

"Deliberator"



"Geronimo"



"PC Wiz"



"Shadow"



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

HVBS Official Minutes of Wednesday May 26, 2010, our third meeting of 2010.

- 1- On a fine summer day with the threat of thunderstorms in the afternoon, **PC Wiz** was the last to arrive at 11:15 AM with the necessary refreshments. Our latest **HVBS** conclave was scheduled to start fifteen minutes early to allow for **Deliberator** to prepare for his pulmonologists appointment moved from Thursday. **Shadow**, who had come directly from work, and **Geronimo** were in a deep discussion with **Deliberator** over the details of his forthcoming operation as **PC Wiz** entered. He is to have a tube inserted in his throat to reduce mouth-dryness and improve his breathing. Members wished our friend well in this procedure. In relation to this, **Deliberator** related his terrible problem with CVS Caremark - the new drug plan supplier (from Medco) for GE retirees. He has been on a drug for the last year, paying for it locally until the doctor could stabilize the dose. When referred to Caremark for the 90 day mail-order plan they rejected him and sent an appeal form. With his supply running out on Saturday the situation is critical.
- 2- **Geronimo** told us that the drug Nexium had worked wonders on his problem. His supplier, Medco, had changed the coverage to a generic which he found OK. **PC Wiz** volunteered that he had asked his cardiologist's nurse how they found Caremark compared to the original Medco. "Terrible, the worst", she said. Members hope the doctor can straighten out the problem for **Deliberator**. Asked about his oxygen use, **Deliberator** told us he turns it down from 10 during the day to 5 when in bed. In the morning **Ryan** turns it up to 10 for him. Since **Ryan** is going on a trip (starting this day) to Reno, Las Vegas and Phoenix with a friend who was present, **Shadow** and **Geronimo** asked who was going to adjust the flow for him and **Deliberator** said **Mark** was going to sleep over and take care of it for him. **Deliberator** then confided to us that his doctor had advised him that he required the presence of someone at all times.
- 3- Since the young men were leaving Albany airport **Deliberator** was insistent on their plans and if **Ryan** had done his preparations and packing. **Shadow**, finding they had allowed only about an hour at the airport, advised them strongly to allow plenty of time to clear security and told **Ryan** of some of his recent experiences with the procedure. After **Ryan** had left **Geronimo** advised **Deliberator** not to be upset with the young peoples careless attitude but **Deliberator** said he couldn't help worrying. **Geronimo** then told us his only "not too good" joke. **PC Wiz**, for some reason, found it hilarious. **Deliberator** then reprised the recent surprise 81st birthday party given by his grandsons at the Schenectady Municipal Golf Course Clubhouse. The event, not attended by **PC Wiz** or **Shadow**, was a great success.
- 4- In sports **PC Wiz** mentioned the selection of the new Meadowlands stadium for Superbowl XLVIII in 2014, a radical unexpected move from recent warm choices. **Shadow** repeated that he still doesn't understand building an open stadium in the North but the game will go on regardless. **Geronimo** gave us the average temperature of the Meadowlands site; a very tolerable 27.0 degrees. **PC Wiz** pointed out that it is planned for February 2 but surely will not compare to the frozen tundra of Greenbay. The issue of the Saratoga racing season was raised and **Shadow** said he couldn't understand how a gambling corporation could go broke. **PC Wiz** said they are the only ones in the Nation going broke and the only possible cause must be corruption.
- 5- Concerning Yankee baseball, **Shadow** thought it a "dumb move" that the Yankees re-hired Nick Johnson (1B - DH in Spring training) with his record of injuries. Sure enough, he is already on the 15-day DL with a wrist operation! Discussing recent games, **Deliberator** pointed out that the "foul-pole" is actually a "fair-pole" since a ball hitting it is "fair". **Geronimo** pointed out that every ball park in baseball has its own rules. To **Geronimo's** hockey playoff query, **Shadow** predicted that it is likely the Chicago Blackhawks will win the Stanley Cup because they play almost

60 minutes, hitting the ice ready to compete vigorously. In a side note, **Geronimo** said he thought the "colored puck" (and the computer generated lines in football) was a good idea since it is so hard to follow. **Shadow** said familiarity with the game made it easy although the action is very fast. **Shadow** volunteered that he had seen an interview of Pele, retired since 1977, in which, while he naturally favored Brazil, he would like to see an African win. **Shadow** said that soccer is truly a world sport.

- 6- In the news, of course, was the recent school voting. Mohonasen, **Deliberator** and **PC Wiz's** district, passed the budget as did Burnt Hills which **Shadow** voted for. **Shadow** said he is convinced that the board made a sincere effort to keep the budget increase as low as possible (2%) while **Deliberator** averred that Mohonasen had the lowest per-pupil spending in the State. However, in **Geronimo's** Arlington school district (the second largest district in Dutchess County), voters rejected (with **Geronimo's** help) the budget 4824-4656 with its 8.29% increase. The school board is considering closing the LaGrange Elementary School and re-submitting the budget on June 15 with a 7.2% increase. It looks like Arlington is heading toward a contingency budget! Concerning world financial problems, **Geronimo** re-iterated the fact that Greek pensioners receive 14 checks a year instead of the usual 12. **PC Wiz** pessimistically stated that, in his view, the cause for the world financial problems was "democracy". As soon as people realize they can vote benefits for themselves, not caring where the money comes from, there is no limit to spending by government on social programs except for bankruptcy. Delayed as long as possible, eventually Greece, Italy and others will run out of credit. **Geronimo** informed us of a program of free cell phones for welfare recipients. In Tennessee one-third of the State (812,800 people) are eligible for free cell phones with 68 minutes a month (which costs the government \$10 a month for each "free" phone). **Geronimo** also said that "cell phones are just getting started" with proposals for personal health records and monitoring sensors built into the phones.
- 7- In our tech section **PC Wiz**, mentioned that he is exploring buying a new computer (his Dell is now 7 years old) like **Geronimo** did recently. What is bothering him is the possible loss of important peripherals like his scanners and software. **Geronimo** said he had no problems but, of course, his guru **Dan** took care of everything. **Shadow**, pointing out that he had started out with a Macintosh, boosted the idea that he should seriously consider a Mac.
- 8- Because of **Deliberator's** doctor's appointment, we did not have coffee or dessert and our meeting ended 15 minutes early at 1:45 PM. Before adjourning, our **HVBS** Official Scheduler **Deliberator** proposed ~~Wednesday July 14, 2010~~ as a tentative date for our next gathering. Members agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

Thanks to **Deliberator** for his review and to **Geronimo** for his correction in section 4.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

June 7, 2010

Note: **Geronimo** corrected the reference to the Meadowlands (not the SuperBowls).

The proposed July 14 date is not possible because of a conflict with **Shadow**. So the tentative date is moved to Wednesday July 21, 2010.