



THE FLASH

TACO
TUESDAY

February 18, 2025

President Bill Pfeifer called the meeting to order & led us in the Pledge of Allegiance

Acapella – God Bless America

Brian Beeghly - Invocation

Mark Barnhart – Attendance was 31 members, 1 visitor: Lauren Beckes with Amy Hood.

Happy Bucks- Colton Hearn (\$45 was collected)

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED: Marcus Ragland inducted two new members into the Club. Alec Italiano was proposed by Gene James and David Stephens was proposed by Patty Lonsbary. WELCOME!!!



TODAY'S PROGRAM:

Jim Litrun, Field Representative for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy was our guest speaker today. He provided some very interesting facts regarding the Academy. Here are a few highlights.

President Franklin Roosevelt called the U.S. Merchant Marines the 4th arm of our National Defense. China has 7,000 ships carrying cargo all over the world. The U.S. has 80 ships, with 17 of those being “mothballed”. Congress had designated \$1 billion to our defense with \$100 million of that earmarked for the U.S. Merchant Marines.

There are 17 steps to complete applications for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. There are currently 86 applicants in PA, with 30 being complete. Each applicant has to maintain very high standards to be considered. He or She would need 1400+ SAT scores, 200 hours of community service and high GPAs. They also need to have a letter of recommendation from an elected official, such as a PA State Representative.

The new class of July 2025 will have 285 enrolled, of which 230 will likely graduate. Each will receive a \$300,000 education provided by the US Gov't. After graduation, they will have to complete a minimum 5- year commitment and they can enter the military branch of their choice.

There appear to be many wonderful opportunities within the U.S. Merchant Marines and would be a great avenue for the right candidates.



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rotary of Greensburg will again participate in the March for Parks on March 29th and Walk a Mile in Her Shoes on April 26th. If you are interested in joining, please speak with Yvonne. Please consider volunteering for Happy Bucks and the Invocation. We have some dates that still need to be filled.

