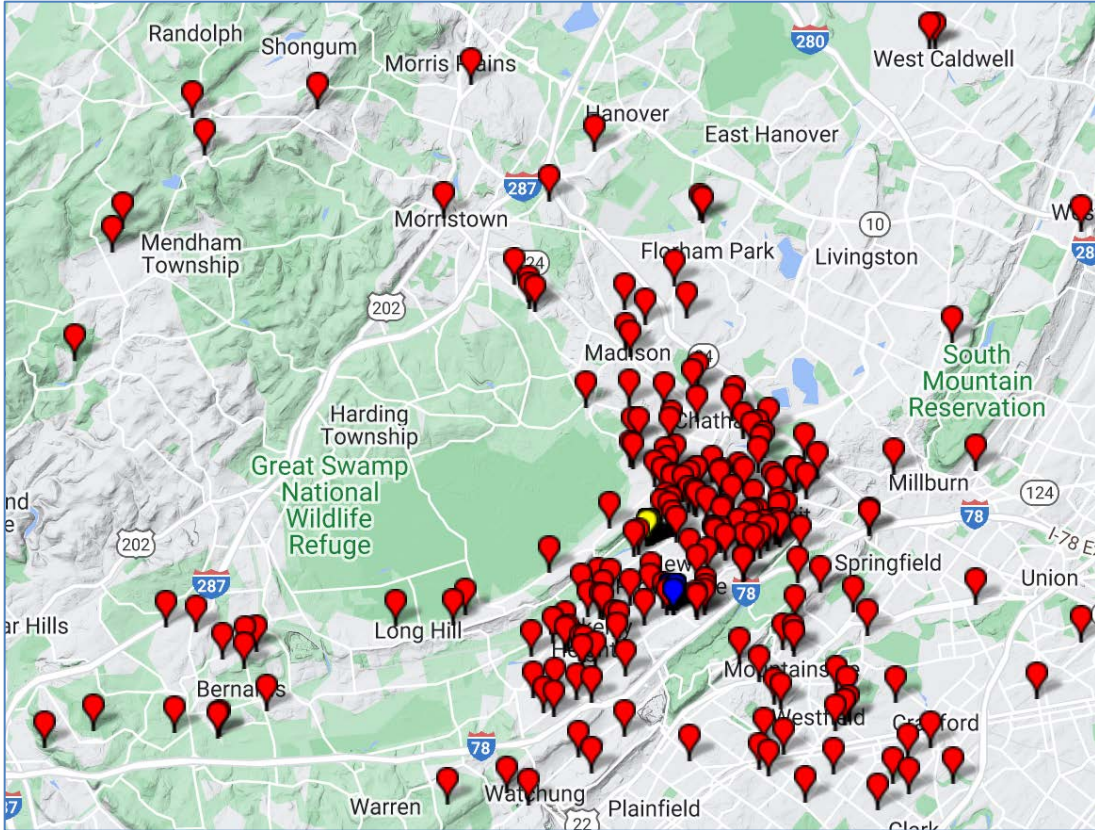
The names of our departed members are listed below. May they rest in peace.

2024
Nolan Asch
Bob Brown
Alan Chynoweth
Joel Cohen
Vic Garber
Bob Hartman
Harry Hynes
Chris Lopez
Kev McManus
Mel Nutkis
Tod Packer
Griff Smith
Paul Thau
Werner Wolff

Membership

As of December 31, 2024, we had 254 members; we had 34 new members join and 35 deletions (14 died, 11 resigned and 10 lapsed).

We are acutely aware of the need to maintain our membership. To that end, we plan several membership initiatives in 2025 that will focus on recruiting by existing members, external recruiting events, and integration of new members.



This screen shot of the Old Guard map shows the concentration of members along the Passaic River Valley from Gillette to Madison as well as our many members from the surrounding area. The blue dot is the Lantern Hill retirement community, where many members live. The yellow dot is at the New Providence Presbyterian Church, where we meet weekly. Not shown are our more distant members, including those from farther away in NJ as well as out-of-state members from Vermont to Florida to Seattle.

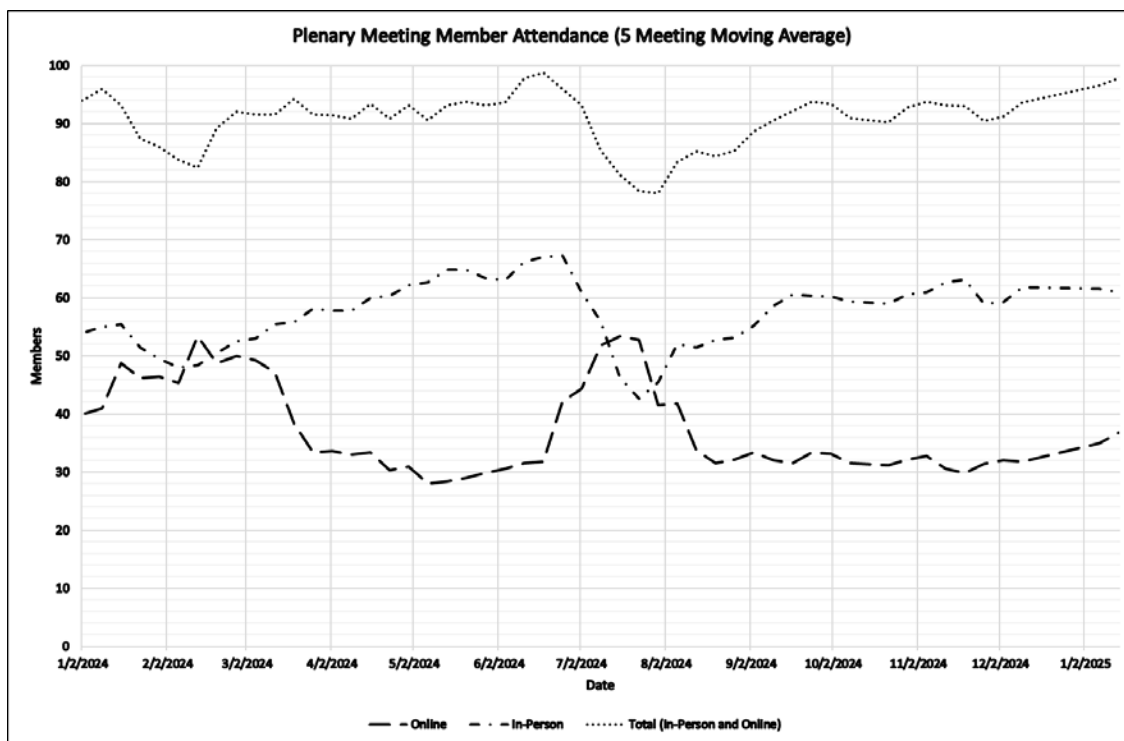
Finances

The Summit Old Guard’s finances continued a multi-year decline. Our dues had been \$30/year since 2007. After extensive discussions of alternatives, the Council gave approval to a dues increase to \$55/year for 2025 with an early-bird discount at \$45. After an educational campaign by Director Mark Edelman, the membership approved changes to the By-Laws on July 30, 2024, which put the increase into effect. We also had income from interest and donations, notably a large bequest in memory of former Director Al Mac Rae. Our expenses for the year included our picnic (for which we did not charge as a gift to ourselves), church user fees, printing, mailing, insurance, and supplies.

Our 2023 finances and Information Resources were audited by the Audit committee. Their April 19, 2024 report found no material deficiencies. Our Treasurer, Peter Fasold, gave a detailed presentation of our 2023 finances to the membership on January 30th, 2024.

Participation

Our Tuesday morning plenary meetings are the highlight of each week. At our hybrid meetings, we averaged 91 members and 7 guests at our meetings with an average of 64 in-person and 37 Zoom attendees. Zoom allowed us to collect attendance statistics as never before. In addition, we collected in-person attendance statistics on check-lists at the meetings.



Plenary meeting attendance statistics for 2024

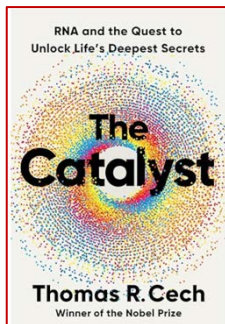
The Old Guard has 18 activity and interest groups as well as 25 support committees, 7 of which have a dozen “monthly chairs.” There are 11 Council members and 7 Associates, plus 5 Trustees. Approximately 70 active members (only one-fourth of our roster) fill a total of 138 positions.

We face a challenge common among voluntary organizations that have adopted remote meeting technology. Remote attendance enables our remote and less-mobile members to participate in our programs and interest groups, but it also reduces the in-person attendance of able members, depriving Old Guard of some fellowship and volunteerism. Our Zoom capabilities also allow us to host more interest groups that we could in-person.

Activity & Interest Groups

Bocce Group bowls for two or more games and then repairs to lunch following the games. Due to increased interest in bocce, two groups play on Wednesday and Thursday. This year bocce was played at the courts adjacent to Panevino in Livingston as well as at the new court behind the Senior Center in Chatham Township. Attendance averaged 5 to 8 each day during spring, summer, and fall.

Chair: Tony Mazzocchi; VC: Craig Sweetra



Book Discussion Group choose, read, and gather to discuss interesting books every two months. In 2024, we discussed five books:

1. *How to Know a Person* by David Brooks
2. *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande
3. *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen
4. *The Catalyst* by Tom Cech
5. *The Sea's Bitter Harvest* by Douglas Campbell

Co-Chairs: John Baxter & Bill Tittle

Canoeing & Kayaking organizes kayak & canoe outings in the rivers and lakes of New Jersey. We kayaked five times in 2024. We began our kayak outings last year in June, when the water began to get a bit warmer. We concentrated on the quiet waters of reservoirs and large lakes in the Northern and Central New Jersey areas. The open skies over these large bodies of water drew a variety of birds, like ospreys, eagles, ducks, and hawks. Two of the locations had EZ Dock launching, or something similar, which made it easy for us old guys. Unfortunately, we had to cancel a couple of times due to bad weather.

Chair: Jim Burgmeyer

Financial And Investment Group (FIG) enables members to learn from one another and from invited speakers about the economy, business, finance, and investing. In 2024 we had a roster of 70 members. We met 11 times in 2024 via online Zoom. Average attendance was 23. We had 18 formal presentations by Summit Area Old Guard (SOG) members on: crypto, the market outlook and market trends, inflation and recession, IRA portfolio allocation, the GDP, China, fintech industries, personal financial organization, nuclear energy, debt ceiling, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, GLP-1 and the healthcare industry, debt crisis, and sequence of return risk. At every meeting we had lively open discussions on many other topics.

Chair: DJ Peron; VC: Steve Varley

Fishing Group had another splendid season of fishing in 2024. Due to low rainfall and hence low river levels we didn't have many freshwater fishing activities. However, we had great saltwater fishing!

We started our season in May going for the spring Striped Bass (Striper). Our Joe Geist landed the pool winner of 31-inch striper. During the summer, we went out for Summer Flounder (Fluke). Bob Eng won the pool with a "door mat" fluke. We were all catching flukes, sea robins, dogfish, and skates. The sun was warm, the breeze was cool and the sky beautiful. We all enjoyed the summer boat ride with bonus of catching fish. When the Stripers returned in the fall, Remy deVarenne, Maano Milles and Bob Eng caught "monster" fish; 35", 32", 31" and 24" -27".

As they say, "GONE FISHING." It's a relaxing and yet exciting pastime. We see river flows in a lively and yet calm environment. You and your friends try to outwit the trout. In the Bay, we soak in the morning sun and try our luck catching our dinner.

All Old Guard members are welcome to join the group. It's a great opportunity to get to know your friends better and to enjoy your favorite past time together.



Chair: Bob Eng

Golf organizes weekly golf outings, weather permitting, at the Summit Municipal Par 3 course (the "Muni") and arranges outings 18-hole golf courses every six weeks or so. We play at public courses in Hunterdon, Morris, and Somerset counties.

We usually have 2 foursomes at an outing, such as the group to the right. There were three holes in one recorded by Dave DeLong, Pete Bolton, and Steve Waddell, all on hole #3 at the Muni course. The golf season started in April and ended in November.

About 15 SOG members attended the year-end luncheon at the Vintage Tavern in Gillette.



Chair: Larry Cunningham; VC: Pete Bolton

Lunches: Following weekly Old Guard meetings or activities, some members joined informally for lunch at area restaurants such as the Prestige Diner and Delicious Heights. A “virtual lunch” group meets on Zoom at noon on Wednesdays.

Science & Math Interest Group (SMIG) met every other month via Zoom in 2024. We delve deeper into topics in pure & applied mathematics within the context of fields such as science, technology, engineering, medicine, economics, and finance. Topics we heard about in 2024 included:

- Semiconductor Business Part 2 (Circuits-IP Semiconductors (Thad Gabara)
- A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Stockholm (Mike Labowsky)
- Super Phenomena in Physics (Walt Meissner)
- The Early Internet and Beyond (Len Kleinrock)
- The Nature of Scientific Explanation as the Fundamental Source of Knowledge (Bill Tittle)

Chair: John Michejda; VC: Bill Tittle

Reminiscences meets once a month to hone the story-telling skills of participants and enjoy sharing reminiscences that can range from a moment in time to a broad period of time. We had 1-3 discussions at each meeting. Highlights included a group reminiscence of Nolan Asch after his death, summer vacations and other memories, Herb Waddell’s 67-year love affair and marriage to Milke Remias, favorite holiday memories, Jim Hewitt’s “Christmas 1992” and job search after graduation in a depressed economy, and Mitch Erickson’s “I am a Leftie” and “Our Ice Rink.” In addition, our discussions wandered far afield to discuss different memorable topics.

Chair: Mitch Erickson; VC: Bill Tittle

Sports Forum gathers monthly to chew the fat about professional and college sports, teams, and players, both current and historical. We met all 12 months of 2024; the discussions were indeed lively.

Chair: John Baxter

Technology User Group (TUG) generally met twice a month during 2024 for a total of 22 times. TUG’s purpose is to inform and discuss topics covering new products, issues, problems, and developments in technology.

This year most of our sessions were led by our own members (frequently John Tomaszewski) and / or short videos (under 15 minutes) explaining computing terms and concepts. Followed by lively discussions.

Our meetings generally fall into the following broad categories:

Informative - Products, Policy, Strategy - Including:

- Income Tax software.
- Potential implications of the antitrust suit against Google.
- Technology that can help with home security.
- Issues: technology decisions we may be contemplating, technology issues in the news for which we would like additional perspective, etc.
- Products: Apple Vision & Whatsapp
- Quantum computing & quantum entanglement.

Advice and Awareness - Understanding computing terms and concepts:

- Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) and the ubiquitous availability and use of “ChatBots” like ChatGPT, Gemini and others.
- The Internet.
- Operating Systems.
- Web browsers.
- Search Engines (including search engine optimization - SEO.)
- Virtual Private Networks - VPNs.
- Private web browsers - TOR & DuckDuckGo.

Chair: Tom Tobitsch; VC: George Kull

Timely Topics met on the second Tuesday of most months and discussed topics of timely public interest in a format conducive to constructive feedback, general discussion, and full audience participation. During 2024 we discussed Artificial Intelligence, Federal income taxes, Daylight Saving Time, eligibility requirements for running for political office, extended warranties, long term care insurance, automobile insurance, the most important discovery or invention, a mandatory national service program for youth, and doing away with the Senate filibuster. Suggestions for future topics are welcome!

Chair: Jim Blinn; VC: Marv Pinkus

Trips & Theater organizes trips for members and their guests to places of interest, resorts, sightseeing, museums, luncheons, and theatrical productions. The committee does not have a chair and therefore did not meet in 2024. Nevertheless, we had several exciting trips:

Committee member John Baxter arranged an outing for a Somerset Patriot minor league baseball game in July which was supported financially by the Trips committee. Thirty Old Guard members and guests attended the afternoon game which the Patriots won in eleven innings.

In November, 12 members and wives visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art on a trip organized by Mike Martin, who also acted as our docent. They discussed 25 Western European Paintings from 1700 - 1900 and also 20th century American Paintings. Mike focused on composition, color, painting technique and subject matter.

In December, Jim Blinn organized a trip to Bell Labs which was fully subscribed with 16 attendees .
As discussed in the Golf section, we also held several golf outings.

Chair: Open; Treasurer: Warren Braunwarth

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

A/V has continued to improve the quality of the in-person and online experience for meeting attendees. Throughout 2024, the committee configured and ran the A/V equipment in the meeting hall. They produced and archived the weekly YouTube videos.

Chair: Paul Tukey, VC: Joel Yudkovitz

Auditing reviews and audits financial statements, records and accounts kept by the Treasurer and by any Committee that has a separate bank account. In addition, beginning in 2024, the audit committee added a role of “Information Resources Assessment,” reflecting our commitment to continuity.

The audit committee’s report was prepared, reviewed by the Trustees, and was delivered to the Council on April 19th.

Chair: George Klacik

Birthdays honors those members who have birthdays the following month at the last Tuesday meeting each month. Our 2024 birthday hosts were:

Month*	Monthly Chair
January	Dave DeLong
February	Mort O'Shea
March	Steve Varley
April	Joe Geist
May	Colin Fowlis
June	Joe McMenemy
July	Bob Eng
August	Phil Apruzzese
September	Jim Blinn
October	John Tomaszewski
November	Roger Burns
December	Joe Corona

*The month of the celebration for the next month’s birthdays

The monthly hosts are responsible for contacting the Birthday Boys via telephone and/or email to remind them of the ‘last Tuesday’ meeting and advise them of that month’s personal birthday related question. The host also prepares and presents a commentary of notable events and birthdays for that month, followed by a group "Happy Birthday" song.

Chair: Colin Fowlis

Bulletin The monthly Old Guard Bulletin is prepared and distributed to the membership. Each monthly editor diligently collects and prepares material for their assigned months and provides a rough draft to our word processing specialist for further formatting and polishing.

Our 2024 editors were:

Month	Editor
January	Terry Dwyer
February	Ian Lutes
March	Aaron Rosenberg
April	Paul Tukey
May	DJ Peron
June	Aaron Rosenberg
July	Phil Apruzzese
August	Bob Beller
September	Harvey Feuer
October	Craig Sweetra
November	Joe McMenamy
December	Rich Jaeger

Chair: Aaron Rosenberg

By-Laws and Procedures maintains the By-Laws and Procedures Manual (aka the Blue Book), proposing changes and updates for the Council and membership to approve and implement. Chaired by the Immediate Past director, we met monthly to work on changes to the Blue Book to reflect the current status of the Old Guard. Twenty-four changes were made, including major revisions to the dues collection cycle, electronic voting, and committee chair documentation requirements. The latest version of the By-Laws and Procedures Manual is available [on our website](#).

Chair: John Dory

Certificates prepares Old Guard certificates expressing gratitude for services to Old Guard for presentation to individuals, including speakers and Monthly Program Chairs. We continued to prepare and award certificates.

Chair: Tom Tobitsch

Coffee Service provided coffee and "goodies" for our plenary meetings. After all these years, still a bargain at 25¢!

In December we held a Christmas party for members and guests. The coffee committee provided doughnuts, cookies, cake, coffee, and juice for all to enjoy. All in all, the party was a huge success.

Our 2024 servers were:

Month	Monthly Chair
January	Steve Waddell
February	Richard Pavlo
March	Colin Fowlis
April	Lee Schumann
May	Rich Connolly
June	Mike Martin
July	Joe McMenemy
August	Joe Geist
September	Jim Burgmeyer
October	Larry Cunningham
November	Maano Milles
December	Roger Burns

Thanks for the coffee, guys!

Chair: Joe Geist

Database maintains the database of members and other information such as members' participation in activity & interest groups and committees. They produce the invaluable annual Directory and special reports upon request.

The database contains members' personal information, positions held, new member sponsorships, and membership status. The database allows the committee to generate reports on various topics, such as historic participation that can be used by Old Guard leadership and committees.

We publish an [on-line lookup tool](#) that allows members to search on an individual name, committee, and other parameters to find the current lists of members and committees.

We also maintain an on-line [calendar](#) with our numerous events, managed by Rick Smith.

Co-Chairs: Paul Tukey and Joel Yudkovitz

Directory publishes the directory. Our 2024 directory was published as a PDF in November. The Directory Committee is currently working on a 2025 directory.

Chair: Mark Edelman

Historical maintains custody of the archives, records and all other historical matter collected over the years and is chaired by the Historian. We supply short historic remembrances for the monthly bulletin: *Just Thought You Would Like to Know* columns with the *Twenty Years Ago:* and *Did You Know That?* segments.

We continued cataloging the paper archives which are in 9 file cabinet drawers. We are digitizing select important files, such as Bulletins. We continued the process of managing our digital files. The work will continue in 2025.

We have digitized many bulletins from the 1980s forward. We continue to consolidate the scanned copies with the more-recent digital copies. There are a dozen gaps from this century that we are trying to fill. Thanks to Aaron Rosenberg for a yeoman’s job on his scanner!

We have directories dating back to 1941, with a few missing years. We obtained copies of some missing directories from Warren Storey and are currently missing only 2004 from this century. Mitch Erickson reviewed the directories and prepared an overview of these directories, including the comings/goings of various committees and activity & interest groups. His report is in Appendix B, below.

Each Monthly Historian contributed a ***Just Thought You Would Like to Know*** segment to the Bulletin. Each contribution consisted of two paragraphs, "Twenty Years Ago" and "Did You Know That?" Our 2024 Monthly Historians were:

Month	Historian
January	Miguel Velez
February	Phil Apruzzese
March	Ron Hoke
April	Steve McCabe
May	Richard Pavlo
June	Steve Varley
July	Herb Waddell
August	Bruce Sales
September	Thad Gabara
October	Rich Macaluso
November	Dave Setzer
December	Roger Burns

The historical committee also conducts special projects. This year, we reviewed our old directories and toted up the various activity and interest groups and support committees over these 44 years.

Chair: Mitch Erickson; VC: Phil Apruzzese

Hospitality greets members and guests as they arrive for Old Guard meetings and manages the physical facilities (e.g., chairs and tables) to improve the experience for all.

We cheerfully perform greeting and other hospitality duties such as providing a bottle of water at the lectern. As part of the SOG effort to track attendance, we continued the printing and collection of member and guest attendance forms.

Chair: Jim Burgmeyer

Humor enlivens our business meetings with a few jokes. For decades, the Old Guard has included a humor segment as part of our plenary meetings. Our monthly humorists provide a variety of humor styles and topics. And laughs.

Our 2024 Humorists were:

Month	Humorist
January	Mort O'Shea
February	Doug Garno
March	Lee Schumann
April	Ron Weinger
May	Colin Fowlis
June	Harvey Feuer
July	Rich Jaeger
August	DJ Peron
September	Bob Beller
October	Leon Lubranski
November	Steve Varley
December	Ron Weinger

Chair: Herb Waddell

Insurance assesses potential liabilities during the pursuit of Old Guard activities, reviews current insurance policies and recommends any changes to the Council. We ensured that our insurance is adequate and up to date.

Chair: Nolan Asch; Richard Pavlo appointed after Nolan's death

Ladies Day arranges a special annual luncheon for the enjoyment of Old Guard members and their ladies that is worthy of being billed as our premier social event of the year.

This year's luncheon, chaired by Tom Pate (below), was at the Grain House in Basking Ridge on October 15th. Eighty members and companions attended. Highlights included several hilarious jokes by Harvey Feuer and singing led by Mort O'Shea and the Old Guard chorus. Our photo gallery is [on our website](#).



Chair: Tom Pate

Membership recruits, processes, and integrates new members and maintains a current membership roster in coordination with the Database Committee. As part of an overall Old Guard effort to boost our membership, the Membership Committee actively works with prospective and new members:

- A new-member guide is appointed to help integrate each new member.
- We man a table at the back of each plenary meeting to greet prospective members.
- We ask each new member to complete a satisfaction survey 6 months after they are initiated.
- We attempt to contact each new Guest within a week, to encourage them to attend future meetings and to consider joining Summit Old Guard.

See “Membership” section above for our 2024 statistics.

Chair: John Dory

Music – Pianist and Chorus leads a short program of group singing at the beginning of each Tuesday plenary meeting. Paul Tukey selects a few songs appropriate for the season, a holiday, or whimsy and prepares the lyrics to be projected so we can all sing along. Following tradition, each week’s song list opens with a patriotic song and closes with a verse of the Old Guard Song.

Accompanist & Chair: Paul Tukey; Chorus Leaders: John Kacerek & Mort O’Shea



Nominating recruits and recommends candidates for election as Director, Vice Director, and Trustees. The committee successfully completed our duties and the new officers assumed their duties January 1, 2025.

Chair: Joe Geist

Outreach calls sick, house-bound, and long-absent members, and reports their status (as appropriate) at weekly meetings. We reached out and reported on members every week. **They appreciated our calls!**

Month	Outreach
January	John Tomaszewski
February	Craig Sweetra
March	Rick Smith
April	Larry Cunningham
May	Pat Moschetti
June	Pat Moschetti
July	Joe Geist
August	Dave DeLonge
September	Steve McCabe
October	Bill Joyce
November	John Baxter
December	Roger Burns

Chair: Mike Martin

Photography takes photographs of Old Guard members at various activities. Supplies suitable photographs to the Website Committee for the [Photos page](#).

Chair: Griff Smith (replaced by Peter Smejkal after Griff’s death); VC: Paul Tukey

Picnic plans, publicizes, and hosts an annual picnic for Old Guard members, typically in June.

On 13 June, after listening to our scintillating guest speaker in the morning, over 100 Old Guard fellows headed to Oakwood Park in New Providence for our annual picnic to enjoy burgers, hot dogs, and cold beverages along with some wonderful camaraderie and laughter. We all owe Picnic Committee, Chaired by Joe McMenemy, a warm round of thanks and applause for all their work planning and managing our picnic together again this year.

Chair: Joe McMenemy

Programs provides programs and hosts invited speakers for the Old Guard’s weekly plenary meetings. Twelve Monthly Program Chairmen, supervised by the Vice Director, arranged for and hosted our speakers. In 2024, we had 49 meetings with speakers on a wide range of topics including prison & bail reform, a major-league baseball career, ion channels, cancer treatment, landscape painting, and artificial intelligence. The list of our 2024 programs is in Appendix A. Videos of the presentations are on our [YouTube channel](#), which has 212 videos and over 3000 subscribers. These programs are the highlight of each week.



The 2024 Monthly Program Chairs were:

Month	Monthly Program Chair
January	Bob van der Valk
February	Jim Fleischmann
March	Matt Wyvratt
April	Pete Bolton
May	Allen Hamilton
June	Bill Tittle
July	Tom Leane
August	Pete Bolton
September	Larry Cunningham
October	Mitch Erickson
November	Joe Corona
December	Leon Lubranski

Chair: Mark Edelman

Publicity posts upcoming program announcements in local media to inform our communities. In coordination with membership, we attract new members. We also report on highlights of interest to the public, such as golf, ladies day, and trips. The committee also assists in the design and production of publicity materials as may be needed by Old Guard. In 2024 we produced along with Membership a new trifold and a single-page flyer, both using QR codes. Try it:

Every week, Bob van der Valk posted information on the Tuesday plenary speaker on our Facebook page. Several members post weekly announcements to online media, such as several towns' edition of Patch. We also distribute a monthly announcement to Renna publications in eight towns, which are distributed free to every household in the community. Jim Fleischmann continues his role of preparing copy for meeting announcements to provide consistency in postings.



Our publicity and membership efforts are paying off! We are seeing an increase in visitors and inducting new members to almost keep up with our attrition! Maybe 2025 will see an *increase*. Every member is encouraged to recruit friends, colleagues, and neighbors.

Chair: Steve McCabe

Recognition Awards selects and recommends to the Council candidates for Life Membership, the Unsung Hero award, and other awards. The 2024 awards are discussed above.

Chair: Warren Braunwarth

Transportation arranges transportation for members who need rides to Old Guard meetings. Several members have gratefully used the service.

Chair: Colin Fowlis

Website maintains a public website for Old Guard that features up-to-date program listings, general information, and photos: www.SummitOldGuard.org. The website is updated weekly to inform members (and the world) of our upcoming events, in particular our plenary speakers.

Webmaster: David Berkley; Assistant Webmaster: Paul Tukey

Acknowledgements

This annual report was prepared by Mitch Erickson (Historian), Phil Apruzzese (Vice-Chair and editor), the various committee and activity group chairs, and the database committee. We particularly want to thank each committee chair for their input. Thanks, especially, to Al Aho and Ron Hoke for their detailed reviews of a draft! Photo credits to Peter Smejkal and others—thanks! Finally, we wish to thank you members, especially the attendees at our meetings and activities for their cheerful fellowship.

A big shout-out to the Prestige Diner for supplying our weekly coffee at a discount.

We want to thank Julie Leung for another year of excellent editing of the draft of each month's Bulletin!

Our meeting space is outstanding and we owe a big thanks to the New Providence Presbyterian Church, especially the following staff: Mitchell Allen, Dawn Goldbach, and Mike Ohlson.

We especially congratulate ourselves for another year of programs, friendship, and fellowship. A prime example is our Holiday Party, pictured below.



Appendix A

2024 Monthly Programs

Note that most programs have a video, which you can view!

December Program Chair – Leon Lubranski

- **Dec. 3, 2024 – Giving Artificial Intelligence Some Common Sense** – Guest speaker **Ronald J. Brachman**, PhD, is director of the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech in New York, and an internationally known expert on artificial intelligence. He will speak about AI and common sense. [*in-person and on Zoom*]
- **Dec. 10, 2024 – FBI vs. Organized Crime** – Our speaker **James Kossler** was a coordinating supervisor for the FBI's office in New York and was responsible for directing its Organized Crime unit. He will speak to us about the FBI's battle against organized crime. [*in-person and on Zoom*]
- **Dec. 17, 2024 – Old Guard Holiday Celebration** – Please come and join your fellow Old Guard members in celebrating the holiday season and the coming new year!!! [*members and their guests only*]

November Program Chair – Joe Corona

- **Nov. 5, 2024 – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)** – Our speaker **Joel Kampf** is a West Point graduate and a management consultant who will speak to us about diversity, equity, and inclusion, including in the military academies. [*video to appear*]
- **Nov. 12, 2024 – A Brewery in Summit, NJ?** -- Chatham resident **Will Dodge** will speak on running a brewery, running a business in Summit, NJ, and starting a business in the midst of Covid. [*video to appear*]
- **Nov. 19, 2024 – New Jersey Cannabis Legislation** – Invited speaker **Nicole Corona** is a law partner at McCarter & English. She will talk about cannabis legislation in the State of New Jersey. Everything that you wanted to know! [*video to appear*]
- **Nov. 26, 2024 – Erectile Dysfunction** – Our speaker **Michael Giasulo**, MD, is a urologic surgeon whose credentials include teaching at NYU. He will talk about causes, symptoms, and treatment for the common condition affecting half of men over 40 years of age. [*video to appear*]

October Program Chair - Mitch Erickson

- **Oct. 1, 2024 – The Toucan and the Sublime** – Some of the discoveries made in the New World in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were just too much for European natural history to handle. Among those curious new discoveries was the toucan, whose forms and functions remained a mystery for well over a century. Join **Rick Wright** in a historical, literary, and artistic exploration of the halting reception of this outlandish tropical bird in early modern Europe. After an academic career, Rick now leads bird and art tours for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours in Europe and the Americas. He also publishes extensively about birds. [*video link available to members on request*]
- **Oct. 8, 2024 – Prison and Bail Reform in NJ** – New Jersey is one of the states that has struck the right balance on bail reform. It has eliminated cash bail, lowered pretrial detainee prison population and actually made New Jerseyans safer in the process. That cannot be said of other states such as New York. Our speaker **Charles B. McKenna** is a partner with Riker Danzig in Morristown and is the former executive director of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority and chief counsel to Chris Christie, the former governor of New Jersey. [*video to appear*]
- Oct. 15, 2024 – Ladies Day Luncheon – No Meeting
- **Oct. 22, 2024 – The Carbon Almanac** – The Carbon Almanac is a best seller! Our speaker **Robert Gehorsam** will discuss how this book came to be written, and in particular, describe how it came to exist—300 volunteers from 42 countries with little to no expertise in climate science or in publishing—and more importantly, why his project has become a compelling model for collective action in climate control going forward. Robert currently advises several climate-related investment funds and research firms, consults to a wide range of technology start-ups and impact-oriented nonprofits, and has had a career as a corporate media and tech executive as well as start-up founder. He’s been an advisor to DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) and just completed teaching an undergraduate course on entrepreneurship and social impact at Grinnell College, where he earned his B.A. in religious studies and English literature. [*video to appear*]
- **Oct. 29, 2024 – How to Value Priceless** – Valuations of Intellectual Property, Business Startups, and Who is Investing -- What are the methods of valuation of an early-stage company? Such methods provide entrepreneurs with a set of criteria that are essential to persuading both customers and investors effectively. Our guest **Chris Droussiotis** lives in New Providence and is co-founder and senior partner at Kinisis Ventures (a seed, pre-seed business startup investment firm). He lectures at Columbia University and is the author of three books. [*video to appear*]

September 2024 Program Chair – Larry Cunningham

- **Sept. 3, 2024 – Cultural Differences Observed during Project Development in Russia** – Old Guard member **Larry Cunningham** will share some of the cultural differences between the U.S. and Russia that he observed during the development of the De-Kastri Crude Oil Export Terminal Project in Russia. It is not surprising that life, standard of living, and approach to project development would differ between a capitalist-based society and a communist / socialist-based one. [*no video*]
- **Sept. 10, 2024 – The USS New Jersey Battleship** – The USS New Jersey is the most decorated battleship in U.S. Navy history. It earned distinction from 1938 until 1991 during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and conflicts in the Middle East. It has steamed more miles, fought in more battles, and fired more shells in combat than any other battleship in history. Speaker **Libby Jones**, who is director of education for the battleship museum, will highlight some of the ship’s capabilities and what the recent \$10 million dry-docking program rectified. [[video](#)]
- **Sept. 17, 2024 – The Road to a Major League Career** – Our presenter **Steve Balboni** will highlight the road taken to define his career in Major League Baseball, starting with his childhood growing up in NH and his love of baseball from a very young age—the road from being a nine-year old not making the little league team— to being drafted by the NY Yankees. He will cover his experiences playing for the Yankees and the KC Royals, including some of the highlights of his career and some of the people who helped him along the way. He will talk about the ups and downs of his career and how it eventually led him to coaching and then scouting. [*video to appear*]
- **Sept. 24, 2024 – Turtles, Frogs, and Snakes Found at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge** – Guest speaker **Randi Emmer** of the Friends of Great Swamp, returns to Old Guard to give us an account of the types of turtles, frogs, and snakes that reside in the Great Swamp, which was the first national wildlife refuge in the country. [*no video*]

August 2024 Program Chair – Pete Bolton

- **August 6, 2024 – International Law** – Speaker **Jerry DeFrancisco** will talk about international law in theory and practice. **Dr. DeFrancisco** has had a long and distinguished career in management serving as president, Humanitarian Services, American Red Cross, and 30 years at AT&T serving in various executive positions. He has had extensive experience in international business affairs. [*no video*]
- **August 13, 2024 – How Do You Know the Good Stuff?** – Empire Antiques is a vast collection of old objects, large and small, valuable and not so valuable, housed in a two-story building in Hightstown NJ. Much of the inventory comes from high-end estate sales. Auctions are held from time to time. **Sonnie Baden** and the business founder & owner **Gene Pascucci** will describe the collection and the business, and then appraise some items brought by members of the audience. [[video](#)]

- **August 20, 2024 – How to Turn an Old Barn into an Arts Center** – Speaker **Leslie Workman**, Board President, Farmstead Arts in Basking Ridge, will describe the mission and activities of the center, which include classes, art exhibitions, concerts, and performances. [\[video\]](#)
- **August 27, 2024 – A Centenarian’s Lifetime and WWII Recollections** – Centenarian and WWII veteran **Sydney Levit** will tell us about his combat experiences and some lifetime recollections. Sydney will be joined at the podium by his daughter and by his close friend and former Summit Bank banker Suzanne Currie. [\[video\]](#)

July 2024 Program Chair – Tom Leane

- **July 2, 2024 – Boys & Girls Club of Hudson County NJ** -- Our speaker is **Gary Greenberg**, Executive Director and CEO of the **Boys & Girls Club of Hudson County NJ**. Gary will recount how he has dedicated his career to developing the organization's programs and partnerships which benefit thousands of at-risk youth in Hudson County. [\[video\]](#)
- **July 9, 2024 – Advances in Cancer Research** -- Speaker **Pat Morin**, PhD., is the deputy scientific and communications director for the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, based in New York. He will discuss the history of the institute, its programs at 11 research centers around the U.S. and Europe, and current developments in cancer research. [\[video\]](#)
- **July 16, 2024 – Symbolism in Landscape Painting** -- Old Guard member Mike Martin will present a talk on Symbolism in Landscape Painting. Mike had a career in the pharmaceutical industry, and now devotes his time to his new passion, art and painting. He has studied at the Arts Students League in NYC and the Summit Center for Visual Arts. Mike will relate to us the importance of symbolism in landscape painting and walk us through specific examples. [\[video\]](#)
- **July 23, 2024 – Seton Hall Pirates Insight** -- Speaker **Bryan Felt**, Seton Hall University athletic director, will tell the story of Seton Hall athletics, including the recent NIT championship, the building of a new basketball practice facility, and the success of other sports teams, notably golf. He will also share his knowledge of what NAACP's NIL is (name, image, likeness) and how the NIL portal works. [\[video\]](#)
- **July 30, 2024 – The Success of a 150-Year-Old Educational Institution** -- Speaker **Michael Gomez**, Ed.D., president of St. Peter’s Preparatory School, will describe this downtown Jersey City institution that educates students from all over New Jersey and New York City. Dr. Gomez will also describe how student aid works, the continuing process of updating 150-year-old historic structures, and the tremendous success of its student body. [\[video\]](#)

June 2024 Program Chair – Bill Tittle

- **June 4, 2024 – What is New Jersey Doing to Keep Retirees in NJ?** – Our speaker, NJ Assemblywoman **Nancy Muñoz** is the minority budget director and a member of the Budget, Health and Budget Oversight Committees in the New Jersey Assembly. [[video](#)]
- **June 11, 2024 – Shadows of the Mind: A Theory of Human Consciousness**
– Speaker **Robert Potok** holds a Doctor of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering from MIT and has spent his career as a data scientist and research director both in the physical and marketing sciences. He will discuss how consciousness ties to overall human life experience. He states that relationship is expressed in many of the “ship” words: friendship, stewardship, apprenticeship, authorship, brinkmanship, censorship, etc. All these words describe qualities of human experience and are meaningless without consciousness. [[video](#)]
- **June 18, 2024 – How the Universe Came to be Smooth and Flat: The great challenge for gravity and cosmology** – Our speaker is **Paul Steinhardt**, the Albert Einstein Professor of Physics at Princeton University. According to Wikipedia “Steinhardt is best known for his development of new theories of the origin, evolution and future of the universe.” [*no video*]
- **June 25, 2024 – Does Anyone Have a Credo?** – Speaker and MPC **William Tittle**, a former Director of Old Guard, will attempt to bring the previous three speakers’ ideas together by building a theme that converges their talks covering politics, human consciousness, and the universe in which we live, with the idea of a personal credo on what we each conclude about life. Multiple 20th century philosophers have had a go at this weighty topic. It should be interesting. [[video](#)]

May 2024 Program Chair – Allen Hamilton

- **May 7, 2024 – Advancing Opportunity: First-Generation College Student Success** – Speaker **Dr. Leslie Pendleton** is the founding director of the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program at the University of Florida. She is a national leader in creating sustainable efforts to support the college and life success of students who are the first in their families to pursue a college degree. Dr. Pendleton now serves as the lead development officer for the program, and she will discuss the 18-year history and impact of the Machen program. Through intentional peer mentoring, academic coaching, and overall care and compassion for first-generation college students, UF has created a scalable model for other universities to follow. [[video](#)]

- **May 14, 2024 – Wine, Beer & Spirits Business in NJ** – Our guest speaker is **Gary Fisch**, the founder & CEO of Gary’s Wine & Marketplace, a four-store retail chain in northern NJ. Founded in 1987, Gary’s Wine & Marketplace has become an industry-leading independent retailer selling wine, beer, spirits, gourmet foods, and giftware. During this presentation, Gary will speak about his founding story and some innovations he has pioneered in retailing over the past 35+ years. Gary has also been a good corporate citizen by supporting an annual wine-tasting event in Morristown. (**Note:** Due to a scheduling conflict, Gary asked his Corporate Wine Director **Gillian Sciaretta** to pinch-hit for him.) [[video](#)]
- **May 21, 2024 – Genealogy & Ancestry.com** – Old guard member **Allen Hamilton** will present his experience with **Ancestry.com**, including the wealth of online information, such as the census and birth/death/burial records. He will also discuss the DNA results for him and his wife. Finally, he will lead a discussion on your stories. [[video](#)]
- **May 28, 2024 – Metropolitan Golf Association** – Conducting first-class championships that "promote and conserve the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf" was the founding mission of the MGA. Today, the MGA is recognized as a leader in championship administration and conducts some of the nation's oldest and most prestigious events with a list of champions that reads like a "Who's Who" of golf. **Chris Gaffney**, director of championships at the MGA, will provide insight into the historic MGA Championship program, the fantastic golf courses, accomplished alumni, great volunteering opportunities throughout New Jersey, and some insight on the rules of golf. [*no video*]

April 2024 Program Chair – Pete Bolton

- **Apr 2, 2024 – The Vivid Stage Company** – Our speaker **Laura Ekstrand**, the founder and artistic director of the **Vivid Stage Company** (formerly Dreamcatcher), will introduce the company, located in the Oakes Center in Summit, and describe how it operates. The presentation will include the background of the artists of the company, the way plays are chosen, and the process of creating a production. [[video](#)]
- **Apr 9, 2024 – Entertainment by The Larks** – The Larks, a well-known Summit musical troupe for 50 years, will entertain us with spirited song and dance numbers. They will be led by their talented musical director, **Joanne Teubner-Prussak** who also plays the piano. We will hear how they prepare for their shows, words about their parent group the Summit Junior League, and perhaps an evaluation of our sing-along segment. [*no video*]

- **Apr 16, 2024 – It Can Still Be Fixed: SAGE Furniture Restoration Workshop** – Since 1961, the SAGE Eldercare Furniture Restoration Workshop has offered the public fine-quality furniture repair. Most of the volunteers are former professionals, including investment bankers, college professors, physicians, and scientists who have taught each other techniques needed to fix the aging furniture brought to them for restoration. Led by **Bob McAnally**, volunteers from the workshop will share some of their favorite stories of bringing new life to treasured belongings. [\[video\]](#)
- **Apr 23, 2024 – Are Microforests a Climate Solution for NJ?** – Speaker **Donna Goggin Patel, JD**, serves as the chair of the **Summit Environmental Commission**. Did you know you can regrow a forest in a few decades in as little as 3-4 parking spaces worth of space? Or that Summit has its own version—the Tiny Forest—behind the Community Center? Learn about the importance of native species and how dense pocket reforestations can help mitigate climate change in NJ. Donna can also discuss the latest sustainability efforts in Summit and other planned and ongoing environmental efforts. [\[video\]](#)
- **Apr 30, 2024 – How Can We Come Out Ahead?** – Our own **David Dietze** is a noted investment expert regularly seen on Bloomberg and other investment TV programs. He will cite base investment trends and how we can plan to come out ahead as most of us adjust to having less income than we enjoyed in years gone by. He will discuss current inflation trends and how political trends can affect us. [\[video\]](#)

March 2024 Program Chair – Matt Wyvratt

- **Mar 5, 2024 – Ion Channels: Targets for New Therapeutics** – Our speaker **Dr. Greg Kaczorowski** (formerly from Merck) will discuss the importance of ion channels in our health. Ion channels are a large and diverse family of integral membrane proteins that are present in all cells of the body. These proteins span the plasma lipid bilayer membrane and contain an internal pore structure which can be opened/closed by various stimuli to allow the gated passage of ions (e.g., sodium, potassium, calcium, or chloride ions) into or out of a cell. Nature has used this rather simple mechanism to modulate all major biological activities, both somatic responses like voluntary muscle movement and autonomic actions like cardiac and respiratory activities. Because of their fundamental importance in systems biology, Greg will discuss how ion channels can be modulated for therapeutic benefit or be targeted to kill an organism. [\[video\]](#)
- **Mar 12, 2024 – History Of Children’s Specialized Hospital 1891 to Present** – We will hear from **Jessica Arkel** who is the development officer at Children’s Specialized Hospital Foundation. She will discuss the history of Children’s Specialized Hospital in New Jersey from its early days in 1891 in Westfield to becoming a preeminent provider of pediatric rehabilitation with 15 facilities across New Jersey serving more than 35,000 children annually who are living with a variety of complex pediatric medical conditions—from chronic illnesses and complex physical disabilities like brain and spinal cord injuries—to a full scope of developmental, behavioral, and mental health concerns. [\[video to appear\]](#)

- **Mar 19, 2024 – Three Public Health Emergencies and Drugs Developed to Control Them** – Our guest speaker **Prof. Dennis Liotta** has led a group of synthetic/medicinal chemists at Emory University for over four decades. He will provide an overview of his research in the antiviral arena, featuring stories of three highly successful antivirals he developed in collaboration with his academic colleagues and biotech partners. Dr. Liotta has contributed to 18 FDA-approved therapies, with perhaps his biggest impact coming in the HIV/AIDS field. He will also highlight recent drug discovery endeavors in various therapeutic areas, including oncology and neurological diseases. [[video](#)]
- **Mar 26, 2024 – From Science to Photography** – Our presenter **Dr. Lenny McDonald** will discuss the importance of experimentation and creativity in photography sharing his journey from science (formerly of Wyeth/Pfizer) to his present avocation. Macro and close-up are his favorite styles and he'll discuss the impact of exploiting fine details. He'll also show some of his non-macro abstract work. Lastly, he'll briefly share his perspective on AI in photography and how it fits into his workflow. Lenny has exhibited his work in various venues across New Jersey, including Reeves-Reed Arboretum, Mayo Performing Arts Center, and the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion. You can review some of his work on his Instagram page at <https://instagram.com/lennysfineartphotos/>. [[video](#)]

February 2024 Program Chair – Jim Fleischmann

- **Feb 6, 2024 – Here's Why Summit Has One of the Finest School Systems in New Jersey** – Our speaker **Scott Hough** was appointed superintendent of schools in Summit in 2020 (during the pandemic) after a term as assistant superintendent in New Providence. He will give us an overview of the system and describe the impact COVID-19 had and how he dealt with it. He will also discuss critical issues facing all school administrators, such as bullying, security, and safety. The appeal of Summit as a place to live is supported by its excellent public schools. [[video](#)]
- **Feb 13, 2024 – Everything You Didn't Know about Union County** – You may not have known that Union County was the last county created in New Jersey, in 1857. Today it's very diverse population is equal to that of Wyoming, and its budget is half a billion dollars. You'll be surprised about a lot more that will be shared by our speaker, who for administrative reasons cannot be committed much in advance. **Amy Wagner**, the deputy county manager, spoke authoritatively about law enforcement, parks, public works, health services, economic development, and much more. [[video](#)]
- **Feb 20, 2024 – Remarkable Advances in Brain Surgery** – Our speaker **Dr. Yaron Moshel** is co-director of the Gerald J. Glasser Brain Tumor Center at Atlantic Health System's Overlook Medical Center. He is one of a select few surgeons who specialize in removing deep-seated brain tumors using technology that includes computer-guided navigation, awake intraoperative brain mapping, endoscopy, and microsurgery. Dr. Moshel will explain how the convergence of precision medicine, advanced robotics, and specialized imaging are fostering new breakthroughs in the treatment of brain and spine tumors. [[video](#)]

- **Feb 27, 2024 – Is the Library an Anachronism in a Digital World?** – With so much information accessible online, is a public library still relevant? **Amy Behr-Shields** is the director of the Summit Free Library. She will explain how the library is needed to curate reliable sources of information and to manage the complexities of digital and non-digital media, while serving as a community center and a welcoming environment. [[video](#)]

January 2024 Program Chair – Bob van der Valk

- **Jan 2, 2024 – Nutrition and Aging Myths** -- Speaker **Kathleen Bassiacos** imagined herself as a nurse since age 11 and now has over three decades of nursing experience in oncology, geriatrics, assisted living, and home care. Now at Unicity Healthcare, she keeps her patients’ health at the forefront, focusing on “crisis management mixed with adaptability.” Her patients are the elderly, who are the most at risk for being negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Her presentation will include not only nursing but also treating the myths surrounding aging and nutrition. [[video](#)]
- **Jan 9 – Outreach at the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs** – Our speaker **Melanie Hazim** is the director of outreach at the NJ, 2024 Division of Consumer Affairs, which aims to protect us from becoming victims of consumer fraud. She speaks to thousands of people yearly. She also directs the New Jersey High School Consumer Bowl and works with her team to educate students about consumer issues and scams they may face in their future, using a fun game show setting. We’ll hear vital advice from Melanie. [**no video**]
- **Jan 16, 2024 – Compulsive Gambling** – Speaker **Joe Kane** is a prevention specialist with the Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ, which is composed of concerned individuals representing the best interests of “problem and disordered gamblers” and their families. He joined the organization following a career on Wall Street and in the mortgage industry. The Council focuses on educating the general public, training professionals, referring gamblers and their families to treatment, and advocating for increased treatment services. Joe will help us understand compulsive gambling and the need for support. [[video](#)]
- **Jan 23, 2024 – Highway Infrastructure Financing: Past, Present, Future** – Our substitute speaker that day was Old Guard member **Marv Gersten**, who grew up in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, graduated from Brooklyn Technical HS, and, intrigued by the planning and construction of the Eisenhower Interstate and Defense Highway System, began a 52-year consulting engineering career specializing in traffic and transportation engineering. Marv provided an update on the status of highway infrastructure **financing alternatives**. He was inspired by Mitch Erickson's Old Guard talk "**Travel - It Ain't What It Used To Be**" which touched on our crumbling infrastructure and funding needs. Following Marv's talk, we brainstormed about how new technologies can make some of the alternatives practical. [[video](#)]

- Jan 23, 2024 (talk was canceled by the speaker at the last minute due to an emergency. It may be rescheduled) – "Registration for Organ and Tissue Donation" – By registering as an organ donor, you may change – or save – someone's life. Iveth Gonzales is a team leader in the New Jersey Sharing Network, with personal experience from when her father was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis. She will explain organ donation, its benefits, and how it is organized.
- **Jan 30, 2024 – Senior Medicare Patrol** -- Medicare is for seniors, it expends many billions of dollars, and it must deal with the hazards of fraud. The Senior Medicare Patrol of New Jersey is a federally funded program of the US Administration for Community Living. There is an SMP in each state. **Charles Clarkson** is an attorney and a project director for the SMP under the auspices of Jewish Family Services of Middlesex County. He will explain how to detect and how to report Medicare fraud and related healthcare scams. [[video](#)]

Appendix B

Old Guard Directory Review

By Mitch Erickson

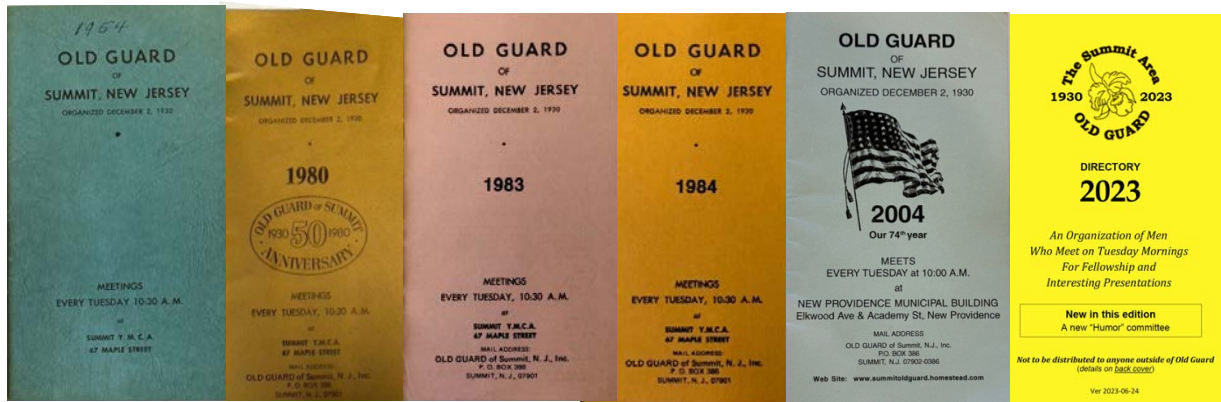
Our Annual Directory

For decades, our directory has been a valuable reference for members. The Summit Old Guard archives contain directories back to 1941, with a few missing years. The 1941 directory was a 3-page trifold with the members' name, address, phone, birthplace/date, and last job. Over the years, directory editors have responded to members' requests for additional information.

By 1955, it was a printed/bound 16-page directory much like today's; a list of officers, past directors, and a thumbnail of our history were added. For our golden anniversary in 1980, we listed 29 committees and it had grown to 24 pages. Beginning in 1992, the membership add/drop statistics have been included in each year's directory. In 1997, we added our wives' names.

Despite a slow shrinkage in membership, the addition of various features has seen the directory steadily grow and in 2024, it was 56 pages with 43 committees, activities, and interest groups. The most recent addition, a "first name index," has been welcomed by members who can't remember the last name of another member!

Over the years, we have had different cover colors. In 1980, the cover was GOLD in honor of our 50th Anniversary and in 2005, it was gray with diamonds for our 75th! What will we use for a cover in 2030 for our 100th?



Do you like our directory? We thought so! Sign up to help our directory publication process!

Committees over the Years

A review of the list of committees over the years is fascinating. We have records that span 44 years beginning in 1980. There have been ~80 committees listed over the years. About half of these are what we currently call committees that help the Summit Old Guard function and half are activity and interest groups.

Several committees¹ have been consistent throughout this time:

- Audio-Video
- Auditing
- Birthdays
- Bulletin
- Directory/Database
- Historical
- Hospitality
- Ladies' Day
- Membership
- Music

These activity/interest groups have also been around consistently:

- Bridge
- Fishing
- Golf
- Timely Topics
- Trips & Theater

Several Activities were popular back in the day, but are now forgotten²:

- Annual Outing
- Bowling-Alley
- Bowling-Lawn
- Chess
- Santaphone
- Shuffleboard
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Walking/Hiking

A few came and went quickly, but are interesting to note:

- Curling
- Military Liaison
- Ping-Pong
- Skiing

Several special-purpose committees were intentionally short-lived:

- Vision (2007-2008)
- 50th Anniversary (1980)
- 75th Anniversary (2005)
- 80th Anniversary (2010)

¹ Many of these have existed under more than one name; I have condensed them and used the current committee name in this list.

² ...but may be revived. Interested?

In addition to those listed above, our vigorous recently-initiated activities include:

- Bocce
- Book Group
- Canoeing & Kayaking
- Financial & Investment Group
- Hearing Improvement
- Career Mentoring
- Lunches
- Reminiscences
- Science & Math Int Group
- Sports Forum
- Technology User Group

Throughout our history, most committees/groups met on Tuesdays, before/after the plenary meeting. When the covid pandemic hit in 2020, we rapidly transitioned to remote meetings and then to hybrid meetings in 2022. With access to Zoom, we are able to meet virtually as well as in-person. So, groups could meet on days other than Tuesdays and we have been able to accommodate new interest groups, such as Science and Math Interest Group and the Financial & Investment Group. We now have essentially unlimited bandwidth to host interest groups by Zoom. It is up to *you* to grow our list!

Clearly, we have been active, both supporting the SOG operations and pursuing our passions.