

*"Deliberator"*



*"Geronimo"*



*"PC Wiz"*



*"Shadow"*



## *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

**HVBS Official Minutes of Wednesday April 14, 2010, our second meeting of 2010.**

- 1- The Patriarch of Poughkeepsie, **Geronimo**, arrived at exactly 11:30 AM at **HVBS** meeting central - **Deliberator's** domicile. **Shadow** inquired, since **Geronimo** is noted for punctual early arrivals, if there were any difficulties in his journey. He replied that the traffic was unusually heavy at the beginning of his safari to the North. **PC Wiz**, carrying the box with the vital vittles, greeted **Deliberator** and, after being cautioned about the trailing oxygen tubing, managed to snag the tube. After a short session of visiting, members moved to the dining room and **Geronimo** roused out the beer mugs in the kitchen. With mugs of brew supplied by **Geronimo**, Grimbergen + Double from Belgium, **HVBS** members toasted our Senior Member **Deliberator** on his imminent 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. After **Geronimo** had recited his first selected joke, members, led by **Deliberator**, asked that the food be passed out. **PC Wiz** dug the sandwiches out of the box and distributed the "combos" and a wrap for **Shadow**.
- 2- Our first agenda item concerned personal updates and **Deliberator** was asked about the lens implantation in his left eye. He said his vision is foggy but at times is clear. However, **Dr. Kearney** can see the fogginess and wants to do a laser treatment in the near future in his main facility in Johnstown (son **John** will take him). **PC Wiz** mentioned that he had asked the Doctor about the "crystal lens" which is capable of being focused. **Dr. Kearney** said the muscles for focusing the lens are still present but being "lazy" require a period of adjustment. The new lenses were not available when **PC Wiz** had his replaced. **Geronimo** informed us of a new development for "dry eye". The procedure actually stimulates the eye's tear ducts - remarkable. **Shadow** brought us up-to-date on the preparation process for his planned colonoscopy. He detailed the new procedure: much simpler with less liquid than in the past. The co-pay for his preliminary interview was \$30 and **Shadow** asked about a co-pay for the procedure (may be charged, on the web site, not in the Blue Cross handbook) and was told there is a day of procedure charge of \$150!
- 3- **Geronimo's** grandson **Max Keita** is almost two years old (birthday May 15) and "is getting into everything". On Sundays **Dan** cooks a meal for everyone in the family (including Geronimo's brother) and **Max** managed to pull down a container of carrots. **Deliberator** asked **Geronimo** what language **Max** is speaking now. **Geronimo** said "99% Japanese" but he and **Dan** are teaching him the English words for common objects. When they point to the object, such as a bottle, he recognizes the word. **Geronimo** stated that **Max** will learn English very quickly when he enters school. **Shadow** gave **Deliberator** a birthday card depicting two persons on a couch with a dog. The boys had refreshment containers with straws and the dog (also on the couch) had a string of straws leading to the bathroom's toilet. Members laughed uproariously at the idea which led **Geronimo** to relate a personal sequel. Recently **Sharon's** daughters visited **Geronimo**. One of them left the seat of the toilet up and **Geronimo** noticed a suspicious wetness on the seat and a slight trail of water on the floor. Suspecting the culprit, **Geronimo** alertly caught **Mandy** perusing her new source of liquids.
- 4- **Deliberator** asked **PC Wiz** about his Toyota recall which was completed recently. He related the fixes: "cutting away" the carpet, rebuilding the gas pedal and "flashing" (updating the software) of the ECM (engine control module). To **Geronimo's** query, **PC Wiz** stated that the car ran better than ever, with the quirks he had gotten used to gone. Among these was a very slow response to "kick-down", now a very smooth upshift into overdrive (at a speed below the former 47 MPH) and much improved roadability. **PC Wiz** inquired if **Deliberator** had considered getting a laptop computer with WiFi so he would not have to go to his den where the computer is located. To the question, "What is WiFi?", **Geronimo** responded that it meant "wireless". **Mark** and **Ryan** have suggested it but **Deliberator** decided not to for the present since he has to get up occasionally because "the exercise is good for him".

- 5- Being the day before income taxes are due, the conversation turned to the "state of the State". **Shadow** informed us that contractors working on State projects are suing because they have not been paid. **DeBrino**, **Shadow's** firm, has not been paid for State work they performed and **Shadow** cannot understand why his boss seems unconcerned. **Geronimo** mentioned that son **Dan** had to make out the form for Massachusetts income tax for last year and that the form for that State is much longer than the New York form. **PC Wiz** opined that the leader of our State, "Shelley" Silver, is showing no interest in cutting expenditures because of heavy contributions from the public employee and teachers unions. He is convinced that it will be "business as usual": the State government will borrow to keep spending - as usual. **Shadow**, disgusted with the whole political process, said he intends to keep his wine cellar well stocked, "kick the politicians in the ass" and retire.
- 6- **Deliberator** then told an anecdote about his minister, a very frugal man. Frugal, in the sense of being parsimonious in personally spending money but very generous in social matters concerning others. It seems that Red Roof Inns are offering one room a day for one cent via an Internet lottery from April 1 to April 15. In a recent trip the frugal minister managed to get a one cent room on the way down but also one on his trip back! To top that, the clerk actually refused the penny! Great story and a promotion **HVBS** members were unaware of. **Deliberator** proposed a toast to Phil Mickelson's third green jacket win at the Masters Tournament in Augusta, GA. **HVBS** members heartily agreed. They also seconded his admiration of Anthony Kim, a young, promising competitor in the future with a third place finish in the Masters. Which led **Shadow** to muse about Lee Elder, the black golfer who broke the "color barrier" at Augusta in 1975, 35 years ago. Unfortunately, he did not make the cut but did make history.
- 7- Members then moved on to the coffee and desserts, a half portion of cherry pie. **Geronimo** served the coffee while **Deliberator** commented on the announced retirement of Justice John Paul Stevens, a conservative Republican (who became more liberal over time) appointed by President Ford. He thinks President Obama has to appoint a Protestant to the bench since they will all be either Jewish or Catholics after he leaves. **PC Wiz** said he had never considered the judges religious beliefs but reminded members of **Geronimo's** recent e-mail about a Hillary Clinton nomination. Members unanimously agreed it was extremely unlikely. **Deliberator**, waxing philosophical, lamented the size of our population - now over 300 million. It was 122 million when he was born. **Shadow** said that when he is flying with **Randy** it is amazing how much empty space there is without visible human habitation. Members agreed but argued that our cities now have more crime, financial problems and traffic congestion from the increased population.
- 8- Because of his birthday, **Deliberator's** lunch was "on the house" per our by-laws. The time had arrived to conclude our meeting and **Deliberator**, **HVBS** Official Scheduler, proposed **Wednesday May 26, 2010** as the date for our next conclave. Members agreed and the meeting adjourned. Checking the mailbox, **Geronimo** brought **Deliberator's** mail in to him.

Thanks to **Shadow** for his prompt review and to **Geronimo** for his insightful corrections.

**HVBS** Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

April 20, 2010