

Major General by Deborah Thomas Neal

He is the very model of a CMCA President.
He built a house on 5th Street and he's now a full-time resident,
He volunteers for causes that promote a safe environment
But he is stepping down so he can work on his retirement.

He organized course management for profs in universities
So they could spend their time discussing Hegel, Marx and Socrates.
His knowledge of mathematics and statistics is phenomenal
He rides his bike to exercise his quads and his abdominals

He runs the meetings gracefully informing the community,
He checks with lawyers often to assure our group immunity,
He signs the checks, and checks the signs and samples every potluck dish
And often he checks who owns what, regarding where we hike and fish,

He finds his house with latitude and longitude coordinates
And makes his minions feel like they were never his subordinates,
He knows just where to stand to use an iPhone to call Take-Out
And he keeps track of the calendar, to find us when we flake out.

For someone of his age he's versed in matters of the Internet
As skilled as any child with a Nintendo might expect to get
His students far and wide agree his comments are meticulous
When grading their exams on topics useful and ridiculous,

He shops online for groceries-they arrive completely fresh by drone
The ice cream hasn't melted and the cow is mooing on the bone
He's notified by email of the date and of the hour
They'll arrive, and for the most part nothing's spoiled or even sour.

He navigates Cape Meares Next Door insuring proper clarity
Erasing inappropriate submissions –(that's a rarity)
This man helped build a shed that's meant to last more than 100 years
And bushwhacked through the woods with nothing but a pair of garden shears.

He packs emergency supplies for people stranded here on trips
By earthquakes and tsunamis or the imminent apocalypse,
He trains his neighbors in Mid-Cape to whom he is accountable
To handle most emergencies they think are insurmountable.

He memorized criteria required by the Planning Board
And researched land use options only wackos thought they could afford,
He supervised procurement of our European water tank
It's elevation's slightly low, for that we don't know who to thank.....

The neighbors down on 5th complain the power pump's too noisy
And they call up Charles stating they can hear it clear in Boise
He puts up with the complaining whether sunny, cold, or raining
And he shields the members of the board because they are in training.

He sends out full agendas with attention to each pressing issue,
Memorized the Bylaws writing each ten times on bathroom tissue,
Quotes the Constitution from Preamble to conclusion
And the Gettysburg Address rolls off his tongue with great profusion.

It is rumored, though not verified, that one night when he'd had a few
Ansoorge got fed up and went and got himself a big tatoo,
We're betting his design of choice was practical and quite discreet,
Like Robert's Rules of Order, or a Topo Map of 7th Street

His wife is very patient. As a gardener she's very tough
She grows her plants organically and fertilizes just enough.
She tolerates attendance at a plethora of gatherings
Regardless of their purpose, length, or need for formal blatherings.

She finds the endless meetings penciled in to family scheduals
Too frequent, and redundant for a single individual.
She loves her brilliant husband and she's proud of all his noble deeds
But misses all his expertise attacking moles and whacking weeds.

So recently he stepped down from the CMCA podium
To make his life more tranquil and perhaps get off Imodium,
The day-to-day of leadership has proven never-ending
Not to mention going home with tasks just barely worth defending.

At least he hasn't left the Board completely, just the top dog post,
He's busier than ever watching out for dudes who trash the coast
His work to make us tax exempt will shine in perpetuity,
Too bad this job did not provide him with a small annuity.

We love him and admire his hard work and his proclivity
For facing up to problems of tectonic re-activity,
He's helped CMCA to find its mission in the present
And to be the one to fill his shoes will no doubt be unpleasant.