

HOBBYISTS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – February 5, 2026

Birthdays: The February birthday slide was displayed as members arrived. 39 Hobbyists have birthdays in February, including 5 lifetime members: John Fabian (92), Conrad Caruso (91), James Jebaily (97), William Leahy (92), and Charles Calotta (100). Three members are celebrating their birthday today, February 5: John Fabian (92), Hisatake Nishitani (83), and Robert Vallario (77).

Meeting called to order by President Peter Weinstein at 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Rick Pascal.

Hobbyists Concerned – Steve Rubin

- We learned that Hobbyist Ed Lavin passed away in March of 2025.
- John DeSantis recently had a hip replacement. As of last week, he was recovering in Christian Health Services.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Engelhardt

- Our CD earned \$123.53 in January, which is \$0.35 more than it earned in December.

President's Report - Peter Weinstein

- There is construction taking place in the church parking lot on Ridgewood Avenue. Hobbyists should avoid walking through the construction area.

Update on Two Important Events – Don Peterfriend

- Woodloch Pines Trip (September 16 – 18, 2026) – There are 32 people who have signed up for the trip so far. Provided that there are at least 26 people who commit to traveling to Woodloch by bus, the cost for the whole trip will be \$550 per person/\$1100 per couple for double occupancy and \$660 for single occupancy. Anyone who is interested in the trip and has not yet signed up can contact Don Peterfriend directly (email: dpeterfriend@yahoo.com). Members who have signed up should send their deposit (\$100 per person/\$200 per couple/\$100 per single) to Gary Engelhardt at 569 Cliff Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450.
- 60th Anniversary Dance (Wednesday May 13, 2026 at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes) – Constant Contact emails have already been sent out to gauge member interest in the dance. Thus far, about 90 people have responded expressing interest in attending. The per person cost has not yet been determined, but it is expected to be in the range of \$215 to \$225 per couple. The Indian Trail Club is a beautiful facility with plenty of parking. The dance will run from 6:00 – 9:30 pm and will feature open bar cocktails in the cocktail lounge (or outside overlooking the lake), dinner in the dining room and dancing to a live DJ. The more people who attend, the lower the per-person cost can be. A Constant Contact email with more details will be sent out to members within the next week or two.

Thank you from our Sponsor - Pastor Bruce Ballantine of First Presbyterian Church

- Pastor Bruce expressed his thanks to the Hobbyists for our annual financial contribution to the church. He also noted that the many Hobbyists activities that take place in the church during each week keep the building “humming”. He closed with a memorable joke.

Speakers – Steve Friedman

- Today's speaker is John Jensen from Valley Health, who will talk about fall prevention and balance.

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Membership – Bob Mosher

- There are 79 members present at this morning's meeting.
- As of today, there are 452 total Hobbyists members, including 79 life members.
- There are 3 new members being inducted today:
 - John Peterman, introduced by Jeff Kresky
 - Mitchell Milch, introduced by Dick Boswell
 - Ed Powers, introduced by Alan Stein
- The Fellowship Luncheon will be held at the church on April 23rd. Details will follow by Constant Contact email.

Activity Chairman Reports:

- Beer Appreciation - Rick Rosenthal: Next gathering is on Thursday February 12 at 6:30 pm at Cooper's Tavern, located at 40 Orange Turnpike, Sloatsburg, NY. The February 12 outing is being billed as "Drinkin' with Lincoln" or "Ballantine with your Valentine".
- Book Club – Patrick Donohue: The book club meets on the third Friday of each month at 10 am in the church library. The next meeting is on Friday February 20th. The book being discussed is "The Sun Also Rises" by Ernest Hemingway.
- Camera Club – Mark Singer: The next Camera Club meeting will be on Monday February 23rd at 2:00 in the church. The assignment is "Emotions". Members presenting photos should send them to Tom Heed (teheed@ramapo.edu) in advance of the meeting.
- Chess Club - Rick Pascal: The chess club meets on Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon in the rear of the auditorium at the church. All levels of skill are welcome.
- Cornhole – This is a new Hobbyists club that will start soon. Randy Darwick explained the game to meeting attendees while Stu Levine demonstrated how to play. The first meeting of Cornhole players will be in the church auditorium on Wednesday February 11 at 12:00 noon. Participants will pay a one-time charge of \$10 to cover the cost of equipment. Going forward, the club will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the church. Play will move outdoors when weather permits.
- Golf – Paul Fazio: Golf registration opened on January 1 and will run through February 28. The cost to register is \$15 if paid by February 28th (\$20 if paid after that date). About 70 people have signed up so far. The season will start on April 7 for Tuesday golfers and April 10 for Friday golfers. Golfers who plan to play on Bergen County courses are encouraged to renew their Bergen County ID card (or to obtain a new card if they don't already have one). For the remaining weeks of winter, golfers are also welcome to come out for indoor virtual golf, which meets every Monday morning at the Players Club (348 Evelyn Street, Paramus). Cost is \$37. Bring your own clubs. Balls are provided. Wear soft shoes. Paul finished with another memorable joke.
- Investors Club – Ron Reedy: Ron announced the results of the 2025 investor competition, where members were able to choose from seven portfolio options. The winner was Jim Albes, with a total return of 22.9%. There was a tie for second place with returns of 22.2%. There will be another competition this year, with 12 investment options available. Members who want to participate in the competition should submit their option selections by tomorrow (February 6).
- Music Lovers – Dick Boswell and Steve Friedman, standing in for Jim McKeown: The February Music Lovers meeting on Friday February 13 will host the second annual presentation of parody songs by the Hobbyists Songs team. The presentation will take place in the church auditorium at 10:00 am and will feature about 15 recently posted songs. At today's meeting, the Hobbyists

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Songs team played a teaser for next week's presentation: "Parody Writer" (to the tune of "Paperback Writer" by the Beatles).

- Navigating Retirement – Mitchell Milch: This new group had its second session yesterday and had a very good turnout with good group participation. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the church auditorium. Discussions focus on creating fulfillment in retirement, balancing immediate gratifications with purposeful and meaningful callings, and establishing your legacy, whatever that might be. Each month we will consider a different topic. All Hobbyists are welcome.
- Newsletter – Mike Doherty and Rick Pascal: There will be a special edition of the Newsletter to celebrate the Hobbyists 60th Anniversary. It will be digital, posted on the website, rather than in a printed book. The team working on the special edition of the Newsletter is: Rick Pascal (chairman), Steve Rubin, Mark Singer, Giancarlo Bissone and Mike Doherty. The special edition will include a message from our President, a brief history of the Hobbyists, and input from each Hobbyist activity group. An email will be going out soon to all activity chairmen providing a list of possible things to consider, including a brief history of the activity, comments on the number of members, frequency of meetings, photos, special events to commemorate the 60th anniversary, special competitions, etc. Depending on when input is received from the activities chairmen and the volume of materials received, the 60th Anniversary newsletter will either be a substitute for (or combined with) the regular Spring newsletter, or it may come out as a stand-alone edition between the regular Spring and Summer newsletters. Questions can be directed to Rick Pascal.
- ROMEIO – Cliff Matthews: The next ROMEIO will take place on Friday February 20 at 12:00 noon at Fino Ristorante, 114 W Allendale Ave, Allendale. Sixteen people have signed up already. The January ROMEIO at Justin's had 28 attendees. All are welcome. It's a good opportunity to meet new people, get together with old friends, and have a good meal.

The business meeting concluded at 10:44 a.m.

February program: John Jensen from Valley Health made a presentation about fall prevention and balance.

Respectfully submitted by:
Dick Boswell, Secretary