**Senior Men’s Club of Birmingham**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting – May 1, 2020**

**Preliminary Information and WELCOME:** President Stribbell reminded us that this is the first meeting since March 13 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Zoom App will be used for meetings until we can again physically gather at TCH.

Maynard Timm sang *My Country,’ Tis of Thee.* David Ladd offered the invocation. There were 44 members recognized for having birthdays in May. Swarn Rajpal read the names of 10 recently deceased members followed by a moment of silence.

**CLUB BUSINESS:**

**Minutes**: Minutes of the March 13, 2020 meeting have been posted on the Club’s website.

**Guests:** We had two guests: Edward Cascardo, a retired Ford executive engineer for 30 years was the guest of Malcolm Hendy. Al Kammerer, a retired Ford executive for 34 years, most recently as Product Development Director for Jaguar and Land Rover in the UK was Andy Acho’s guest.

**Life Member Recognition:** Maynard Timm first thanked President Stribbell for his leadership over the past 2 months given the difficult circumstances the Covid-19 situation presented us with. He then read the names of the 11 members to attain Life Member status since January.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** President Stribbell called for the committee reports.

**Visitation and Health:** Swarn Rajpal updated us on the progress of Subhash (Posh) Gulati, Dave Ehlen, Ron Turner, Gene Markel, and Jeff Obear - brother of member Tom Obear.

**Genealogy Group:**  Dave Bakos reported that there will be a meeting via Zoom on Monday May 4th at 2 PM hosted by John Maten.

**Reading Group:** Bob Maxfield informed us that they had 3 Zoom meetings during April. On May 6th, Swarn Rajpal will lead a discussion on the book William Penn: a life by Andrew Murphy. Bob will lead the discussion on May 16th of the book Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover.

**Computer Group:** Tom Allen mentioned that on May 20th at 3 PM, he will talk about different ways to “stay connected” utilizing various software available.

**Special Events:** Jerry Stribbell announced that all events for April and May had previously been cancelled, and now the summer River Cruise has also been cancelled in consideration of the health and wellbeing of our membership.

**Moment of Interest:** John Reddy presented information related to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The Society is an International Catholic organization founded in Paris in 1833 to help individuals and families in need regardless of their religion. World-wide local organizations (conferences) are supported by individual Catholic parish donations. John is involved with the St Thomas More parish in Troy that works with “Neighbors in Need” in Pontiac. Home visits are the most gratifying, but with the pandemic, visits are now conducted via phone. The Society is but one of many dedicated to helping our neighbors.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**:

* Today’s speaker is Sanjay Dutta, CEO, Agni International. His topic is *The Global Plastics Industry & Recycling.*
* Next week’s speaker will be Daniel Howes, The Detroit News, Columnist & Associate Business Editor. His topic will be – *“Michigan Life & Business in the times of Covid-19.”*
* The June Reminder deadline is May 15.
* The Executive Board meeting is Tuesday, May 12 at 9:30 AM via Zoom.
* As of April 29th, 167 donors have given $38,949.25 toward the Annual Giving Initiative for 2020.
* President Stribbell shared some quotes - “Those who spend their time looking for faults in others, have no time to correct their own.” “Make sure you’re happy in real life, not just on the internet.”

### PROGRAM: May Program Chair, Martin Rowell, introduced our speaker Sanjay Dutta. Sanjay’s company provides services Internationally that de-coat and separate rigid, film and fiber plastics. The 1.1 million square foot Ohio facility uses green methods to separate plastics and they are looking to add 2 additional facilities – one being in Michigan. The company received approximately $21 million in funding from the Departments of Defense and Energy to develop 11 patents. They currently hold 26 patents and are awaiting approval of 10 more from Japan. The company can handle cardboard, paper, metal and electronics contamination recycling. They have received several “green” awards. Since tracking the use of plastics began in the 50’s, less than 10 % has been recycled, leading to the accumulation of 125 million pounds of plastic waste making its way to landfills, oceans and our environment. Their method of recycling utilizes several chemical processes that renders the recycled plastic equal to, or better than virgin.

### A very informative question and answer segment revealed some insight into global recycling programs, or lack thereof. Polypropylene use in the US represents the largest plastics grade and accounts for 60% of the waste rate. France, Belgium and Holland are the highest reuse of food waste plastics. The state of Ohio does NOT have a recycling program.

### Zoom Meeting PARTICIPANTS: 124

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Kovceses

Recording Secretary

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