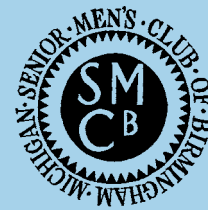


The Reminder

December 2009

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan



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The Year of Change—2010

The coming year will bring significant changes in our lifestyles, with financial, environmental and medical implications. It is a time of uncertainty and yet a time of great expectations.

The Senior Men's Club will be involved in these great expectations under the energetic leadership of incoming president Irvin E. Poston who will guide the club through these hectic times to a successful year.

Irv grew up in Attica near Purdue University where he received his BSME and MSIE degrees. He was a drummer in the school's symphonic band and the All-American Marching Band for four years. He was employed by General Motors for 42 years, retiring in 1997 as Head of Plastics (Composites) Development at GM's Tech Center.



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DECEMBER PROGRAMS

DECEMBER CHAIRMAN: Norris Lee

- 4 Rev. Faith Fowler, Senior Pastor, Cass Community United Methodist Church, Detroit *Update on Activities and Events in the Cass Community*
- 11 Hostess Recognition and Holiday Luncheon..... *Festive Good Cheer for All*
- 18 NO MEETING
- 25 NO MEETING

JANUARY PROGRAMS

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: Dale Parker

- 1 NO MEETING
- 8 Mike Thompson, Cartoonist, Detroit Free Press *Sharpening the Focus with Creative Humor*

DECEMBER DISCUSSIONS

DECEMBER CHAIRMAN: James Karavite

- 4 Augustine Perrotta, D.O., SMC Member *Elder Humor*
- 11 Craig Schwartz, former Deputy Chief, Detroit Police *Solving a 30 Year Old Murder*
- 18 NO MEETING
- 25 NO MEETING

JANUARY DISCUSSIONS

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: Jack McCuen

- 1 NO MEETING
- 8 Colonel John J. McCuen USA (Ret.)..... *Afghanistan Strategy*



New Members:

N. Lewis Schoon
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Clinton Township, 48036-1652
586-263-0181
E-mail: NLewisSchoon@comcast.net
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Sponsor: Andy Spencer



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Michael B. Belden
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248-540-3647; E-mail: Schnell1@aol.com
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Peter B. Ajluni (Judy)
1080 Dowling Road
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Sponsor: Augie Perrotta

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Sponsor: Michael Nigro

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248-738-5891
E-mail: materka@msu.edu
Sponsor: Augie Perrotta

Life Member:

James O. Nordlie
John H. McLaughlin
George W. Clark
Frederick N. Talmers

Resigned:

Benjamin Schwimmer
Associate **Richard H. Dills**
Associate **Michael J. Currie**
Associate **James P. Meloche**
Associate **Richard Pavy**

Phone Number Change:

Frederick Shaw---248-885-8194
Byron Converse---231-766-5875
Robert C. Lendt---248-260-7077
Robert U. Obringer---248-853-5044

...continued on page 5

Special Event Member Credit

Participants in the Special Events River Cruise on July 29 experienced an unfortunate bus breakdown resulting in a shortened cruise. The committee has negotiated partial reimbursement for this situation from the bus company. Each participant on this trip will have a credit of \$8 per person applicable to any future event, starting with the fabulous Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 9, 2009.

The Special Events Committee is maintaining a listing of affected members and guests. Be sure to ask for your credit on any future ticket if you were on the July 29 cruise.

Special kudos to committee member Tom Clapp who successfully negotiated this refund.

—Mike Clement

SMC Officers for 2010

The annual election of officers who will lead our club in the next year, took place on November 13, 2009. The following candidates were recommended by the Nominating Committee and were unanimously elected by the membership:

President - Irvin E. Poston

First Vice President - John S. Flintosh

Second Vice President - Charles B. Kirkpatrick

Recording Secretary - David A. Schwartz

Corresponding Secretary - Dennis J. Kozak

Treasurer - William L. Sprague

Assistant Treasurer - Richard E. Shirley

Officer at Large - Robert W. Jordan

Officer at Large - Roger T. Struck

—Dick Harper

Irv Poston

...continued from page 1

Irv and his wife Lois, have been married for 54 years and they have four children, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He is an elder and deacon for his church and a member of many church committees. In addition to his many other activities, Irv has played percussion for the Pontiac and Rochester Civic Symphony Orchestras for 45 years.

Do you ever wonder where this great wealth of talent comes from?

—Bill Reilly

Dues from Life Members

The fastest growing segment of the Senior Men's Club is the Life Member group, with nearly 150 current members having achieved this respected club status. We are aging well and living longer and better.

One of the traditional benefits of reaching this status is that payment of dues is no longer required. However, an increasing number of Life Members continue to pay dues on a voluntary basis. Members making this decision often tell us that such payments are intended to keep our club financially viable, and more specifically, to offset development and distribution costs of *The Reminder*, which all members receive.

Our finance staff is currently collecting dues for 2010, and would be more than happy to accept voluntary dues payments from any Life Members who would like to make such a contribution. Thanks for your consideration.

—Dick Harper

Detroit Auto Show



Once again, the world is coming to Detroit in January 2010 and we are planning to join this global extravaganza. The North American International Auto Show will be in our town and the SMC members will be well represented by the busload! This annual wonder has been faithfully showing the world's finest vehicles for 93 years. Your club has been sponsoring a bus trip to the show for the last 12 years, and this January, we will be doing it again. The date is Thursday, January 21, 2010.

The bus will be leaving the First Presbyterian Church (1669 West Maple) parking lot at 9:30AM and returning about 3:00PM. The bus will drop us off at the door to Cobo Hall. (Again you can leave your coat on the bus-avoid coat check fees). The cost for this great event is \$14 per person (same as last year). Senior admission to the show is \$6, but as in past years, we are trying to obtain enough complimentary admission tickets to the show to cover this expense. Perhaps you have your own source for a complimentary ticket to the show.

We will sell tickets starting Friday, December 11. Forget your driving, parking and coat check worries, and expenses, and join us for fellowship and door to door service. See you on the bus!

—Mike Clement, Tony Di Marco and Roger Struck

Groups



Classic Movie Group

The Classic Movie Group does not meet in December.

On Monday, January 11, 2010 at 1:00PM we will feature "Meet Me in St. Louis" starring Judy Garland and Margaret O'Brien and directed by Vincente Minnelli.



A complete listing of the 2010 Classic Movie schedule is available on the SMC website and will be posted on the SMC bulletin board. Attendance at these movies has been as high as 50 in the past and we plan on beating that record in the coming year with an outstanding selection by our committee. There is no charge, guests are welcome and the 'all you can eat' popcorn is free. Your dental bills are not.

—Augie Perrotta



Book Reading Groups

On Wednesday, December 2 at 10:30AM we will be discussing "Adams vs Jefferson" by John Ferling. It was a contest of titans: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, two heroes of the Revolutionary era, once intimate friends, now icy antagonists locked in a fierce battle for the future of the United States. The election of 1800 was a thunderous clash of a campaign that climaxed in a deadlock in the Electoral College and led to a crisis in which the young republic teetered on the edge of collapse.

On Monday, December 14 at 3:00PM we will be discussing "The Coldest Winter" by David Halberstam. David Halberstam discovered his calling in Vietnam, watching men die for a strategic lie. A gutsy reporter not yet 30, he warned of a quagmire in the making by a government in denial. It made him angry, then famous, and he became a lover not of war but of war stories, the grit and stink of combat, be it military, political, bureaucratic or some combination thereof.

—Ted Chapekis



Investment Group

On Wednesday, December 9 at 2:45PM, Leon La Brecque, JD, CPA, CFA, CFP and founder of LJPR, LLC, a full service financial advisory service will speak to the group. His title is "Get Ready for a New Decade: Historical Waves and the New Decade's Big Turn."

Leon has spoken to the SMC several times; he is an excellent, enthusiastic, entertaining and informative speaker. Bring a spouse, friend, guest or prospective member to this meeting, they will like it!

Ted Chapekis is in first place (again) in the Stock Game with an 8.8% gain. Frank Zernhelt is 2nd with an 8.6% gain followed closely by Gus Grozdon, Joe Samyn, Mahesh Bhatt and Tom Buescher.

—George Miller

A Man for All Seasons

What can you say about a man who has served for over 20 years on the golf committee of the Senior Men's Club at every position from starter to statistician?

On Thursday, golf day, he arrives early to insure everything is in order, usually plays a round of golf and returns in the afternoon to collect the golf score cards.

He deciphers the score cards and prepares the Thursday golf report given at our Friday meetings. In addition, he calculates players' average scores which are used in our tournaments and at Stonecroft. This gentleman is also a long time dedicated bowler.

Who is this man you ask? None other than past president Don Clark, a much respected member of our club. Thanks so much, Don!

—Bill Reilly





Games



Bowling

After nine weeks it's starting to look like one team might be the first half champion. The Eagles, with a four point lead, have had 1st place for three, maybe four weeks now. In 2nd place, a tie exists between the Falcons and the Steelers with 40 points and with an eight point system anything can happen.

High scores, games and averages follow: High Individual Game is Art Byington with a 246; High Team Game is 696 by the Falcons; High Individual Series is a 611 by Art Byington; High Team Series is the Falcons again with a 1909; High Individual Average is Nick Marinelli with a 168 average. I would like to ask each team captain to put on the back of the weekly score sheet any splits made by a member for a possible mention in *The Reminder*. Keep 'em rollin' straight and in the pocket.

—Less Lessenthien

Winter Golf

The Golf Committee has again negotiated a location for all Senior Men's Club golfers to hone their skills over the winter months. Details are:

Location: Oakland Yard Athletics, 5328 Highland Road, Waterford, 248-673-0100.

Time: Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30AM

Includes: All the balls you can or want to hit, plus coffee, donuts and/or sweet rolls.

Price: \$8 each until Jan 1, 2010, then price increases to \$9 each.

In addition the Golf Committee has a negotiated a special deal with a local restaurant for 25% off the total bill for lunch after the dome practice sessions. See the Golf Chairman for details.

Hit them high, hit them long, and hit them straight.

—Chuck Travers

Membership News

...continued from page 2

Change of Address:

Robert G. Robb---200 Chester Street, Apt. 510, Birmingham, MI 48009-1432

Deaths:

John G. Dudash (Life), joined May 1998

Walter Meissner (Life), joined March 1990

John K. Cotton, joined September 2002

Email Change:

Paul Moore---MooreMoorePR@aol.com

W. Robert Chandler---Wrobchan@aol.com

William Boeckl---WBoeckl@comcast.net

Bob A. Rossi---jgreit@yahoo.com

Frank Auld---frankauld@sbcglobal.net

Byron Converse---ByronConverse@comcast.net

Thomas S. Nickelson---tnickelson@comcast.net

—Pete Kass, Membership Chairman

—John M. Steele, Database Chairman

—Bill Shaffmaster and Tom Booth, Photography

Here's to the Magic Jug

The Magic Jug finally got rolling and once again produced a bonanza for the kids at the Oakland County Children's Village. On November 13, Greg Alessi, the Special Events Coordinator, joined us at The Community House to pick up checks totalling \$5305 for the kids-he thanks you guys for continuing the Magic Jug program and remembering the kids at the "Village."

We are especially thankful to Sherm Vine and John Horiszny for the heavy work in passing the jugs!

And thanks to all of you for your generosity.

—Phil Werner

Endowment Fund

Initial response to the letter sent to SMC members in regards to the SMC Endowment Fund benefitting The Community House, has been excellent. Your support is encouraged.

The Townsend Hotel "Romantic Encounter" package raffle winner will be determined at the December 4 meeting. Need not be present to win.

—George Miller

SMC Membership Count

John Steele, Chairman of the Database Committee, recently reported some striking membership count trends to the Executive Board. As shown below, our active member count has been very stable over the years, being in the 430-450 range. Our Life Member count has increased dramatically as we live longer and better, and is approaching 150.

The most significant and serious change has been a steady erosion of our Associate member count, down dramatically from 262 in 1999 to a current low of 49. Associate members are moving into the active category, but are not being replaced. This decline has resulted in a significant falloff in total club membership - from 838 in 1999 to a current total of 678.

| | ACTIVE | LIFE | LOA | TOTAL | ASSOCIATE | GRAND TOTAL |
|------|--------|------|-----|-------|-----------|-------------|
| 1999 | 440 | 80 | 56 | 576 | 262 | 838 |
| 2004 | 437 | 110 | 49 | 596 | 122 | 718 |
| 2009 | 449 | 147 | 33 | 629 | 49 | 678 |

The clear cut challenge to our club and to our members is to find and encourage new member prospects. With all we have to offer - fellowship, activities - this really should not be that difficult. Think about it - you must know someone - a neighbor, a professional, a business associate, etc. who should belong to our great club! Why not give it a try?

—Dick Harper

Reminder Mail Delivery Delays

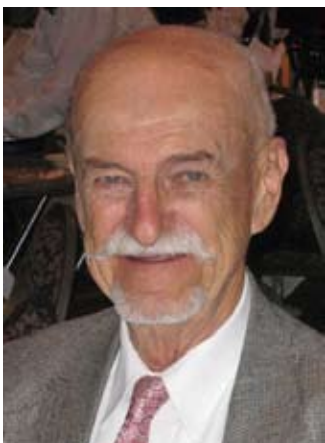
During recent months, a number of members have reported late receipt of *The Reminder*. Our mailing staff, under Bob Jordan, delivers our publication to the Birmingham Post Office on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Home delivery on one of the next two days has been the norm - that is, until the last two months.



We have been hearing about significant delays - not just a one day delay, but as long as a week. We are, of course, following up on this with the Post Office. Since we are paying for first class handling, we expect to receive it.

—Dick Harper

John Dudash



Our club recently lost a much respected member with the passing of John Dudash. John served as a photographer for *The Reminder* for many years, and took scores of photos both from Friday meetings and from the many special events he attended. His talents and contributions will be missed!

Passage of Time



We all adjust to the passing of time, but life members, the most prestigious segment of the Senior Men's Club, are the greatest example of absorbing life's unexpected surprises. These "Golden Oldies" display agility, humor and enthusiasm throughout the year.

As of December 31, 2009, there are 147 life members, of which 64 are 90 or over and the average age is 89 years. Twenty eight members became life members in 2009 and 26 will be eligible to become "Golden Oldies" in 2010.

Fletcher D. Street who is 101 years old, is the oldest, has the longest longevity, 34 years, and has been a life member the longest, 16 years.

Life members must be 85 years old and have been a SMC member for 10 years. "Golden Oldies" nametags are a gold color to symbolize their stature and they are entitled to multiple benefits.

What more can we say about these great men except that we wish them the best in the coming years.

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

Last Call for SMC Christmas Party Tickets

Our annual Christmas Party Dinner Dance will be on Wednesday, December 9, 2009. Ticket sales began on November 20 and sales have been brisk. However, we still have room for more partygoers. Friday, December 4 is the last day to purchase tickets, so get your table together and get going. Ticket price is \$36 per person.

The party venue is the San Marino Club at 1685 E. Big Beaver in Troy. The club is on the north side of Big Beaver, just west of John R.

The evening begins with a social hour at 6:00PM. Dinner will be served at 7:00PM. Two cash bars will be open all evening. San Marino is known for its excellent cuisine and fine dining service. Your dinner selections are Medallions of Veal, Chicken Florentine, or Baked Orange Roughy with Lemon Sauce. Soup, salad, vegetable, dessert, rolls and dinner beverage accompany your main course.

Post dinner entertainment will feature The Pros Big Band. This talented 16 piece orchestra and vocalist will perform a special program for listening, dancing and singing along!

All seating is by table reservation. Please complete a table reservation form to identify your table mates and their dinner selection. Designate one member to collect checks from each table mate and purchase your tickets as a group. This process will greatly help our overworked event volunteers. Alternately, you can work with the seating committee to identify an available table of your choice.

See you at the Christmas Party Dinner Dance on Wednesday, December 9.

—Special Events, Christmas Party Committee

Outstanding Service Award



Bill Johnson, Chairman of the Policy Committee, recently presented the prestigious Outstanding Service Award to member Bruce Smiley in recognition of his long standing and meritorious contributions to

our club. Congratulations, Bruce!

Flying Tiger and Golden Oldie

Member Jim Nordlie - our own "Flying Tiger" was recently inducted as a Golden Oldie, to recognize not only his longevity, but more importantly, his continuing contributions to the SMC. Congratulations, Jim - keep 'em flying!



SMC 2010 Dues Coupon

2009 Dues are payable before January 1, 2010. A \$10 late fee **must** be added for dues paid after January 1, 2010. Make checks payable to SMC and pay at the 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:

- \$35 Active Member
- \$35 Associate Member
- \$15 Member on Leave

Life Members pay no dues, but may use the coupon to report changes in address, telephone, e-mail or make a voluntary contribution for financial support of our Club.

Mystery Lyrics

Our musical challenges for last month proved to be somewhat difficult. Only six readers recognized that these lyric lines:

*Although I can't dismiss
The memory of his (or her) kiss*

are from the great Gershwin tune "But Not For Me." They were Chuck Basch, Bob Seeley, Chuck and Isabel Himelhoch, Dale Parker, Russ and Nancy Frye and Clay Gordon.

We know many more would have known this song with the opening line:

They're writing songs of love

And only three readers - Chuck Basch, Bob Seeley and Clay Gordon - remembered that Frankie Carle's theme was "Sunrise Serenade." Bob tells us that he knew Carle back when, and that Carle told him his milkman named this song after he worked on it all night.

This month's mystery lyric might be too easy - do you recognize these lines?

*I used to walk in the shade
With my blues on parade*

Can you name that tune?

Here's a different theme song challenge for readers. Sophie Tucker - the "Last of the Red Hot Mamas" used a theme song on many of her radio and TV appearances. Can you remember it?

—Dick Harper



CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 9:30AM

Reminder Deadline: Friday, December 11

Games

Bowling: Monday, 9:00AM at Thunderbird Lanes

Wednesday, 9:30AM at Thunderbird Lanes (practice)

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

Golf: Thursday, 9:30AM Oakland Yard Athletics

Special Events

SMC Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 9, 6:00PM

Detroit Auto Show, Thursday, January 21, 9:30AM

Group Meetings

Book Reading Groups: Group A: Wednesday, December 2, 10:30AM

Group B: Monday, December 14, 3:00PM

Classic Movie Group: Monday, January 11, 1:00PM

Camera Group: No meeting in December

Investment Group: Wednesday, December 9, 2:45PM

Computer Group: No meeting in December

All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.

SMC on the Web:

<http://www.communityhouse.com/getInvolved/interestGroups/SeniorMensClub.html>

Google Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/SMCBirmingham>

THE REMINDER

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

Officers for 2009 are: Bob Pullar, president; Irv Poston, first vice president; John Flintosh, second vice president; Chuck Kirkpatrick, recording secretary; Dave Schwartz, corresponding secretary; Bill Sprague, treasurer; Richard Shirley, assistant treasurer; Dennis Kozak and Walter Schrift, officers at large; Bill Crabtree, parliamentarian.

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

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



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