



## GENERAL ORDERS No. 6

## RE: February 2023 Meeting

**Main Presentation:** This month we welcome *George Hesselberg*. He will be providing a presentation titled *Dead Lines Slices of Life from the Obit Beat*. In a lively collection of feature obituaries and related news stories, longtime newspaper reporter George Hesselberg celebrates life, sharing the most fascinating stories that came from decades of covering the obit and public safety beats. In more than forty years at the Wisconsin State Journal, Hesselberg frequently found himself writing about fatal accidents, crime investigations, and the deaths of the wealthy, famous, or notorious. But he was most drawn to the curious, the unknown, and the unsung—the deaths that normally wouldn't make much of a splash, if any mention at all, in the news columns of a daily paper. Their stories are alternately amusing, sad, surprising, and profound. Together they speak to a shared human experience and inspire us to see the people around us with new eyes, valuing the lives while they are still being lived.

George Hesselberg is a retired reporter for the Wisconsin State Journal. He covered every beat, wrote hundreds of news obituaries of the famous and the not-so-famous, and was a columnist for eighteen years. In addition to his long career in journalism, he has worked in Wisconsin as a cheesemaker, stagehand, gravedigger, sign painter, and barn roofer. A native of Bangor, Wisconsin, Hesselberg graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and studied philosophy, logic, and language at the University of Oslo.

**Date:** February 9, 2023 (second Thursday)

**Place:** Hop Haus Brew Pub, 2975 Sub-Zero Pkwy, Fitchburg, WI

**Social:** 6:00 PM

**Optional Dinner:** 6:15 PM. Order from the menu when you arrive

**Dinner Request:** To support Hop Haus staffing, they request the number of people planning to dine. Please make your dining request by the Monday before the meeting via email [Madison.history.roundtable@gmail.com](mailto:Madison.history.roundtable@gmail.com), website (Contact/Dinner Reservations) or by calling Rich Fronek at **608-669-0970**. Leave your name and number of attendees. **DO NOT REPLY TO THE EMAIL MEETING NOTICE TO MAKE RESERVATIONS.**

**Business Meeting:** 7:00 PM

**Presentation:** 7:15 PM. Free to the public. No reservations needed

### Upcoming Events:

**March 9, 2023 – MHRT Meeting – A Discussion on the Career of Retired Madison Police Chief David Couper by Rob Zaleski**

- **Book Sale** – We will be offering a book sale at our monthly meetings. Each book is \$1, take as many as you like. You are also welcome to bring a book for sale. Proceeds go to the MHRT.

**Publicity:** Find out about the Madison History Roundtable at our web site <https://www.madisonhistoryroundtable.com>, Facebook (search on Madison History Roundtable) and email [madhrt@googlegroups.com](mailto:madhrt@googlegroups.com). Spread the word to your friends, colleagues and co-workers.

**Membership:** The 2022 - 2023 season dues are \$30. The season runs September – May. Dues are used to cover the operating and speaker expenses of the Madison History Roundtable. You can mail your dues to the **MHRT Treasurer – 9 Flad Circle, Madison, WI 53711**. If you have a personal PayPal account, you can send in your dues to the MHRT PayPal email address: [wsayles1950@gmail.com](mailto:wsayles1950@gmail.com). Attending the meetings are free and the public is welcome. Guests can check us out before deciding if they want to become a member.

**Day Trip:** We are gathering some ideas for a day trip this coming spring; May or June. Please bring your ideas to the meeting or contact Rich Fronek.

**MHRT Website:** Check out our web site at: <https://www.madisonhistoryroundtable.com>. You can find information on the MHRT schedule, list of speakers and meeting dates amongst other information. You can also “signup” for MHRT membership. We will be periodically be updating the web site with meeting notices, upcoming events and activities. Let us know what other information you might want posted on the site.

**Wisconsin Historical Society Membership #: 91646.** MHRT is a WHS organization member. Use this number for free admission to WHS sites and 10% discounts for in-store and online purchases.



**By Order of**

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