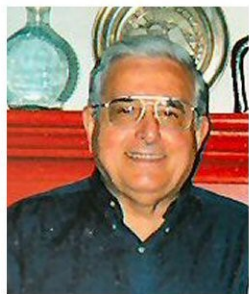


Ramrod



Gladiator



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes – January 10, 2018 – 1st Meeting of the year.

1- On an absolutely perfectly clear Winter morning **Surveyor** picked up **Gladiator** and joined **PC Wiz**, designated driver, for the journey to the **Hoffman House HVBS** meeting. We arrived a bit early and waited for **Ramrod's** timely arrival. It had snowed – members judged about the same as our local snows – in Kingston and there was still an icy spot just beside the Camry's rear door. **Gladiator** carefully exited the car and **Surveyor** reminded him of his cane and cushion as we greeted **Ramrod**. Entering the premises with one of the waitresses, we were greeted by the two **Pat's** – bartender and host. **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** escorted us to our customary corner table where **Ramrod** checked the object in the window. It turned out to be a new neon sign – unfortunately reducing the light somewhat.

2- **Surveyor** and **Gladiator** had noted the 'for sale' sign missing as we had gone by the house. **Lorayne** assured ****Gladiator** the sign was still there – 'covered up with a Christmas Greeting'**. She was ready for our beverage orders and **Ramrod** asked if they still had some cider. **Lorayne** thought there was still some in the refrigerator and **Ramrod** ordered a hot cider with a stick of cinnamon. **Surveyor** asked for a Michelob Ultra and **PC Wiz** opted for an IPA. **Gladiator** decided on a glass of merlot. **PC Wiz** passed out the meeting agendas and pointed out a second sheet stapled to it. It was a copy of a NY Post article concerning the terrazzo floor of Penn Station's West End Concourse. The new floor has cracks. **Gladiator** said that temperature was a big factor while **Surveyor** noted it was underground. **PC Wiz** mentioned that **Gladiator** had been called in by GE because of cracking of a new concrete floor. **Gladiator** recalled that he had been hired to consult on the problem which resulted in replacement of the defective floor.

3- **Ramrod** complained about a check he had to stop payment on – the bank wanted a \$30 fee! **PC Wiz** said that bank fees are outrageous – Key Bank charges similar fees. Meanwhile, **Surveyor** had noticed that the **HVBS** Official Agenda listed our meeting as the eighth of 2017, a serious error! This led to a proposal of 'no raise' to the Scribe (whose compensation had previously been doubled – from 'zero'). **Gladiator** inquired how **Dan** is doing and **Ramrod** replied that things are the same – he has difficulty in maintaining quality in the Chinese factory. Surprisingly, they do not seem concerned. As to **Sharon**, **Ramrod** said she is still driving from Connecticut to Purchase, a 16 mile trip each day, becoming somewhat accustomed to the heavy traffic.

4- **Lorayne** appeared to take our lunch orders. **Ramrod** selected the garlic steak sandwich which, she said, comes with fries. **Gladiator** ordered the grilled chicken breast sandwich while **PC Wiz** asked for the shrimp and pasta from the 'specials' menu. **Surveyor** also ordered from the 'specials' menu – the chicken quesadilla (which came with refried beans and rice). **PC Wiz** informed **HVBS** members that the company **Russ** works for, Arconic, has eliminated their pension plan. As per **Surveyor's** comment concerning 'grandfathering', employees will be entitled to the pensions they have earned but in the future will only have a 401K plan.

5- **Surveyor** told us of ******his son-in-law, ****** who left his occupation as an attorney to become a police officer in Orangetown NY. The average officer has a salary of \$129,000 – with overtime \$200,000 +, not to mention the generous benefits, **Surveyor** added. When it was confirmed that the town (50,000 population) is in Rockland County, members were not surprised by the story. **Gladiator**, who watches web cams covering railroad lines on his computer, was observing events in La Plata MI recently. It was showing, in real time, a railroad construction gang repairing a crossing and platform. There were 10 men watching as two men worked! As the time approached 3PM, quitting time, the pace picked up and then they were gone. The conversation turned to the Trump wall and its cost. The President is predicting a much lower figure than the 18 Billion dollars estimated but the Democrats show no sign of agreeing to anything.

6- **Ramrod** had been regaling us with several really funny stories – more quietly as the room became busy. **Ramrod** spoke about the problem with youngster's time being occupied by 'smart' phones. It has become today's 'social networking' instead of personal contact, sports and game playing. **Surveyor** mentioned the current news about Apple purposely slowing the older iPhones (with an algorithm – **Ramrod**); ostensibly to compensate for the loss of capacity of the Lithium ion batteries as they age. **Surveyor** suggested that it is suspicious that the slowing comes when new models are being introduced. Apple has offered the new batteries for a bargain \$29 (instead of \$79) and **Surveyor** intends to take advantage of the offer.

7- **Lorayne** asked if we wished coffees. When the coffee arrived she took our dessert orders. **Ramrod** passed on the offer – being, as **Gladiator** estimated, at 80% from his recent illness. **Surveyor** and **Gladiator** both ordered the cobbler with vanilla ice cream; **PC Wiz** asked for **Lorayne** to recite the dessert offerings and decided on the rainbow sherbet. **Gladiator** mentioned that 'Law and Order' is his favorite TV program and **Surveyor** commented that the detective partner had died. After some discussion, **Surveyor** checked his iPhone and came up with the name – Jerry Orbach who played 'Lenny Briscoe' in the series. He died in December 2004 of prostate cancer.

8- Members generally nixed the possibility of Bill Belichick leaving the Patriots to become the new Giants coach. **Gladiator** is concerned that his NY Rangers will not even make the playoffs considering their undependable performance. **Gladiator** then asked **Ramrod** how he likes his new toilet – 'works like a charm'



was the reply. He was then queried by **Gladiator** on whether his cell phone was charged. **Ramrod** said he made sure it was fully charged for the 'bomb-cyclone' weather we recently endured. After making sure **PC Wiz** had his camera, **Gladiator** asked **Lorayne** to take a group photo after clearing the table. Discussion then proceeded to determining a tentative date for our next conclave. **Lorayne** was asked when the **Hoffman House** will close for the Winter vacation. She told us the closing was on February 17 (after Valentine's Day Feb. 14) and will reopen on March 15 (for St. Patrick's Day Mar. 17). **HVBS** members selected either **February 7 or February 14, 2018**. Our meeting then adjourned.

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his motion to accept and **Surveyor** for correcting (******) the relationship in the story. Also thanks to **Gladiator** for his correction (******) of the For Sale sign 'cover-up'.

HVBS Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

January 18, 2018

[Web page .pdf of Official Minutes January 23, 2018](#)