

The Reminder



January 2015

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan

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John Steele's Presidency Teamwork, Quality and Volunteerism

When John Steele became the Club's 59th president in January, 2014, he stated that his highest priority would be membership - specifically initiatives to recruit new members and retain current members. Now a year later, John is part of a team that is producing impressive results. The Club's membership decline has been reversed, and membership count stabilized.

"These results came from excellent teamwork," said John. "The President is like a coach, and the officers and committee members are the team players. Together, they perform in harmony with positive results." Several interest groups have been added this year. They include the genealogy group, a chorus, and walking and spinning groups. Another new activity was having introductory meetings with members of The Grosse Pointe Senior Men's Club.



Advanced technology is another area in which John Steele has played a leadership role. Again, working as a team, the Improvement Committee and Publicity Committee have created a new web page that is attractive and easy to use. A future application could include additional articles and photographs for *The Reminder*. A PowerPoint slide show was developed this year. It runs before each Friday meeting and during lunch, helping members stay informed of upcoming events and new members.

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JANUARY PROGRAMS

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: Joe Murphy

- 2 NO MEETING
- 9 Howard Victor, Malpractice Attorney.....*Medical Malpractice Law in Michigan, as it Pertains to Elder Care Patients*
- 16 Dr. Timothy Page, Ophthalmic Surgeon*Eye Surgery*
- 23 Geoffrey Fieger, Attorney.....*Fieger on Everything*
- 30 Ike McKinnon, Deputy Mayor, Detroit.....*About Detroit*

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY CHAIRMAN: Bob Kenning

- 6 Maury Okun, Exec. Director, Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings.....*Why I Love Music*

JANUARY DISCUSSIONS

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: Irv Poston

- 2 NO MEETING
- 9 Dr. Maurice Lefford, SMC Member, Emeritus Professor Wayne State University *The Neanderthal in All of Us*
- 16 Diane K. Bert, PhD, Historian.....*Things I Have Learned About Some Interesting Birmingham Area People*
- 23 Rev. Joanne Blair, First Presbyterian Church - Birmingham.....*Better Together: Affirming Persons of All Abilities*
- 30 Alison Miller, Special Olympics Michigan *Why Special Olympics Are So Special*

FEBRUARY DISCUSSIONS

FEBRUARY CHAIRMAN: John Perryman

- 6 Dave Dinger, SMC Member *Union Artillery in the Civil War*

New Associates:

Arthur P. Kaye

1984 Hunters Ridge Drive
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-1036
248-253-8916
apk1222@gmail.com
Sponsor: Dick Bradley

Charles A. White

31055 Pickwick Lane
Beverly Hills, MI 48025-5240
248-566-3109
charleswhite1944@gmail.com
Sponsor: Bob Beach

Deaths:

Tom Van Voorhis (Life),
joined September 1996

James A. Green
joined November 2005

Resigned:

Thomas J. Lahiff

- Pete Kass, Membership Chairman
- Robert Beach, Database Chairman
- Bill Shaffmaster, Tom Booth
& Gene Markel, Photography



Drs. John and Cindy Judson went on safari in Kenya and will share more pictures like this beautiful lion. Join the Camera Group on Tuesday, January 13, at 2:00PM for "It's Better Than the Zoo." See page 5 for more details.



In Memorium

The Senior Men's Club lost 29 vital and respected members last year. Viewing this list makes us realize how precious life is, as well as reminding us about the many contributions these men made to our Club.

- Douglas F. Allison
- Jacinto M. Anaya
- Jack Casement
- William I. Chapman
- James J. Conlon
- Jack H. Cvengros
- William F. Dahlin
- S. Larry Dargan
- Francis DeGrande
- Louis G. DeMaris
- George E. Flintosh
- James A. Green
- William J. Hartman
- Robert E. Jackson
- Donald W. Jensen
- Robert T. Kelly
- Paul C. Kennedy
- Ralph F. Lee
- Paul J. Pentecost
- Benjamin K. Porter Jr.
- John M. Rady
- James A. Schaefer
- Thomas M. Scott
- Elson P. Spangler
- Richard O. Straight
- Alan G. Thomson
- Marc M. Twinney
- Tom Van Voorhis
- Donald D. Walker



Games



Winter Golf

Winter Practice is open to all Senior Men's Club members. It is not necessary to have played in the Monday or Thursday Leagues. If you have not played in years and want to try again; come on out and give it a whirl as you are probably better than half of us that go "Doming."



2015 Winter Golf Practice at the Oakland Yard Dome will begin on Thursday, January 8 at 9:30AM. The fee is \$10 for all the balls you wish (or can) hit for one and one half hours. The fee includes complimentary coffee and donuts.

Following practice we plan to gather at Hero's Restaurant for lunch and fellowship. Hero's is offering the same great discount on the whole meal as last year.

The Dome is located at 5328 Highland Rd, Waterford, Michigan, 248-673-0100. Directions:

- ▷ North on Telegraph Rd. to Highland Rd. (a.k.a. M59)
- ▷ Left (West) on Highland Rd. approximately 5-6 miles As you cross Crescent Lake Rd. you will see the Dome in the distance over your right fender, set back from the highway.
- ▷ There is a strip mall on the right with a tall "Subway" sign near the end. Immediately past the sign turn right into the Dome driveway

—The Committees

SMC Promotional Brochure

The Executive Board has approved development and distribution of a revised version of the Club's promotional brochure. Revisions to brochure text, listing of notable speakers and pictures of members attending and participating in Club events and activities are included.

The brochure is intended to communicate the values and appeal of the Senior Men's Club to motivate member prospect interest and potential membership.

Current members will be asked to distribute the new brochure to friends, neighbors, etc. to continue expansion of our membership ranks. The revised brochure will be available after the first of the year.



—Dick Harper

Sports Trivia

The December sports trivia test proved to be quite a challenge. We asked if you could remember the Detroit Tiger whose middle name was "Cummings." Only Lynn Evans, Pete Kass, Dick Smith and Clay Gordon recognized that the answer had to be Dick "Cummings" Wakefield. This outfielder was baseball's first "Bonus Baby," signing for the grand total of \$52,000 – a tidy sum in 1941! Wakefield was not the best fielding outfielder – he would have fared much better in the current designated hitter era. He had a career batting average of .293.



This month, we will ask you to remember another Tiger – a pitcher who in 1952 won only 5 games, while losing 19. But, he pitched two no-hitters and two one hitters during that season. Can you name him? (Remember, as Irv Poston once said – we are on the honor system – no googling for answers.)

—Dick Harper

Bowling

With one week to go in our first half, a tight battle has developed for team leadership. The Impalas (Ted Chapekis, John Wargelin, Bob Beach and Art Byington) have 70 points



– slightly ahead of the Chargers (Chuck Ragains, Tom Venier, Nick Marinelli and Bob Jordan) with 67 points. These teams will meet in a position round to determine the first half winner. Stay tuned.

We have been short of bowlers all year – not filling our 8 team lineup. Looking ahead to next year, Chairman Tom Venier conducted a brief survey asking bowlers to choose between two options for next year – 6 teams of four bowlers or 8 teams of three bowlers. The first option was strongly preferred and will be our planned lineup for next season. Of course, we continue to look for new bowlers right now, particularly since we will lose a few snowbirds shortly. We guarantee that new bowlers will fit in and will have fun. Call Tom Venier (248-642-2386) with any questions or just show up at Thunderbird Lanes on Maple at 9:00AM any Monday or Wednesday (practice.)

—Dick Harper

Outstanding Service Award

President John Steele recently presented the Club's most prestigious individual honor, the Outstanding Service Award, to member **Dave Dinger**. This award is intended to recognize long-standing and multi-faceted contributions to the Senior Men's Club.



Dave has been a member since 2004, with a lengthy list of service and involvement with Club activities including officer positions and committee chairing. Most recently, he has chaired the Attendance Committee, bringing imagination and innovative thinking to improving the role of this important Club function. Congratulations, Dave!

—Dick Harper

President's Award

Each year, we recognize significant and noteworthy contributions to our Club with the President's Award, which goes to a selected, honored member. At a December meeting, outgoing President John Steele presented this award to member **James Bayson**. Jim has efficiently and effectively led the Club's ad hoc Improvement Committee



in recommending meaningful changes. Perhaps most importantly, he established a process by which we can make improvements. In the past, changes have evolved slowly to achieve in our Club. Now through Jim's efforts, we have a process to collect and develop possible changes, to seek approval and establish an implementation plan. Specific actions taken include:

- Development of volunteer opportunities for member consideration
 - Expanded and improved lunch selections
 - Established a volunteer driver arrangement for members
 - Developed video streaming of club and member activities at Friday meetings
 - Choral group now in formation
- Congratulations and thanks, Jim!

—Dick Harper

...continued from page 1

John Steele

When asked what advice he would give to current and future Club leaders, John stressed teamwork and volunteerism by Club members. "I enjoyed my year as President," he said. "It was an honor and a privilege to serve. I would encourage all members to get involved. There are opportunities for virtually every interest."

—Chuck Ragains

Senior Health Matters Tips for Conversations with Someone with Hearing Loss

- Face the person when speaking to them
- Keep areas well lit
- Get their attention before you begin talking
- In social situations, try to seat them in an area with less background noise
- Speak a little more loudly, but don't shout
- Speak at your usual pace. There's no need to s-l-o-w your speech pattern and put everyone to sleep.
- No exaggerated mouth movements. Most hard-of-hearing persons have learned "normal" lip reading

Hearing loss due to the aging process can begin in the early 60s. Between 25 and 40% of the population over age 65 and 80% of those over age 80 have hearing loss. The social and emotional consequences are considerable and can result in impairment of cognitive function and understanding of health care information.

—Augustine L. Perrotta, DO
Chairman, Visitation-Health



Detroit Police Chief James Craig received a standing ovation after his recent appearance, as well as a thank you gift from President John Steele.

Groups



Book Reading Groups

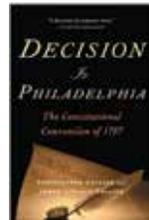
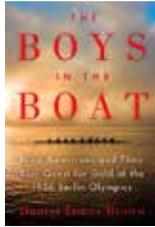
On Wednesday, January 7 at 3:00PM we will discuss "Decision in Philadelphia"

by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. The authors set the scene of the Great Constitutional Convention and offer biographical sketches of the major participants—Washington, Hamilton, Madison, The Pinckney's, Elbridge Gerry, and others. Many compromises were necessary to write a constitution that would be acceptable to the 55 members and the voters of the thirteen colonies.

These men were willing to split their differences. They were not ideologues who would concede nothing. If these men had not made mutual concessions there would be no Constitution and no United States as we know it today.

On Monday, January 19 at 10:30AM the group will discuss "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown. The book chronicles the long, passionate journey of the University of Washington's rowing team to the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The journey of one rower, Joe Rantz, forms the emotional center on the narrative. Rantz was a tall, strapping country boy who had largely been fending for himself after being abandoned by his family. In 1933 he gets a shot as a freshman on the UW rowing team. Brown explores an extraordinary moment in sports history that is almost forgotten. The underdog members of this eight man crew beat out their east coast rivals to represent the USA in the Olympics.

—Chuck Travers



Investment Group

On Wednesday, January 14 at 2:45PM, Bill Bottrell, VP & Retirement Plan Consultant, UBS, Birmingham Office will discuss the UBS outlook for the market for 2015. He will address:

- Market sectors UBS likes for 2015
- Are the markets overvalued after the large gains of recent years?
- Where are interest rates going?
- What are UBS's top themes for the new year?

The stock game leader is Mike Clement with a 25.9% gain – we have 69 entries this year – same as last year.

—George Miller



Classic Movie Group

On Monday, January 12, Irv Poston will present one of his favorite James Bond films, "Goldfinger" (1964), at 1:00PM. This entertaining and exciting film is the third in the James Bond Series and stars Sean Connery, who many people consider to be the "best" James Bond. Full of ingenious gadgets, fast cars, really bad villains in the classic tradition, and an exciting climax inside Fort Knox, this is a movie sure to please all viewers. Expect a bright clear picture, with subtitles, excellent sound and great Popcorn. So please plan to join us to enjoy this classic film.

—Fred Hansz



Camera Group

Join us on Tuesday, January 13, at 2:00 PM for "It's Better Than the Zoo." In February 2014 the Drs. John and Cindy Judson visited Kenya for both church and personal purposes; the personal purposes being to take a safari. While in-country the Judsons visited 3 National Parks/Reserves (Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha and Masai Mara) where they got up close and personal with everything from lions, to leopards to giraffe. Most of the pictures which will be shared were taken with a Nikon d3200. Join us as the Judsons recount the fun and adventure of their Kenyan journey.

—John Slocum



Computer Group

On Wednesday, January 21 at 3:00PM our guest speaker will be Zachary R. Bell, Business Sales Specialist at the Microsoft Store in the Somerset Collection in Troy. Zachary will give us some insight as to what is known to date about Windows 10 and when it is scheduled for release. He will also discuss some of the other Microsoft products that make computers and tablets more user friendly. He is very knowledgeable about most electronic products having worked for Apple as well as Microsoft. There will be time for Q & A at this meeting. Everyone is welcome.

—Ron Denton

Special Events

Christmas Party

Once again, our Special Events Committee took on a formidable challenge – that of planning and conducting a Club Christmas party which at least equaled the previous year's event. And guess what?; they did it again. The 2014 party held at the San Marino Club was warm and wonderful – the many smiling faces of members, wives and guests were testimony to how successful the party was.



Event Chairman Tony DiMarco and his team deserve full credit for such a perfect evening, which was enjoyed by more than 250 attendees. Tony launched the evening with introductory comments, and was followed by welcomes from Mike Clement, Special Events Committee Chairman, outgoing President John Steele and a solemn invocation by Past President John Flintosh.

A sumptuous meal followed, with the Pro's Big Band providing appropriate background music. After dinner a surprising number of nimble-footed members and guests took to the floor as the band played the classic "Moonlight Serenade" and many other favorites.

We recognized the seasonal theme of the party with our traditional Christmas sing-along, as we reflected on how great life can be and how important Club membership is when enjoyed with such good friends. Congratulations to Mike Clement and his team. Let's do it again in 2015!

Rumors About "Rumors"

On Thursday, March 19 go to the Baldwin Theater in Royal Oak for the play "Rumors," Neil Simon's hilarious door-slamming farce is all about mystery, mayhem and miscommunication. Four couples gather to celebrate the New York deputy mayor's anniversary only to find their host has been shot and his wife is missing. First to arrive at the party, Ken and Chris try to hide the wounded mayor from the other guests. While rumors abound, the situation takes on comedic confusion as nobody can remember who has been told what and about whom.

Prior to the play, we will dine at Lily's Seafood which is just around the corner from the theater. Tickets on sale January 23.



—Jerry Stribbell

2015 Detroit Auto Show

This is your last reminder that on Thursday, January 22, 2015, we will make our annual bus excursion to the Detroit Auto Show at Cobo Hall. Auto manufacturers from across the globe will have many new production models and design concept vehicles on display. It's a great opportunity to check out the new models if you are in the market for a car!



Ticket sales will continue on January 9 and January 16. This event offers the conveniences of no driving, no parking, no coat check needed, and no admission fee this year, thanks to the generosity of Tom Sellers from Dean Sellers Ford, who is donating complimentary admission passes for everyone. We have chartered two buses this year so we will be happy to welcome wives and significant others.

Tickets for the bus ride are \$15. Our buses will leave the First Presbyterian Church parking lot (1669 W. Maple) at 9:30AM, depart from the Auto Show at 2:30 PM, and return to the church at about 3:15 PM.

This event is generally a sell-out, so don't wait - buy your tickets now. We'll see you on the bus!

—Jim King



January 22 – Auto Show

February – No Event – Too many members in Florida!

March 19 – Baldwin Theater, Royal Oak – "Rumors"

April 21 – Detroit Institute of Arts

May 20 – Toledo Mud Hens

June - TBD – Holocaust Center & Ginapolis Restaurant

July 22 – River Cruise

August 7 or 14 – Picnic and Car Show

September 24 – Stratford – "Sound of Music"

October TBD – Tour of Lansing

November TBD – Tour of Downtown Detroit

December 9 – Annual Christmas Party

The schedule will be updated in The Reminder

—Mike Clement

Life Members Dues

This is truly an amazing club. Even though Life Members are not required to pay annual dues, many continue to do so. Such generosity contributes to the financial stability of our Club. We can report to you that 37 Life Members have responded to this notice, contributing nearly \$1500 in optional dues.

Here's a list of these generous members – thanks so much. And it's not too late for more – our Finance staff is more than happy to accept payments, even into 2015.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Charles Amann | Robert E. Lyle |
| Frank M. Barnes | John D. MacInnes |
| Lowell H. Barnett | Richard R. Melcher |
| Lewis L. Buckley | John J. O'Brien |
| Theodore A. Chapekis | Donald C. Overy |
| Bryon R. Converse | Mark A. Richards |
| William H. Corba | John E. Schafer |
| Edwin H. Cox | David A. Schwartz |
| Richard A. Hameister | Richard C. Sneer |
| Richard N. Harper | John O. Steele |
| Gerald R. Heller | John J. Villa |
| Richard E. Henne | Roger R. Vogel |
| James K. Holden | Richard A. Wehling |
| John Horiszny | John S. Wells, Jr. |
| Robert S. Kenning | Amos A. Winsand |
| John Lavrakas | |

Horiszny Honored

Member John Horiszny has been recognized as Volunteer of the Year by the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. John has been an active volunteer for many years with his church. Congratulations, John!



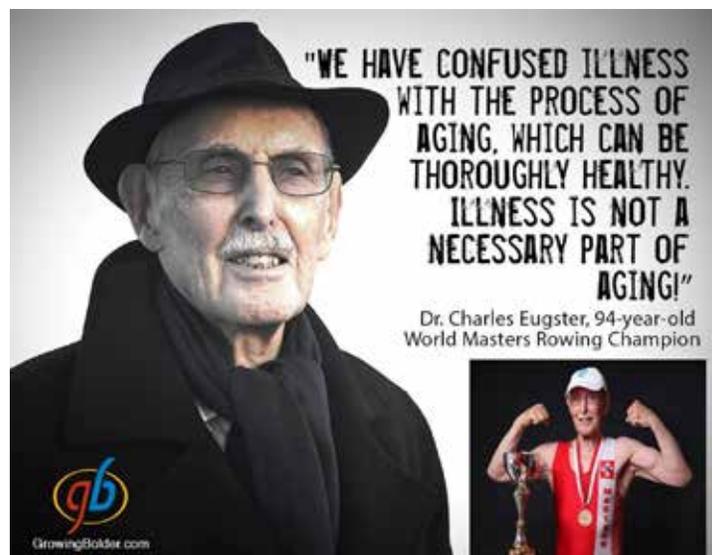
Speakers Needed

Experience tells us that attendance at Friday meetings is almost directly related to the quality and appeal of our principal speakers. In addition, interesting presenters and subjects motivate members to attend Discussion Group programs.



2nd Vice President Dick Kamp will have the overall responsibility of planning speaker presentations, and Roger Krieger will serve as Chairman of the Discussion Group. Dick and Roger will each have the support of eleven monthly chairmen, and will be most interested in getting member suggestions for Friday speakers and Discussion Group presenters.

We know that the wide range of member interests and activities provides access and ideas as to potential Friday speakers and Discussion Group presenters. Please don't hesitate to contact Dick or Roger with any suggestions you might have.



SMC 2015 Dues Coupon

2015 dues are payable before January 1, 2015. A \$10 late fee **must** be added for dues paid after January 1, 2015. Make checks payable to SMC and pay at a meeting or by mail. Please use the coupon if paying by mail.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

If paying by mail, send to:

Senior Men's Club - Dues
The Community House
380 South Bates Street
Birmingham, MI 48009

Dues:

- \$40 Active Member
- \$40 Associate Member
- \$0 Life Member*

**Life Members pay no dues, but many use the coupon to make a voluntary contribution for financial support of our Club.*

Mystery Lyrics

You may recall that we received a lot of correct answers to the November mystery lyrics, so we decided to really test readers



with the December challenge. Boy, did it work! We asked readers to fill in the blanks and name the song with these lyrics:

*Always get that _____
since my baby said goodbye
In the evening when the lights are low,
I'm so lonesome I could cry*

It's clear that you are more familiar with romantic ballads, since only Tom and Rose Marie Venier and Clay Gordon recognized that these lyric lines are from the jazz classic "Mood Indigo." This song has been recorded by many – notably Duke Ellington – but more often as an instrumental, without the lyrics. Hearty congratulations to the Veniers and Clay Gordon.

This month, we have a new theme for you – college drinking songs. What famous one includes these lyrics?

*Gentleman songsters off on a spree
Doomed from here to eternity*

You likely sung this one many years ago – so did Rudy Vallee. Can you name that tune?

—Dick Harper



Dues Past Due?

Dues paid or postmarked after December 31 are subject to a \$10 late fee. For your convenience, you can use the coupon on page seven. Do it now!

THE REMINDER

A monthly publication of the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, which meets on Fridays at 10:30AM at The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, Michigan 48009.

Officers for 2015 are: George L. Stern, president; Eugene P. Jacoby, first vice president; Richard A. Kamp, second vice president; Robert I. Hayes, recording secretary; Charles R. (Dick) Bradley, corresponding secretary; John P. Groves, treasurer; James A. Bayson, assistant treasurer; Charles J. Blank and Pradeep (Pete) Mehra, officers at large; George A. Grove, parliamentarian.

THE REMINDER includes: Dick Harper, editor; Chuck Ragains, and John Flintosh, associate editors; Tom Booth, Bill Shaffmaster, and Geno Markel, photography; Mary Kennedy, computer layout; Bob Jordan, mailing.

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham
380 South Bates St., Birmingham, MI 48009
www.tchserves.org

CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 13 at 9:30AM

Reminder Deadline: Friday, January 16

Games

Bowling: Mondays at 9:00AM at Thunderbird Lanes

Bridge: Tuesdays at 9:00AM and Friday after lunch

Thursday Golf: Begins January 8, 2015 at Oakland Yard Dome at 9:30AM

Special Events

Detroit Auto Show: Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 9:30AM

"Rumors": Thursday, March 19, 2015 at Baldwin Theater, Royal Oak

Group Meetings

Book Reading Groups: Group A: Wednesday, January 7 at 10:30AM

Group B: Monday, January 19 at 3:00PM

Classic Movie Group: Monday, January 12 at 1:00PM

Camera Group: Tuesday, January 13 at 2:00PM

Computer Group: Wednesday, January 21 at 3:00PM

Investment Group: Wednesday, January 14 at 2:45PM

All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.

SMC ON THE WEB:

www.seniormensclubbirmingham.com

www.tchserves.org/outreach-and-clubs/clubs/senior-mens-club-of-birmingham