

The Reminder

March 2009

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan



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A Giant Has Passed

The Senior Men's Club has lost a giant with the recent passing of our much loved and respected past leader Art Burgott. Art died last month at the age of 97 in Belleville, Illinois where he moved in 2001 to be close to his daughter.

He was a longtime member, having joined in 1978. His club "resume" includes a lengthy list of involvement in club activities, culminating in his presidency in 1984. He chaired and was a member of many groups and committees; Procedure Manual, Membership and Policy. Art chaired the Nominating Committee for a number of years and viewed this responsibility as a continuing role to identify and motivate future club leaders. He mentored many members in this regard, including the undersigned.

Art was our "Golden Oldie" presenter for many years - who can forget his leading us down "hush puppy lane " or "florsheim alley" as he searched for a life member honoree?



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New Members:



Thomas L. Booth, (Lois)
430 Aspen Road
Birmingham, 48009-1656
248-646-5365
E-mail: TLB999@comcast.net
Sponsor: Bill Hartman



James E. Bayson, (Barbara)
4862 Stamford Drive
West Bloomfield, 48323-2662
248-681-4672
E-mail: JamesBaysonCPA@aol.com
Sponsor: Michael Frank



John J. Zarek, (Patricia)
22046 W. Valley Woods Drive
Beverly Hills, 48025-2532
248-646-7837
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Sponsor: Jack Burns



Henry B. Moore, (Betty)
5819 Pentland Road
Bloomfield Hills, 48301-1148
248-626-4219
E-mail: HBMoore@alum.exeter.edu
Sponsor: Bill Rolf

New Associates:

J.W. Burnie, (Betty)
1188 Joshua Drive
Troy, MI 48098-6507
248-879-4531
E-mail: amcanpair@earthlink.net
Sponsor: Robert Q. Bannon

David G. Ladd, (Sandra)
5555 Crabtree Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301-1203
248-932-3282
E-mail: turtle77777@aol.com
Sponsor: Robert A. Pullar

Frederick James Shaw
4238 Antique Lane
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-1804
248-626-3591
Sponsor: Robert Q. Bannon

Life Members:

William M. Kelly (LOA)

Deaths:

Thomas Alexander (LOA), joined June 1986

Ira Joseph Steele (Life), joined July 1986

Arthur G. Burgott (Life), (Past President),
joined April 1978

George F. Ward, Jr. (Life), joined October 1975

Resigned:

Richard G. Porter

James E. D'Allemand (LOA)

Jerry L. Motl

Louis M. Hocker

Associate R.F. Ayers

Changes:

Change of Address

Edward Yatsko

2211 Laura Street, #117
Springfield, OR 97477-2173

Ernest Bergan

10272 Claxton Trail
Cincinnati, OH 45241-3119

Tom Scott

4500 Dobry Drive, Apt. 128
Sterling Heights, MI 48314-1229

Phone Number Change

Dennis Currier

248-299-9416

John R. Gnau

248-885-8549

Email Change

Thomas Lahiff

TJLahiff@aol.com

William D. Johnson

Wdjohnson1128@gmail.com

Andrew Park

park_a@att.net

—Pete Kass, Membership Chairman
—John M. Steele, Database Chairman
—Bill Shaffmaster, Photography

Games

Bowling Report

It's getting near the end of the 2nd half of the bowling season. The fellows in the golf league can't wait to have their bowling friends join them. After 8 weeks in the 2nd half, 1st place team is the Celtics, 2nd place are the Cavs and 3rd are the Lakers. I haven't put the point spread in as I don't want to jinx any of the 3 teams and hope that the other 7 can possibly give the 3 leaders a run for their money.

Some info on individual bowlers is that "Lefty" George Moore couldn't miss making splits on Monday February 2. He made 3 over the 3 games that day. That same day team #9, the Lakers, won 2 games by 1 pin each game. This past Monday, February 9, the league welcomed back Don Doty in a substitute roll. He showed off by making 11 marks in a row, ending with a 172 game. Nick Marinelli temporarily had lost the high average to Phil Buccini but came back this past Monday with a vengeance rolling a 243 and another 600+ series.

There are still points to be earned before the Championship rolloff. The next *Reminder* will list teams possibly in the rolloff. Roll 'em hard, fast and straight. Good luck to all.

—Less Lessenthien

Golf

Notice to all golf committee volunteers: Please mark your calendars for Friday, March 20. There will be a 2009 organization meeting in the Rosso Library Room of The Community House. The meeting will start at 8:30AM and be over well before the regular SMC meeting begins. Coffee, juice, and assorted breakfast pastries will be served.

Winter golf continues at Mulligan's Golf Dome every Thursday between 9:30 and 11:30AM. The price is \$6 for 70 balls. Those who do not take advantage of this practice will receive absolutely no sympathy for bad swings and pulled muscles when outdoor golf starts in April.

The great thing about Mulligan's is that the golf balls are automatically teed up for your practice swing. No bending over, carrying heavy buckets, or chasing errant balls. The tee height is adjustable so you can practice teeing off with drivers, fairway woods, or irons.

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

—Chuck Travers

Ken Urwiller—Golden Oldie



Don Cox recently presented the prestigious SMC "Golden Oldie" award to a most deserving recipient—our immediate past president - Ken Urwiller. A review of Ken's background indicates that he was born in a rural area of

central Nebraska. Their post office, St. Michael, was a small village consisting of 10 - 12 homes, an elevator, country store and the post office.

Ken attended a country grade school, traveled to Ravenna for his high school education. He then entered the military service and spent two years in the occupation of West Germany. On his return to the United States, he attended the University of Nebraska, Kearney for his undergraduate training. He took his

medical training at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in Omaha receiving his degree in Medical in 1953. His internship and residency in Urology were completed at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit in 1957. He remained on the Henry Ford Hospital for an additional two years, then joined a Urology group in the Bloomfield Hills - Pontiac area, and for the next forty-two years practiced in four hospitals, spending most of his time at St. Joseph Mercy where he served six years as their Medical Director.

Ken became an active member in 1997, and took on a number of key club responsibilities, particularly heading up the important and time consuming Visitation and Health Committee. He moved up in the officer ranks which culminated in the presidency in 2008. Congratulations Ken, welcome to the "Golden Oldies" group, and thanks so much for your many valued contributions to the club.

—Dick Harper

Endowment Fund

Contributions in 2008 were \$16,208. The fund total is now \$77,108. Contributors in 2008 included:

Ed Cox
Dave Dinger
John Flintosh
John Horiszny
Norris Lee
George Miller
Ken Urwiller
MSU/U of M Raffle
Picnic (Robert Seeley) Raffle
Townsend Hotel Raffle

The Fund objective is to support The Community House over the long term. All types of gifts are welcome and are tax deductible. Questions can be directed to Frannie Greenebaum, 248-594-6404 at The Community House.

—George Miller

The Military Salute



Traditionally, club members attending Friday meetings have placed hands over hearts during the Pledge of Allegiance. Recent congressional action was taken which specifically states that veterans can “render the military salute” even though not in uniform, during recitation of the

Pledge and during playing of the National Anthem “as a form of honor, respect and pride in one’s military service.”

A number of club members have begun saluting our flag at Friday meetings during the Pledge. All veterans are so entitled.

—Dick Harper

Have you heard about the farmer who married an Amish lady and spent much of his time driving her buggy?

SMC E-mail Statistics



John M. Steele of the Database Committee recently presented some interesting statistics on member e-mail usage and *Reminder* distribution to the Executive Board.

Currently, 441 members and associates have e-mail addresses listed with our club. This represents about 64% of our total membership. E-mail usage varies considerably by member category. Associates, who typically are younger, exhibit the highest e-mail usage at 87%. Life members, at the other end of the age scale, have the lowest usage at 36%, while active members are at 70%.

Another revealing statistic reported by John is that only 32% of those with e-mail have opted to receive *The Reminder* by e-mail only. This means that nearly 300 members and associates receive our monthly publication in two forms - by e-mail and by regular mail. Of course, the e-mail edition arrives much sooner, up to a week, and is in glorious color.

Our question is why don't more members drop the mailed version, especially since this saves our club about \$1 in postage per copy? Think about it - you likely don't need two copies. Why not tell John Steele to drop the mailed copy, download *The Reminder* and provide a degree of financial support to our club?

—Dick Harper

March Programs

March Program Chairman Al Eicher looks to the future with topics of high interest, both local and national. Bloomfield Township Clerk Jan Roncelli leads the March series with timely insights into the challenges of a shrinking revenue base and what that may mean for Township residents.

Bob Hynes, Communications Director for the Yankee Air Museum, opens a window into the history of Willow Run Airport and its Yankee Air Museum.

The new Chevy Volt is featured in week three as the chief engineer of that project, Al Farah, shares the hopes and challenges of bringing the Volt's exciting new technology to market.

Finally, Al takes us back to the local scene with Karen Kotulis-Carter, Director of the Bloomfield Township Public Library. Karen will take us into the exciting array of features and options available in the expanded and enhanced Township library.

—John Flintosh

The SMC and TCH



The Senior Men's Club has enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with The Community House for many years. We have



been a sponsored group at TCH since our

inception, and conduct most club events and activities there. Accordingly, we have a vested interest in its success and continuing financial viability. We have conducted an annual Community House fund drive with our membership, which has been quite successful. Last year, despite the adverse economic climate, we contributed more than \$60,000. However, nearly half of our members chose not to contribute.

The Executive Board meeting of February 10 included a discussion of our relationship with TCH, and the need to provide as much financial support as feasible. Specific possible means of support identified were:

- the upcoming 2009 fund drive for the benefit of TCH. Members and Associates will be contacted in the near future by the Special Projects Committee under Chairman Jack McLaughlin. The Board is hopeful that member contributions can increase this year.

- member and associate usage of Community House facilities for social events and family gatherings. President Bob Pullar recently asked Friday meeting attendees to consider booking events at TCH. The Games Committee has decided to move its annual bowling banquet to TCH this year.

- the Special Events Committee under Chairman John Zabriskie is evaluating a possible event benefitting TCH.

Watch your mail for information on the 2009 fund drive, and be as generous as possible. The need and cause are deserving of full member and associate support.

—Dick Harper

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A Giant Has Passed

In recognition of his multi-faceted contributions, Art received our Outstanding Service Award in 1991.

His personal philosophy about the SMC, which he voiced often, was that a member would never fully appreciate the satisfaction and benefits of belonging without participating as much as possible in club activities and positions of responsibility.

Our warm and wonderful memories of Art Burgott live on!

—Dick Harper

Voluntary Dues— Life Members

A few months back we noted that one of the benefits of Life Membership in the SMC was that paying dues is not required. At the same time we observed that some Life Members continue to pay dues, in part to fund development and mailing costs of *The Reminder*. We indicated that such voluntary due payments are welcome.

The following members responded positively to this article and paid dues (some actually paid more than \$35).

Kenneth E. Brooker	Robert Lyle
Edward J. Bush	Richard R. Melcher
Edward P. Butler	Robert U. Obringer
Harry W. Cyphers	Thomas M. Perkins
David H. Dobson	George C. Peters
Clarence N. Frank	Mark A. Richards
Charles R. Gates	Thomas M. Scott
William A. Hassberger	Chuck R. Sorber
James H. Herbst	Andrew R. Spencer
Alfred Kelley	Richard Straight
Robert S. Kenning	Donald W. Upward
John Lavrakis	Kenneth R. Urwiller

We certainly congratulate these 24 members for their generosity. However, we should note that this number is far below the experience of the Grosse Pointe Senior Men's Club. They received voluntary dues payments from 172 Life Members. In fairness, we should make two points - first, the GPSMC has a lot more life members - more than 400 compared to 149 in our club. Secondly, they have had a tradition of dues payments by life members for a long time, while we have really just started to suggest it.

Our financial books are always open for any life member who would like to make a voluntary dues contribution. Thanks for your consideration.

—Dick Harper

Many years ago, in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden"... and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

Groups



Classic Movie Group

A quarter of a century before “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder” became a formally recognized entity, the 1946 classic “The Best Years of Our Lives” depicted the difficult, traumatic adjustment (unemployment, adultery, alcoholism and ostracism) that three returning servicemen experienced in the aftermath of WWII.



This superb, eloquent and realistically intimate film won seven Oscars of the eight Academy Awards for which it was nominated. It stars Army Infantryman Frederick March; Dana Andrews, a decorated Air Force Bombardier and Harold Russell, a real life WWII Naval Officer who actually had lost both hands while in the Navy and was not a professional actor. He wore cleverly designed prostheses, for the time, and was taught to play the piano by Hoagy Carmichael as the laconic, piano-playing saloonkeeper. The realism is graphic, the story compelling and the romantic frailties and human problems stress the impact of post-war readjustment by a cast that delivers the best performance of their lives on Monday, March 9 at 1:00PM.

—Augie Perrotta



Investment Group

On Wednesday, March 11 at 2:45PM. Marc Greenlee, financial advisor, UBS Birmingham office will present “Managing Risk.” In this difficult market, risk assessment and management are especially important.

Tom Buescher continues to lead the Stock Game with a 40.7% gain. Jerry Peck has closed the gap and is up 40.6%. John Horiszny is 3rd. Reid McCulloch made a big move to fourth place, he was number 46 in December. Twenty three participants have gains in this difficult market.

—George Miller



Camera Group

Jaap Delevie will take us on a trip to Vienna, Austria on Tuesday, March 10 at 2:00 PM. It is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe with impressive imperial palaces, beautiful public parks, great food, friendly people and, of course, beautiful music. Jaap has recorded some of the music which will be shared along with his pictures. As always, wives and friends are invited.

We are looking for presentations beginning in September. So if you have traveled to an interesting place and are willing to share your experiences please call Roger Garvelink at 248.641.5924.

—Roger Garvelink



Computer Group

John Wigman, the owner of Birmingham Computer, will be our speaker on Wednesday, March 18 at 3:00PM. John will discuss the latest computer problems and how they can be fixed along with some time for Q&A. Bring a friend!

—George Nordenholt



Reading Groups

This month we have two new books we will be discussing. Follow the road that Barack Obama took to the presidency. Also learn the details of what happened to those who did flee from the Germans in World War II.

We would like others to come in to experience the discussions. It makes no difference if you have read the book or not (but it does make the discussion more meaningful). Please drop by either or both of the reading groups.

The March readings are:

Wednesday, March 4 at 10:30AM. We will be discussing “Dreams from My Father” by President Barack Obama, which is about Obama’s upbringing.

Monday, March 9 at 3:00PM. We will be discussing “Suite Francaise” by Namirovsky. This book is about people fleeing Germany’s invasion of France.

—Ted Chapekis

Last Call for the NEW DIA and Rockwell, Too Tour



On Wednesday, March 11, we will have a tour that includes, not only the NEW and exciting Detroit Institute of Arts, but also the special exhibit featuring paintings of the famous and much beloved American artist, NORMAN ROCKWELL! Join us on this exciting and cultural extravaganza. Maybe you are one of the lucky ones and

have already purchased one of the limited number of tickets. If you have NOT purchased your ticket yet you have one more chance and that is at the meeting on Friday, March 6.

The bus leaves the First Presbyterian Church parking lot at 9:30AM and returns between 3:00 and 4:00PM.

The tickets have a two-tier pricing. For current members of the DIA the price is only \$30. This includes a docent tour of the NEW museum, admission to the special exhibit and the roundtrip bus ride. For non-DIA-members the price will be \$45-the additional funds are needed to cover the admission to the institute and exhibits. Please bring your DIA membership card as proof of your current membership when you come to buy your ticket(s). (We cannot sell the \$30 ticket without this proof.) Also please bring your membership card on the day of the tour as proof for admission into the Institute.

The new DIA has a very nice cafeteria-style lunch facility where lunch will be on your own. The cafeteria offers everything from soup and sandwiches to a full plate meal-plus, of course, delectable desserts.

We will have a private room reserved exclusively for our group near the cafeteria. It can be used for eating, resting, relaxing and will be the location for our departure rendezvous.

The Rockwell exhibit is a self-directed tour. An audio guide is available.

Join us on this uplifting and enriching tour and see one of the big pluses happening in Detroit!

—Tom Clapp, Roy Halmhuber and Roger Struck

Senior Men's Club Visits Auto Show

The annual trip to the Auto Show on January 22 was a big success with a bus filled with car and truck enthusiasts. The new production models and the exciting concept cars always get the heart pumping and warm you up on a cold winter day!



Special thanks to the folks at Birmingham Chrysler Jeep who provided auto show tickets for the Senior Men's Club. Be sure to visit them the next time you are in the market for a new car or SUV.

—Mike Clement

Attendance Champs

Congratulations to the 2008 Attendance Champs (total of 41 meetings). These members really know how great it is to belong to the SMC and they don't just fill seats, they are always contributing to our club.

Life Members:

Ray Hughes	40
Frank Garland.....	39
Ken Brooker	38
Jim Peters	38

Active Members:

Roy Halmhuber	41
John Horiszny.....	41
Bob Babcock	40
John Flintosh	40
Neal Hepner.....	40
Frank Barnes	39
Irv Poston.....	39
Dave Schwartz.....	39
John Steele	39
John Zabriskie.....	39

—Dale Parker

Mystery Lyrics

Last month's musical challenges proved to be more difficult than usual. Only eight readers recognized that these lines:

"All the leaves are brown
and the sky is gray"

are from the first big Mamas and the Papas hit "California Dreamin'", which was followed by another biggie hit "Monday, Monday (Can't Trust that Day)."

Our demographic reach is widening - for the first time we received correct answers from members' daughters, with Deb Howell (Jack) and Colleen (Mark) Kelly remembering this one. Others with the right answer were Dale Parker, Myrna (Tom) Hitchman, Bob Gardner, John Parker, Stan Rogell and Ken and Elaine Roy.

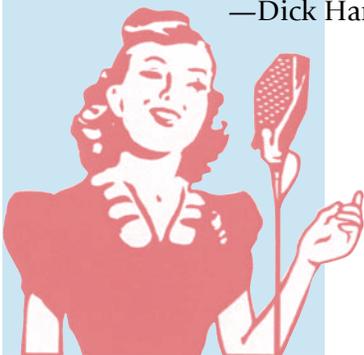
Four readers - John, Stan, Lloyd Jones and the Roys - suggested that Charlie Barnet's theme was "Cherokee." This was his biggest commercial hit and his theme during his radio days. However his original theme and identifying song was "Redskin Rhumba."

We're going for a change of pace this month with a country challenge. These lines are from a big hit by an old Grand Ole Opry star:

"How's about cookin'
somethin' up with me?"

Can you name that tune? We are running out of big band theme challenges, without reaching for little known bands, maybe you can remember the theme used by Bobby Sherwood?

—Dick Harper



CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 9:30AM

Reminder Deadline: Friday, March 13

Games

Bowling: Monday, 9:00AM at Thunderbird Lanes

Wednesday, 9:00AM at Thunderbird Lanes (practice)

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

Golf: Thursday, 9:30AM at Mulligan's Dome

Special Events

The New DIA and Rockwell Too!, Wednesday, March 11, 9:30AM

Group Meetings

Reading Groups: Group A: Wednesday, March 4, 10:30AM

Group B: Monday, March 9, 3:00PM

Classic Movie Group: Monday, March 9, 1:00PM

Camera Group: Tuesday, March 10, 2:00PM

Investment Group: Wednesday, March 11, 2:45PM

Computer Group: Wednesday, March 18, 3:00PM

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; David Schneider and Bill Shaffmaster photography; Lee Trumbull, computer layout; Bob Jordan, mailing.

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham
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