

## Stonebridge Men's Club

Don Marino

It's hard to believe that spring is almost here, and hopefully the cold weather is behind us. This means football is over and baseball season is approaching. However, as I wrote this article in early February, the Super Bowl has yet to be played. So, for those whose team lost or never made it to the game, better luck next year!

January 27, our first meeting of the year, featured historian Detective James Calaski (photo) of Glen Rock, who enlightened us with an excellent slide and video presentation about Hindenburg, the largest airship ever built. The Hindenburg made 10 successful roundtrips to the United States during 1936, but in 1937 had an historic disaster. He enlightened us about various conspiracy theories including sabotage and weather which may have caused the terrible fire and explosion while attempting to land at the nearby Lakehurst Naval Air Station. The most likely cause was static electricity which ignited hydrogen leaking from a tear in a fabric gas bag in the ship. At that time, Germany used hydrogen for airships. American airships utilized helium which is not flammable. We had a monopoly on helium and would not sell it to Germany. There were 61 crew and 36 passengers onboard: amazingly, just 36 perished including one person on the ground. That disaster shattered public confidence in airships and marked the end of the airship era.

Our February 24 meeting featured Monroe Township Mayor Steven Dalina who discussed what's going on in the Township. A joint event of the Veterans and Men's Clubs will be held on March 10 with guest speaker James Drummond, Vietnam War Veteran, former POW



Detective James Calaski

and Captain. Our annual buffet breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday, March 22. Guest speaker Sal St. George will return to present a fascinating account on the life of Sidney Poitier. Many thanks to Charlie Zeichner and his Activities Committee for bringing entertaining events to our members, and to Fred Block for his ad displays.

Mark August 11 on your calendar for our annual Charity Golf Outing. This year's event will be held at the Rossmoor Community Golf Course. Other fundraising events are being planned for later this year including our annual evening at a minor league baseball game, and a day of horse racing at Monmouth Park. These are just some of the numerous events to look forward to.

Anyone interested in joining the Men's Club and participating in our great activities, can contact Marty Leffler at [membership@stonebridgemensclub.com](mailto:membership@stonebridgemensclub.com) or simply drop off a \$25 check in the Men's Club mailbox at the Clubhouse. All new members will receive a Men's Club T-shirt. Any member interested in joining a committee or the Board and being a part of putting these programs together can email me at [www.stonebridgemensclub.com](http://www.stonebridgemensclub.com).

For more information about the Men's Club, please visit our website at [stonebridgemensclub.com](http://stonebridgemensclub.com). Watch for our emails on these and future events planned through the end of the year. Have a great spring.

