

The Reminder



March 2022

Senior Men's Club, Birmingham, Michigan

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With a new strategic plan, our 65-years-old our club is focusing on its vision as “a premier organization that enriches the lives of mature men with fellowship, engagement, and services to ourselves and our communities.”

Defining a “brand” for the club has been a healthy discussion for our Executive Board. A brand is an intangible concept that helps people identify a company, product, or organization. It is the total of the experience and awareness that people have with an organization and its products and services. The keys to a strong brand are consistency, differentiation, creativity, and an emotional connection.

I believe Birmingham is a positive element of our SMC's brand. Our 550 members live in many suburbs, but for most of us, Birmingham is the social and commercial center of a larger common community. It is widely recognized as upscale, affluent, peaceful, and prestigious, both as the city and the wider community.

Associating Birmingham with SMC generates a status with an emotional touch. It creates a positive niche in the field of many senior groups in the area. It makes each of us as members feel a special sense of belonging to a worthy and important organization. It puts SMC “on the map,” literally and symbolically, and expresses stature and prestige for our club in the community at large.

When we talk about our club to friends, let's refer to it as the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham.

— Swarn Rajpal



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Wise Words - GOOD LUCK

“ *I think luck is the sense to recognize an opportunity and the ability to take advantage of it.*
The man who can smile at his breaks and grab his chances gets on. ”
 — Samuel Goldwyn

MARCH PROGRAMS - 10:30 AM, Iroquois Club

CHAIR: John Maten

- 4..... **Lis Knibbe**, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA)
 Topic: “Detroit: From Ruins to Riches.”
- 11..... **Robert Middleton**, National Commandant, Montford Point Marines
 Topic: “War Heroes Remembered: The Montford Point Marines.”
- 18..... **Major General Paul Rogers**, Adjutant General, Michigan National Guard - Topic: “The role of the National Guard today. Overview of the Michigan National Guard & it's extensive mission, facilities and resources.”
- 25..... **Al Muskovitz**, Writer, Radio Personality, “Here's Al”
 Topic: “Big Al, shares entertaining stories from Detroit's iconic radio era with The Dick Purtan Show.”



2021 - 2022 FINANCIAL REVIEW

2021 Was a Very Good Year for the Club.

Cash at year-end 2021 grew by approximately \$10,000 to \$36,915. Adding the investment Reserve Fund of \$58,714, which was up 14% for the year, and some minor current assets, total Club assets at year-end 2021 were \$96,978. The increase in cash is attributable to limited activities due to Covid--for example we didn't begin Friday member lunches at the Iroquois Club or room rentals until September, and to the dues increase and to significantly higher member donations.

Financial reports are presented in more detail at Executive Board meetings every month. An internal review of the 2021 results were conducted by a Club member accountant, Mike Salzenstein, who confirmed their accuracy.

Thank you to all who contributed to these excellent results including SMC officers, committee chairs and members of the Finance Committee: Jim Bayson, George Dilgard, John Groves, Mike Salzenstein, John Skubik and Jim Zyla. We especially thank Club members for remaining loyal during the past year made difficult by Covid-19, and for continuing to pay their dues and for making generous donations.

2022 CHALLENGE

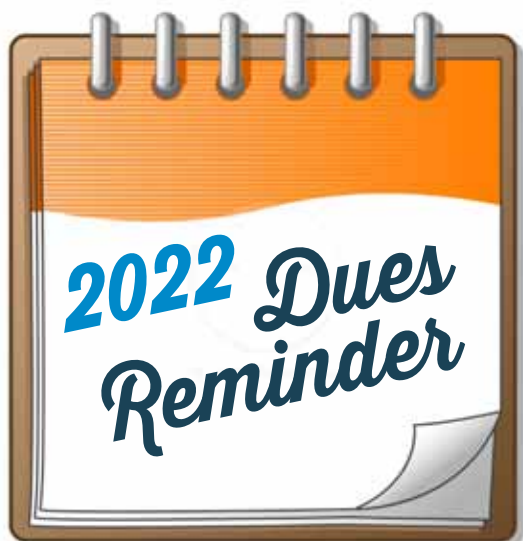
In late 2021 and 2022, the Club had to adopt a different business model requiring rental of new venues, which has



increased costs. We are getting excellent value for money at the Iroquois Club for Friday member meetings and lunches. And, the Baldwin Public Library is working great for committee and activity meetings. The increase in dues and member donations has covered most of these costs. However, we are forecasting annual deficits of roughly \$4,000. This could be covered by recruiting an additional 55-60 dues-paying members.

In short, the Club needs more members to cover the cost of services it provides to its members. So, please do all you can to recruit new members.

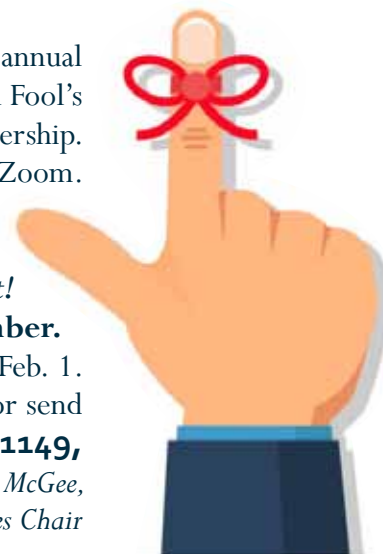
— Jim Suhay, Treasurer
— Rich McGee, Assistant Treasurer



WE MISS YOU!

There are members who have not yet paid their annual membership dues. The deadline is April 1—April Fool's Day. Please renew today. We value your membership. We want to see you at Friday lunches or at least on Zoom. *The SMC bylaws state that, after April 1, all members that haven't paid dues are to be removed as members. We don't want to do that!* Then you have to re-apply as a new member. SMC bylaws state that dues are \$80 if paid after Feb. 1. You can pay by credit card via the club website, or send a check to: **Senior Men's Club, PO Box 1149, Birmingham, MI 48012.**

— Rich McGee,
SMC Dues Chair



Hello!

THE SENIOR MEN'S CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!

We consider these special men to be the 'life blood' of our special organization. New members bring vitality and energy. They are also our future leaders.

MARCH 2022 LUNCH MENU - IROQUOIS CLUB MEETINGS

March 4th

Mac & Cheese or
Chicken Piccata
Caesar Salad
Green Beans
Rolls & Butter
Lemon Tarts

March 11th

Baked Mostaccioli or
Chicken Parmesan:
Michigan Maple Salad
Mixed Vegetables
Chocolate Chip Cookies

March 18th

Corned Beef *St. Patrick's Theme*
Braised Cabbage &
Honeyed Carrots
Pub "Garden" Salad
Cornbread
Green Velvet Brownies

March 25th

Fettucini Alfredo or
Baked Cod
Mixed Vegetables
Caesar Salad
Rolls and Butter
Carrot Cake



NEW MEMBERS - THEY ARE THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE

THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF OUR *CURRENT* MEMBERS JOINED SMC *AFTER* ATTENDING A FRIDAY MEETING...AS A GUEST.

The guest experienced the *FELLOWSHIP* ... *FRIENDSHIP* and *CAMARADERIE* of SMC. He saw a well-organized and well-run meeting. The guest learned from a subject matter expert-speaker. He experienced exemplary hospitality by the member who invited him. At the end of the meeting, the guest experience leads most to join. The Friday meeting for a guest is our 'Test Drive' where you can see, touch and feel our great club.



WHO SHOULD YOU INVITE? The best qualifying question to ask about potential guests is "Who do I know who would benefit from our organization." It is estimated that 50% of those guests who attend a meeting will join SMC. Let the meeting be the thrust behind a decision about membership as it was for you/us.

Most of us were introduced to SMC by another member. This *Member - Get-A-Member* program worked well in the past, but has not been very effective in recent years. Your Membership Committee has devised a two-step approach to rejuvenate and re-energize it.

STEP ONE: All the leaders of the SMC will work towards bringing at least two guests during the year 2022.

STEP TWO: All members are encouraged to use the incentive of SMC paying the cost of the lunch for a guest, if so desired. This NO-Cost lunch for guests will be effective from March 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022.

Please help us reach our goal of enrolling many new members this year.

Thank you.

– Rasesh (Ras) Desai, Chairman, Membership (2022)

– Charles (Dick) Bradley, Past President (2018)

SPECIAL MEALS NOW AVAILABLE!

Thanks to the cooperation of the Iroquois Club staff, the Senior Men's Club is now able for the first time, to offer gluten-free and vegan lunch meals, as well as kosher and halal meals. All special dietary meals must be ordered at least seven days prior to the meeting date. The fee for Gluten-free and vegan meals may be slightly higher depending on the menu for that day. Because kosher and halal meals must be obtained from an outside third party vendor, the charge for the lunch will be \$30 rather than the standard \$20. To place an order for a special meal, contact Larry Imerman (svp0122@gmail.com). Payment must be made a week in advance of each scheduled lunch meeting.



Classic Movie Group

On **Monday, March 14**, at **1:00 PM**, Fred Hansz will present, via Zoom, one of his favorite films, **“Crash”** (2004) (1 hour/52 minutes).

In this movie, writer-director Paul Haggis interweaves several connected stories about race, class, family, and gender in Los Angeles in the aftermath of 9/11. Characters include a District Attorney (Brendan Fraser) and his casually prejudiced wife (Sandra Bullock), dating police detectives Graham (Don Cheadle) and Ria (Jennifer Esposito), a victimized Middle East store owner (Shawn Toub) and a wealthy African American couple (Terrance Howard and Thandie Newton) whom are humiliated by a racist traffic cop (Matt Dillon).

This film, which is very intense at times, received positive reviews from critics and was a commercial box office success, bringing in over seven times its production cost. The movie won the Academy Award for Best Picture as well as for Best Original Screenplay and Best Film Editing.

So, mark your calendars now and plan to join us on March 14th to watch this powerful presentation. Fred asks that you have plenty of popcorn on hand to help make your movie going experience complete for you and your family.

— Fred Hansz, Chairman



Watch for our access information eBlast as we near the show date.

Looking forward to seeing You on March 14th!



Investment Group

Please join us at our next Investment Study Group meeting being held on **Thursday March 10, 2022 at 2:45 PM**. The in-person and Zoom meeting will be held in the basement level of the Baldwin Public Library. Our speaker will be **Joey Agree, President of Agree Realty (ADC)**.

Joey Agree, the Founder and other Executives of Agree Realty have spoken to our group in the past. Joey will provide information on the company along with what is happening in the shopping center industry. Several SMC members are stockholders of ADC, and the information that will be provided will be insightful!

As of the Reminder writing deadline the stock game leader remains John Murray with a 38% gain since mid-October. Gordon Allardyce is up 15%. Bob Veres, Jay Hall and Kevin Heintz are close behind. There are 10 players who remain positive during this continued up and down market since the start of the game in mid October, 2021. At the moment, the top stock is Devon Energy (DVN) with a 40% gain.

- Happy Investing!

— Mike Korsak



GROUPS CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

ANOTHER GROUP THEME OPPORTUNITY. **What do you think?**

A new activity group focusing on **miniature/plastic modeling** is being considered by the SMC. It is likely that many of us at one point or another have pursued this hobby and may be interested in participating in a SMC Modeling Group. Being a member of IPMS (International Plastic Modeler's Society) on a national, regional and local level, I believe this hobby continues to thrive and offers great enjoyment and satisfaction to modelers. Advancement in building technology and product improvements have advanced quite dramatically over the years. Many of our SMC members have likely enjoyed plastic modeling as a hobby at one point or another. John Paesano is reaching out to the general membership to determine if that interest does exist. If there are any members interested in participating in this type of activity group, please contact John Paesano at email address rohrad2@gmail.com.

— Bob Maxfield, Chair, Hobby Groups



GROUPS CONT. FROM PAGE 4

Reading Groups

In March we will discuss two books that are likely to appeal to a wide variety of members. The first is Chris Wallace's gripping examination of the events leading to the dropping of the first atomic bomb. The second is Dr. Abraham Verghese's debut novel providing wonderful insights in medicine and family ties.

We will continue to meet via Zoom for February and March. At the March meetings we will consider returning to in-person meetings for future months.

We are pleased to report that the complete schedule of books to be read is now available on the club's website.

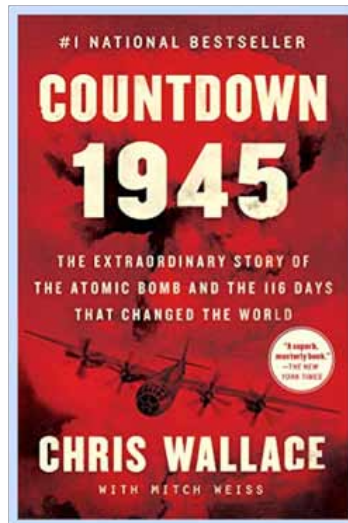
B) Wednesday, March 2, at 10:30 AM: *Countdown 1945: The Extraordinary Story of the Atomic Bomb and the 116 Days that Changed the World* by Chris Wallace. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2021)

The Wall Street Journal review captured the importance and appeal of this very readable book.

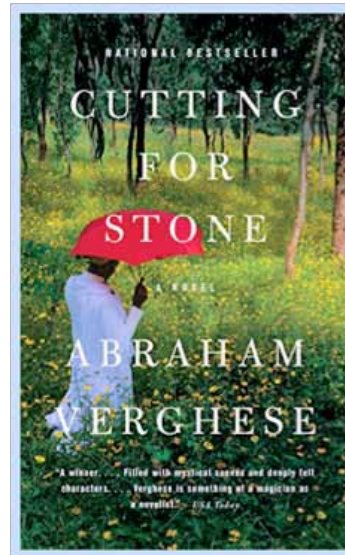
"Vivid and engaging..Wallace has made a taut nonfiction thriller out of the dramatic days between Harry S. Truman's succession to the presidency, following Franklin D. Roosevelt's death on April 12, 1945, and the dropping of the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki less than four months later."

Wallace takes us through these crucial 116 days by focusing on the people and decisions that came together in an event that changed the world forever.

This discussion will be led by Fred Hansz.



A) Monday, March 21 at 3:00 PM: *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. (New York: Vintage Books, 2009)



Dr. Verghese's debut novel spent two years on best seller lists and won many awards. It is a saga of twin brothers, orphaned by their mother's death at their births and forsaken by their father. The book includes both a deep description of medical procedures and an exploration of the human side of medical practices.

From the Financial Times review: "The author may be professor of the theory and practice of medicine at Stanford University but he's also a graduate of the Iowa University writing program. These credentials might have got in each other's way but in this case, they have somehow produced an original talent; a writing that can deliver with both pen and scalpel."

Ashok Gupta will lead this discussion.

— Bob Maxfield

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL - READING GROUPS A & B:

B) Wednesday, April 6 at 10:30 AM: *Lust for Life* (Vijay Goburdun)

A) Monday, April 18 at 3:00 PM: *False Alarm: How Climate Change Panic Costs Us Trillions, Hurts the Poor and Fails to Fix the Planet* by Bjorn Lomborg (George Stern)

I feel the need of reading. It is a loss to a man not to have grown up among books.

— Abraham Lincoln



Roy Albert



Harold Brown



Donald Borsand



Paul Cicchini



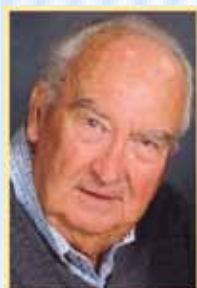
John Dueweke



C. "Pete" Kass



James Karavite



David Key



Fred Kniesler



Steve Kerns



Nicholas Marinelli



John MacInnes



Tom McAskin



Paul Miller



George Mosher



Don Nummer



Nick Oancea



John Parker



Jack Porter



Irv Poston



Al Roberts



Bruce E. Smiley



G. "Jerry" Stribbell



Jeffrey Wachler





MARCH 2022 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

WEEK 1	DATE	TIME	GROUP	LOCATION OR VIA ZOOM
Tuesday	Tuesday, March 1, 2022	9:00 AM	Walking Group	Somerset North
First Tuesday	Tuesday, March 1, 2022	10:00 AM	Special Events	Zoom
First Wednesday	Wednesday, March 2, 2022	10:30 AM	Readers Group B	Zoom
Wednesday	Wednesday, March 2, 2022	12 Noon	Spinning Group	Beverly Hills Club
Wednesday	Wednesday, March 2, 2022	2:00 PM	Special Event	Play at Meadowbrook Hall
Thursday	Thursday, March 3, 2022	9:00 AM	Golfing	Golf at the Dome / Evolution Sportsplex
Thursday	Thursday, March 3, 2022	9:00 AM	Walking Group	Somerset North
Friday	Friday, March 4, 2022	10:30 AM	Weekly Friday Mtg	Iroquois Club + Zoom
Friday	Friday, March 4, 2022	1:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Public Library
WEEK 2				
Monday	Monday, March 7, 2022	9:30 AM	Bowling	Escape Lanes, Troy
First Monday	Monday, March 7, 2022	2:00 PM	Genealogy Group	Zoom
Tuesday	Tuesday, March 8, 2022	9:00 AM	Walking	Somerset North
Second Tuesday	Tuesday, March 8, 2022	10:00 AM	Executive Board	Baldwin Public Library + Zoom
Wednesday	Tuesday, March 8, 2022	11:30 AM	SMC Foundation	Baldwin Public Library + Zoom
Wednesday	Wednesday, March 9, 2022	12 Noon	Spinning	Beverly Hills Club
Thursday	Thursday, March 10, 2022	9:00 AM	Golfing	Golf at the Dome / Evolution Sportsplex
Thursday	Thursday, March 10, 2022	9:00 AM	Walking	Somerset North
Second Thursday	Thursday, March 10, 2022	2:45 PM	Investment Group	Baldwin Public Library + Zoom
Friday	Friday, March 11, 2022	10:30 AM	Weekly Friday Mtg	Iroquois Club + Zoom
Friday	Friday, March 11, 2022	1:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Public Library
WEEK 3				
Monday	Monday, March 14, 2022	9:30 AM	Bowling	Escape Lanes, Troy
Second Monday	Monday, March 14, 2022	1:00 PM	Movie Group	Zoom
Tuesday	Tuesday, March 15, 2022	9:00 AM	Walking	Somerset North
Wednesday	Wednesday, March 16, 2022	12 Noon	Spinning	Beverly Hills Club
Third Wednesday	Wednesday, March 16, 2022	1:00 PM	Computer Group	Zoom
Thursday	Thursday, February 9, 2022	9:00 AM	Golfing	Golf at the Dome / Evolution Sportsplex
Thursday	Thursday, March 17, 2022	9:00 AM	Walking	Somerset North
Third Thursday	Thursday, March 17, 2022	3:00 PM	Camera Group	Zoom
Friday	Friday, March 18, 2022	10:30 AM	Weekly Friday Mtg	Iroquois Club + Zoom
Friday	Friday, March 18, 2022	1:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Public Library
WEEK 4				
Monday	Monday, March 21, 2022	9:30 AM	Bowling	Escape Lanes, Troy
Third Monday	Monday, March 21, 2022	3:00 PM	Readers Group A	Zoom
Tuesday	Tuesday, March 22, 2022	9:00 AM	Walking	Somerset North
Wednesday	Wednesday, March 23, 2022	12 Noon	Spinning	Beverly Hills Club
Thursday	Thursday, March 24, 2022	9:00 AM	Golfing	Golf at the Dome / Evolution Sportsplex
Thursday	Thursday, March 24, 2022	9:00 AM	Walking	Somerset North
Thursday	Thursday, March 24, 2022		Special Event	Shinola Tour
Friday	Friday, March 25, 2022	10:30 AM	Weekly Friday Mtg	Iroquois Club + Zoom
Friday	Friday, March 25, 2022	1:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Public Library
WEEK 5				
Monday	Monday, March 28, 2022	9:30 AM	Bowling	Escape Lanes, Troy
Tuesday	Tuesday, March 29, 2022	9:00 AM	Walking	Somerset North
Wednesday	Wednesday, March 30, 2022	12 Noon	Spinning	Beverly Hills Club
Thursday	Thursday, March 31, 2022	9:00 AM	Golfing	Golf at the Dome / Evolution Sportsplex
Thursday	Thursday, March 31, 2022	9:00 AM	Walking	Somerset North

APRIL REMINDER DEADLINE: MARCH 18, 2022

NOTE: Due to potential fluxuations in venue location (staffing or operating hours) or schedule, revisions to this calendar are possible. Please watch your email and www.seniormensclub.com for updates or potential cancellations.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR - DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EVENT

- April 20, 2022

The **Special Events Committee** has planned
this exciting outing for April!

A TOUR OF THE YANKEE AIR MUSEUM
Located at historic Willow Run Airport • Belleville, Michigan
www.YankeeAirMuseum.org



- Four docent-led groups from 10:30 AM-12:00 noon •
- Lunch at Haab's Restaurant in Ypsilanti •
- Bus departs 9:15 AM from Presbyterian Church •
1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, MI
- Bus departs Haab's 2:00 PM, arrives Birmingham approx. 3:30 PM •

Organizing Team:

Ara Basherian, Peter Hollinshead, Bob James, Art Pope, Martin Rowell

TICKET PRICE: \$40

TICKET SALES: MARCH 11, 18, 25 & APRIL 11 AND 18

MORE TO COME for OUR SMC MEMBERS!

SMC of Birmingham has many more interesting
SPECIAL EVENTS in store for our loyal
members' enrichment and enjoyment,
so watch for every issue of the SMC
"Reminder" Newsletter in your email,
and visit our website to find out more!

The Reminder

A monthly publication of the Senior Men's Club, which meets Fridays at 10:30 AM at the Iroquois Club* in Bloomfield Hills.

Officers for 2022 are:

- President, Swarn Rajpal;
- First Vice President, Paul Kovceses;
- Second Vice President, Larry Imerman;
- Recording Secretary, John Maten;
- Corresponding Secretary, Ray Buratto;
- Treasurer, Jim Suhay;
- Assistant Treasurer, Rich McGee;
- Officers at Large: Jim King, Tom Russell.

THE REMINDER Team:

- Dick Harper, Editor Emeritus;
- Jay Kafarski, Publisher;
- Maynard Timm, Co-Editor;
- Tim McGee, Co-Editor;
- Tom Booth, Photography.

**The Iroquois Club is located on the east side of Woodward Avenue, just north of Square Lake Road in Bloomfield Hills. The meeting is also accessible via ZOOM for those not able to attend in person.*

Contact Us:

The Senior Men's Club's mailing address for general Club or SMC Foundation correspondence is:

Senior Men's Club
P.O. Box 1149
Birmingham, MI 48012-1149

All mail should be sent to the above address.

The Club may also be contacted via email at:

seniormensclub@gmail.com

Visit SMC at:
www.seniormensclub.com