

The Reminder



December 2014

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan

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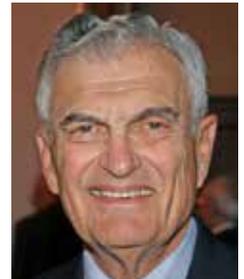
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SMC Marks its 57th Year

George Stern Succeeds John Steele as President

The Senior Men's Club was established in 1957 as a club for men to promote fellowship and cultural interest for its members. This year's anniversary will be celebrated by the transfer of the Club's presidency from John Steele to George Stern with the passing of the Club's leadership gavel. George has been a member since 2008. He most recently served as 1st Vice President.



The question and answer session that follows provides information about George Stern and his views on key issues.

Q. As President, what are your top priorities?

A. My top priorities as President are compassion and thoughtfulness in everything related to the Club. These attributes apply whether it's a Club activity, a recruitment initiative, or a connection in the community.

Q. What is the key to growing our membership?

A. Prospective members have different needs and interests compared to just a few years ago. We have to respond accordingly in our programming, while maintaining our high standards. This is not unique to our Club. Organizations of all types—from churches to country clubs—are facing membership issues.

Q. How would you propose to get more members more involved?

A. I think we've done a good job of creating more opportunities for member involvement. They include a choir, a genealogy group, and a wine tasting group.

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DECEMBER PROGRAMS

DECEMBER CHAIRMAN: Dick Bradley

- 5 James E. Craig, Detroit Police Chief *Crime Reduction*
- 12 Pop Ensemble, Seaholm High School *Selections and Solos of the Season*
- 19 NO MEETING
- 26 NO MEETING

JANUARY PROGRAMS

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: Joe Murphy

- 2 NO MEETING

DECEMBER DISCUSSIONS

DECEMBER CHAIRMAN: Irv Poston

- 5 Carl (SMC Member) & Charlotte Fischer *The Natural Wonders of Australia and New Zealand*
- 12 The Great Emerson (a.k.a. Irv Poston, SMC Member) *Magic as a Hobby*
- 19 NO MEETING
- 26 NO MEETING

JANUARY DISCUSSIONS

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: Irv Poston

- 2 NO MEETING

New Members:



Peter J. Cwik
47652 Arbor Trail
Northville, MI 48168-8500
313-683-3591
letsoblue@aol.com
Sponsor: Dan White



James H. Lamb
25838 Powers Ave.
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125-1425
313-292-9566
jimlamb2224@wowway.com
Sponsor: Dan White



Sami S. Kabbani
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517-817-9912
kabbaniss@gmail.com
Sponsor: Augie Perrotta



William E. Ritter
3924 Glenwood Ct.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326-1879
248-276-0387
wilritter@comcast.net
Sponsor: George Ritter



Verlin J. Warnock
28551 Venice Ct.
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-4148
248-737-4406
VerlinJW5@gmail.com
Sponsor: Bill Sprague



Charles A. Main
31654 Waltham
Beverly Hills, MI 48025-5119
248-645-5734
themains@hotmail.com
Sponsor: Bob Doll



Nevius M. Curtis
6257 Telegraph Rd., #226
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301-1659
248-561-9724
neviuscurtis@gmail.com
Sponsor: Bob Parker

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

New Associate:

Samuel Jassenoff
27655 Chatsworth
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-1821
248-497-4877
Sam739@gmail.com
Sponsor: John Paesano

To Life Member:

John J. O'Brien
John A. Ridan

Deaths:

Richard O. Straight (Life)
joined November 1992
James A. Schaefer
joined November 2001

Roy Albert Honored



The University of Michigan has been selecting an alumni veteran to be honored at each home game. During a time-out at the recent Michigan – Indiana game, member Roy Albert

received this recognition. Roy stood in the end zone and was pictured on the giant scoreboards at each end of the stadium. The announcer introduced him and noted the highlights of Roy's army service – landing at Omaha Beach, serving with General Patton's Third Army, being captured by German SS troops at the Battle of the Bulge and held prisoner for 5 months, before being able to walk away and find his way back to American troop lines. Roy received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart among his many awards and commendations.

Roy received an enthusiastic standing ovation from appreciative game attendees for his service. Congratulations, Roy!

—Dick Harper



Games



Winter Golf

2015 winter golf practice at the Oakland Yard Dome will begin on Thursday, January 8, 2014. The fee is \$10 for all the balls you wish (or can) hit for one and one half hours. Starting time is 9:30AM. 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 Road to Highland Road (this is M59)
- Left (west) on Highland Road approximately 5-6 miles
- As you cross Crescent Lake Road you will see the Dome in the distance over your right fender
- There is a strip mall on the right with a tall "Subway" sign near the end.
- Immediately past the "Subway" turn right into the Dome driveway. The Dome sets back from the highway.

—The Committees

Bowling

We are well into the first half of our season and the Charger team (Chuck Ragains, Tom Venier, Nick Marinelli and Bob Jordan) continues to lead with 62 points. They have an eight point margin over the second place Impalas (Ted Chapekis, John Wargelin, Bob Beach and Art Byington). Four weeks remain in this half – still time for changes.



Phil Buccini continues with our high average at 169 and has the high game of 245. Rich Volpe has the best three game series with a great 600! We still have room for new bowlers, especially since we will have some snowbirds heading south soon. Come on out to Thunderbird Lanes on Maple any Monday morning– you will bowl and we guarantee you will have fun.

—Dick Harper

Sports Trivia

Since only one reader got the answer to the October sports trivia challenge, we thought we should make the November question easier – but, we went too far! We asked if you could remember professional athletes with nicknames of "Rocket" and "Goose". We never have received as many answers – hearing mostly about "Rocket" Richard (Montreal) and "Goose" Gossage and Goslin. In the interest of space, we would like to recognize these less frequent responders – John Flintosh (Richard and Gossage), John Zarek (Richard, Gossage and "Rocket" Ismail of Notre Dame), Wendell Koch (Richard and Goslin) and Ed Pustelak (Richard and Gossage).



Pete Kass added "Goose" Tatum of the Globetrotters, Rocker Rod Laver and Roger Rocket Man Clemens. Only Ed Pustelak, Lynn Evans, Dick Smith, Tom McNally and Clay Gordon remembered that Charley Gehringer was "The Mechanical Man."

This month's trivia question might be considered obscure, but one of my favorite Tigers (possibly because he went to the University of Michigan) had this middle name – Cummings. Can you name him?

—Dick Harper

Update – Men on the Go

SMC Walkers continue to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00AM to walk and talk around Birmingham. Shain Park and Barnum Park are the venues in nice weather. Somerset Collection or First United Methodist Church indoor track are the destinations in cold or rainy conditions. A core group of 6 -8 are "regulars."



This activity is open to and encouraged for all SMC members interested in keeping fit. Please contact Charlie Blank, Coordinator (bclank56@gmail.com) for more information and schedules.

New Life Member

Dick Smith

Our latest member reaching Life Member status is **Richard H. (Dick) Smith**. Awarding this honor to Dick was really a bittersweet moment, because it took place on his last meeting with us, before moving to Texas to live close to his child. Dick was born shortly before the great depression and remembers some tough times- sharing clothing and moving often.



The family located to Detroit and Dick attended Southwestern High School. He matriculated at the University of Michigan, from which he graduated with honors. He joined Chrysler Corporation in engineering while attending the Chrysler Institute, earning a Master's Degree in Automotive Engineering. He spent 22 years in Chrysler's gas turbine department – then moved to a similar function at GM for another 21 years. He was awarded 19 patents during his career. He retired in 1995 and joined the Senior Men's Club in 1999.

Dick has been married to Beverly for 62 years! They have 8 grandchildren. Congratulations Dick and good luck in the Lone Star state!

—George Stern

...continued from page 1

George Stern

There is something for everyone. We are always open to adding new activities if there is sufficient interest among the members.

Q. We have seen a number of initiatives under the "Quality" banner. Can you give us an update?

A. I'm pleased to report that good progress is being made in a number of quality areas. Two examples would be the studies that were done regarding the Club's name and lunch selections. Jim Bayson, who chairs the Improvement Committee, gave a progress report at the October 1 membership meeting. He stated that the Club's name will remain the same, while the lunch menu will be expanded.

Q. Earlier this year, representatives of our club met with members of the Grosse Pointe Senior Men's Club. What was the purpose of the meeting and what are the next steps?

A. The two clubs have a lot in common, including many of the same issues. We have been able to learn from them, and hopefully they learned from us. It will be an ongoing relationship including a golf match next summer.

—Chuck Ragains

Senior Health Matters Medicare Coverage for Lung Cancer Screening

In December 2013, the US Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) issued the following recommendation: Adults between the ages of 55 to 80 years who have a 30 pack-year smoking history and who currently smoke or have quit within the last 15 years be screened for lung cancer with low-dose computed tomography (CT). However, in April 2014, the Medicare Evidence and Coverage Advisory Panel (MEDAC) voted against coverage for the Medicare population (persons older than 65).

In November 2014, intense pushback by a coalition of almost 100 professional, public health, patient advocates and medical centers resulted in a preliminary decision by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to cover lung cancer screening with no cost to the beneficiary according to the above criteria. A final decision is expected in February 2015. However, the CMS decision would extend only up to age 74 not 80 as recommended by the USPSTF.

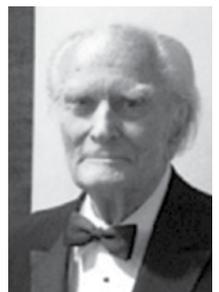
Approximately 4 million Medicare beneficiaries fit the eligibility criteria. It is estimated that 54,900 more lung cancers will be detected within a 5 year period with most at an early and more treatable stage. The proportion of early stage diagnosis would double from the current 15% to 33% whereas late stage disease with distant spread would decrease from the current 57% to 40%. Adding lung cancer screening extrapolates to a cost increase of \$9.3 billion or an additional \$3 per month increase in premiums for Medicare beneficiaries.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) will require private insurers to cover lung cancer screening without cost sharing beginning in 2015 but does not specify that Medicare has to do so.

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

Two Centenarians

Yes, we have two centenarians in our Club – Bill Kelly, who was pictured last month and **William Waltsgott**, pictured here, who reached this exalted age last May. Warmest congratulations to these wonderful members!

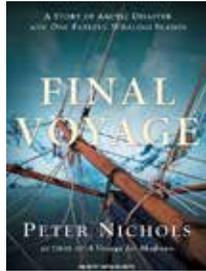


Groups



Book Reading Groups

On Wednesday, December 3, at 10:30AM we will discuss "Final Voyage" by Peter Nichols. In the summer of 1871, thirty-two whaling ships, carrying 12-year-old William Fish Williams, son of a whaling captain, and 1,218 other men, women, and children, were destroyed in an Arctic ice storm. In a rescue operation of unparalleled daring and heroism, not a single life was lost, but the impact on America's first oil industry was fateful and catastrophic.



The usual third Monday 3:00PM group has been cancelled for December due to the holidays.

—Ted Chapekis



Genealogy Group

On Monday, December 1, 2014 at 2:00PM, we will have a second presentation and discussion of how individuals can interface with the Family History Center of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints and their recommendation of using Ancestral Quest, a genealogy software application for Microsoft Windows. This software is suggested to be one of the best ways to share documented family tree history with other family members at minimal cost. It is also considered a user-friendly vehicle to transition paper documentation to electronic files.

Topics for the 2015 future meetings will be established after receiving feedback from those who attend the December meeting and thereafter.

—Dave Bakos



Camera Group

No meeting in December.

—John Slocum



Computer Group

No meeting in December.

—Ron Denton



Classic Movie Group

No meeting in December.

Classic Movie Group Schedule for 2015

January 12: Irv Poston – "Goldfinger" (1964)

February 9: Fred Hansz - "Dead Reckoning" (1947)

March 9: John Paesano – "Holiday" (1938)

April 13: Joe Murphy – "The Yellow Rolls-Royce" (1964)

May 11: Augie Perrotta – "San Francisco" (1936)

June 8: Fred Hansz – "I Married a Witch" (1942)

July 13: Fred Leydorf, Jr. – "One Touch of Venus" (1948)

September 14: Irv Poston – "The Glenn Miller Story" (1954)

October 19: Augie Perrotta – "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" (1948)

November 9: Fred Leydorf, Jr. – "Holiday Inn" (1942)



Historic Film Group Presentations for 2015

April 27: Cars, Trains and Planes

June 22: Historic Musical Shorts

September 28: Industrial/Educational Film Day

October 26: Monday Matinee

—Fred Hansz



Investment Group

On Wednesday, December 17 at 2:45PM, Brian Roehl Managing Partner, LJPR (founded by Leon LaBrecque) will address

the group on several financial opportunities including "Roth Conversions - They Make More Sense Than You Think!" He has many good ideas on making and keeping your money.

The Stock Game leader is Mike Clement with a 25.9% gain in two weeks. Since Mike worked for Chrysler; he put 100% on Fiat Chrysler. Jerry Peck is second with a 20.2% gain and Kirby Callam is third with a 19.2% gain.

Forty-eight SMC members had gains; a 6.2% gain on the Dow helped.

Special Events

Christmas Dinner Dance

Wednesday, December 10 is the date of this year's Senior Men's Club Christmas Dinner Dance, which will be held once again at the San Marino Club in Troy, located on the north side of Big Beaver Road between Rochester and John R. Roads. Our evening will begin with a social reception at 6:00PM with snacks, punch, and a cash bar. We will be seated at 6:45PM for announcements and introductions, followed by dinner at 7:00PM.



Tickets are priced at \$45 per person. Sales will continue at our regular Friday morning meetings through December 5. If you have not purchased your tickets by then, you may still get them by contacting Tony DiMarco at 248-643-7368. Please advise Tony of your choice of dinner entrée: tenderloin of beef with mushrooms, chicken Parmigiana with mozzarella cheese, or baked orange roughy with lemon garnish.

Please consider inviting your friends who are not members to join us in the festivities. This is always one of our most popular and successful SMC events, so don't miss out on the fun and fellowship this year!

—Jim King



Hostess

Recognition Party

One of our traditional and most respected events is the annual Hostess Recognition Party, which, as usual, will be held at our last meeting of this year, on December 12. We will bring back the long tables and "mess hall layout" for this meeting.

Come and show your appreciation for the friendly and courteous service these lovely ladies provide all year at our Friday luncheons. In addition, we will hear some wonderful Christmas music presented by a Seaholm High School choral group.

2015 Detroit Auto Show

Thursday, January 22, 2015 will be the date of our annual bus excursion to the Detroit Auto Show at Cobo Hall. This year's show promises to be another great one, with many new production models and design concept vehicles on display.



This event offers the conveniences of **no driving, no parking, no coat check needed**, and again this year, **no admission fee**, thanks to the generosity of SMC member Tom Sellers, of Dean Sellers Ford!

Tickets for the bus ride are \$15. Our buses will leave the First Presbyterian Church parking lot (1669 W. Maple) at 9:30AM, depart the Auto Show at 2:30 PM, and return to the church at about 3:15PM. We will start selling tickets at the December 12 meeting and sales will continue on January 9 and January 16. We are planning to charter two buses this year, so we will be able to accommodate wives and significant others.

This event has always been a sellout, so buy your tickets early. We hope to see you on the bus!

—Jim King



SMC Choral Group

The recently formed SMC Chorus is an activity for members interested in choral singing. We have ten members so far and perform patriotic and seasonal compositions at Friday meetings. If you like to sing and think you would enjoy harmonizing with your friends, please contact Charlie Blank (bclank56@gmail.com.) Our newly formed Choral Group is performing every Friday and getting better every week!

2015 SMC Officers

These men were unanimously elected to serve our club in 2015 in the indicated positions.



Front row left to right: First Vice President: Eugene P. Jacoby; President: George L. Stern; Second Vice President: Richard A. Kamp; Recording Secretary: Robert I. Hayes. Back row left to right: Officer at Large: Charles J. Blank; Treasurer: John P. Groves; Corresponding Secretary: Charles R. (Dick) Bradley; Officer at Large: Pradeep (Pete) Mehra; Assistant Treasurer: James E. Bayson (not pictured).

Magic Jug a Winner

Congratulations and thank you! The results of this year's passing of the Magic Jug for contributions to the Oakland County Children's Village were most gratifying. Generous members contributed checks and cash totaling \$4386. It is evident that the spirit of giving is alive and well, even in uncertain economic times.

The Executive Board and the Special Projects Committee wish to thank all participants for their generosity. We are especially thankful to our Sergeant at Arms team, Dave Dinger, Sherwin Vine and John Horiszny, for handling the passing of the Jug. Our "kids" at the Village once again have the support they need and have received from our Club for more than 30 years. Well done!

Life Member Dues

The fastest growing segment our Club is the Life Member category, with nearly 160 members having achieved this respected Club status. We continue to live longer and benefitting significantly from active participation in the SMC. One of the traditional benefits of reaching this exalted status is that dues are no longer required. However, an increasing number of Life Members continue to pay dues on a voluntary basis, telling us that they want to contribute to the financial stability of our Club. Our finance staff is collecting 2015 dues and would be more than happy to accept dues from Life Members.

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

Last month's mystery lyrics weren't much of a challenge to members and wives,



particularly those who remember romantic ballads. We asked if readers knew the song with these opening lines:

*Someday, when I'm awfully low,
when the world is cold*

I will feel a glow, just thinking of you

More than a dozen knew that the song is "The Way You Look Tonight". We thought we should recognize less frequent responders, such as first timers Bob Beach, John Zarek, Frank Barnes and especially Helen (Tom) Harrison, who sang the song for me. Others were Fred Leydorf, Jeanne (Merrill) Miller – who told me this was too easy, John O'Brien and Tom & Rose Marie Venier.

This month we really do have a challenge for you – these lines are from a jazz tune recorded by Duke Ellington and others, 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*

Can you name that tune?

—Dick Harper



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 2014 are: John M. Steele, president; George L. Stern, first vice president; Eugene P. Jacoby, second vice president; Richard A. Kamp, recording secretary; Charles J. Blank, corresponding secretary; John P. Groves, treasurer; James A. Bayson, assistant treasurer; Robert L. Babcock and Charles D. Basch, 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.tcherves.org

CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 9 at 9:30AM

Reminder Deadline: Friday, December 5

Games

Bowling: Mondays at 9:00AM at Thunderbird Lanes

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

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

Special Events

Christmas Dinner Dance: Wednesday, December 10 at 6:00PM

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

Group Meetings

Book Reading Groups: Group A: Wednesday, December 3 at 10:30AM

Group B: NO MEETING due to holidays

Classic Movie Group: NO MEETING in December

Camera Group: NO MEETING in December

Computer Group: NO MEETING in December

Investment Group: Wednesday, December 17 at 2:45PM

Genealogy Group: Monday, December 1 at 2:00PM

All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.

SMC ON THE WEB:

www.seniormensclubbirmingham.com

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

from the movie "MANHATTAN PARADE"
I LOVE A PARADE

Words by
TED KOEHLER

Music by
CAROL ARLEN





Photos by
Jim King &
John Reddy