

Past President and past secretary Paul Butler passed away on Wednesday. Preliminary plans are for a service at the end of next week but I haven't heard definite plans – perhaps later today it will be announced.

For those newer members who didn't have the opportunity to meet Paul, he joined the club in 1974 and was our president in 1980-81. During that year the club sponsored Oliver at Portland Players and the tree sale had a profit of \$8,500.

He was club secretary from July 1996 - December 2013. This was in the December 18, 2013 bulletin (Paul's last week as secretary):

HEY, PAUL! With apologies to Paul and Paula, Billy & the Divas (aka Bill Daviero, Adrienne Murphy, Chuck Redman, Frank Butterworth and Tom Meyers) butchered – I mean sang – their variation of “Hey Paula” (it starts out “Hey Paul, we wanna retire with you”). That was just the beginning of the fun as we listened to stories about retiring secretary Paul Butler from several club members – Nancy H, Dan M, Phil D, Kathy R, Bags, and in absentia: Bob Flynn & Wayne Goodrich. There were also numerous happy dollars in honor of Paul. Joining us for the festivities were Jan Butler and their youngest daughter Gail White, along with her children Kelsey & Benjamin.

And then the next bulletin had this message from Paul:

From the RETIRED Secretary: I've been surprised a few times in my life, but the surprise on the 18th of December really caught me off guard. Kathy Ray greeted me before 5:30, and I thought nothing of it. Two spouses drifted in, and Claudette told me that Phil owed her “a night out.” When Sally came in, that didn't raise any eyebrows either!! Now maybe if a dozen or so spouses had come in, I would have suspected that the Christmas party planned by Ellie wasn't going to happen. What a night. One of my daughters, two of my grandchildren from Windham and my wife came walking through the hall door, and I was speechless. I had already asked some of the guys to save me a seat at the back of the room. And when it was time for me to sit down, they told me that my seat was no longer available. Did you see me hesitate, as I didn't know who to sit with!! I enjoyed all of the “presentations” that people gave which were outlined in the last newsletter. Many, many thanks to all of you and to President Ellie who allowed this all to happen and to Kathy Ray who pulled it off.

Here are a couple photos of Paul and Jan at his 90th birthday party three years ago – followed by some snapshots that I hastily scanned just now, taken from when the Butlers invited me to join them in going to the RI Convention in Los Angeles in 2007.





