

*Ramrod*

*Gladiator*

*PC Wiz*

*Surveyor*



## *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

### **Official Minutes – February 21, 2018 – 2nd Meeting of the year.**

- 1- On a clear 36 degree morning **Gladiator** picked up PC Wiz for this **HVBS** meeting without **Surveyor**, who is vacationing at his Florida condo. We proceeded to the Taconic Parkway, arriving at the Acropolis Diner in Poughkeepsie. Our sturdy Southern guardian **Ramrod** was waiting on the entrance ramp of the diner when we entered the parking lot at 11:20 PM. He asked if we enjoyed Governor Cuomo's signs which are costing 50 million dollars to remove by Federal order. The temperature had risen to an unseasonal 75 degrees – quite suitable shirtsleeve weather. Entering the diner we were shown to a table but members preferred a booth. The waitresses pointed out that there was more room at the tables and **Ramrod** noted that a recent renovation had enlarged the booth tables and left the benches quite snug. Our waitress **Donna** took our orders for coffee and members settled down for the session.
- 2- **Donna** brought the coffee and noticed the **HVBS** agendas on the table. **Gladiator** told her to check out the logo in the center – the bull drawing. She laughed, thought it special, and called over the other waitress who read the complete agenda. **Gladiator** told her to keep it – we could print another. The first item on the agenda concerned the world's largest sauerkraut factory (Great Lakes Kraut) in Shortsville NY. They are leaving the state because of the high minimum wage and regulations – 25% more expenses than the competition. **Ramrod** recounted his childhood with no regulations and government controls. At the age of 15, with his mother ill, he opened his fathers' diner in the morning – making the coffee (the tall restaurant coffee makers of the day) and the chores, including cleaning the toilets. This led to recounts of the lives of our parents who came to this country, learned the language and supported themselves – not the complete support given to our illegal aliens today.
- 3- **PC Wiz** noted that **Ramrod** was wearing a sweat shirt with the Busch Gardens of Williamsburg emblem on the chest – surprised that he had visited Virginia - which he had. Our coffee cups were filled by 'Jose', who refilled them as needed. **Donna** had returned for lunch orders if we were ready. **Ramrod** ordered the Greek omelet (feta cheese and tomato); **Gladiator** wanted breakfast which **Donna** said they serve all day – eggs with crispy bacon. **PC Wiz**, ordering for lunch, asked for the chicken pot pie with lentil soup. **Waitress Donna** quietly said "it's Lent" and a confused **PC Wiz** told her it was OK. **Ramrod** then explained about Orthodox Easter – based on phases of the moon and a different calendar it sometimes coincides with our traditional Easter but not this year. In 2018 Orthodox Easter is on April 8\*\* (not the 1<sup>st</sup>) and the 40 days of Lent (fasting – no meat) started on February 14. Considering we were in a Greek diner **Donna** was trying to be helpful.
- 4- **Gladiator** asked **Ramrod** how **Sharon** is doing. **Ramrod** told us she has taken a job in Purchase, somewhat lower in pay than her previous job in Connecticut. **PC Wiz** noted that the cost of living in CT is higher (than in NY!) so the comparison might not be so serious. **Sharon** also is moving to a smaller apartment in Mt. Kisco that is not very far from work. **Ramrod** also mentioned that he is taking **Sharon** and, if available, **Casey\*\*** to lunch at the **Hoffman House** since he has to visit his financial adviser in Kingston on April 9.

5- **PC Wiz** raised the agenda item noting that **Associate Member Shirley** has lost the use of her kitchen TV because of Spectrum's 'digital' conversion. It now requires a conversion 'box' for \$10 a month per TV. **PC Wiz** heard a caller on talk radio complaining that he had several TV's and each would require a 'box'.

**Gladiator** said they gave **Shirley's** TV to **Russell**, who visited recently. **Gladiator** mentioned the new stair elevator they have installed and how **Associate Member Shirley** uses it as many as 20 times a day. **Ramrod** wondered why so many trips into the cellar and **Gladiator** told him it is for the laundry and they are now using the cellar for canned goods and other storage. Also a side benefit is the chair blocks the stair, making the hallway safer. Asked by **Ramrod** if he had any more improvements to make; **Gladiator** said yes, the painting of the basement is still pending, LED bulbs now being made in tube form so he can replace the cellar fluorescents, and he has other items in mind for his great handyman-carpenter. **Ramrod** does not favor LED light and bought a supply of 75 and 100 watt bulbs before they disappear.

6- **Waitress Donna** asked about desserts. **Gladiator** passed and **Ramrod** asked her if they had blueberry pie. She said 'certainly' and **Ramrod** then asked if he could get the pie 'warmed' – which was affirmative. **PC Wiz** also went for the blueberry pie, but not 'warm'. **Ramrod** mentioned he has a new electric razor – a made in Germany Braun. He and **Gladiator** discussed the razor cleaning system. **Ramrod** asked if we were familiar with the movie 'Blade Runner'. **PC Wiz** said he had the Blade Runner (1982) DVD with Harrison Ford and Daryl Hannah. **Ramrod** informed us there is a new version, Blade Runner 2049, again with Harrison Ford. He said it has been updated with more modern effects.

7- **PC Wiz** said he is very happy with his new Ariens snow blower although it seems to have a less powerful engine than his 30 year-old trade-in (they now mention the cc's, not the horsepower). **Ramrod** told us of his concern with the condition of the gasoline for his snow blower which he seldom used this Winter – and also the back-up generator which is gasoline powered. **Gladiator** said the salesman at Lowe's urged him to only use Stewart's 93 octane fuel which is ethanol-free. **PC Wiz** said his dealer, Emerich, also insisted on it – saying that 90% of their service department repairs were the carburetors and fuel systems of ethanol users. **PC Wiz** said the oil companies add the ethanol to the delivery trucks at the last moment because it doesn't mix with the gasoline and tends to absorb moisture.

8- With a last topping of coffee by **Jose**, members decided to adjourn the meeting. On the way out **Ramrod** introduced us to his friend **George** sitting at the counter. A tentative date for our next meeting, when we should have a full quorum with **Surveyor**, was not determined. The **Hoffman House** will re-open on March

15 for St. Patrick's Day. The meeting was adjourned. **Gladiator** decided to return home on the same route – via the Taconic Parkway.

Submitted for review. Additions and corrections are welcome.

**HVBS** Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**  
February 26, 2018

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his corrections \*\*  
and **Surveyor** for his review.

Corrected Web version March 3, 2018

