

The Reminder

December 2006

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan



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William D. Johnson

50th Anniversary President

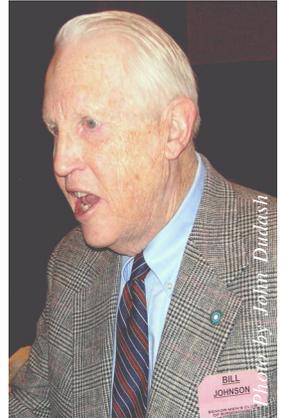
The golden anniversary year 2007 will bring the fourth consecutive University of Michigan graduate to lead the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, William D. Johnson. Bill joined the SMC in 1999, served on various committees, was chairman of the Investment Committee in 2002 and for the last four years has been an officer of the SMC.

Bill was born in Detroit, became an Eagle Scout in 1940, worked on the family farm in Hartland, Michigan between the ages of 12 and 21 and graduated from the University of Michigan Engineering School in 1951.

After graduation, Bill worked for Vickers Corporation for five years and then joined Stant Corporation Inc. of Connersville, Indiana from which he retired in 1992.

Bill and his wife Dolly have been married 54 years and have three children and six grandchildren.

For 50 years the SMC has had strong leadership and 2007, our golden anniversary year, will be no exception.



-Bill Reilly

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

DECEMBER CHAIRMAN: Norris Lee

- 1 Rudy Simons, Peace Maker and Human Rights Activist *"Is There Peace Out There?"*
- 8 The Reverend Faith Fowler and Gladys Ferguson, Director, Cass Community Social Services Ambassadors ..
..... *"Musical Potpourri"*
- 15 NO MEETING
- 22 NO MEETING
- 29 NO MEETING

JANUARY PROGRAMS

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: Donald C. Overy

- 5 Monica Duncan, Executive Director, South Oakland Shelter *"Homelessness in Our Community"*

DECEMBER DISCUSSIONS

DECEMBER CHAIRMAN: Maury Allen

- 1 Fred Dye, SMC Applicant, Michigan Nature Association *"Saving the Wildlands of Michigan"*
- 8 Dr. Murray D. Christianson, Henry Ford Ophthalmic Surgery *"Caring for Your Eyes"*
- 15 NO MEETING
- 22 NO MEETING
- 29 NO MEETING

JANUARY DISCUSSIONS

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: Jack McCuen

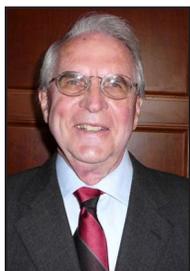
- 5 Tom Venier, SMC Applicant, Organization of Bat Conservation *"Flying Bats of the World"*

Membership News

New Members:



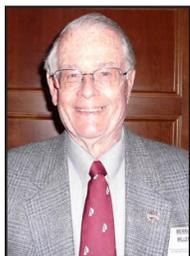
Paul E. Dufault, (Peggy)
1700 Fairway Drive
Birmingham, MI 48009-1866
248-647-4811
E-mail: PDufault@ameritech.net
Sponsor: George A. Miller



William J. Stuart, (Patricia)
1350 Fairway Drive
Birmingham, MI 48009-1808
248-647-2927
E-mail: bnp98@webtv.net
Sponsor: John O'Brien



John V. Conti
4381 Foxpointe Drive
West Bloomfield, MI 48323-2620
248-681-4305
Sponsor: Donald L. Foehr



Merrill C. Miller, (Jeanne)
2315 Horseshoe Drive
West Bloomfield, MI 48322-2523
248-851-4075
E-mail: MillerJK82@aol.com
Sponsor: Theodore A. Chapekis



Edward P. Nagel, (Pat)
3200 Hartslock Woods Drive
West Bloomfield, MI 48322-1041
248-851-3038
Sponsor: Bruce E. Smiley



John T. Rogers, (Jan Hatcher)
1234 Woodcrest Circle
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-1571
248-852-1637
Sponsor: Donald E. Clark

To Life Member:

Robert E. Davis, joined January 1993
Richard H. Cummings, joined September 1992

New Applicants:

Herman W. Peters
1699 Maryland Blvd.
Birmingham, MI 48009-4122
248-644-2685
Sponsor: John Corey

Bob A. Rossi, (Jackie)
398 Argyle Street
Birmingham, MI 48009-1566
248-540-0638
Sponsor: Charles C. Kass

George R. Grayson, (Patricia)
3731 Lake Forest Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48314-4315
586-292-3668
E-mail: GGrayson11@comcast.net
Sponsor: Kenneth E. Brooker

Dropped:

Applicant **James R. Abel**
Applicant **Gilbert M. Bazil**
Applicant **Robert A. Bota**
Applicant **Donald A. Nummer**
Applicant **Neil E. Ferguson**
Applicant **Joseph F. Paulus**

Resigned:

Applicant **Gerald L. Miley**
Applicant **Ralf A. Crookston**
Applicant **Michael L. Harper**
Applicant **Edmund W. Flynn**

Deaths:

Life Member Edward S. Howell, joined July 1976
Member Henry F. Noonan, (LOA), joined March 2000
Life Member James W. Bostwick, joined May 1991

-Pete Kass, Membership Chairman
-Bill Peschel, Membership Vice Chairman
-Photos by Bill Shaffmaster

Groups



Investment Group

The next Investment Group meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13 at 2:45 p.m. Don Richardson, Raymond James, will be our speaker again. Based on his 70 years of experience in the financial markets, Don will share his best stock picks and financial guidance. Join us; Don is one of our most popular speakers.

The stock game leader is Bob Bazzell with a 14% gain in three weeks. Jerry Peck is second and Don Upward is third.

-George Miller



Camera Group

No December meeting for the Camera Group. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at 2:00 p.m

-Roger Garvelink

2007 SMC Officers

The meeting held on November 10, 2006 was most important for the SMC, since the membership elected the officers who will lead us in 2007. The membership unanimously elected the officer candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee, as follows:

President - William D. Johnson

First Vice President - Kenneth L. Urwiller

Second Vice President - Robert A. Pullar

Recording Secretary - Irvin E. Poston

Corresponding Secretary - John S. Flintosh

Treasurer - William L. Sprague

Assistant Treasurer - William F. Minard

Officer at Large - William J. English

Officer at Large - Thomas H. Clapp

Membership support, combined with the leadership qualities of this excellent officer team will ensure another great year for the Senior Men's Club.

-Dick Harper



Computer Group

No December meeting. The next meeting will be January 17, 2007.

-George Nordenholt

Computer Training

"Some older users may need training in using software and computers. After all, many people didn't grow up in a wired world. One of my favorite groups is called Senior Net. There are chapters around the country. If you go to www.seniornet.org, you'll be able to find a group near you. No matter what sort of physical limitations you face, there are ways to make computing easier."

Reprinted from The Detroit Free Press, written by Bill Husted, Cox News Service.

Computer training for seniors is available in Birmingham, Bloomfield, Royal Oak and Troy. In Birmingham, call BASCC at 248-203-5270 and talk with Jan Petrie, assistant coordinator. Senior Men's Club applicant Jim Abel teaches at BASCC each Thursday. In Royal Oak, Senior Men's Club applicant (and Reminder staff member) Bill Shaffmaster chairs the weekly computer club.

The closest resource of all is the Senior Men's Club Computer Group, which meets at The Community House on the third Wednesday of each month (no meeting in December). The Computer Group is chaired by George Nordenholt.

-Chuck Kirkpatrick

Child Humor

Two young boys spent the night at their grandparents' house the week before Christmas. At bedtime, they knelt to say their prayers. The youngest one, eyes closed, started praying at the top of his lungs.

"I pray for a new bicycle," he shouted. "I pray for a new Nintendo..."

The oldest brother leaned over and nudged the boy. "Why are you shouting your prayers?" he asked. "God isn't deaf, you know."

"No," the boy replied. "But grandma is!"

Games

The Party is Over



On October 26, 2006, sixty eight of the most athletic members of the Senior Men's Club gathered at The Community House to discuss their conquest of nature, their

great talents and just to flex their muscles. These "super jocks" strutted, posed and verbally described their skills. Who are these men, you ask? Who else but your Monday and Thursday golfers gathered to celebrate their great year of golfing.

After the attitude adjustment hour, chairman Chuck Travers called the golfers to order, asked Jerry Heller to give the invocation and dinner was served for all to enjoy. The Community House's Executive Chef Christopher Jones had prepared an outstanding dinner and the whole event was supervised admirably by Greg Stangis, banquet manager.

The chef, the dining room staff and The Community House deserve the greatest acclamation for this successful endeavor.

Following the introduction of the Monday and Thursday golf committees, who received thunderous applause, prizes were awarded for individual feats performed by the golfers and each golfer, over and above the individual awards, received a prize.

Chairman Chuck Travers thanked the golfers for their support and asked all to participate next year.

As the lights dimmed, Dandy Don Meridith could be heard singing in the background, "The Party's Over."

-Bill Reilly



Bowling

We are happy to welcome two new bowlers (Bucky Buchanan and Bob Rossi) who joined us at the Thunderbird Lanes.

After 10 weeks of bowling, the Badgers (Joe Onnie, Ed Hoagland, Jack Corey and John Wargelin) lead all teams with 50 points. The Wolverines (Bob Erben, Larry Smith, Jerry Heller and Jim Judge) are in second place with 48 points. Season stats are:

High Average: Phil Buccini 166; High Game: Phil Buccini 235; High Series: Les Lessenthein 608; High Team Game: Spartans 661 (Sherwin Vine, Dave Dinger, Dennis Kozak, Pete Kass); High Team Series: Gophers 1780 (Stormy Wetters, Bob Freeburg, Bob Boynton, Art Byington).

Next Monday, the leading bowler on each team with the highest score over average will be awarded a bottle of wine to take home for the Thanksgiving dinner.

Wednesday bowling has picked up this season with an average of 18 bowlers in attendance each week. The price of only \$5 for three games is difficult to beat, including the opportunity to win one or more of the eight cash prizes. Every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. at the Thunderbird Lanes in Troy.

-Dennis Kozak

Golf

Thanks to the persistent efforts of Cy Duffy we have a place to practice over the winter months. The dome on Opdyke Road is still not open to golfers. Cy has negotiated a deal with the Oakland Yard Dome. Oakland Yard is located at 5328 Highland Road (M-59) in Waterford. It is 15 miles from The Community House. That makes it a little over halfway to White Lake Oaks where the Monday League used to play. Maps will be available during our December meetings.

Practice sessions will be from 9:30-11:30 a.m. every other Thursday beginning January 11 and continuing through March 22. Cost is \$8 for all the balls you can hit during the two hour session. You will pay the cashier directly after you identify yourself as a Senior Men's Club member. As a bonus, hot coffee and cold sodas are free during the hitting period.

Golfers mark your calendars for the 2007 Golf Banquet. We have reserved Tuesday, October 23 at The Community House. The committee expects those golfers who, over the years, could not attend the banquet due to choir practice to sing a Te Deum for this change.

We are pleased to announce that several members have volunteered to assist the Thursday Golf League at Springdale. The committee for 2007 is composed of Tom Buescher, Pete Bakalis, Lynn Barber, Tom Schrifft, Joe Steele, Dick Suminski, Don Clark, Chuck Travers, and Bill Reilly. We could still use a volunteer to assist with our computer programs. Hit them high, hit them straight, and hit the end of the dome!

-Chuck Travers



December Executive Board Meeting

At the November Executive Board meeting, President Frank Barnes noted that the final board meeting of the year will be held on December 12.

He reminded members that both current and newly appointed group and committee chairmen are invited to this final meeting of the year. Traditionally, outgoing chairmen introduce their 2007 replacements to an enthusiastic welcome.

-Dick Harper



Senior Men's Club 50th Anniversary Committee

Recent anniversary committee activities have been as follows:

- n The highly successful showing of "GYPSY" at the Village Players was held on November 15. This event was a sell out, with the performance warmly and enthusiastically received by Club members and guests. An anniversary commemorative lapel pin was distributed to member and applicant attendees.
- n This pin will next be available for other members and applicants starting at Friday meetings in December. One pin per person please.
- n The special SMC documentary video has been completed, and will be available in DVD form for purchase at Friday meetings in December. It will be bargain priced at \$15, and should be a real collectors item. The video will be shown at our Christmas party in December and on public television after the first of the year.

-Dick Harper

Tenure Secured

For 25 years, Robert W. Spencer, a Senior Men's Club member since 1998, has been a trustee at the Bloomfield Township Library. He has been consistently re-elected to fill the four year term since 1981. Bob was recently honored for his 25 years of service at a monthly board meeting.

In 1989, the Michigan Library Association recognized Robert Spencer as the "Outstanding Library Trustee of the State of Michigan."

The Senior Men's Club congratulates Bob and is proud to have him as an example in the community representing the Senior Men's Club.

-Bill Reilly

Dues Reminder

To those members and applicants of the Senior Men's Club who have not paid their dues as required, you have until the end of January to pay them. Amount of dues is as follows:

Active \$35
Associate \$15
Member on Leave \$15
Applicant \$20

Please mail in or present your dues at the next January meeting. All unpaid member and applicant names will be presented to the Executive Board.

Checks may be made payable to SMCB and may be paid at the regular meetings or mailed to:

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

-Warren Spatz
Finance Committee

From the Marital Front

*My wife and I had words last night.
Unfortunately, I didn't get to use mine!*

Golden Oldies-Golden Anniversary



Effective January 1, 2007, the Senior Men's Club will be celebrating its Golden Anniversary year. The most prestigious segment of the SMC is the golden oldies, the life membership group, who will join this celebration with enthusiasm, energy and agility.

As of December 31, 2006, the Senior Men's Club will have 140 life members with 30 new life members eligible to become golden oldies in 2007.

There are 43 life members who are 90 or older, with Fletcher D. Street, Jr., whose birthday is June 26, 1908, being the oldest. Fletcher has also been a life member the longest, 13 years, and has the greatest longevity, 31 years, in the Men's Club. The average age of life members is 88 years.

To become a life member you must be 85 years old and have been an SMC member for 10 years. Once you become a life member, dues are no longer required and there are no meeting requirements. Your membership longevity is symbolized by your gold nametag.

Congratulations to those extraordinary men and may the SMC golden anniversary inspire them to greater achievements.

-Bill Reilly (statistics provided by John M. Steele)

No Ticket

One of our members had an interesting driving experience last summer. He realized a long held ambition and bought a convertible.

In the excitement of driving with the top down for the first time, he failed to keep track of his speed, until he saw a flashing light behind him. The trooper approached, asked for his license and checked his driving record. He returned and said, "You do have a good record, and my shift is almost over. If you have a good excuse for speeding, I'll let you go with a warning."

Our member replied, "Well, 20 years ago, my wife ran off with a trooper—I was afraid you might be bringing her back."

No ticket was issued.

North American International Auto Show January 18, 2007

It's that time of year again! The Special Events Committee has reserved a 56 passenger bus to take us to the International Auto Show at Cobo Hall on Thursday, January 18, 2007. We have had the All-Star Game. We have had the Super Bowl. And now it is time for you to join us in attending the show where the eyes and ears of the entire automotive world turn to Detroit.

This has always been a very popular annual event and has sold out every year. There will be a limit of two tickets per person. Please be advised, as a convenience to early arrivals, that starting at 8:30 a.m., priority numbers will be distributed for those who desire tickets (similar to a deli counter). Tickets will be sold starting at 9:15 a.m., December 8th. Members, applicants, spouses or significant others are invited.

Price is only \$13 per person and includes bus transportation, driver gratuity and donation to the church for use of the parking lot. It does not include admission to the show. The price for senior admission to the show is \$6 at the door. Perhaps, as in the past years, many of you have a source for complimentary admission tickets.

Join us and forget your driving, coat check and parking worries with door-to-door service.

We meet at the rear of the First Presbyterian Church parking lot. The bus will leave at 9:45 a.m. **PROMPTLY** and return approximately 4:00 p.m.

-Mike Clement, Riggs Miller, Roger Struck

Last Call for Christmas Party Tickets

Our Annual Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, December 12, 2006. Tickets sales to the event began on November 17, and sales have been brisk. However, with our change of venue, we have room for many more partygoers. Tickets will be available at our Friday meetings on December 1 and 8 only. Ticket price is \$35 per person.

The party venue is the San Marino Club at 1685 E. Big Beaver, Troy. The club is on the north side of Big Beaver, just west of John R. We have arranged seating for up to 400 members and guests. The San Marino Club offers ground level banquet rooms with full handicap accessibility and plenty of parking.

The Party begins with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. Snacks and punch will be available. Party animals can also take advantage of two cash bars, which will be opened during the social hour. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.

San Marino is known for its excellent cuisine and fine dining service. Your dinner selections are Filet of Chicken Parmigiano, or Sliced Tenderloin of Beef. Salad, vegetables, dessert, rolls and dinner beverage accompany your main course.

Post dinner entertainment will feature the Village Players Musicians performing a special program of music, directed by Joan Bowes especially for the Senior Men. This talented seven-piece group of vocal and instrumental musicians will entertain us with a selection of Christmas and seasonal music. Come, enjoy and sing along!

All seating is by table reservation. Tickets must be purchased prior to applying for table reservations. We can accommodate up to eight persons per table. If you have identified your tablemates, one member can purchase all tickets, go to the seating committee table, and be assured you will be seated together. You should have the dinner preference for each person in your party. Alternately, you can work with the seating committeeman to identify an available table of your choice.

Look forward to sharing an evening of Christmas fellowship and entertainment with fellow Club members. Get your tickets early for an entertaining and fun time for you and yours on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2006.

-Clarke Thornton, Bob Gualdoni, Roy Halmhuber

Early Valentine Outing

Plan to give your lady her Valentine on Sunday, February 11 when the Senior Men's Club boards a bus to Chelsea. A brunch buffet will be served at the Chelsea Grille before attending the Purple Rose Theatre matinee production of "The Subject Was Roses." At the end of the afternoon each lady will receive her own rose.

"The Subject Was Roses" was the winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award for best play in 1965. It's a portrait of a family dealing with the return of their son after World War II. He left home a boy and returned a man, causing adjustments for everyone. It's a familiar scenario for many of us.

The brunch preceding the play will include traditional breakfast items as well as Chicken Marsala, Baked Salmon, Salads and assorted Fruits and Desserts.

We will meet the bus at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot at BASCC, located at 2121 Midvale Avenue on the northeast corner of Seaholm High School's athletic fields. The bus will leave promptly at 10:30 a.m. and arrive in Chelsea for the noon brunch.

The tickets are priced at a modest \$52 each and will be sold at the SMC meetings on January 19 and 26 and February 2. The size of the bus limits the number of tickets that are available to 56. You don't want to miss this one!

-Don Upward, Roy Halmhuber, John Horiszny

Get Some Saving Tips

Plan to stay after lunch for an extra hour on Friday. Although there are only two Discussion Group meetings in December, you will gain insight into saving from two different perspectives – what's around you and how you see it. The discussion presenters, topics, and dates are listed on the front cover of *The Reminder*.

At the first meeting, we will hear from a Land Conservancy Trustee about what's going on with the wildlands and wetlands of Michigan. At the second meeting, we will hear from a division head in the Department of Ophthalmology at Henry Ford Health Systems.

All SMC members, applicants, and guests are invited to attend the Discussion Group meetings which are held from 12:45 until 1:30 p.m. on Fridays. These meetings give you the opportunity to join in or simply listen to conversations that provide interesting and informative information.

-Irv Poston

A No-Win Battle

"A great philosopher once said nobody will ever win the battle of the sexes. There's just too much fraternization with the enemy."

-Robert Orben

Mystery Lyrics

A record number of 14 readers correctly identified these lyrics:

*You'll be swell, you'll be great
Gonna have the whole world on the
plate*

as being from the song "Everything's Coming Up Roses" from the musical GYPSY. Of course, when we selected this one we weren't aware that the song would be named in *The Reminder* article about the Village Players performance.

The first to respond after e-mail distribution were Keith Jones, Ralph Tennant, Jim Leese and John Slocum. After mail distribution we first heard from Bob Klein, Dick Porter, Maury Allen, Isabelle Himelhoch (wife of Chuck) and Jack Howell.

This month, we have a seasonal challenge for you - hopefully, not too easy.

*When we finally kiss goodnight
How I hate going out in the storm*

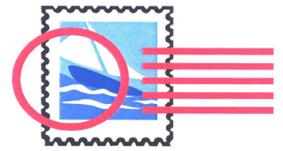
Can you name that tune?

-Dick Harper



The Reminder

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham
380 S. Bates St. Birmingham, MI 48009



Address Service Requested

CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 2006, 9:30 AM

Reminder Deadline: Friday, December 8, 2006

Games

Bowling: Monday, 8:45 AM at Thunderbird Lanes

Bridge: Tuesday, 9:00 AM and Friday after lunch

Golf: Every other Thursday, Oakland Yard Dome, 9:30 AM

Special Events

SMC Christmas Party: Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at the San Marino Club

Detroit Auto Show: January 18, 2007 at Cobo Hall

"The Subject Was Roses": February 11, 2007 at the Purple Rose Theatre

Group Meetings

Camera: Tuesday, January 9, 2007, 2:00 PM

Computer: Wednesday, January 17, 2007, 3:00 PM

Investment Study: Wednesday, December 13, 2006, 2:45 PM

All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.

THE REMINDER

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

Officers for 2006 are: Frank Barnes, president; Bill Johnson, first vice president; Ken Urwiller, second vice president; Bob Pullar, recording secretary; Dave Dinger, corresponding secretary; Bill Minard, treasurer; Bill Sprague, assistant treasurer; William H. Crabtree, parliamentarian; Bob Klein and Riggs Miller, officers at large.

THE REMINDER includes: Chuck Kirkpatrick, editor; Dick Harper, Paul Pentecost, Bill Reilly, Dick Davis, associate editors; John Dudash and Bill Shaffmaster photography; Lee Trumbull, computer layout; Bob Jordan, mailing.