

Squires Minutes 3/14/2024

TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY SQUIRES

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 14TH 2024

Garry Keane opened the meeting with a call for remembrance of Paul Bidwell and Chuck Thompson who recently passed away.

Art Rosen gave his usual distinguished Words of Inspiration which was well received by the assembled members.

A plea was made by Garry for volunteers for the Words of Inspiration for the April and May meetings.

Noel Weinstein announced his resignation as he is moving to Michigan.

- Garry reminded the assembled that: Cancellations for Monthly Meetings – Our By-Laws state: “Cancellation of a reservation must be made by 2 pm on the Friday before the luncheon. A member who reserves a place, does not attend, and fails to provide a timely cancellation notice is liable for the luncheon cost unless there was an emergency or medical reason for not appearing.”

Richard Beffa described the current state of the Country Squires financials. After the first nine months of the fiscal year we are down \$1900. The solution is to raise annual dues to \$40 and charge \$40 for the May/December special meetings with no free drinks.

- Two enhancements being investigated for our Web site:
 - o The 1st is the ability to send out emails to all of the Country Squires Members,
 - o The 2nd is the ability for members to respond to monthly meeting invites, possibly pay by credit of debit card in advance, identify “guest” and Guest’s name, and when there is a meal option – select the meal desired, as well as the capability to have a print out of all the responses in an Excel Spreadsheet type of format,
 - o The purpose of these enhancements is to minimize the labor involved with one (or more) member(s) needing to send our emails from their own account as well as the effort associated with tracking and documenting all member responses.
 - o Target date for a “beta” of these capabilities is April 2024,
 - o Will keep everyone advised of the progress and/or challenges.
- Reminder: Country Squires web site [“https://www.countrysquiresnh.com](https://www.countrysquiresnh.com) (it was “.org”)

Vote on new member, Paul Boserup was voted in unanimously!

Guests:

Jeff White brought Joe Lackie
Jerry Coogan brought Paul Buffum
Joe Kubit brought James Knight
Bill Helm brought Peter Nichols
Peter Machen brought Larry Hicks

Dave Wood introduced our distinguished speaker Dr. Matthew Delmont of Dartmouth

Dr. Delmont’s lecture was based on his book, “Half American”, an examination of the experiences of African Americans in WWII.

Dr. Delmont traced the discriminatory conditions faced by Blacks to the racial environment in the U.S. prior to WWII, though its origins date back to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Blacks were initially prohibited from rolls in combat units and “segregated” into support roles and units during the war. This was despite the heroic actions of Black soldiers and sailors in the war including Pearl Harbor. Pressure from Black leaders including A. Philip Randolph pressured FDR to increase the admittance of Blacks into combat units, though on a segregated basis. Gradually, Black soldiers were incorporated into “segregated” combat groups in the army and distinguished themselves in units such as the Tuskegee Airman. In the European Theatre units such as the Red Ball Express facilitated Patton’s drive across France in 1944. A number of Blacks were awarded the Medal of Honor, though most were posthumous or after the War. The history of Black participation in the U.S. military in WWII is to say the least a complicated one and the treatment of Blacks during this time was highly questionable. But despite the impediments they distinguished themselves in a number of military roles despite the environment and prejudice of the times. Dr. Delmont’s presentation was fascinating and well received by the members.

Submitted by:

Tom Flynn, Secretary

We wish all members a very Happy Easter