

**Summit Old Guard  
Historian's Annual Report  
For 2023**



**Our 93<sup>rd</sup> year**

**"Come for the Programs. - Stay for the Friends."**

## Summary

2023 was another banner year for the Summit Old Guard!

This annual Historian's report summarizes the 2023 activities of the Summit Old Guard. Our final meeting of the year, December 12, 2023, was our 4248<sup>th</sup> meeting since our founding December 2, 1930 and our 72<sup>nd</sup> hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting since emerging from Covid. For a second year, we continued to enjoy meeting at the New Providence Presbyterian Church in their lovely Parish Hall.

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

- Picnic in June,
- A tour of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory,
- Ladies Day in October,
- A Christmas musical at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, and
- We rounded out the year with a holiday party on December 19, with live entertainment and refreshments.

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

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

As we enter 2024, the Summit Old Guard is healthy, vigorous, and enjoyable. Our motto, "[Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends.](#)" has never been more true!



*Tour of National Spherical Torus Experiment in Princeton*

# 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.

The council met virtually in 2023 on the Monday before the first Tuesday’s plenary meeting.

Position	2023
<b>Director</b>	John Dory
<b>Vice Director</b>	Mark Edelman
<b>Immediate Past-Director</b>	Steve Varley
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Rich Jaeger
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Ivan Jacobs
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Fasold
<b>Membership Chairman</b>	Jim Hewitt
<b>Historian</b>	Mitch Erickson
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	Ken Lindhorst
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	Paul Tukey
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	Tom Pate
<b>Associates (Vice-Chairs)</b>	
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Tom Leane & Tom Pate
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Steve Varley
<b>Historian</b>	Ron Hoke
<b>Membership</b>	Terry Dwyer
<b>Membership</b>	George Kull
<b>Membership</b>	Rick Smith
<b>Treasurer</b>	(open)

## 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 2023. The audit report was reviewed by the Trustees on March 7, and the revised report was delivered to the Council on March 31st.

Trustee Position	2023
(Term ending 2023)	Warren Braunwarth
(Term ending 2023)	Harvey Feuer
(Term ending 2024)	(open)
(Term ending 2025)	Mike Katz
Ex officio	John Dory
Ex officio	Steve Varley
Ex officio	Peter Fasold

## Honorees of the Year

For decades, the Old Guard has honored members for their exceptional service and contributions with awards, notably *Life Membership* and the *Unsung Hero Award*.

Award	2023
Life Membership	Dick Aiken
Unsung Heroes	Joel Yudkovich

## In Memoriam

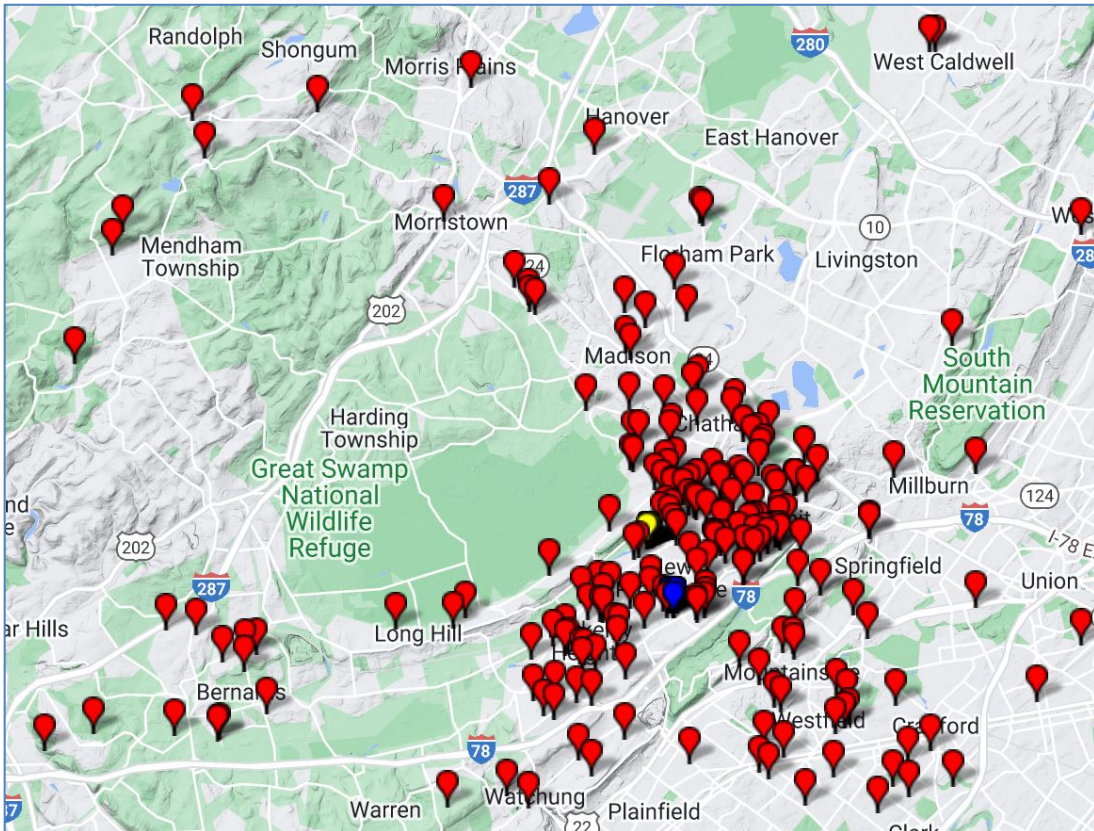
Twelve members passed away in 2023. They were more than just members. They were good and loyal friends whom we remember fondly and miss deeply. In particular, Al Mac Rae (2006) and Art Bauer (2007), who were past Directors. Their names are listed below. May they rest in peace.

2023
Vern Atwater
Art Bauer
Jim Boyd
Bob Hackenberg
Edward Lynch
Al Mac Rae
Joe Masino
Ned McGovern
Andy Meyer
Paul Mulvee
Lou Salemy
Bob White

## Membership

As of December 31, 2023, we had 256 members; we had 18 new members join and 27 deletions (12 died, 5 resigned and 10 lapsed), a decrease of 3% from 2022.

We are acutely aware of the need to maintain our membership. To that end, we plan several membership initiatives in 2024 that will focus on recruiting by existing members, external recruiting events, and integration of new members.



The interactive [Old Guard map](#) has a pin for each member. The screen shot here 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 and also lists the committee membership. 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. Besides being an interesting visual, the map is useful for those needing transportation, to find nearby members, or to look up committee membership.

## Finances

The Summit Old Guard continues to be financially healthy. We had a net worth of \$32,846.86 at the end of 2023, which is about \$3500 less than at the end of 2022, due largely to increased expenses of a full years' in-person meetings. We received income from membership dues, which remain at \$30/year, interest, and donations. Our expenses included our picnic (for which we did not charge as a gift to ourselves), church user fees, printing, mailing, insurance, and supplies.

Our 2022 finances were audited by the Audit committee in February. No deficiencies were found. Our Treasurer, Peter Fasold, gave a detailed presentation of our 2022 finances to the membership on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

## Participation

Our Tuesday morning plenary meetings are the highlight of each week. At our hybrid meetings, we averaged 91 members and 6 guests at our meetings with ~50/50 split between in-person and 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. Some relevant statistics:

- 33 members have attended over 90% of our meetings.
- 13 meetings had over 130 attendees.

The Old Guard has 14 activity & interest groups as well as 24 support committees with chairs, 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. It enables our older 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.

## Activity & Interest Groups

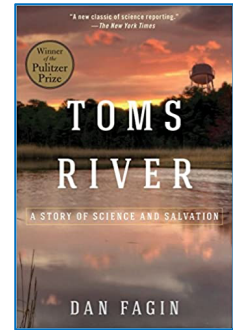
**Bocce Group** bowls and then repairs to lunch following the games. Due to increased interest in bocce, two groups were formed to play on Wednesday and Thursday at the Stirling Hotel. Attendance averaged 5 to 8 each day during spring, summer, and fall.

Chair: Tony Mazzocchi; VC: Craig Sweetra



**Book Discussion Group** choose, read, and gather to discuss certain books every two months. In 2023, we discussed five books:

1. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (Robert D. Putnam)
2. *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* (Erik Larson)
3. *Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation* (Dan Fagin)
4. *Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology* (Chris Miller)
5. *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* (Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin)



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 2023. 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 2023 we had a roster of 70 members. We met 11 times in 2023 via online Zoom. Average attendance was 23. We had 18 formal presentations by 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 a great 2023 year! As usual, we fished in both freshwater and saltwater. This year we added fly fishing in the mix. In freshwater, we used fly rods or spincast and baitcast or spincast for saltwater.

In the spring, Marv Gersten and Bob Eng (below) had some luck catching Rainbow Trout. In the fall, four of our Old Guard members, Bob Eng, Joe Corona, Joe Geist, and Marvin Gersten (L-R, below) caught a number of Striped Bass on a party boat out of Atlantic Highlands. Our Joe Geist took the boat's pool with a 31-inch Striped Bass.



Next year, we will start with river fishing in the spring after the rivers are stocked with Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout around April. The Stripers will be coming back to the Raritan Bay later in the spring. The next will be Fluke in the summer on the party boat and Stripers and Black Fish in the fall.

The number of trips will be dependent on weather but we will try for at least once or twice per fishing season. We always try to pick good weather for the trips. Whether you are a novice or experienced fisherman, we will have a lot of fun! All are Welcome! This is a great opportunity to meet fellow fishermen at Old Guard.

Chair: Bob Eng

**Golf** organizes weekly golf outings, weather permitting, at the Summit Municipal Par 3 course (the "Muni") and arranges three outings 18-hole golf courses about 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, Old Glory, Delicious Heights, Vintage Tavern, and the Stirling Hotel. A “virtual lunch” group meet on Zoom at noon on Wednesdays.

**Science & Math Interest Group (SMIG)** met every other month via Zoom in 2023. 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 2023 included:

- Semiconductor Business Part1: Technology and Business Models (John Michejda)
- Large Language Models – a Threat or a Promise" (Thad Gabara)
- Statistical Significance: What is it, Why does it matter, and How? (Jim Landwehr)
- John von Neumann: A Life in Math and Science (guest: Bill Hery)
- The Radical New Theory of Gravity” (guest: Jan Loeber)

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 2-3 discussions at each meeting. Highlights included Vassilis Keramidas “From a Small Village in Greece to the USA,” Jim Blinn’s Iowa childhood, Herb Waddell’s “Front Porches,” Steve Varley’s “Summer Jobs,” Mike Bennett’s “Then and Now” visit to his childhood homes near London, and Nolan Asch’s “Sex, Drugs, and Rock’n’roll.” In addition, our discussions wandered far afield to discuss different memorable topics.

Chair: Mitch Erickson; VC: Bill Tittle

**Sports Forum** gathers periodically to chew the fat about professional and college sports, teams, and players, both current and historical. We met all 12 months of 2022; the discussions were indeed lively.

Chair: John Baxter

**Technology User Group (TUG)** generally met twice a month during 2023 for a total of 21 times. TUG’s purpose is to inform and discuss topics covering issues, problems, and developments in technology.

During 2023 most of our sessions were led by our own members (frequently by John Tomaszewski and Mitch Erickson) but we did have two live guest speakers and a prerecorded video interview:

1. Mitchell Twoomy, a founder of the New Providence Intergenerational Club (a group of N P High School students who promote interactions between various generations) discussed his generation’s differing perspectives on new technologies, such as AI (chatbots), social media, etc.
2. Arnold Goldstein spoke on “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: the Fate of Obsolete Technology.”
3. A recorded Interview with Steven Koonin about his 2021 book, *Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What it doesn't, and Why It Matters.*” was viewed and discussed.

Our meetings generally fall into one or more of the following broad categories:

- **Informative** – Including:
  - Income Tax software.
  - Metrology.
  - What happens to obsolete technology.
  - Our “Issues” sessions cover technology problems we are experiencing, advice on future technology decisions we may be contemplating, technology issues in the news for which we would like additional perspective, etc.
- **Advice and Awareness-**
  - Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) and the ubiquitous availability and use of “ChatBots” like ChatGPT & Bard.
  - Voice activated digital assistants (Alexa, SIRI, etc.).
  - eBicycles.
  - Lithium battery technology.
  - How changes in travel are not always better.
  - TUG Tips & Techniques.
- **Planning -**
  - Year’s Topic Agenda.
  - Digital Archiving for Old Guard resources.

Chair: Tom Tobitsch; VC: George Kull

**Timely Topics** discusses topics of timely public interest in a format conducive to constructive feedback, general discussion, and full audience participation. Recent discussions have been about political violence, the impact of social media, and a suggestion that a new political party is warranted. Suggestions for future topics are welcome!

Chair: Mort O’Shea

**Trips & Theater** organizes trips for members and their guests, including visits to places of interest, resorts, sightseeing, museums, luncheons, and theatrical productions.



Thirty members and wives went to a matinee at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on 14 December. We enjoyed good food, awesome desserts, and an entertaining *Christmas at the Playhouse* musical. Best of all, we enjoyed each other’s company.

Separately, in August, eleven of us visited Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory and got a tour of the [National Spherical Tokamak Experiment - Upgrade](#), while it was in upgrade mode. NSTX-U is part of a world-wide effort to understand and eventually commercialize nuclear fusion as a source of electricity. This is a large science/engineering project with potentially global historic importance. Thanks to Walt Meissner for organizing the trip and to the PPPL staff for an outstanding tour.



Chair: John Kissane; Treasurer: Warren Braunwarth

## SUPPORT COMMITTEES

**Audio & Visual Aids (A/V)** has continued to improve the quality of the in-person and online experience of meeting attendees. Throughout 2023, the committee configured and ran the A/V equipment in the meeting hall. They produced 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 2023, the audit committee added a role of “Information Resources Assessment,” reflecting our commitment to continuity.

The audit committee’s report was reviewed by the Trustees on March 7, and the revised report was delivered to the Council on March 31st

Chair: George Klacik

**Birthdays** honors those members who have birthdays the following month at the last Tuesday meeting each month.

Our 2023 birthday hosts were:

Month	Monthly Chair
<b>January</b>	Marv Gersten
<b>February</b>	Mort O'Shea
<b>March</b>	John Baxter
<b>April</b>	Joe Geist
<b>May</b>	Colin Fowls
<b>June</b>	Phil Apruzzese
<b>July</b>	Joe McMenemy
<b>August</b>	Dave DeLong
<b>September</b>	Phil Apruzzese
<b>October</b>	John Tomaszewski
<b>November</b>	Roger Burns
<b>December</b>	Mort O'Shea

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: Marv Gersten

**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. 2023 was a watershed year for the Bulletin. As of December 2022, we ceased mailing paper copies to members who still desired them. The Bulletin distribution is now entirely electronic via email attachments. The remaining few members on the paper mailing list were easily transitioned to email. The transition to electronic distribution provides a significant cost saving in postage and printing and gives us more flexibility with space requirements and deadlines.

Our 2023 editors were:

Month	Editor
January	Terry Dwyer
February	Ian Lutes
March	Aaron Rosenberg
April	Paul Tukey
May	Didier Peron
June	Harvey Feuer
July	Phil Apruzzese
August	Dick Aiken
September	Doug Murphy
October	Aaron Rosenberg
November	Joe McMenemy
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 was published 30 Sept 2023 and is available [on our website](#).

Chair: Steve Varley

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

Chair: Tom Tobitsch

**Coffee Service** was very active in 2023 as the council voted to have a special day each month to encourage members to attend the in-person meetings and to hopefully encourage new members. We provided "goodies" and coffee for these meetings.

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 2023 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

Chair: Joe Geist

**Database & Directory** 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.

New this year, we published an on-line lookup tool that allows members to search on an individual name, committee, and other parameters to associate the current list of members and committees.

Co-Chairs: Paul Tukey and Joel Yudkovitz

**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 since 2000. We continued the process of managing our digital files. The work will accelerate in 2023.

Special projects: We initiated discussions with the other six Old Guard chapters [Forked River, [Livingston, Nutley, Princeton, W. Hartford \(CT\), and Westchester \(NY\)](#)]. The goal of reviving the Interchapter Council is to communicate best practices, discuss mutual issues such as membership and build camaraderie.

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 2023 Monthly Historians were:

Month	Historian
January	Ron Hoke
February	Roger Burns
March	George Klacik
April	Mitch Erickson
May	Herb Waddell
June	Steve Varley
July	Dave Setzer
August	Aaron Rosenberg
September	Nolan Asch
October	Phil Apruzzese
November	Ron Weinger
December	Pete Bolton

Chair: Mitch Erickson; VC: Ron Hoke

**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. Beginning mid-2023, we shifted to a monthly humorist to spread the workload and provide more variety of styles and topics.

Our 2023 Humorists were:

Month	Humorist
June	Doug Garno
July	Mitch Erickson
August	[tryouts]
September	John Cilli
October	[tryouts]
November	Steve Varley
December	Herb Waddell

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

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

This year's luncheon, chaired by Warren Braunwarth (below), was at the Basking Ridge Country Club on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Sixty-Four members and companions attended. Highlights included several uproarious jokes by Harvey Feuer and singing led by Mort O'Shea and the Old Guard chorus. Our photo gallery is [on our website](#).

Chair: Warren Braunwarth



**Membership** recruits, processes, and integrates new members and maintains a current membership roster in coordination with the Database and Directory Committee. As part of an overall Old Guard effort to boost our membership, the Membership Committee launched initiatives, including

- 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.

Chair: Jim Hewitt; VCs: Terry Dwyer, Tony Giuriceo, George Kull, and Rick Smith

**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 Trustees. We successfully completed our duties and the new officers assumed their duties January 1, 2024.

Chair: Harvey Feuer

**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!**

Chair: Mike Martin

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

Chair: Griff Smith

**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 90 Old Guard fellows headed to Oakwood Park 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. As you can see in the collage below, a good time was had by all. The whole set of photos is [on our website](#).





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. We had 49 meetings in 2023 for which we provided speakers on a wide range of topics including finance, climate (William Happer of Princeton U), escaping the Nazis, sports, health, mental health, civilizations, professions, historic figures, ageing, civics, community service, and musical history. Videos of the presentations are on our [YouTube channel](#), which has over 1700 subscribers. They reflected a diversity of views. In a polarizing time, we continued to uphold our inclusive tradition of open discourse and mutual respect. These programs are the highlight of each week.

The 2023 Monthly Program Chairs were:



Month	Monthly Program Chair
January	Mike Bennett
February	Pete Bolton
March	Jim Blinn
April	George Kull
May	Ian Lutes
June	Marv Gersten
July	Mort O'Shea
August	Stuart Kurtz
September	Tom Dempsey
October	Mike Martin
November	Maano Milles
December	Richard Pavlo

Chair: Mark Edelman

**Public Relations & Publicity** posts upcoming program announcements in local media to inform our communities and, hopefully, 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.

We continued to post information on the Tuesday plenary speaker on our [Facebook page](#) every week. In 2023, we increased our activity, reaching out to online media, such as several towns' edition of *Patch*. Jim Fleischman assumed the role of editing copy for meeting announcements to provide consistency among postings.

Chair: Steve McCabe; VCs: Harry Hynes & Bob van der Valk

**Recognition Awards** selects and recommends to the Council candidates for Life Membership, the Unsung Hero award, and other awards. The 2023 awards are discussed above.

Chair: George Kull

**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](http://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), Ron Hoke and Phil Apruzzese (Vice-Chairs and editors). We particularly want to thank each committee chair for their input. Photo credits to Griff Smith—thanks! Finally, we wish to thank the 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.

