

The Reminder

May 2010

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan



Inside

- 2 Membership News
- 3 Games
- 4 Soaring Eagle
- 5 Mud Hens
- 6 Groups
- 7 Endowment Fund
- 8 Mystery Lyrics

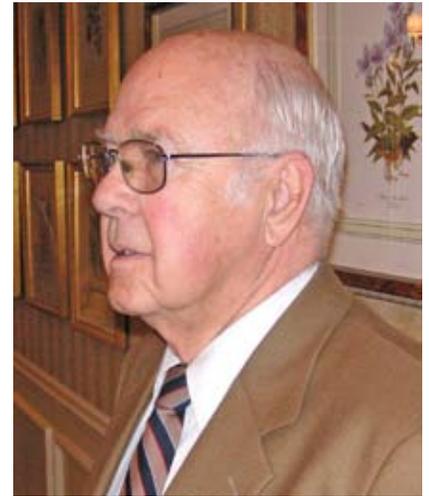


The Singing Golfer

Life members, the most prestigious segment of the Senior Men's Club, not only have varied backgrounds, but many also have avid pursuits.

James R. Leese, who joined the SMC in 1998 and will become a life member in May, is an excellent example of an active member with many outside interests.

Jim was born in York, Pennsylvania and his family moved to Detroit in 1927. He grew up on the east side and graduated from Southeastern High School in 1942. His time at Michigan State University was interrupted by enlistment in the Naval Air Corp. in 1943. He spent three years at the Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia as an instructor in the tactical use of radar. He returned to graduate from MSU with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1948. During the Korean War, Jim was recalled, served two years as a radar instructor at the Boston Naval Base.



...continued on page 3

MAY PROGRAMS

MAY CHAIRMAN: Pradeep Mehra

- 7 Rich Studley, President, Michigan Chamber of Commerce..... *Three Steps to Restore Michigan's Economic Competitiveness*
- 14 Gordon H. Mueller, President & CEO, National WW II Museum*Museum-Past, Present and Future*
- 21 Ron Gettelfinger, President, U.A.W..... *State of the Industry*
- 28 John Rakolta, CEO, Walbridge..... *What's Wrong with Michigan - Can We Get it Straight?*

JUNE PROGRAMS

JUNE CHAIRMAN: Jack McCuen

- 4 Colonel (USA Ret.) Jack McCuen, SMC Member *The Wars We Face*

MAY DISCUSSIONS

MAY CHAIRMAN: Chuck Travers

- 7 James Relle, M.D., Michigan Institute of Urology..... *Erectile Dysfunction*
- 14 Jane Stewart, PhD, Optiminds Life Strategies *Brain Fitness for Seniors*
- 21 Rick Anderson, Director, GLNC, Holly, MI *The New Great Lakes National Cemetery*
- 28 Chuck Amann, SMC Member..... *Floating in Air-History of Lighter than Air Crafts*

JUNE DISCUSSIONS

JUNE CHAIRMAN: Michel Clement

- 4 Dennis Nordmoe, PhD, Executive Director, Urban Neighborhood Initiatives *Building Vital Neighborhoods in Detroit*

New Members:



Raymond L. Finocchio
1773 Stanley
Birmingham, MI 48009-1953
248-203-6635
E-mail: Rfinocchio11@comcast.net
Sponsor: John Marsh



John L. Ward
1128 Pierce
Birmingham, MI 48009-1702
248-644-5252
Sponsor: Tony Smyk



Louis G. DeMaris
40760 Woodward Ave., Unit 46
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5114
248-203-1013
E-mail: LouisDeM@comcast.net
Sponsor: Dick Harper



Michael R. Albright
2512 Dorchester
Birmingham, MI 48009-7408
248-649-6063
E-mail: janandmikea@comcast.net
Sponsor: Richard Hameister



James E. Grady
7187 White Pine Drive
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301-3719
248-855-1282
E-mail: JimGradySr@comcast.net
Sponsor: Jim Holden



Edward J. Burke
930 S. Shady Hollow
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-3773
248-540-7434
E-mail: edburke@comcast.net
Sponsor: Clarke Thornton



Dale D. Haskin
18608 Blue Heron Drive W.
Northville, MI 48168-9241
248-449-5021
E-mail: Dhaskin@comcast.net
Sponsor: Gene Jacoby

Life Member:

John L. Benish
James L. Johnson
Paul Cicchini
William F. Gray

Leave of Absence:

Hunter E. Pickens
Emmett P. Feely, Jr

New Associates:

John H. Finley (Genevieve)
7305 Deep Run Road, #612
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
248-642-5444
E-mail: JHFRWDR@comcast.net
Sponsor: Charles B. Kirkpatrick

Perry Driggs (Lorraine)
230 Orange Lake Drive
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-1161
248-334-6868
E-mail: perrydriggs@prodigy.net
Sponsor: A.M. Clement

Deaths:

Thomas H. Clapp, joined November 2003
George R. Johnson, (Life), joined March 1998
Thomas W. Raleigh, (Life), joined January 1985

Change of Address:

George Kendro, 4500 Dobry Drive, Apt. 137,
Sterling Heights, MI 48314-1240
Byron R. Converse, 1905 West Lake Drive,
Novi, MI 48377-1343

—Pete Kass, Membership Chairman

—John M. Steele, Database Chairman

—Bill Shaffmaster and Tom Booth, Photography

Why We Love the French

President Jack Kennedy's Secretary of State was Dean Rusk, who was in France in the early 60's when the French President, Charles DeGaulle loudly announced he wanted all US military out of France as soon as possible. Rusk responded, "Does this include all the troops buried at Normandy?" The silence was deafening.



Thursday Golf

The weather gods continue to tease our intrepid golfers. Thursday weather during April alternated between beautiful and poor.

On April 15, Cliff Bath, having finished sending in his taxes, decided to air mail his shot on the 6th hole directly into the cup. Congratulations Cliff for a great hole in one. The committee is convinced that Cliff's winter practice at the dome followed by the training table cuisine at Hero's made this feat possible.

The annual Big Bonus Bucks contest will begin on May 20 and conclude on August 19. The contest will be suspended on Scrambles Day. The Bonus Bucks start at \$5 and grows \$5 each week until someone wins. The prize then resets to \$5. Here are the rules:

- Winner must be closest to the pin.
- Be six (6) feet or more from the edge of the cup.
- Sink the putt for a birdie.

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

—Chuck Travers

Bowling

On the last day of bowling for the SMC, the Eagles (Capt. Bob Jordan, Bruce Smiley, Dr. Tony Smyk and Bob Rossi), 1st half winners, were matched against the 2nd half winners, the Giants (Capt. "Lefty" George Moore III, Tom Tabor, Dr. Dave Dinger and Jim Judge). Each team got 4 points, but the Giants won the total pin count by a scant 6 pins and became the champs. What a way to end a season.

As for the rest of the league, they rolled in a "doubles match with a 9 pin no tap tournament." Here several of the matched up bowlers really showed off. In 1st were Marinelli and McNally at 1335, 2nd were Beach and Brooker at 1125 and 3rd were Kozak and Venier at 1110. In closing, the season was a unique one in many ways and we all had fun.

The banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12 at The Community House at 6:00PM with dinner at 6:45PM. All SMC members are invited. Call either Tom Venier at 248.642.2386 or Less Lessenthien at 248.879.1127 for tickets.

—Less Lessenthien

Annual SMC Boat Cruise



This year's annual boat cruise will be on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 from 5:00 to 8:00PM.

The Diamond Belle Cruise Ship will leave from the Detroit Ren Cen and go under the Belle Isle Bridge and into Lake St. Clair. She will cruise down the Canadian shoreline between Windsor, Belle Isle and downtown Detroit, under the Ambassador Bridge and return to the dock.

Prime rib buffet dinner will be served along with lots of side dishes. Light jazz music on board for listening and dancing.

Price is \$50 per person. Tickets will go on sale in June. Maximum ticket sales - 168 people.

—Special Events Committee

The Singing Golfer

...continued from page 1

Jim was employed by the Michigan Bell Telephone Company where he worked in engineering management positions for 35 years. Jim married Beverly Sedwick in 1949 and was married 60 years until Bev passed away in 2009. They have two children and three wonderful grandsons.

Jim is a member of the Senior Men's Club Master of Ceremonies Committee and periodically leads the singing at the Friday meetings. In addition, Jim sings with the Grunyons, an acappella vocal jazz group that entertained at a Senior Men's Club Christmas Party in the 1990's. He has been involved in music at his church for over 50 years singing in the choir, in talent shows and playing the hand bells.

An excellent golfer, Jim achieved the rare feat of having eagled par 3, par 4 and par 5 holes. He states these are highlights of his life and his greatest golf moments.

—Bill Reilly

Hostesses Needed

Among the many time-honored traditions of the Senior Men's Club has been the serving of lunch by ladies at our Friday meetings at The Community House. This activity started in our very first year - 1957 - and continues today with a staff of dedicated and much respected voluntary hostesses.

This activity is headed by Lillian Fregolle and Eunice Orton, who indicate they are looking for additional ladies - possibly wives of newer members - to join this group. Scheduling is flexible, with most ladies serving two Fridays a month.

We know many wives read *The Reminder*, so if you might be interested, please call Lillian (248.646.1894), or Eunice (248.642.7812) for more information. Members - if your "better half" doesn't see this item, please bring it to their attention. If they join, they will find out what you really do on Friday mornings.

—Dick Harper

Sports Update

Lynn Henning made his annual spring appearance with us, discussing the outlook for local and state sports teams. His inside knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the Tigers, Lions, Red Wings, Wolverines and Spartans was quite evident. Lynn is perhaps surprisingly upbeat about the Lions. The Q&A session was especially instructive.



—Dick Harper

Poet's Corner

Wife's Birthday Gift

*He bought her some pants from the Bargain Rack
And took them home in a plastic sack,
He then discovered there was a lack
Of belt loops on the front and back!
He wrapped them in a pretty pack,
She opened it and made a crack:
"These have no loops, now take them back
And next time get me Gucci Slacks!"*

—Art Byington

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort



The overnight trip many members have asked for has been scheduled, and it will take place June 15-16. This will be an outstanding and multi-featured trip including:

- early afternoon departure on Tuesday, June 15 on our 56 passenger luxury motorcoach
- a tour of the famous Dow Gardens in Midland with flowers at spring peak color
- late afternoon arrival at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant with restaurant and casino allowances
- morning departure on Wednesday, June 16 with a full breakfast and shopping stop in Frankenmuth
- Birmingham arrival around noon

Advance reservations are required to guarantee our accommodations at the resort. Hence, the committee will establish a sign in position at Friday meetings starting April 30 to explain the many features of this trip and to accept reservations. The full cost is a bargain at \$100 per person. Bring your check book!

—Special Events Committee

Golden Oldie, Jack Benish

Jack Benish, who often "tickles the ivories" for us on Friday mornings as a member of the Master of Ceremonies Committee, recently received his coveted Golden Oldie membership card. Welcome, Jack, to this prestigious segment of the SMC.



Senior Health Matters

Advance Directive is a term that actually describes two kinds of legal documents. One is a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, which in Michigan is called "Designation of Patient Advocate for Health Care." This document allows an individual to appoint an "agent" to make decisions about your care if you are unable to communicate.

The other is a Living Will which documents your wishes about medical treatment should you be at the end of life and unable to communicate. It is also called a "medical directive."

From the Veterans Affairs Center and the University of Michigan comes a report significant for members of the



SMC ¹. Of 3746 seniors, 60 years and older, 42.5% required decision making at the end of life. Of these, 70.3% lacked decision-making capacity and 67.6% of those

unable to make medical decisions had advance directives. In short, 29.8% required decision making at the end of life but lacked decision-making capacity. Those with living wills were more likely to want limited care (92.7%) or comfort care (96.2%) than all care possible (1.9%). Care consistent with stated preferences was given to 83.2% of those who requested limited care and to 97.1% who requested comfort care. Among those who required decision-making, had lost decision-making capacity, and had appointed a durable power of attorney for health care, the actual decision maker matched the appointed surrogate for 91.5% of them. Those with a durable power of attorney for health care were less likely to die in a hospital or receive all care possible than those who did not designate a patient advocate for healthcare. The lead author stated, "This study underscores the need to prepare oneself and one's family for the often emotional and difficult decisions that can arise at the end of life."

You need to be informed about what end of life care is all about and make decisions with your family and physician ². Do not leave some of the most important decisions of your life to someone else.

¹ Silveira MJ, Kim SYH and Lang KM: *Advance directives and outcomes of surrogate decision making before death*. *N Engl J Med*. 2010;1211-1218.

² <http://www.mgh.org/MichiganAD.pdf> (an excellent site for information and forms for an advance directive pages 4-18 with glossary pages 19-22 and HIPPA 1-3).

—Mike Nigro

Take Me Out to the Ball Game



Spring is here at last and to sports fans that means baseball! During May of 2008, our Special Event featured a fun trip to Toledo to see the Mud Hens (farm club of the Detroit Tigers) battle a worthy opponent.

In answer to many requests, a similar baseball trip is planned for Wednesday, May 19, when the Toledo Mud Hens will host the pesky Durham Bulls. Our deluxe 56-passenger bus will leave the Birmingham Presbyterian Church promptly at 8:30AM and arrive at Toledo's beautiful Fifth Third Field ballpark in time for the 10:30AM game.

By ordering our tickets last fall for this sold-out game, we were able to obtain a block of excellent seats along the first base line. They are also under the overhang for protection in the event of rain. Our seats are also close to the refreshment stands and restrooms.

Following the game, our bus will depart for the popular Cousino's Navy Bistro restaurant, which is located along the south side of the picturesque Maumee River. As before, Cousino's friendly staff will be on hand to take our luncheon orders with everyone on their own.

Following lunch, our bus will continue along the scenic riverfront, then swing east to I-280. Heading north, our bus will cross the Maumee River via Toledo's Veteran's Glass City Skyway bridge, then on to northbound I-75. Around 5:00PM, we should arrive back at the church parking lot.

As indicated, this excellent fun trip is limited to 56 people and tickets went on sale Friday, April 23 at \$28 per person. See you on the bus!

—Committee: John Horiszny, Jack Howell and Don Upward

Groups



Camera Group

We decided earlier this year to have three sessions in the fall and three in the winter. We are looking for speakers for September, October and November 2010 and for January, February and March 2011. Most members of SMC have made trips either to our national parks or to foreign countries, and while there, have learned interesting information regarding those locations. Why not share them with fellow seniors, and learn more yourself, while preparing for those presentations. Please overwhelm me with your offers!

—Jaap B. Delevie



Book Reading Groups

On Wednesday, May 5 at 10:30AM we will be discussing "Crash Course" by Paul Ingrassia. This book answers the big questions: Was Detroit's self-destruction inevitable? What were the key turning points? Why did Japanese automakers manage American workers better than the American companies themselves did? He also describes dysfunctional corporate cultures (even as GM's market share plunged, the company continued business as usual) and Detroit's perverse system of "inverse layoffs" (which allowed union members to invoke seniority to avoid work). Along the way we meet Detroit's frustrated reformers and witness the wrenching decisions that Ford executives had to make to avoid GM's fate.

On Monday, May 17 at 3:00PM we will be discussing "The Keepers Son" by H. Hickman. This book provides a vivid and convincing portrayal of life under the sea in a U-boat, as well as on the surface, in a fragile patrol boat. Well-crafted characters, gripping naval warfare and colorful island life come together in this dynamic and exciting tale. The pacing, the building of character with carefully chosen detail, and the masterful construction of a setting are as much strengths of this novel as they are of Hickman's other books. He evokes with great skill a time and a place that is passing out of living memory.

—Ted Chapekis



Classic Movie Group

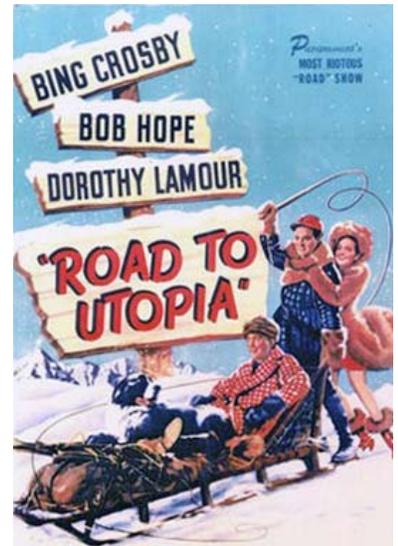
"Road to Utopia" (1946)

will be shown by Fred Leydorf on Monday, May 10 at 1:00PM in the Hackett Room.

This musical comedy features Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour in the 4th of 7 popular "Road to" films and is considered to be the cleverest and most amusing.

Hope and Crosby are truly a comedy team in this "Road to" but Hope manages to cram more contemporary (1940s) one-liners and jokes than most comedians do in an entire career. The songs, especially "Personality" sung by Lamour, are an added bonus to the humor. Bring your date.

—Augie Perrotta



Investment Group

On Wednesday, May 12 at 2:45PM, Michael Alioto, Senior V.P. - Investments, UBS Birmingham Office will be our speaker. He will discuss "What's Next For Stocks - Identifying the Next Bubble".

Our speaker is experienced and knowledgeable on domestic and global markets. He is a vanishing breed, in that he recommends individual stocks and bonds. Plan to attend and bring a guest.

Ted Chapekis continues to lead the Stock Game with a 79% gain, but he has competition. Ben Porter, who was in 65th place in December, leaped into second with a 66% gain, while Joe Samyn is third at 62%. The game ends May 31. Remember, you can sell all or part of your holdings on any Friday. Beware of May!

—George Miller

Membership Requirement

Club members present at the regular meeting on April 9, 2010 unanimously approved a proposed amendment to the SMC Constitution concerning eligibility for membership.

The amendment eliminates the words stating that a candidate under 65 must be "retired from his regular occupation." The intent of this change is to broaden our reach for new members, while dropping a requirement that was difficult to interpret and monitor.

The SMC Constitution and the Associate application form have been revised to incorporate this change.

—Dick Harper

"The Wars of Our Generation"

"The Wars of Our Generation" book covering the war time experiences of some 82 SMC members was published in 2004 and has been sold out for some time. On occasion, we receive inquires as to the availability of the book, sometimes as a possible thank you for a Friday speaker.



We know that some members purchased more than one copy. If, by chance, you have one that you no longer need and would be willing to donate it to the club, please contact the undersigned.

—Dick Harper

Mighty Oak

The Reminder has received a number of positive comments about the April front page story covering the recent passing of long time club stalwart Don Clark. Unfortunately, the byline of the author wasn't reported - so thanks to associate editor Bill Reilly for this well received article.

Associates Orientation

The SMC Associates Orientation will be on Tuesday, June 18 at 9:00AM. Orientation will be in the Rosso Library of The Community House. All associates who have not attended a previous orientation are invited. A letter of invitation will be mailed to all affected associates in May.

—John Klein

No Hard Copy

More and more members are deciding that they don't need to receive *The Reminder* in two forms - and that the e-mailed copy, which arrives a week sooner and is in glorious color, satisfies their needs. Since last month a record 16 members have told us to drop their names from the conventional mail list.

Thanks so much to James Green, Keith Brown, Ed Sharples, Dale Parker, Ray Finocchio, John Rady, Peter Fuger, Dick Michel, Chuck Torner, Bill Crabtree, Mike Albright, Tom Woods, Dan McNulty, Vem Chuang, Don Nummer, Dennis Kozak and Tom Buescher. Our printing and postage expenses are benefitting from your decisions. Any more out there? Tell John Steele.

John also points out that members/associates without email can save the club postage (.44¢ a copy) by picking up *The Reminder* at Friday check-in. Please let him know if this works for you.

Endowment Fund

A raffle benefiting the Endowment Fund will be held shortly. Tickets will be available on three Fridays starting May 21, with the winner drawn on June 4. You need not be present to win.

The prize is a night in a luxury suite at the Detroit Ren Cen Marriot Hotel and includes dinner for two at Andiamo, breakfast and valet parking - a \$500

value, which will be valid any weekend through March 2011. This prize is being donated by Bob Farmery - General Manager of the Marriott (who happens to be a Penn St. alumnus).

The April *Reminder* listed the generous donors who contributed more than \$11,000 in 2009, for an average donation of \$134. Several members made large donations in 2007-08, with the total fund value now more than \$88,000. Our target for 2010 is \$15,000. The Community House and the SMC Endowment Fund greatly appreciate all donations. It is our legacy!



—George Miller

Mystery Lyrics

Last month's mystery lyrics were correctly identified by nine readers, who remembered that these lines:

*We may never never meet again
On this bumpy road to love*

are from that great Gershwin tune "They Can't Take That Away From Me". They were Bill and Dolly Johnson, Bill Sprague, Dave and Mary Schwartz, Jerry Heller, Jack Howell, Omer Petti/Madge Woodward, John Zarek, Mark and Donna Kelly plus Clay Gordon.

The big band theme song challenge proved to be a little more difficult. Only the Johnsons, Bob Babcock, John Zarek and Clay Gordon remembered that Lionel Hampton's theme was "Flyin' Home," which featured a great tenor sax solo by Illinois Jacquet.

This month, we have a romantic ballad to test your memory banks. The mystery lyric lines are:

*Chills run up and down my spine
Aladdin's lamp is mine*

Can you name that tune? Hopefully it's not too easy! It was recorded by many, including Sinatra, Johnny Mathis and Helen Forrest, plus an instrumental version by Glenn Miller.

Lastly, we found one more big band theme - do you recall the biggest hit and theme song of that "Hi De Ho" man and scat singer Cab Calloway?

—Dick Harper



CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 9:30AM

Reminder Deadline: Friday, May 21

Games

Bowling: Wednesday, 10:30AM at Thunderbird Lanes (practice)

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

Golf: Monday, 7:30AM at Lincoln Hills
Thursday, 9:00AM at Springdale

Special Events

Toledo Mud Hens, Wednesday, May 19, 10:30AM

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 15 & 16

SMC Boat Cruise, Wednesday, July 21, 5:00PM

Group Meetings

Book Reading Groups: Group A: Wednesday, May 5, 10:30AM

Group B: Monday, May 17, 3:00PM

Classic Movie Group: Monday, May 10, 1:00PM

Camera Group: No meeting

Investment Group: Wednesday, May 12, 2:45PM

Computer Group: Wednesday, May 19, 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 2010 are: Irvin E. Poston, president; John S. Flintosh, first vice president; Charles B. Kirkpatrick, second vice president; David A. Schwartz, recording secretary; Dennis J. Kozak, corresponding secretary; William L. Sprague, treasurer; Richard E. Shirley, assistant treasurer; Robert W. Jordan and Roger T. Struck, officers at large; Bill Crabtree, parliamentarian.

THE REMINDER includes: Dick Harper, editor; Chuck Kirkpatrick and Bill Reilly, 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



Address Service Requested