

The Reminder



May 2015

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan

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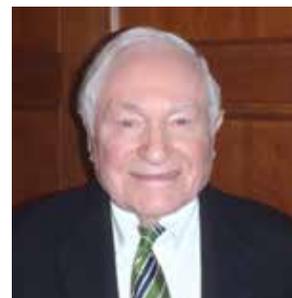
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Al Roberts:

A Varied Career Shaped by Henry Ford, the Educator

Although member Al Roberts was born in Philadelphia, he considers Michigan his native state, since he was only two when his parents moved here for an engineering job for his father at Ford Motor Company. This move would later result in a life changing opportunity for Al. While he was a first grade student at a Dearborn Public School, Henry Ford told Al's father that he was planning to start a school in Greenfield Village and that Al would be invited to attend.



The following year, September 1929, the Scotch Settlement School opened with one room, three grades – Al was in second grade. Each subsequent year grades, students, facilities and teachers were added. By 1940, when Al graduated from the Edison Institute High School, his class had doubled. The high school curriculum was basic college prep, but enhanced by limitless extra-curricular opportunities: participation in sports was encouraged, social graces were emphasized and day and longer trips scheduled, including Chicago and the New York World's Fair. Henry Ford frequently appeared often with famous guests like Thomas Edison, Charles

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MAY PROGRAMS

MAY CHAIRMAN: Jim Bayson

- 1 John Carter, President & CEO, Chase Michigan *Chase \$100 Million – Detroit Investment Update*
- 8 Jim Schaefer, *Detroit Free Press*..... *A Surviving Journalist's Tales from the Street*
- 15 Cameron Hosner, President & CEO, Judson Center..... *Providing Bright Futures for our Community*
- 22 Jeff Barnes, Director, Veterans Administration, Michigan *Capturing the Value of Veteran Talent – Moving Michigan Ahead*
- 29 Mark Seng & Tom Libby, HIS Automotive *The U.S. New Vehicle Industry in 2015 – Best Ever?*

JUNE PROGRAMS

JUNE CHAIRMAN: Martin Rowell

- 5 Carol Cain, Columnist, *Detroit Free Press*..... *Michigan Matters*

MAY DISCUSSIONS

MAY CHAIRMAN: Chuck Main

- 1 Dr. Warren Liu, Author..... *China: Key Success Factors*
- 8 Susan Beaton, Audiologist *Hearing Loss: Causes, Evaluation & Treatment Options*
- 15 Anthony Yanick, Author *The Founding of Chrysler Motors*
- 22 Josh Rounan, Baldwin Electronic Resources *Digital Services Available at Baldwin Library*
- 29 John Salter, Director, Boys/Girls Club, S. Oakland..... *Lack of Value System in the Younger Generation*

JUNE DISCUSSIONS

JUNE CHAIRMAN: Chuck Main

- 5 Jon Reed, SMC Member *Civil War Adventures*

New Members:



Robert H. Gillow
2039 Somerset Boulevard, #201
Troy, MI 48084
248-379-4638
rgillow@comcast.net
Sponsor: Chuck O'Connell



Richard G. Laimbeer
22083 Orchard Way
Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3550
248-932-3362
rlaimbeer@yahoo.com
Sponsor: Cliff Snedeker



Henri Romain
1507 Bloomingdale Drive
Troy, MI 48085-5096
248-619-1700
Sponsor: Ron Denton



Charles A. White
31055 Pickwick Lane
Beverly Hills, MI 48025-5240
248-566-3109
charleswhite1944@gmail.com
Sponsor: Bob Beach

New Associates:

Raymond Shapiro
316 Pine Ridge Drive
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2139
248-731-7675
Xxray46@hotmail.com
Sponsor: George Stern

Longin Kolakowski
511 Whitehall Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2350
248-647-8738
lkolakowski@att.net
Sponsor: Arthur Kaye

To Life Member:

Clifford O. Bath

Resigned:

Robert E. Wilde

William G. Pilchak

Wynn V. Bussmann

Warren C. Spatz

Deaths:

Edward P. Nagel, joined November 2006

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

Speaker Planning



We are well aware that Friday meeting attendance is clearly influenced by the appeal of featured speakers. This of course is a major responsibility of 2nd Vice President Dick Kamp. Dick recently convened a meeting of monthly chairmen to review the status of speaker planning for the remainder of 2015.

We learned that speaker commitments are in hand for our Friday meetings through July. However, openings exist for meetings in September through November. This is where members can contribute. We know that many of you have a wide range of interests and activities which can yield access and ideas as to potential Friday speakers. Please give this some thought and don't hesitate to contact Dick Kamp with any suggestions you might have.





Games



Monday Golf



Monday golf started April 20 at Lincoln Hills Golf Course which is located at 2666 West Fourteen Mile Road, just west of Cranbrook Road.

Built in 1964, Lincoln Hills is one of two municipal golf courses in the City of Birmingham. The terrain is rolling and offers golfers a fun and challenging

golf experience. The course was recently renovated and the irrigation system upgraded. The Lincoln Hills Clubhouse was also completely renovated. These improvements have made Lincoln Hills one of the top municipal, nine hole golf courses in the Detroit Metropolitan area. The par for men and women is 35 and the course ranges from 3023 yards from the blue tees to 2336 yards from the red tees. The clubhouse offers sundry golfer items, snack bar, pull carts and power carts.

Stand by for reports of exciting golf and good scores.

—The Golf Committee

On being asked, before his final round, what he had to shoot to win the tournament-"The rest of the field."

—Roger Maltbie

Thursday Golf

Golf has commenced at Springdale Golf Course. Each Thursday, the SMC has a reserved block of time between dawn and 8:52AM. Please come out and enjoy

the course, which is in great shape. Golf with members or just show up and we will arrange foursomes. We operate on a first come, first served basis. We anticipate some special activities this year. Look for a "shotgun start" three-club tournament with luncheon as well as our normal "best of three consecutive weeks" tournament this year! Please look to our bulletin board as well as this column for ongoing information.

—The Golf Committee



"Chargers" are the 2014-2015 Season Bowling Champs

Left to right: Tom Venier, Bob Jordan and Chuck Ragains. Nick Marinelli not pictured

Bowling



Our bowling season ended with an exciting roll-off between the winners of each half. Actually, it was more exciting for the first half leaders - "The Chargers" (Chuck Ragains, Tom Venier, Nick Marinelli and Bob Jordan) because they won all eight points

over "The Sierras" (Chuck Frederick, Ken Beres, Bob Klein and Pete Kass) and are the champs.

Nick was the star of the day, with a 234 game and a 576 series. Bob Jordan totaled 507. Hearty congratulations to "The Chargers" - they were recognized and awarded the coveted Champion Trophy at our bowling banquet held on April 15.

Individual honors for the season went to Phil Buccini for high average (168), and high game (245). Phil Owen had the high series (595).

Summer bowling will continue at Thunderbird on Wednesdays at 10:00AM.

—Dick Harper

Al Roberts

Lindberg, Mickey Rooney plus some of the 1934 St. Louis Cardinal champions, including Dizzy Dean. What an educational experience!

Following high school, Al enrolled at Purdue University. Why Purdue? A high school principal's recommendation, plus the fact that the University of Michigan was "too close to home." His engineering studies were interrupted in 1943 by his enlistment in the Army Air Corps. Part of his three years' service was spent with the Manhattan Project. His return to Purdue wasn't all about studies – he met his future wife, Joyce, at a fraternity/sorority mixer. He graduated with a B.S. Aeronautical Engineering Degree in 1948. Purdue later recognized Al's contributions with an Honorary Doctorate Degree. After graduation he and Joyce were married –Where? The Martha-Mary Chapel in Greenfield Village, of course.

Early in his Ford career, Al joined their top secret, Special Products Division. Al notes that while this was a fun experience, it didn't have much future – the product was Edsel! Al is especially positive about his years at Ford – he notes that "It was like going home; after all, I grew up around Ford". He didn't end his career there however, he moved to Sperry-Vickers in 1981, where he served as Vice President of Engineering and Research. When he retired, he established A.O. Roberts Associates – a consulting group providing fluid power expertise.

Al joined the Senior Men's Club in 1986 and is now a Life Member. He has been active in a variety of Club activities, serving as chairman of the Camera and Visitation/Health Groups and is now a member of the Chaplain Group and coordinates our annual golf event at Stonycroft. Al and Joyce have lived in the same home in Bloomfield since 1961. They have three children and two granddaughters. All five graduated from U of M or MSU. So, Al and Joyce do a lot of cheering for the Blue and Green (except when they play Purdue).

—Chuck Ragains



Senior Health Matters Lower Back Pain

A study from the March issue of *Arthritis Care & Research* found nine modifiable physical and psychosocial triggers for low back pain. They are listed from greatest to least risk.



<u>Trigger</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>
• Distracted during activity	25.0
• Awkward posture	8.0
• Objects not close to body.....	6.2
• Manual task involving people or animals	5.8
• Unstable, unbalanced or difficult to grasp.....	5.1
• Heavy loads.....	5.0
• Vigorous physical activity only	3.9
• Fatigue	3.7
• Moderate or vigorous physical activity.....	2.7

There was no interaction between any trigger and habitual participation in physical activity, body mass index (BMI), number of previous low back pain episodes, depression or anxiety. People over 60 years were less at risk from heavy loads than those age 20 perhaps because they have learned to lift safely. Onset was most likely between 7:00AM and noon possibly because spinal discs swell with fluid overnight. It is reassuring that sexual activity is not a trigger.

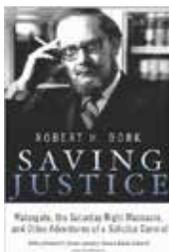
—Augustine L. Perrotta, DO
Chairman, Visitation-Health Committee

Groups



Book Reading Groups

On May 6 at 10:30AM the Wednesday reading group will discuss Robert Bork's *Saving Justice*—a book that Steven Calabresi of The Wall Street Journal described as “a brilliant work of memoir and analysis.” Robert Bork is best known as the jurist nominated by President Reagan for the U. S. Supreme Court, whom the Senate, controlled by Democrats, refused to confirm. But this memoir recounts an earlier time in Bork's career, when he played a crucial role in the resolution of the Watergate scandal. Bork, along with Attorney General Elliot Richardson, insisted that Spiro Agnew be indicted by the Justice Department. When President Nixon agreed that Agnew would be indicted, Agnew agreed to a plea bargain, and resigned. That paved the way for Gerald Ford to become vice president. Robert Bork died in December 2012—just before this book was published.



The Monday, May 18 reading group will discuss *The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon*, by Brad Stone, at 3:00PM. Amazon.com, named after the largest river on the planet (by volume), started out modestly as an online bestseller; by 2012, this book reports, Amazon was selling \$61 billion a year of all kinds of things—not just books. The book describes both the growth of Amazon's business and the personality and life of its founder, Jeff Bezos.



—Frank Auld



Computer Group

The Computer Group will meet on Wednesday, May 20 at 3:00PM in the Microsoft Store located at the North Somerset Mall on Big Beaver and Coolidge. The store is located on the second floor near Macy's. There will be a tour of the store to review all the products available and then a class on advanced computer features and a class on internet safety taught by their instructors. The total meeting should last about an hour. Microsoft also offers additional computer related classes including digital photography, Microsoft Office, basic computer features and Windows 8.1.

—Ron Denton



Classic Movie Group

“San Francisco” (1936) is Augie Perrotta's classic movie choice on Monday, May 11 at 1:00PM. In this MGM production, the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 serves as the background for a passionate romance between an opera singer, Jeanette MacDonald, and a Barbary Coast saloon owner, Clark Gable. The outstanding special effects, and actual historic earthquake footage, are still regarded as one of the top action sequences in film. Jeanette sings her way beautifully through all of the action and Spencer Tracy is a Priest with a mean right hook. Please view the official trailer and additional videos on our website.



—Fred Hansz



Investment Group

On Wednesday, May 13 at 2:45PM, Carlos Rangel, Portfolio Manager for the Kellogg Foundation will discuss “When Gravity Falls – Investing in the Age of Activist Central Banking.” Carlos is responsible for the overall management of \$8 billion of Kellogg's assets. He has global investment experience and will offer excellent investment advice. Stock game update – our new leader once again is Bob Rossi (he won last year) with an 87.8% gain. Mike Clement is close behind with an 83.4% gain, while Jerry Peck continues third, up 77.4% (with the best stock, Ambarella, a body camera maker up 92.5%). The game ends May 31.

—George Miller



Camera Group

On Tuesday, May 12 at 2:00PM Irv Poston will show a PowerPoint presentation “Telling Your Annual Story with Pictures” along with samples in a scrapbook of how he uses pictures to provide an annual record of his family history. The presentation begins in 1958 with pictures taken for Christmas cards and letters. Tips and techniques for taking, using and printing photographs will be discussed.

—John Slocum

Special Events

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Once again we are heading south to visit beautiful Fifth Third ballpark in Toledo to watch the Mud Hens play. The date is Wednesday, May 20, and the Mud Hens' opponent will be the Gwinnett Braves, a farm team for the Atlanta Braves. We have reserved a block of 56 excellent first base side seats under the 2nd deck overhang. Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship! The game starts at 10:30AM, so our bus will leave the Birmingham First Presbyterian Church promptly at 8:15 AM. Following the game, we will move on to the Real Seafood Company restaurant overlooking the Maumee River for a late lunch (not included in the ticket price). After lunch we will make a brief stop at the world-renowned Glass Pavilion of the Toledo Museum of Arts on our way back to Birmingham.



Tickets sales will begin on Friday, April 24, on a first-come, first-served basis at \$35 per ticket, and will continue every Friday through May 15. Spouses and significant others are invited to join us. This trip is always a sell-out so don't forget to buy your tickets early. See you on the bus!

—Jim King

Baseball "Quotes"

"It took me seventeen years to get three thousand hits in baseball. It took one afternoon on the golf course."

—Hank Aaron

"Baseball is like driving, it's the one who gets home safely that counts."

—Tommy Lasorda

"When we win, I'm so happy I eat a lot. When we lose, I'm so depressed, I eat a lot. When we're rained out, I'm so disappointed I eat a lot."

—Tommy Lasorda

"The other teams could make trouble for us if they win."

— Yogi Berra



A Museum to Remind Us

On Wednesday, June 17 we will lunch at noon at a local restaurant and then visit the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills at 2:00PM. This is a museum and a reminder so that what happened must never happen again. It is thought provoking, educational and not depressing. We will tour and then meet with Martin Lowenberg, a Holocaust survivor for a conversation on his experiences.



This is a self-drive event and we will begin selling tickets on May 22. Further details will follow.

—Jerry Stribbell

Save the Date July River Cruise

This year's river cruise will be on Wednesday, July 22, 2015. Departing from Port Huron, our



cruise ship, "The Huron Lady II," will travel down the St. Clair River to the famous River Crab Restaurant for a late afternoon dinner. Following dinner, we will enjoy a leisurely cruise back to Port Huron and be back in Birmingham before sundown.

The full details will be published in next month's *Reminder*. The cruise ship has a 100 passenger -limit and we anticipate an early sellout. Tickets go on sale June 26.

—Bob Gualdoni, Riggs Miller,
Jerry Stribbell and Larry Price



Member Directory on SMC Website

	POSTON, Irvin E. (Irv)	
	288 Shirley Rd	Active 82
	Birmingham, MI 48009-3725	1/3/1997
	248-646-9574	President: 2010 10/5/2001
	IEPoston@juno.com	Lois
	EXPERTISE: Purdue Mech Eng & Ind Eng, Mgr Adv Eng	
	General Motors INTEREST: Movies, Camera, Computer,	
	Investment, Home Theater PolymerComposites, FSPE	
	FESD USCAR SERVICE: Church Deacon & Elder,	
	Furniture Bank, Symphony Orchestras	

The SMC website currently has a Member Directory in the Members-Only portal. The Executive Board has approved the addition of photos and more information from the database to this directory in the future. Currently, no photos are in the database. Tom Booth and Geno Markel will be using their existing photos and taking new photos to update their archives. These files will be added to the database for use in the directory as time and computer space exist.

The photo directory will enable our members to relate to one another on a more personal basis. However, if you do not want to have your photo in the database and directory, you can opt-out by contacting Irv Poston of the Database Committee at 248-646-9574 or ieposton@juno.com.

Above is a sample listing from the Directory for the SMC Website. By default, your age will be listed as one of the items in the website directory. If you do not want to have your age listed, please let Irv Poston know.

A sample page from the website photo directory will be posted on the bulletin board at Friday morning meetings. You are encouraged to look at it and check the information that is shown. All 50+ pages for current members are available for your review. Your questions, comments, and suggestions should be addressed to Irv Poston.

New Record Set

A new Club record was set on April 3. The Senior Men's Club traditionally does not meet on Good Friday. Despite such a listing in the *Reminder* and presidential announcements, inevitably members will arrive at TCH on that day. This year, a new record was set. TCH front desk personnel tell us that only one member arrived for a non-scheduled meeting. Of course, it is possible that members may have entered by the south door, learned they had arrived in vain and were not counted. No need to inform us.

Volunteering Opportunity

The Executive Board recently approved the establishment of a Community Services Activity Group within our Club, with Charley Blank accepting chairmanship. Our charter includes the "rendering of community service" as a major Club objective. We are well aware of course that many individual members already volunteer with a broad array of community organizations. A major objective of this newly established activity is to communicate and encourage *specific* volunteering opportunities to the membership. One means of accomplishing this will be via periodic *Reminder* articles. This is the first of such articles.



Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital has a large, well established Volunteer Services Department. There are more than 500 men and women who play an important part in enhancing the hospital's capacity of services allowing the professional staff to provide the best medical and support help to their patients. They work with patients, families and visitors. Typically, volunteers work a four hour morning or afternoon shift. They provide assistance in many areas and in many ways. They function as patient escorts, greeters, and receptionists to name just a few. They assist with registration and discharge, patient education, flower delivery, spiritual care, and running the gift shop. They can be seen in the Emergency Center, the Cancer Center, Pediatrics and throughout the hospital.

Beaumont volunteers are unique men and women of all ages (16 years and up) from varied backgrounds with different abilities and motivations behind their interest in volunteering. All, however, have a shared goal to help others. This organization has great *esprit de corps*.

Smiles are recommended and you will get considerable satisfaction from the thanks received from patients, visitors and hospital staff. Beaumont is always looking for more volunteers. Anyone interested in learning more can visit their website www.beaumont.edu and under Patient Services, click Volunteer to access volunteer opportunities. The undersigned can also answer questions.

—Dick Harper

Mystery Lyrics

Even though we used last month's mystery lyrics before, not many remembered the song with this beautiful lyric:



"A trip to the moon on gossamer wings"

Only six readers recognized that the song is the Cole Porter classic "Just One of Those Things." Congratulations to Dick Kamp, Bill Burnie, Jeanne (Merrill) Miller, Fred Leydorf, Mary (John) Slocum and Midge (Roger) Gettel.

This month we will test your memory with an old sing-along tune – one you likely sang watching a bouncing ball on these lyrics:

*If I had Aladdin's lamp for only a day
I'd make a wish and here's what I'd say*

Can you name that tune?

Sports Trivia

The sports trivia challenge possibly proved to be too trivial. We asked if you could remember the shortest and the tallest men to ever play a major league game. The shortest was Eddie Gaedel – a 3 foot 7 inch midget. Bill Veeck of the St. Louis Browns sent him to bat against the Tigers in 1951. The umpires challenged his eligibility – Veeck produced a contract, Gaedel was walked on four pitches and replaced by a pinch runner. Only Pete Kass, Jack McLaughlin and Tom McNally had this answer. No one remembered that the tallest ball player was an obscure pitcher named Bob Rauch, who is 6 ft. 11 inches tall and still with the Minnesota Twins.

This month, we will challenge your memories of long time hockey announcers. The Detroit Red Wings, Toronto Maple Leafs and the Montreal Canadians each had great announcers who served many years with these clubs, even before the days of TV. Can you name these famous radio and later TV personalities?
—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 2015 are: George L. Stern, president; Eugene P. Jacoby, first vice president; Richard A. Kamp, second vice president; Robert I. Hayes, recording secretary; Charles R. (Dick) Bradley, corresponding secretary; John P. Groves, treasurer; James A. Bayson, assistant treasurer; Charles J. Blank and Pradeep (Pete) Mehra, 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.tchserve.org

CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 12 at 9:30AM

Reminder Deadline: Friday, May 15

Games

Bowling Practice: Wednesdays at 10:00AM at Thunderbird Lanes

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

Thursday Golf: Springdale Golf Course, dawn til 8:52AM start times

Monday Golf: Lincoln Hills Golf Course, 7:30 - 9:30AM start times

Special Events

Toledo Mud Hens Baseball: Wednesday, May 20 at 8:15AM

Holocaust Memorial Center: Wednesday, June 17

River Cruise: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 time TBD

Group Meetings

Book Reading Groups: Group A: Wednesday, May 6 at 10:30AM
Group B: Monday, May 18 at 3:00PM

Classic Movie Group: Monday, May 11 at 1:00PM

Camera Group: Tuesday, May 12 at 2:00PM

Computer Group: Wednesday, May 20 at 3:00PM

Investment Group: Wednesday, May 13 at 2:45PM

All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.

SMC ON THE WEB:

www.seniormensclubbirmingham.com

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