

Summit Area Old Guard Historian's Annual Report for 2025



Our 95th year

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



Summary

2025 was another banner year for the Summit Old Guard!

This annual Historian's report summarizes the 2025 activities of the Summit Old Guard. Our final meeting of the year, December 16, 2024, was our 4,345th meeting since our founding December 2, 1930, our 340th meeting with Zoom videoconferencing, and our 164th hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting since emerging from Covid in 2022. For a fourth year, we continued to enjoy meeting at the New Providence Presbyterian Church in their lovely Parish Hall.

Continuing our evolution into digital communications, our 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,¹ 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,
- A docent tour of Bell Labs in September,
- Ladies Day in October,
- A trip to the National Museum of Industrial History (NMIH) in Bethlehem, PA in November,
- We rounded out the year with a holiday party on December 16th, with live entertainment by the Larks and refreshments.



¹ For this public-facing version ("R"), the hyperlinks have been redacted, per Summit Old Guard privacy policy.

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

Under the Directorship of Pete Bolton 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, as listed in the *In Memoriam* section, below.

As we enter 2026, the Summit Old Guard is healthy, vigorous, and enjoyable. Our motto, “Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends,” has never been more true!

95th Anniversary Celebration

We celebrated our 95th Anniversary with a special celebratory meeting on December 2, 2025. The video recording is on our [YouTube channel \(https://www.youtube.com/@OldGuardSummit\)](https://www.youtube.com/@OldGuardSummit).

The event, which commemorated nearly a century of stimulating activities and fellowship for our members, included special recognition from local government. New Providence Mayor Al Morgan presented a proclamation congratulating the Old Guard on its success and longevity. See Appendix B.

[What In The World Was Going On In 1930?](#) Steve Varley reviewed the historical context of our founding, noting that when the first members came together in 1930, they found themselves unemployed amidst the emerging Great Depression. A Ford Model A cost \$500, and "Happy Days Are Here Again" was the #1 song.

[95 Years of Memories:](#) Mitch Erickson then presented a detailed account of the organization's storied history, highlighting:

- Its longevity, with 4,343 plenary meetings conducted over 95 years.
- Famous speakers, including politicians like Christie Whitman, sports figures, two Nobel Prize laureates and one Turing Award recipient.
- Numerous activities, from golf and bocce to small-group discussions on financial investments, math, and science.
- Memorable trips

Director's reflections: “SOG from now till our Centennial”? Director Pete Bolton talked about our future, noting the importance of maintaining our valuable traditions while modernizing to ensure many more years of friendship and fellowship.

The celebration included a performance by our chorus and concluded with the ceremonial cutting of an anniversary cake by Herb Waddell, Doug Garno, and Kai Heyer, who have been members for 25 years or more.



Peter Smejkal, George Celler, and others took pictures, which are on [our website](#) and in a [Dropbox folder](#).

The links above and other materials are included in a Dropbox folder "[95th Anniversary](#)," which is available for your review.

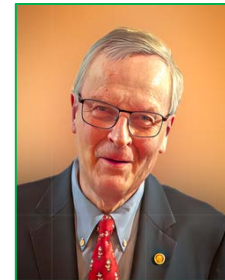
All 230 of us have much to be proud of as we enter our 96th year. Let's have a wonderful year!

Honorees of the Year

In 2025 the Old Guard honored members for their exceptional service and contributions with *Life Membership* and the *Unsung Hero Awards*.



Award	2025
Life Membership	Peter Fasold
Unsung Hero	Mort O'Shea



In Memoriam

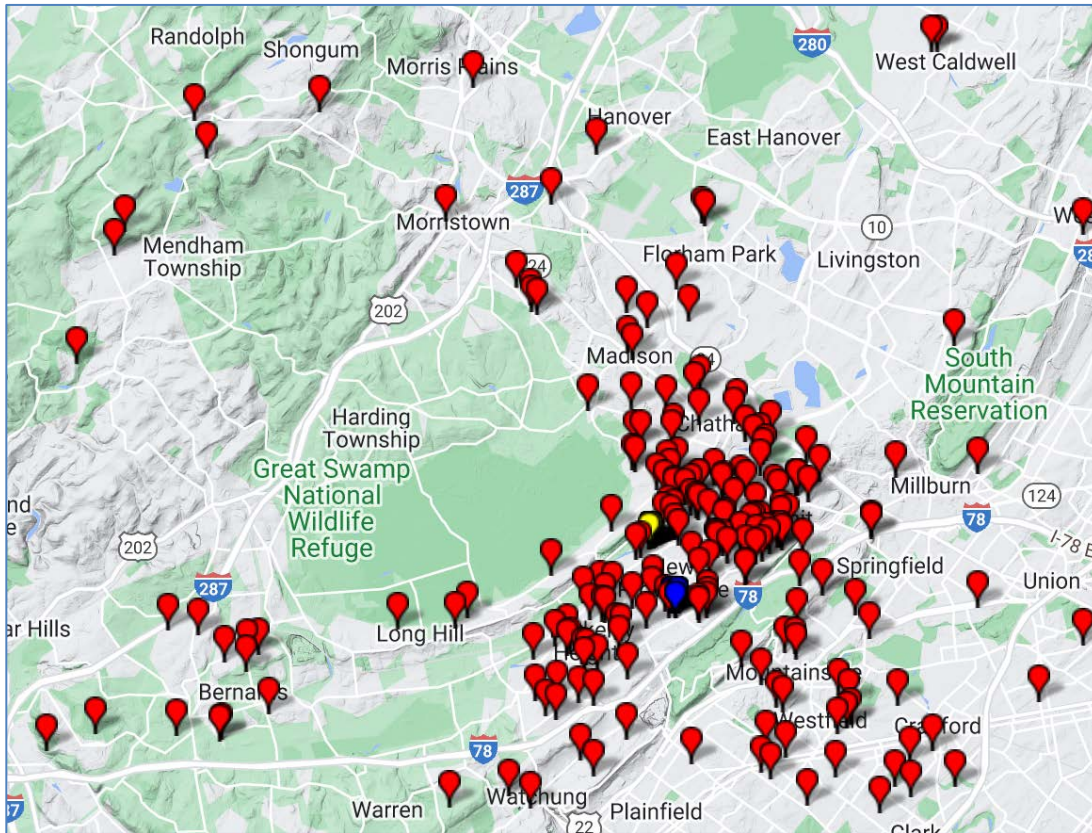
Seven members passed away in 2025. They were more than just members; they were good and loyal friends whom we remember fondly and miss deeply. The names of our departed members are listed below. May they rest in peace.

Date	Name
Jan 29	Bill Kiamie (in 2023)
Jan 25	Tony Mazzocchi
Feb 22	Rudy Greipel
Feb 17	Bill Dembaugh
Feb 26	John Hoffman
Apr 10	Don Young
Apr 17	Peter Merrett
Aug 17	Tony Visocchi

Membership

As of December 31, 2025, we had 230 members; we had 17 new members join and 41 deletions (8 died, 22 resigned and 11 lapsed).

We are acutely aware of the need to maintain our membership. To that end, we plan several membership initiatives in 2026 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.

Over half of our members reside in five towns: Summit (15%), New Providence (13%), Berkeley Heights (10%), Chatham (10%), and Westfield (6%).

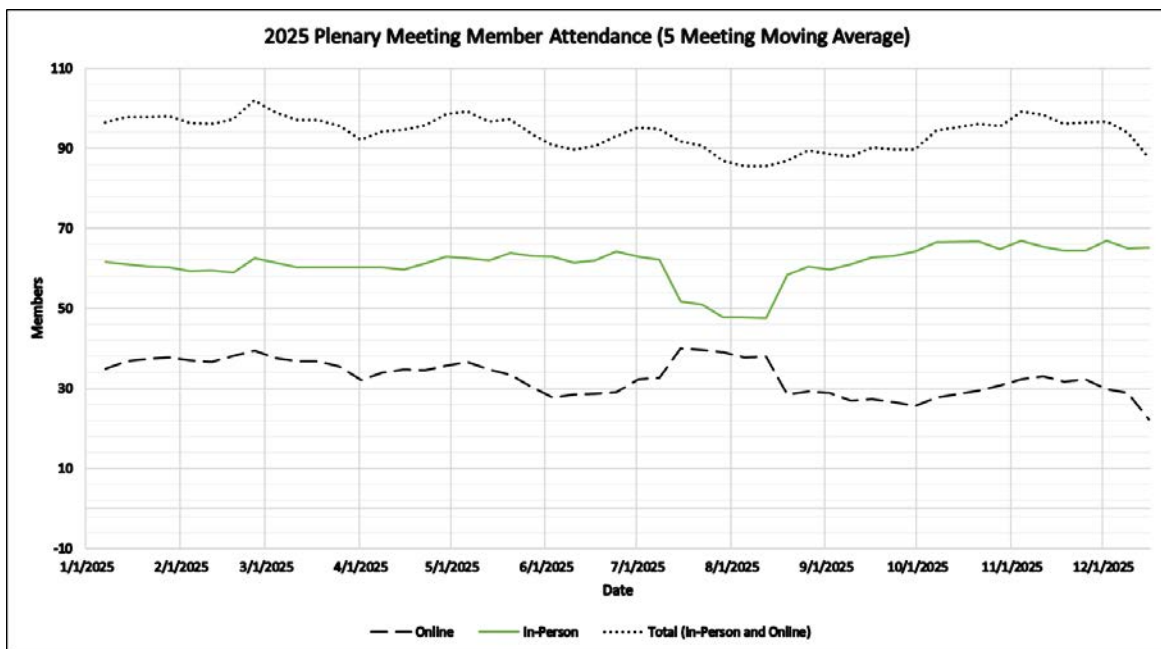
Finances

The Summit Old Guard's finances remained solid. In addition to dues, we also had income from interest and donations. Our expenses for the year included church user fees, printing, mailing, insurance, and supplies.

Our 2024 finances and information resources were audited by the Audit committee. Their March 17, 2025 report found no material deficiencies. Our Treasurer, Peter Fasold, gave a detailed presentation of our 2024 finances to the membership on January 28th, 2025.

Participation

Our Tuesday morning plenary meetings are the highlight of each week. At our hybrid meetings, we averaged 94 members and 7 guests at our meetings with an average of 62 in-person and 32 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 2025

The Old Guard has 16 activity and interest groups as well as 26 support committees, 7 of which have a dozen “monthly chairs.” There are 11 Council members and 6 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 than we could in-person.

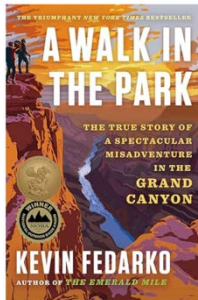
Activity & Interest Groups

Bocce Group bowls for two or more games and then repairs to lunch following the games. 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 court behind the Senior Center in Chatham Township. Attendance averaged 4 to 5 each day during spring, summer, and fall. Attendance was not as strong as in the prior year.

Co-Chair: Bob Eng; Co-Chair: Craig Sweetra



Book Discussion Group choose, read, and gather to discuss interesting books every two months. In 2025, we discussed five books:



1. Life on the Mississippi by Rinker Buck
2. The Coming Wave, Mustafa Suleyman
3. Goodbye Darkness, The Pacific War - William Manchester
4. A Walk In The Park, Kevin Fedarko
5. The Fifteen by William Geroux

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 2025. 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.

Chair: Jim Burgmeyer

Financial And Investment Group (FIG): In 2025, the FIG group met 10 times, on zoom. The average attendance was 27 per session. The following subjects were discussed after a formal presentation by one of the members: dividend investing, federal economic impact on NJ, how to invest in a recession, stocks recommendations, tariffs, gold, how to choose an investment adviser, Intel and Nvidia the companies, humanoid robots, 401k history, the circular economy, DAF vs QCD, quantum computing.

Chair: DJ Peron; VC: Steve Varley

Fishing Group The 2025 SOG fishing was as unpredictable as the weather. From early Spring Striper season to Summer Fluke season, the weather had made trip planning nearly impossible. We monitored the fishing reports and weather daily and it was difficult to find any date for a trip.

Finally, in late Fall Striper season, we managed to find a day, Monday, November 3rd, with a good fishing report, weather was reasonable (not very cold), and all the stars lined up. It was a great trip. we caught striper as big as 36 inches and with multiple catches. We all went home with fish fillets for dinner.



We are looking forward for another great 2026 season. Come to join us to experience catching huge stripers and flukes. With better weather, we usually make multiple trips for stripers, flukes and sea bass. A boat ride, enjoying the open sea, catching fish and having a chance to get to know your friends, what's better than "GONE FISHING".

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. 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

Hearing Improvement Group: In 2025 the HIG group organized one formal presentation on hearing aids and throughout the year they circulated, via emails, a number of relevant articles and news.

Chair: DJ Peron

Lunches: Following weekly Old Guard meetings or activities, many 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 (except in December) via Zoom in 2025. We delve deeper into topics in science, mathematics, technology, engineering, medicine, economics, and finance. Topics we heard about in 2024 included:

- The Chemical History of a Candle (Mitch Erickson)
- Life on Other Planets (John Tomaszewski)
- The Hidden Life of Forests (Mitch Erickson)
- What makes GPU so good for AI applications and what makes them so much better than the CISC/RISC CPUs (Dave Orton)
- The Physics of Human Consciousness (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, winter memories, life down the shore, hitch hiking, pocket calculators, favorite holiday memories, Jim Hewitt's "Christmas 1995" and Vassilis Keramidas' emigration from a small village in Greece to USA. 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 2025; the discussions were indeed lively.

Chair: John Baxter

Technology User Group (TUG) held 19 meetings in 2025, generally twice per month, with 25–40 members attending in person or via Zoom.

TUG's purpose is to inform and discuss new developments in our rapidly changing technological environment. Most sessions were led by TUG members and/or featured short videos (under 15 minutes) introducing key concepts or new products, followed by active discussion and sharing of member experiences.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) was the most frequent topic, including comparisons of chatbots and discussions on whether AI represents the most significant technological development in history and its potential future impact.

Other sessions covered developments such as Starlink, NVIDIA, passkeys, and new versions of Apple and Windows software. Broader topics included security scams, technology myths, the Dark Web, and emerging technologies.

Practical "how-to" sessions addressed library digital resources, photo organization, and embedding the Old Guard Directory into a searchable smartphone app. A popular annual session reviewed tax law changes and tax software.

TUG continues to provide a welcoming forum for learning, discussion, and adapting to technological change, and looks forward to another year of shared discovery and engagement.

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 2025 we discussed birthright citizenship, NJ actions to combat climate change, the housing crisis in NJ, how to be happier, overcoming unconscious biases, the pros and cons of US tariffs, is the American Dream achievable, medical aid in dying, what members like most/least about getting older, and GLP-1 medications. Suggestions for future topics are welcome!

Co-Chairs: Jim Blinn and Dave Bondy

Trips & Theater organizes trips for members and their guests to places of interest, resorts, sightseeing, museums, luncheons, and theatrical productions. Pete Bolton took over as chair and revitalized the committee. We had two exciting trips:



- In September, Jim Blinn organized a second trip to Bell Labs which was fully subscribed with 16 attendees.
- In November, Leon Lubranski organized a trip to the National Museum of Industrial History (NMIH) in Bethlehem, PA.

As discussed in the Fishing and Golf sections, these groups also enjoyed several outings.

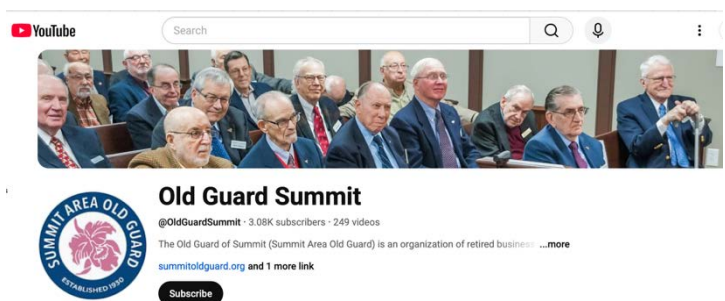
Chair: Pete Bolton; Treasurer: Warren Braunwarth

Walking: The walking group was reconstituted in 2025 with over 20 SOG members. Our walks included Briant Park and Giralda Farms. In 2026, we plan to meet on the last Thursday of each month at 10:15am at a designated site. Our goal will be to complete a two-to-three-mile walk.

Chair: Tom Leane

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

A/V: The A/V Committee has continued to improve the quality of the in-person and online experience of meeting attendees. This past year we added 36 public videos to our channel and had almost 23,000 views of them. The 306 videos can be found on our YouTube channel at www.redoak.org/youtube



In 2025 we had an average of 32 online attendees for our plenary meetings. We have continued to produce YouTube videos of the invited speaker presentations and now have over 300 videos and over 3000 subscribers to our YouTube Channel with almost 353,000 views of our videos since we started posting!

Chair: Joel Yudkovitz; VC: Paul Tukey

Auditing reviews and audits financial statements, records and accounts kept by the Treasurer and by any Committee that has a separate bank account. The audit report for 2024 was issued to the Trustees on March 17, 2025. In addition, beginning in 2025, the audit committee was given an added role of "Information Resources Assessment." The Vice Chair of the Audit Committee reviews and audits information resources used to run the Old Guard to determine that the resources are properly identified and safeguarded. The Information Resources Audit Report was issued on May 16, 2025. (see more about this topic below)

Chair: George Klacik

Birthdays honors those members who have birthdays the following month at the last Tuesday meeting each month. Our 2025 birthday hosts were:

Month*	Monthly Chair
January	Joe Corona
February	Larry Cunningham
March	Jim Burgmeyer
April	John Tomaszewski
May	Joe Geist
June	Pat Moschetti
July	Rich Lander
August	Art Mason
September	Steve Waddell)
October	Phil Apruzzese
November	Bob Beller
December	Marv Gersten

*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: Our bulletin contains information about upcoming weekly program presentations, notices and reports from our various committees and activity groups, and messages from the Director or Vice-Director.

The Old Guard Bulletin is published monthly. The Bulletin Committee consists of 12 monthly editors and a chair. This year we welcomed two new editors, Jim Landwehr and Tom Mulligan.

Each monthly editor diligently collects and prepares material for their assigned months and provides a rough draft to our word processing specialist Julie Leung, for further formatting and polishing.

Our 2025 editors were:

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

Effective December 31, Aaron Rosenberg resigned as chair of the Bulletin Committee after 9 years in that position. He will remain a monthly editor. Craig Sweetra is the new chair.

Chair: Aaron Rosenberg

By-Laws and Procedures maintains the [By-Laws and Procedures Manual](#) (aka the [Blue Book](#)), which is the governing document of Old Guard. The chair is the Immediate Past Director. The committee updates the Blue Book with amendments (approved by a member vote) and with roles, tasks, and procedures reflecting current practices. The latest edition is found in the online Bulletin Board.

Chair: Mark Edelman



Certificates prepares Old Guard certificates expressing gratitude for services to Old Guard for presentation to individuals, including speakers and Monthly Program Chairs. In 2025, 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¢!

For the 95th celebration, we provided coffee, tea, and a cake. In December we held a Christmas party for members and guests. The program and coffee committees provided doughnuts, cookies, cake, coffee, and juice for all to enjoy. All in all, the party was a huge success.

Our 2025 servers were:

Month	Monthly Chair
January	Bill Joyce
February	Bob Eng)
March	Lee Schumann
April	Colin Fowlis
May	Mike Martin
June	Jim Burgmeyer
July	Joe McMenamy
August	Art Mason
September	Steve McCabe
October	Joe Corona
November	Joe Geist
December	Steve Waddell

Thanks for the coffee, guys!

Chair: [Steve Waddell](#)

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.



Beginning in early 2025, we began publishing the directory in digital form, in addition to the traditional paper copy. The on-line version is continuously updated as membership and other information change, so it is always current. In addition, the directory can be linked as an icon on your smart phone for instantaneous access. Finally, there are direct links to phone numbers and email addresses, so you can initiate these contacts with one click.

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.

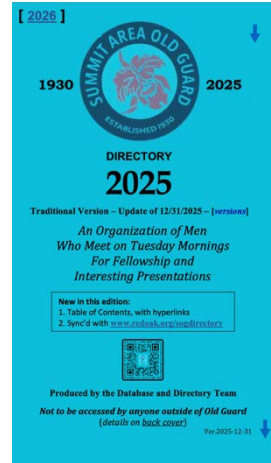
We publish an on-line lookup tool that allows members to search on an individual name, committee, and other parameters to find the current lists of members and committees.

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 2025 directory was published as a PDF in January.

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 have digitized our [bulletins from the 1964 to today](#). Thanks to Aaron Rosenberg for a yeoman’s job on his scanner! We continued the process of managing our digital files. The work will continue in 2026.

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 2025 Monthly Historians were:

Month	Historian
January	Rich Macaluso
February	Ron Hoke
March	Paul Huberman
April	Herb Waddell
May	Steve Varley
June	George Celler
July	Phil Apruzzese
August	Dean Carlson
September	Alberto Paredes-Diaz
October	Tom Mulligan
November	Mitch Jablons
December	Art Mason

The historical committee also conducts special projects. This year, we focused on the 95th Anniversary, as discussed above.

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 2025 Humorists were:

Month	Humorist
January	Walt Meissner
February	Mort O'Shea
March	Doug Garno
April	Lee Schumann
May	Colin Fowlis
June	Phil Brodtkin & Art Mason
July	Leon Lubranski -
August	Harvey Feuer
September	Rich Jaeger
October	Bob Beller
November	Steve Varley
December	Ron Weinger

Chair: Herb Waddell

Information Resources. In 2022, the Old Guard Trustees requested that the Council expand its responsibilities to include identifying the systematic management of our most vital information. This includes all permanent records—whether handwritten, digital, or printed—that document our governance and activities. (Note: This excludes transient communications like emails or texts.)

In 2025, the Information Resources Assessment Team (IRAT) surveyed Council Members, Trustees, Support Committee chairs, and Activity & Interest Group chairs. The findings were encouraging: generally, we are managing our resources effectively. However, we identified key areas for improvement. We are actively migrating key resources to cloud-based storage (e.g., Dropbox) to ensure redundancy, security, and ease of access.



Our goal this year is to make finding information seamless. To assist *you*, we maintain a centralized **“Bulletin Board – General Information for All Members & Links to**

Other Sources.” Of particular interest to all members, the site contains a list of “Old Guard Links to Online Information Resources,” which can be downloaded to provide easy access to twenty different categories of resources. We strongly recommend you use this “one-stop shop!”

In addition, our weekly blast email has several useful links for you to obtain information.

Team Lead: John Dory

Insurance assesses potential liabilities during the pursuit of Old Guard activities, reviews current insurance policies and recommends any changes to the Council. In 2025, we ensured that our insurance is adequate and up to date.

Chair: Steve Varley

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 14th. Eighty-eight 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](#).

We even stood and serenaded our ladies with a verse to the Old Guard Hymn, penned by Herb Waddell:



Oh! Here's to the Ladies we hold dear
Who stand with Old Guard Boys,
Sharing together year by year
Life's sorrows and its joys.
Good times and bad have come our way,
But you've been always true,
So we are proud to stand and say
"Dear Ladies, we love you"

Herb Waddell

Chair: Tom Pate

Membership

The membership committee is primarily responsible for recruiting new Old Guard members, ensuring the assimilation of new members, and assessing the satisfaction levels of current Old Guard members.

In 2025, the Membership Committee greeted 154 guests to the plenary meetings of the Old Guard. We identified and interviewed 63 guests as potential Old Guard members (Males with age over 55 years) and inducted 17 new members.

Members of the committee identified and recruited an Old Guard member to serve as guide or mentor to all new members for their first 3 months of membership and then surveyed the new members and the guides to assess the effectiveness of the program. This effort has been very successful.

A committee member recorded the participation of each Old Guard member in the parish hall and through online zoom attendance.

For 2026, the committee plans to expand its membership so they can develop relationships across the 4-county area of New Jersey with community senior citizen centers, senior residential communities, and large employers to attempt to help employees adjust to retirement.

See “Membership” section above for our 2025 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 whimsey 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 Trustee. The committee recommended Rich Jaeger for Director, DJ Peron for Vice Director, and Joe McMenemy for Trustee. The new officers assumed their duties January 1, 2026.

Chair: Steve Varley

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	Joe Geist
February	Craig Sweetra
March	Roger Burns
April	Rick Smith
May	Steve McCabe
June	Larry Cunningham
July	Lee Schumann
August	Rich Connolly

September	Pat Moschetti)
October	Dave DeLonge
November	Mike Martin
December	Tom Leane

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: Paul Tukey VC: Peter Smejkal

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

Our “Picnic BBQ” was scheduled for 10 June, but postponed twice because of weather. We finally held it indoors on the 24th in our normal Church hall to avoid the heat. As always, we enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, and cold beverages along with some wonderful camaraderie and laughter. This was the first time in memory that we had an indoor picnic and it turned out fantastic!

We all owe our 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:

Old Guard had another rewarding year of speakers and programs. In February we learned about the Surrealist Art Movement from DJ Peron, including the dadaists and surrealists, with many visuals of their ground-breaking pictures -- an absolute visual treat. In March we got a lesson in finding information about our forebears -- Randi Koenig explained how to sort through genealogical information to learn about your family. In April OG member Gabe Gruber covered world and family history to describe his family's flight from Vienna in 1939 to Shanghai and the ensuing war years. In June Rosie Novellino-Mearns thrilled us with the story of her almost single-handed fight to save Radio City Music Hall from demolition. In August Carolyn Murray told us the all too human story of wrongful convictions and the efforts to set them right. In November Dr. Bohkari opened our eyes to the dangers of amyloidosis, which is chronically underdiagnosed and can be deadly. Old Guard members decided to check with their doctors.



The 2025 Monthly Program Chairs were:

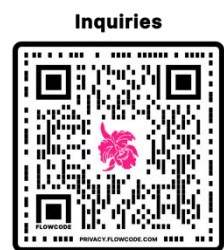
Month	Monthly Program Chair
January	Bob Beller
February	DJ Peron
March	Steve McCabe
April	Gabe Gruber
May	Tom Mulligan
June	Bob Ferguson
July	Jon Reese
August	Bill Joyce
September	Thad Gabara
October	Roger Walker
November	Terry Dwyer
December	Lee Schumann

Chair: Rich Jaeger

Publicity posts announcements in local media to inform our communities about upcoming programs. In coordination with Membership, we attract new members. We also report on highlights of interest to the public, such as our 95th Anniversary, golf, bocce, fishing, kayaking, ladies' day, trips, and walks. We also design and produce publicity materials such as business cards and trifolds. In 2025 we produced and handed out business cards for distribution by members to potential new members, continuing our practice of using our QR code.

Try it:

Summit Area Old Guard Annual Report—2025
3/3/2026



Every month, Jim Fleischman submitted ~500 words on next month’s plenary meeting topics to Renna media for publication in print papers mailed to every home in “our” eight towns. Every week, Bob van der Valk posted information on the Tuesday plenary speaker on our Facebook page. Several members posted weekly announcements to online media, such as several towns’ edition of *Patch*.

We were gratified that our press release on our 95th Anniversary celebration was picked up by *The Leader* (Westfield; Appendix C) and the [New Providence/Berkeley Heights Tapinto](#) (complete with a carousel of 35 images! Appendix D)

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 2026 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 2025 awards are discussed above.

Chair: Tom Pate

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

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	2025
Director*	Pete Bolton
Vice Director*	Rich Jaeger
Past Director	Mark Edelman
Recording Secretary	Joe McMenamy
Corresponding Secretary	Marv Gersten
Treasurer	Peter Fasold
Membership Chair	John Dory
Historian	Mitch Erickson

Member at Large	Jim Fleischmann
Member at Large	Paul Tukey
Member at Large	Tom Pate
Associate Rec Secy	Harvey Feuer
Associate Rec Secy	Allen Hamilton
Associate Rec Secy	Rich Lander
Associate Rec Secy	Tom Leane
Associate Rec Secy	Leon Lubranski
Assistant Treasurer	Warren Braunwarth

The council met each month in 2025. Minutes of these meetings are [here](#). In 2025, the council addressed many issues, including:

- Established the Director’s Repository (Bulletin Board, resources for Council)
- Handled By-Laws amendments
- Continued to address policies associated with Covid

Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for oversight of the Council -- assuring that the Old Guard operates in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and that its assets are properly managed and invested. The Trustees work closely with the Auditing Committee, reviewing the audit report and conveying its recommendations to the Council. The audit report was reviewed by the Trustees on April 1st and the report was reviewed with the Council on April 21st. In 2025, the Trustees continued their multi-year work on safeguarding the Old Guard’s information resources.

Office	Role	Name
Trustee thru 2026*	Chair	Steve Varley
Trustee thru 2025*	Vice Chair	Mike Katz
Trustee thru 2027*	Member	Pat Moschetti
Director	Ex-officio member	Pete Bolton
Immediate Past Director	Ex-officio member	Mark Edelman
Agent	--	Peter Fasold

* Elected

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. Photo credits to Peter Smejkal, George Celler, Walt Meissner, Paul Tukey, 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

2025 Monthly Programs

Note that most programs have a video, which you can view on our [YouTube Channel!](https://www.youtube.com/@OldGuardSummit/videos) (<https://www.youtube.com/@OldGuardSummit/videos>)

December Program Chair - Lee Schumann

- **Dec 2, 2025 – Special Event: Old Guard’s 95th Anniversary Celebration** – The Old Guard will be celebrating its 95th Anniversary on December 2, 2025. Members are invited to submit personal stories for the 95th Anniversary celebration. These may include stories about personal memories, participation in Old Guard activities, thoughts gleaned from one of our digitized bulletins, recorded presentations, other items stored in our archives, or from other members. Any questions or, better, submissions, contact Mitch Erickson.
- **Dec 9, 2025 – All the Presidents’ Gardens** – Marta McDowell is an award-winning author of ten books on famous gardens and a well-traveled lecturer, teacher, and most importantly, a gardener whose husband sums up her bio as “I am; therefore I dig.” Her New York Times bestseller, *All the Presidents’ Gardens*, recounts the rich history of the White House grounds, revealing how the story of the garden is also the story of America. In her book, she explains that the grounds have remained beautiful and a powerful reflection of American trends. Her talk will be an entertaining romp through our nation’s garden history, starring the presidents, first ladies, and their gardeners. Marta is also the wife of Old Guard member Kirke Bent.
- Dec 16, 2025 – Special Event: Holiday Party
- Dec 23 & 30, 2025 – No Meeting

November Program Chair - Terry Dwyer

- **Nov 4, 2025 – Making the Case for Public Art** – Our speakers are **Estelle Fournier** and **Vivian Furman Rubin** of **Summit Public Art (SPA)**. SPA is a volunteer-based city organization whose mission is to bring art to public spaces throughout Summit. Since 2002, SPA has installed over 100 pieces of temporary art throughout the community, including artists of national and international renown. Estelle Fournier has been a longtime board member of SPA and is founder of Partner in Art, a boutique art advisory firm. Vivian Furman Rubin has been involved with SPA since its inception and has also been a docent at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey for many years. Together, Estelle and Vivian have experienced firsthand the value of public art—which led to Summit being recognized as one of the seven “New Jersey Towns with Great Art Scenes” (<https://thedigestonline.com/new-jersey/new-jersey-art-towns/>). They also will speak about the many challenges that come with the pursuit of public art.

- **Nov 11, 2025 – Palliative Care: How It Is Carried Out at Overlook and/or Home** – Our speakers **Dr. Abdul Mondul, MD** and **Chaplain Sarah Galo** will explain how Overlook Hospital’s comprehensive palliative care program deals with the symptoms and stressors of illness, including pain, nausea, and difficulty breathing. The multi-disciplinary support team at Overlook consists of doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and others. Dr. Mondul and Chaplain Sara Galo will explain how the team can tackle the challenging social, personal, and spiritual issues that frequently arise during serious illnesses.
- **Nov 18, 2025 – Without Early Diagnosis, ATTR-CM Can Lead to Impaired Quality of Life** – Amyloidosis with Cardiomyopathy (ATTR-CM) is an underdiagnosed and progressive disease that can lead to heart failure, commonly experienced as shortness of breath, fatigue, weakness, and swelling of the legs, which may limit physical activity. Being aware of the symptoms is critical to getting the right diagnosis as early as possible. Our speaker **Dr. Sabahat Bokhari MD**, professor of medicine, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, is an internationally recognized amyloid expert who pioneered the development of a non-invasive imaging method which is used worldwide. He also serves as the director of the Cardiac Amyloidosis and Cardiomyopathy Center, the first program of its kind in New Jersey.
- **Nov 25, 2025 – 2,000 Miles of Lessons: My Journey on the Appalachian Trail** – In this talk, **Billy Gouveia** will share stories, challenges, and lessons learned from a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail, a 2,190-mile footpath stretching from Georgia to Maine. Drawing on months spent in the wilderness, he will bring to life the spirit of the Trail, along with the humor, hardships, and humanity found along the way. The audience will discover what it takes to plan such an adventure, the daily rhythm of life on the trail, encounters with wildlife and fellow hikers, and reflections on endurance, simplicity, and connection to nature. Whether you’ve ever dreamed of hiking a long trail or simply enjoy hearing about determination and the beauty of the outdoors, this talk will take you there — one step at a time. (Note: Our originally scheduled speaker Jim Provenzano had to postpone his talk on "Pinhole Photography" to a later date.)

October 2025 Program Chair – Roger Walker

- **Oct 7, 2025 – Four Hundred Years of History in Six Miles** – Our returning speaker **Daniel Bernier** is director of Park Planning and Environmental Services in Union County. Dan will take us on a virtual trip along the six-mile long Watchung Reservation History Trail, with 16 stops at historical markers, narrating some surprising events that occurred in that area prior to construction of the park and in the early years of the park. Historical references will include a colonial-period roadway, Lake Surprise, farm settlements, the Deserted Village of Feltville, the Copper Mine, the Stationer’s Hall Press factory, and Hermit’s Pond. Dan last spoke to us in Nov 2022 during Covid.
- Oct 14, 2025 – Ladies Day Luncheon – No Meeting

- **Oct 21, 2025 – Developing a Coal Export Project in Colombia** – Old Guard member Larry Cunningham will recount some of the unique experiences he had during the development of the Cerrejón Coal Project in northern Colombia. By 2016 Cerrejón had become Colombia’s largest coal producer. As Larry will tell us, this was not your everyday engineering project. Even flying in a helicopter in this region was a little hazardous considering the Colombian Army’s directive to crack down on drug smugglers. Indeed, this was a volatile time for Colombia’s coal mining industry. His presentation will draw on his 35 years of expertise in project engineering and management of ports and marine terminals.
- **Oct 28, 2025 – Abandoned Mines and Route 80 Sinkholes** – Speaker Timothy Rack is safety and compliance manager for the Morris County Parks Commission and is responsible for both employee and visitor safety within Morris County’s park system. Milepost 34 on NJ I-80 became a well-known location for motorists after three sinkholes suddenly formed along this part of I-80. Road closures followed after the earth suddenly opened up into sinkholes. Timothy Rack will explore the history of mineral mining in NJ that has led to abandoned and often forgotten mines, and how they may now pose a threat to the present. Some have said that the area is like a geologic “Swiss cheese.” Tim’s focus will be on those abandoned mines within the Morris County Park Commission.

September 2025 Program Chair – Thad Gabara

- **Sep 2, 2025 – Rotary Club and “Service Above Self”** – Curious about **Rotary** and how it empowers everyday citizens to make extraordinary change? Join us for a dynamic presentation by **Joe Steiner** of the Rotary Club of Summit / New Providence. Joe has a distinguished career spanning over five decades in Chamber of Commerce management and organizational consulting. He will explore Rotary’s global impact, local service initiatives, and the inspiring story of “Service Above Self.” Whether you’re passionate about community, looking to connect with fellow change-makers, or simply want to learn how Rotary is evolving to meet today’s needs, this talk will leave you informed, energized, and invited to be part of something meaningful.
- **Sep 9, 2025 – Stories That Move Us: Unleashing the Power of Creative Visual Storytelling** – Our speaker **Jason Schuler**, co-owner of Awakened Films, a video production company in Madison, will share how powerful visual storytelling can move audiences, shape culture, and build brand loyalty. Drawing on neuroscience, cultural history, and examples from his award-winning video portfolio, Jason will explain why authentic, emotionally resonant stories connect more deeply than ever in today’s AI-driven world.
- **Sep 16, 2025 – How to Transition into a Happy and Healthy Retirement** – Speaker **James T. Clemens**, PhD physicist, former AT&T employee, and recently joined Old Guard member, faced an unexpected early retirement during AT&T’s major downsizing. Rather than return to the professional world, Jim embraced a bold new lifestyle—becoming a full-time international sailor. In this talk, he shares how he transitioned from corporate life to a decade of blue-water cruising with his wife, exploring exotic locations and meeting

remarkable people along the way. Jim will also reflect on the emotional challenges of retirement, and how they transitioned, once again, after sailing by engaging in part-time work, home projects, and volunteering.

- **Sep 23, 2025 – AT&T's 32-bit Microprocessors: Contributions and Influence**—Member **Thad Gabara** will speak about important work he did during his career at AT&T Bell Labs. In the talk, Thad will recount AT&T's innovations in the microprocessor industry, focusing on the development and influence of its 32-bit microprocessors (a.k.a. computer CPU chips), particularly the Bellmac 32. In the late 1970s, AT&T Bell Labs aimed to leap ahead by implementing several strategic initiatives, including fabricating chips using unproven CMOS technology and designing a 32-bit architecture. The Bellmac 32, with 150,000 transistors and a 2-MHz clock, employed advanced techniques like twin-tub CMOS processes.
- **Sep 30, 2025 – My Journey from High-Tech to Art** – Speaker **Miron Abramovici** is a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He was a Distinguished Member of Technical Staff at Bell Labs, taught at Columbia, and co-founded a startup. He has 18 patents and more than 100 publications. He is co-author of the textbook *Digital System Testing and Testable Design* (IEEE Press 1995). But now he has a second career as an artist, doing sculpture, photography, and kinetic art. He had many exhibits and one of his artworks was in the Morris Museum. This talk will illustrate his unusual journey.

August 2025 Program Chair - Bill Joyce

- **Aug 5, 2025 – A History of Humans and the Great Swamp: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly** – We all know of the Great Swamp. But there is a less known long history of people and the Great Swamp. Thousands of acres of swampland have been a boon to people for thousands of years. **Patricia Wells** will tell us the fascinating story of how people have used, abused, and finally saved the Great Swamp. She is an educator, historian, and storyteller. Since retiring, she has been deeply involved in the Chatham Township Historical Society and the Friends of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. *[video to appear]*
- **Aug 12, 2025 – Addressing Wrongful Convictions** – New Jersey Conviction Review Unit – The criminal justice system in the United States is designed to ensure that only guilty individuals suffer the total loss of freedom of imprisonment. However, a number of factors, including DNA evidence, have demonstrated in recent years that a number of unjust convictions do occur. New Jersey established a Conviction Review Unit to review the cases of individuals who claim to be innocent. Our speaker **Carolyn Murray** was the first director of New Jersey CRU and will discuss the process used by the unit to review cases for possible wrongful convictions. Carolyn will discuss the process used and the case of a man who was exonerated after serving 20 years. *[video on request to members]*
- **Aug 19, 2025 – The Nature of Addiction** – Our speaker **Robert Alexander** has served for 50 years in the treatment of drug addiction in various positions. For the last 41 years he has served as executive director at the Paterson Counseling Center. He has also taught as

an adjunct professor at several universities in our area. Robert will discuss the history of methadone treatment as one of many treatments for addiction. He will describe the introduction of buprenorphine as an alternative form of medication-assisted treatment, and the challenges to effective treatment regimens presented by the AIDS epidemic, and more recently, hepatitis C.

- **Aug 26, 2025 – Managing Life’s Transitions** – All of us experience life transitions. **Kelly Falcone** has spent the past several years helping her clients navigate these changes with more ease, from career reinventions to health transformations to adjusting to new stages of life. She brings to us her experience as a human resources professional and career counselor as well as her personal experience. In this presentation, Kelly will share some common life transition themes she has seen in both her work and research, and discuss how shifting our attention to a few key areas can help us more effectively cope with challenges that come up when we are in these liminal spaces in life.

July 2025 Program Chair – Jon Reese

- **July 1, 2025 – Small Business Cybersecurity** – Guest speaker **Greg Schwartz** will address the question: What should small businesses do to protect themselves from the growing cybersecurity threats? They have these threats in common with larger companies, but they may have special issues. Greg is the founder of GSIT Group, which helps small businesses with risk mitigation. He will describe the system infrastructure risks and challenges for small businesses, both current and anticipated, and the tools available to mitigate them. Particular focus will be on cybersecurity exposures and mitigation, and the issues on the horizon. [[video](#)]
- **July 8, 2025 – Strategic Philanthropy: Charitable Giving If You Are Not Bill Gates** – Our speaker, **The Rev. Brooks Smith**, will explain how you can do your charitable giving in an effective manner to benefit the causes you care about. Rev. Brooks Smith is a retired pastor and currently a minister with the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey. He will help us by describing what might be called the five “P”s of donation: the Passions that drive philanthropy and the Partners, Processes, Projects, and Pondering that produce effective, mindful giving. [[video](#)]
- July 15, 2025 – An Update on Covid – Old Guard member Bob Martin will return as speaker and give us an in-depth update on the Covid and vaccine situation. [[video](#)]
- **July 22, 2025 – HomeWell Care Services for Veterans** – Care at home for seniors and others is an increasing need and can be an efficient way of providing support. HomeWell Care Services, based in Union, NJ, is prominent in meeting this need. Our speaker **Jen Kelber** is the client relations manager for HomeWell. She will describe the different types of services that can be provided at home by HomeWell, with an emphasis on services for veterans. [*video to appear*]
- **July 29, 2025 – Wharton Arts Center: History and Programs** – Wharton Arts is New Jersey’s largest independent non-profit performing arts education center serving nearly

2,000 students, located in Berkeley Heights, NJ. Our guest speaker **Helen Cha-Pyo** is the artistic director of Wharton Arts and is a Julliard-trained musician, award-winning conductor, and promoter of music arts development among youth. She will explain the history and development of Wharton Arts and describe its programs, current breadth and impact, future, and challenges. [[video to appear](#)]

June 2025 Program Chair - Bob Ferguson

- **June 3, 2025 – Get the Lead Out** – Our speaker **Mitch Erickson** is retired from the Department of Homeland Security where he served as executive scientist. He is a fellow SOG member. He will speak on the use of lead and the polluting of our environment for thousands of years. Mitch will talk about lead mining, use, and exposure. He will review the efforts to remove lead from our environment over the past half-century, notably leaded gasoline, paint, and lead piping. We have improved all human’s lives and IQs, but there are still challenges ahead. [[video](#)]
- **June 10, 2025 – Saving Radio City Music Hall** – Guest presenter **Rosie Novellino-Mearns** is a retired Radio City ballet dance captain and formerly president of the Showpeople’s Committee to Save Radio City Music Hall. She is also an author and lyricist. Rosie will tell the story of how she organized the gargantuan effort in the spring of 1978 to save Radio City. We will be shocked by the “no good deed goes unpunished” climax of the story in which she reveals her reward for spearheading the movement to save “The Showplace of the Nation.” [*no video*]
- **June 17, 2025 – World Oil and Gas Trading** – Speaker **Steve Villas** graduated from Lehigh University with a BS degree in engineering and obtained his MBA in finance from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He worked his entire 45-year career in the petroleum industry, holding positions with Exxon, Standard Oil of Ohio, British Petroleum, and Hess Corp. He has experience in and will speak on chemical plant design, advertising and promotion, supply and logistics, government affairs, oil and gas trading, financial hedging, oil and gas marketing, and more current topics of interest in the world oil markets. [[video](#)]
- **June 24, 2025 – Current Challenges in Secondary Education** – Our guest speaker **Mike McTernan** is currently teaching history at Ridge High School and is also serving as president of the Summit Common Council. He previously spent almost 30 years working in corporate finance / banking. Mike will address current issues facing secondary education, including his subjects of Global History and Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics, and the challenges of second mid-career transitioning, which required him to attain his EdD from Seton Hall University. He is happy to entertain questions about these challenges as well as those concerning local government issues. Mike lives in Summit with his wife and four children. [[video](#)]

May 2025 Program Chair - Tom Mulligan

- **May 6, 2025 – History and Stories About the Football Giants, Jets, and Patriots** – Come and relive the championship history and some of the weird and funny stories of the football New York Giants, New York Jets, and New England Patriots. **Vin Femia** is the noted author of three books about pro football and baseball. His entertaining presentation will describe the sometimes successful and sometimes turbulent history of these teams, which are some of the most popular and fascinating teams in all of sports. Vin will enliven his presentation with a visual slide show. He will also talk about his experiences with interviewing former NFL players and coaches. [[video](#)]
- **May 13, 2025 – How to Live Better and Longer** – Our speaker **Jessica Brodtkin** is a former member of the CIA who has moved into the area of alternative healing. Jessica will speak to us about several methods of healing ranging from early East Asian techniques to modern alternative methods. Her focus is on longevity training that is particularly helpful to seniors, including acupuncture and Reike. Reike is a Japanese healing technique that aims to promote relaxation, reduce stress and encourage healing, and improve sleep. And who among us doesn't want better sleep? Jessica is a multi-talented woman who has also performed a one-woman show entitled, *A Spy's Awakening*. Jessica is the daughter of Old Guard member Phil Brodtkin. [[video](#)]
- **May 20, 2025 – Revisiting World War II: A Modern Gathering** – The Mid-Atlantic Air Museum's World War II Weekend is a gathering of warbirds and much more. It has become the premier event of its kind commemorating events of WW II and the people and machines that led to allied victory. For three decades, the museum has honored our history through D-Day remembrance, vehicle & aircraft displays and shows, war veterans & speakers, battles & flights education, re-enactors at war and at home, and big bands & swing dancing. **Ron Weinger**, a member of Old Guard, attended the recent event and will give us a first-hand look at the weekend activities, illustrated with photos and video. [[video](#)]
- **May 27, 2025 – How Prescription Drugs Come to Market: An Insider's View** – Our speaker **Kathleen Waldron** is vice president of regulatory affairs at AbbVie which is a global, research-based biopharmaceutical company focused on immunology, oncology, aesthetics, neuroscience, and eye care, with a mission to discover and deliver innovative medicines and solutions that enhance people's lives. Kathleen has a degree in psychology/pre-med from The College of the Holy Cross and an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Following in her mother's footsteps, Kathleen has a long career in the pharmaceutical industry beginning in 2002 with a start-up company, Eyetech, that developed the first treatment for macular degeneration. Kathleen will trace the drug development process for us from R&D, through clinical trials to FDA approval and ultimately product launch, and she will reflect on how today's technology impacts the process. Kathleen is the daughter of Old Guard member and May MPC Tom Mulligan. [*no video*]

April 2025 Program Chair - Gabe Gruber

- **Apr 1, 2025 – Speaking Up, Standing Together: Starting the Conversation on Domestic Violence** – Our speaker **Marianne McCrone** is a licensed professional counselor and the clinical director of child and adolescent services at the Rachel Coalition, within the Domestic Violence Counseling Program at Jewish Family Service of MetroWest, New Jersey. She will present an overview of the dynamics and prevalence of domestic violence, with an emphasis on violence in our local community, and services provided by JFS/Rachel Coalition. The session will be geared toward engaging men in the conversation around domestic violence, highlighting the important role men play in gender-based violence, and understanding the experiences of survivors. [*no video*]
- **Apr 8, 2025 – What is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy?** – Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is an effective form of treatment for a variety of mental health disorders including depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, phobias, post-traumatic stress disorder and others. **Dr. James Korman**, a clinical psychologist, is chief behavioral health officer at Summit Health. He is a fellow of the Academy of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and a certified cognitive behavioral therapist. He will discuss the process of CBT and how it effects change, as well as its potential benefits for mental health and physical health outcomes. [[video](#)]
- **Apr 15, 2025 – The Cali School of Music at Montclair State University** – Invited speaker **Kathryn Lockwood** is a professor of music at the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University and a violist. She serves as the curator of the Immersive Residency Program at the school and oversees weeklong residency visits of internationally renowned artists and groups. She will discuss the Cali School and its programs, which include graduate level music education and music learning for high school students intending to major in music. Kathryn will enliven her presentations with clips of musical performances by faculty, students, and groups. [*no video*]
- **Apr 22, 2025 – Managing Medication Mayhem** – Our presenter **Laura Balsamini** holds a doctorate in pharmacy and leads the clinical and operational pharmacy management services for all Summit Health clients. Managing one’s own complex medication coverage or that of a loved one can be challenging and even overwhelming. She will cover issues of medication coverage and affordability, high risk medication in older adults, as well as tips on assessing timing for taking certain medications. She will also address side effects and adverse events, improving adherence to prescribed regimens, and maintaining up-to-date medication lists. [*video on request by members*]
- **Apr 29, 2025 – The Refugee Community of World War II in Shanghai, China** – Old Guard member and April MPC **Dr. Gabriel Gruber** is the son of parents who were forced to flee from Vienna, Austria in 1939 and spend the war years in Shanghai. Dr. Gruber will discuss historical events leading up to his parents’ need to leave Vienna, facts about life in Shanghai during the war years, and the challenges faced by the refugees, as well as personal stories regarding his parents’ experiences. [[video](#)]

March 2025 Program Chair – Steven McCabe

- **Mar 4, 2025 – A Legacy of Faith** – Celebrating the History of the New Providence Presbyterian Church: We are fortunate to have the NPPC as our host, and **Mike Ohlson**, its unofficial historian, will share its history since its founding in 1737. He will present its milestones, memories, and mission. The church played an important role during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and has become a provider of community services as part of its faith mission during its nearly three centuries in New Providence. [[video](#)]
- **Mar 11, 2025 – The Summit Foundation – Fostering Community Philanthropy for over 50 Years** – The president of the foundation, **Dana Turk**, will review its goals and actions in strengthening and enriching the Summit area since its founding in 1972. In the past decade, the foundation has invested \$10 million through 380 grants to nonprofits and 360 scholarships. It is also involved with special-purpose and donor-advised philanthropic distributions. Dana Turk will examine examples, large and small, of the good the foundation does. [[video](#)]
- **Mar 18, 2025 – What’s Your Legacy?** – Distinguished professional genealogist **Randi Koenig** will present an interactive genealogical lecture. She will cover tips, tricks, working with common names, overcoming brick walls, and strategies for success equally suitable for an advanced genealogical researcher or the casual researcher working on a family tree. Koenig is a principal of Legacy Genealogy Services and is a professional forensic genealogist with more than 15 years of professional experience in the Greater Metro NYC area. She often provides expert witness testimony in New York and New Jersey and conducts research around the globe. [*no video*]
- **Mar 25, 2025 – How Has The Westfield Leader Newspaper, Founded in 1890, Managed to Survive and Thrive?** – Our speaker **Lauren S. Barr** is the owner and editor of The Westfield Leader which was founded in 1890. The Leader has survived for 135 years while 64% of local newspapers have failed. Barr also publishes a second print newspaper, the Union County Hawk. She began writing articles for the Leader, and will relate how she came to own it, and helped it to continue to serve its community. Barr will also address recent changes to New Jersey’s Open Public Records Act (OPRA), which can be a vital tool for journalists and transparency in government. [[video](#)]

February 2025 Program Chair – DJ Peron

- **Feb 4, 2025 – The State of Energy Markets in New Jersey** – Invited speaker **Erick Ford** has served at the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and has made significant contributions to energy policy, cybersecurity, and alternative vehicle development. He will share his experience regarding energy markets in New Jersey, which may include utility policies, energy efficiency, solar, offshore wind, electric vehicles, hydrogen, nuclear energy, renewable natural gas, fuel cells, and incentive programs, among various other critical emerging topics. [*no video*]

- **Feb 11, 2025 – The Surrealist Art Movement** – Our speaker **Dr. Didier Peron** will describe the Dada and Surrealist movements of the 20th century, which have been the subjects of his fascination and research. He will show how Dadaism emerged during World War I as a rebellious movement against the war and the establishment, and how surrealism came to be born. These two movements have been of extreme importance in the evolution of art from post-war modern art up to our present days. The presentation will be like a stroll in a museum with many art representations shown. [[video](#)]
- **Feb 18, 2025 – Current and Future Trends in Summit** – Invited speaker **Elizabeth Fagan, MD**, is the mayor of Summit, NJ, and has been an active resident there for more than 20 years. She will discuss recent and future projects for Summit. Some of her updates will be about the coming old firehouse land project and street blockage for restaurant dining. State regulations for affordable housing is a topic that affects all municipalities in New Jersey. Bring your questions about Summit and trends among many NJ cities and towns. [[video](#)]
- **Feb 25, 2025 – Hearing Loss and Hearing Aids** – Our guest, **Marykate Vaughn, AuD, CCC-A**, is a doctor of audiology affiliated with Summit Health. She will speak about the various ways to test hearing in children and adults. She will discuss the large variety of hearing aid devices on the market with their pros and cons. She will also discuss the common reasons why people end up not using their hearing aids and the remediating solutions. Dr. Vaughn has over 30 years of experience in audiology. Bring your questions about hearing and aids. [*no video*]

January 2025 Program Chair – Bob Beller

- **Jan 7, 2025 – Steal a Pencil for Me: A Compelling Love Story about Two Holocaust Survivors** – "*Steal a Pencil for Me*" is a memoir written by Jack and Ina Polak, that was also made into an award-winning documentary feature film. It recounts the story of the couple's love nurtured through exchanging letters while both were held in German concentration camps. After liberation they married and moved to the US. Jack became a founder and long-time president of the Anne Frank Center USA and lectured extensively throughout the world on the lessons to be learned from the Holocaust. Our speaker **Fred Polak** is Jack and Ina's eldest son. After Jack's death at the age of 102, Fred dedicated himself to retelling his parents' story and carrying forward their lessons from the Holocaust. [[video](#)]
- **Jan 14, 2025 – How Rutgers Provides Academic Support Services to Student Athletes** – Our speaker **Scott Walker** is the executive director of the Rutgers' Academic Support Services for Student Athletes program (ASSSA), and a Princeton graduate. Services provided by ASSSA are available to all student-athletes at Rutgers. During his tenure, which includes entry of Rutgers into the Big Ten, Scott has overseen the expansion and modernization of the program and the unprecedented academic success achieved by individual student-athletes and team sports. Scott will provide an insider's view of services provided by ASSSA and how it has evolved over the years. [*no video*]

- **Jan 21, 2025 – How Invisalign® Revolutionized Orthodontics and Expanded the Use of Clear Teeth Aligners** – Speaker **Dr. Stanley Gersch** has been a practicing orthodontist in Westfield, Cranford, and Linden for over 35 years and is the director of Invisalign® training in NYU’s post graduate orthodontic department. Stan was one of the first orthodontists in the U.S. to use Invisalign® in his practice and has been nationally recognized and awarded for his Invisalign® treatment and expertise. Stan will talk about his early interest in how new technologies could enhance treatment for his patients, his early-stage introduction to Invisalign®, and how Invisalign® grew to become the leader in clear teeth aligners. [[video](#)]
- **Jan 28, 2025 – Changes in Traditional Concepts of the Law in the U.S.** – Our speaker, the **Hon. Joel B. Rosen**, will speak about the changing landscape in U.S. law, including the notion of the rule of law, federal prosecutions, judicial review, and ethics. Judge Rosen is a former United States magistrate judge and, as a former partner of the law firm Montgomery McKracken, was a nationally recognized leader in the practice of alternative dispute resolution. Over the course of his career, Judge Rosen has overseen thousands of state and federal legal matters, lectured extensively on constitutional principles, and was an adjunct faculty member of Rutgers Law School. [*no video*]

Appendix B

95th Anniversary Proclamation

By

New Providence

BOROUGH OF
NEW PROVIDENCE

SETTLED IN 1720

**PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING THE SUMMIT AREA OLD GUARD
ON THEIR 95TH ANNIVERSARY**

Whereas, on November 25, 1930, fifteen men in Summit, New Jersey met informally to discuss the possibility of forming an organization of retired men for diversion, mutual benefit and enjoyment and on December 2, 1930, the Old Guard of Summit was formed, using "Old Guard" as a term of endearment for retired men and not a term of age; and

Whereas, on December 9, 1930, a resolution was adopted under its new constitution and by-laws designating December 2, 1930, as Founders Day of the Old Guard; and

Whereas, the newly founded organization became the inspiration for the formation of Old Guard groups in many communities in New Jersey, as well as many other states around the country; and

Whereas, for the first 65 years, the Old Guard met in the City of Summit and for the next 25 years in the Borough of New Providence. For over 3 years they have been meeting at the New Providence Presbyterian Church. The key to success of the Old Guard has always been the quality and knowledge of speakers who present interesting and informative programs; and

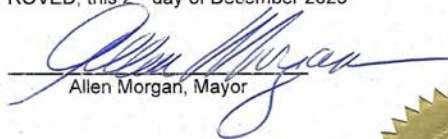
Whereas, over the past 95 years the Old Guard has conducted 4,343 meetings; and

Whereas, they currently have 232 members with 14 percent from New Providence; and

Whereas, on December 2, 2025 the Old Guard celebrates their 95th anniversary.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Allen Morgan, do hereby congratulate the Summit Area Old Guard on this momentous occasion and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

APPROVED, this 2nd day of December 2025


Allen Morgan, Mayor

Attest:


Denise Brinkofski, Borough Clerk



Appendix C

95th Anniversary Article in The Leader



Summit Area Old Guard Celebrates 95th Anniversary

THE LEADER, 12/13/25

SUMMIT AREA -- The Summit Area Old Guard, a venerable organization for retired professionals in the area, celebrated their 95th Anniversary with a special celebratory meeting on December 2.

The event, which commemorated nearly a century of stimulating activities and fellowship for its members, included special recognition from local government.

New Providence Mayor Al Morgan presented a proclamation congratulating the Old Guard on its success and longevity.

Member Steve Varley reviewed the historical context of the organization's founding, noting that when the first members came together in 1930, they found themselves unemployed amidst the emerging Great Depression. A Ford Model A cost \$500, and "Happy Days Are Here Again" was the #1 song.

Mitch Erickson then presented a detailed account of the organization's storied history, highlighting:

- Its longevity, with 4,343 plenary meetings conducted over 95 years.

- Famous speakers, including politicians like Christie Whitman, sports figures, two Nobel Prize laureates and one Turing Award recipient.

- Numerous activities, from golf and bocce to small-group discussions on financial investments, math, and science.

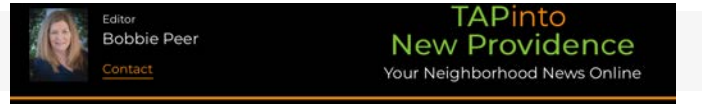
- Memorable trips

Director Pete Bolton talked about our future, noting the importance of maintaining our valuable traditions while modernizing to ensure many more years of friendship and fellowship.

The celebration included a performance by the organization's chorus and concluded with the ceremonial cutting of an anniversary cake by several men who have been members for 25 years or more.

Appendix D

95th Anniversary Article in the New Providence/Berkeley Heights TAPinto



New Providence > Giving Back

Giving Back

95 Years of Brotherhood: Summit Area Old Guard Celebrates a Legacy Built on Resilience, Fellowship and Purpose



Full article is on the [TAPinto website](#) and our [Dropbox](#).

