

# *HV* *BS* *The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society*

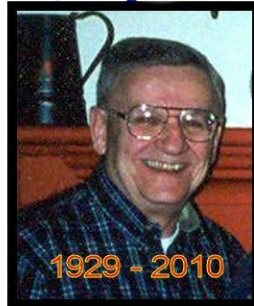
*Jack Gahan*



*Ramrod*



*Gladiator*



*Deliberator*



*PC Wiz*



*Surveyor*

## **HVBS Official Minutes – December 12, 2018 - Ninth Meeting of This Year**

- 1- On a cool but clear morning **Surveyor** picked up **Gladiator**. **PC Wiz**, designated driver, then took over for the journey to the **Hoffman House**. Arriving at 11:10 AM we waited a few minutes for our Southern Stalwart **Ramrod** to arrive. In the patio **PC Wiz** remarked on the sparse fireplace wood stock, much less than our last visit. The inner red wooden door was not open as usual. **Gladiator** stopped to read the notice on the door. It listed the **Hoffman House's** schedule – a push on the door opened it to greetings from the staff. Seated at our traditional debating corner table, **HVBS** members ordered beverages from **Official Waitress Lorayne**. Assured it was available, **Ramrod** ordered a hot cider – **Surveyor** quickly followed suit. **PC Wiz** finally decided on a house Cabernet and **Gladiator** a Heineken.
- 2- **Surveyor** had three suggestively tall festive ribbon handled bags. Passing them out to members we found bottles of 'Lucarelli 2018 Shiraz' wine – welcome unexpected gifts from the fabled Lucarelli Winery. As our drinks arrived **Gladiator** asked **Lorayne** to give him the bill and informed us he was going to pick up the tab for the luncheon. Members protested but **Gladiator** firmly insisted. The first topic concerned Surveyor's approaching birthday and application for Medicare. **PC Wiz** and **Gladiator** had given him information on their plans. **Surveyor** telephoned Medicare and had a good discussion with a very friendly lady who answered all his questions. Conclusion: already an MVP member, he decided to sign up for the MVP Advantage Medicare Plan which has a zero premium charge and includes prescription coverage. **Ramrod** mentioned that he is signed up with an insurance plan under New York State (NYSHIP) for local municipal employees. **Ramrod** read some really funny jokes to loud laughter, after which **Surveyor** read some he had brought along also.
- 3- **Lorayne** appeared and asked if we were ready to order. We were: **Ramrod** ordered his favorite French onion steak sandwich. **Gladiator** wanted his usual reduced meat French Dip with hot au jus and asked **Lorayne** to bring a box if he didn't finish. **Surveyor** ordered the shrimp and scallop in a basket from the 'Special' menu and **PC Wiz** seconded the selection after **Surveyor** had checked on fries (included but not mentioned in the menu). Talk turned to sports with **Ramrod** mentioning the speculation concerning possible Yankee acquisition of right hand pitcher Noah Syndergaard from the Mets. The NY Giants (now 5-8) win against the Redskins led to discussion on the remaining season. **Gladiator** commented on Saquon Barkley's remarkable 'fantastic performance' in the game, adding that he may lead the league in rushing. **Surveyor** said the Giants may 'lose the final three games' – teams on their schedule are playing well. Members discussed the satisfying loss of the New England Patriots to the Miami Dolphins (34-33) last play in a spectacular 2 lateral passes 69 yard touchdown. Drake beat Gronkowski, who had been brought in to prevent a Hail Mary, to the pylon.

4- **Lorayne**, who remarked on the hearty laughter from our group, asked to see one of the jokes. **Ramrod** gave her the copy of the hilarious ‘bear on the roof’ joke. After she read the joke and had a good laugh **Lorayne** asked for coffee orders. On arrival she recited the available desserts. **PC Wiz** opted for the ‘rainbow sherbet’ while **Ramrod** and **Surveyor** both selected chocolate and vanilla ice cream. **Gladiator** asked if they had something like a ‘banana split’ available; **Lorayne** admitted they did not, only ice cream with chocolate syrup – which **Gladiator** ordered. **Gladiator** brought up the Amazon decision to build ‘headquarters 2’ in Long Island City, Queens – remarking on the ‘stinking politics’ involved in the project with \*\*\* Amazon receiving close to 3 billion dollars in subsidies and tax breaks without approval of the NY State legislature or the NYC Council. \*\*\*

5- **Gladiator** told us that **Randy** has recently been certified to fly. **HVBS** members discussed the present state of the country’s infrastructure with **Surveyor** telling us the new Tappan Zee Bridge is now fully open with 6 lanes in each direction. Though not publically noted, **Surveyor** thought the terrific traffic on the George Washington Bridge must require extensive repairs. **PC Wiz** and **Gladiator** had flown down the Hudson River with **Randy**, passing over the bridge. **Gladiator** noted that flying in the area is closely regulated with required flying lanes. **Surveyor** asked if members had seen the movie ‘Sully’ with Tom Hanks playing the part of US Airways pilot Chesley (Sully) Sullenberger), noting that even today there are disputes over his decision to land in the river after striking a flight of geese. **Surveyor** observed that the river water, denser on January 15, 2009 than in the summer, kept the plane buoyant longer, resulting in no loss of life. **HVBS** members support Sully’s (successful) fateful decision.

6- **Ramrod** told us of a problem with his TV, tracing it to the control box. **PC Wiz** asked if he still had the plasma television, remarking that the new thin-screen LED’s are terrific. **Ramrod** said his picture is still bright and perfect and is not planning to purchase a replacement. **Ramrod** was having a problem with his email which **Dan**, on a recent visit, fixed, it is now working flawlessly. **Gladiator** had earlier asked **Lorayne** to give him the bill, informing us he wished to pay it in recognition of the pleasure our meetings had for him. Members objected but **Gladiator** insisted. **Ramrod** offered to pay the tip (he mentioned 15%) but was refused. Thanks to **Gladiator** for his generosity.

7- **HVBS** member **Surveyor** plans to leave us for a sunnier clime in January – although no tentative date was set for our next session the nearest possible date, weather and health permitting, is Wednesday January 9, 2019. The final **HVBS** meeting of 2018 was adjourned.

Thanks to Ramrod for his cogent corrections \*\*\*; I had seen the dollar amount and went for the smaller. As to the homeward bound nightmare: I missed the first left (should have), the next was one-way the wrong way. My two advisers in the car were of no help and we eventually found our way. Hopefully – our usual route will be available from now on!

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

December 18, 2018

Corrected and converted into the .pdf version for the **HVBS** web pages – January 7, 2019.