

Retired Men's Club of Arlington: June 2026 Newsletter

Celebrating our 47th anniversary

A Message from the President

Aligning Our Foundation, Securing Our Future

Fellow Members,

As we enter the beautiful month of June, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible spirit of fellowship that defines the RMCA. Over the last few weeks, whether we were enjoying our trip to PA Dutch Country or kicking off another great season out on the golf course, it is clear that this club remains a vital lifeline and a true brotherhood for so many of us.

We are reminded in Galatians 6:9, "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*" It is with that shared commitment to doing good for each other and our community that we take our next steps forward.

Major Milestone: Leadership Approves New Bylaws, Mission, and Motto

I am incredibly proud to report that our Executive Board has formally approved our new Club Bylaws, as well as our official new Mission and Motto concepts. This is a massive step forward in ensuring our leadership team is completely aligned.

Now, it is your turn to help shape our future. This upcoming **Wednesday, May 27th**, the general membership will officially vote to adopt these new foundational pieces. Please make every effort to attend this vital meeting so your voice can be heard.

Strengthening Our Foundation: Routine Paperwork Cleanup

Once the membership approves our new mission concept this week, the Executive Board will meet to discuss and vote on a corresponding update to our original 1979 State Charter. Pending that board vote, we will bring the final charter text to the floor for a full membership vote on **June 10th**.

Part of this effort involves a little routine administrative cleanup. Currently, our decades-old paperwork includes phrases like "medical rehabilitation" and "psychiatric personnel." As was beautifully pointed out recently, our club absolutely does wonderful work combating loneliness and supporting the mental well-being of our senior members through active

fellowship. However, since we are legally a social brotherhood and not a licensed medical facility, we want to gently update our official state language so it perfectly matches who we are today: **Faith, Fellowship, and Service.**

Modernizing Our Presence: The New RMCA Website

As part of our commitment to moving the club into "modernization mode," I am thrilled to share that we are launching a brand-new digital presence at **rmca.club**. We are currently in the process of building and polishing a fresh, user-friendly website that will make it easier than ever for our current members to stay updated on trips, view dining flyer instructions, and download event forms, while giving us a modern front door to attract new members when our recruitment drive kicks off later this summer.

Shifting Focus to Growth and Recruitment

Right now, the RMCA has a wonderful, dedicated core. Out of our roughly 150 members, we regularly see about 40 active faces at our general meetings and 22 active players hitting the links for golf.

To keep this momentum alive, we need to focus our energy on the future. Rather than spending our time chasing down completely inactive or unpaid accounts, we are going to streamline our roster and redirect all of our collective strength toward a major **New Membership Recruitment Drive** starting at the end of the summer. We want to bring in new faces, fresh energy, and new stories to ensure the RMCA thrives for years to come.

Driving Revenue & Slashing Overhead: Looking at All Options

Our primary goal remains returning our budget back into the black, and we are leaving no stone unturned. I am incredibly happy to report a massive victory on the operational expense front: through positive and collaborative negotiations with the church, **we have successfully cut our monthly fee by 50%, dropping it from \$1,200 a month down to \$600.** This significantly alters our financial health for the better moving forward.

To keep that momentum going, we are continuing to look at every single aspect of the club to find creative ways to raise money:

- **Monthly Dining Fundraisers:** We have established our official **RMCA Dining Series!** This is a fantastic, low-overhead way to enjoy great food and fellowship while supporting our club. Partner restaurants are giving a generous percentage of sales directly back to the RMCA—just make sure to follow the specific instructions below for each location:

- **June: The Heights Pub (Arlington)** – *Tuesday, June 16, 2026.* (15% of your bill goes back to RMCA! **Instructions:** Mention you are with the Retired Men's Club.)
- **July: The Chateau Restaurant (Waltham)** – *Thursday, July 9, 2026.* (20% of food sales goes back to RMCA! **Instructions:** Tell your server to "**FLAG YOUR CHECK.**")
- **August: The Smoke Shop BBQ (Woburn)** – *Thursday, August 13, 2026.* (20% of food sales goes back to RMCA! **Instructions:** Mention you are with the Retired Men's Club when paying.)
- **September: Fiorella's Cucina (Burlington)** – *Tuesday, Sept 15, 2026* (15% of food sales goes back to RMCA! **Instructions:** Mention you are with the Retired Men's Club when paying.)
- **Re-evaluating the Summer BBQ:** We initially explored hosting a large summer BBQ fundraiser; however, current catering quotes are coming in around \$5,000 for 100 people. Without a major sponsor to cover those upfront costs, this is simply not a manageable expense for the club right now. However, I am entirely open to ideas, creative alternatives, or possible sponsors for a **July BBQ**. If you have any leads on how we can make this work affordably, please share them with me!
- **Upcoming Club Trips & Crucial Deadlines:** We have an amazing lineup of excursions coordinated with *Best of Times Travel*. You can pick up and download the official flyers and registration forms at our website, but please note the critical payment deadlines below. **Please bring your checkbooks and register at our upcoming meeting on Wednesday, June 10th!**
 - **Newport Harbor Cruise (Wednesday, July 29, 2026):** Includes your choice of Chicken, Seafood, or Veggie. Cost is \$148. **Payment due date: June 22, 2026.** (We need a 40-passenger minimum, so please sign up to lock in our numbers!)
 - **Beach Boys Tribute Show (Wednesday, August 19, 2026):** Features Foster's Clambake with your choice of Lobster or BBQ Chicken. Cost is \$159. **URGENT:** *Best of Times Travel* has notified us that this popular show is **nearly sold out**. If you want a seat, you must sign up and pay at this upcoming meeting.
 - **Spirit of Boston Cruise (Friday, September 4, 2026):** Includes a buffet lunch, bingo, dancing, and music. Cost is \$159. **Payment due date: July 31, 2026.**
- **Annual Dues Reminder:** Just a reminder that our modest adjustment to \$40 takes effect January 1, 2027. You can beat the increase by taking advantage of our **Early Bird Incentive** and renewing at the current \$35 rate any time before December 31st.

Upcoming Highlights

- **General Membership Meeting (Bylaws, Mission, & Motto Vote):** Wednesday, May 27th
- **Executive Board Meeting (Charter Discussion & Vote):** Thursday, May 28th
- **General Membership Meeting (Charter Vote):** Wednesday, June 10th
- **Executive Board Meeting (Regular Session):** Wednesday, June 17th
- **Second June General Meeting:** Wednesday, June 24th
- **RMCA Weekly Golf:** Every Tuesday morning!

Let us move into this summer with clear vision, grateful hearts, and a shared dedication to strengthening our brotherhood.

Warm regards,

Jim Haynie President, RMCA

The Singing Grandpops

The Grandpops are the ambassadors of the Club, bringing joy and happiness wherever they go. Singers are still needed (no professional ability required). Contact Ray Carmichael or Tom Woodbury to join.

Follow us

on Facebook: Singing Grandpops- RMCA

June Performance Schedule:

6/5 Stoneham COA, 136 Elm St, Friday 1:30

6/11 Gables, 299 Cambridge St, Winchester, Thursday 2:00

6/17 Regina Cleri, 60 Wm Cardinal O'Connell Way, Boston Wednesday 1:00

Practice: Wednesdays at 10:00 AM (unless it is a meeting day, then practice is after the meeting)

Club Trips and Guest Speakers

Trips: Our travel program provides a social experience for everyone. Please visit

www.rmcarlington.org/trips

for details.

Upcoming Speakers

6/10 TBD

6/24 Dan Breen Coconut Grove Fire

Weekly Activities and Groups

Cribbage: Mondays at 9:45 (Lower Church hall) Dues: \$8.00/week. Women are welcome to play!

Chair: John Boudreau; Asst: John Matte

Poker: Mon/Wed/Fri, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Stakes 10/20 cents: \$5.00 buy in

Golf: League begins Tuesday, May 5. Contact Mike Comer (978-657-6521) or Chris Ciano (781-643-9152)

Drop in Center: Open Monday thru Friday for fellowship.

Membership and Giving

- 2026 Dues: \$35.00 Please mail to Tony Masci, RMCA, PO Box 195, Arlington, MA 02476-0002
- FundRaiser: The next Chateau Fundraiser is Thursday, July 9
- 501(C) (3) Status: Donations are tax-deductible. Consider IRA distributions or donor-advised funds for estate planning
- Donations: to support the club, send to PO Box 195, Arlington, MA, 02476-0002 Attention Tony Masci

RMCA Contact Information

Website: www.rmcarlington.org

- Trips and Activities: Jim Haynie – 781-218-9073 / RMCAActivities@gmail.com
- Programs: Phil Ste Marie – 781-894-6157
- Membership: Joe DiBacco – 978-486-4395
- Newsletter Editor: Joe Clark – 978-337-8230

Meeting Reminder: 2ND and 4th Wednesday / Doors Open: 9:00 AM / Location: St Camillus Lower Hall