

The Reminder



July 2015

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan

Inside

- 2 Membership News
- 3 Games
- 4 New Life Members
- 5 Groups
- 6 Special Events
- 7 Senior Health Matters
- 8 Mystery Lyrics



Al Eicher: A Good Life in Television

"Friends ask me when I'm going to retire you know, to slow down and live the good life. I tell them I'm doing what I enjoy too much to retire."

Those words summarize Al Eicher's approach to retirement planning. Al, a Senior Men's Club member since 2006, has a full—and enjoyable—workload.

Al is the founder of his company, Program Source International, and has been in the television production and distribution business for over 60 years. He has held executive positions at Campbell Ewald Advertising Agency; 20th Century Fox; Magnetic Video Corporation; and Embassy Home Entertainment; a Norman Lear Company in Hollywood. In addition, he has produced 13 television shows, owned a radio station, and spent 5 years as technical director of Channel 5, an NBC Television Affiliate.

For the past 25 years, Al's company has produced television network shows such as the ABC-TV network Christmas program "Welcome in the Child," shown on 187 stations on Christmas Day. The company has also produced 28 television documentaries on Michigan events and Michigan history. In its research, the Company has developed a



continued on page 6...

JULY PROGRAMS

JUNE CHAIRMAN: Dick Harper

- 3 NO MEETING
- 10 Dr. Barry Franklin, Director, Beaumont Cardiac Rehabilitation..... *Exercise: The Antidote to Aging? Reversing the Aging Process*
- 17 Dr. Carl Clavenna, Ophthalmologist, Clavenna Vision Institute *Advances in Cataract Surgery*
- 24 Sheriff Michael Bouchard, Oakland County *Policing 2.0*
- 31 Henry Payne, Auto Critic, Detroit News..... *State of the U.S. Auto Industry - Trends, Challenges, Key Players*

AUGUST PROGRAMS

NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

JULY DISCUSSIONS

JUNE CHAIRMAN: Augie Perrotta

- 3 NO MEETING
- 10 Tracy Salisbury - Michigan Territory Manager..... *Clear Caption Telephones - Enjoy Using the Telephone Even with Hearing Loss*
- 17 Jim Suhay - SMC Member *The Vietnam Wall*
- 24 Dr. Donald Borsand - Military Historian *The Battle of Britain*
- 31 Dr. Matthew Johnson - SMC Member *Safe Medication Use in Senior Men*

AUGUST DISCUSSIONS

NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

To Life Member:

Robert J. Klein
E. Lewis Baughman

Deaths:

Ken Brooker, joined November 1990
Robert A. Rossi, joined June 2008

Dropped:

Peter N. Bakalis	R. Bruce Martin
David J. Barrett	John Mills
Scott R. Cameron	Louis B. Muench
M. Donald Cutler	Dale T. Pickett
Dale Genzlinger	Robert P. Pietsch
James Haveranek	Peter E. Sikatis
Paul T. Higgins	R. Jay Smith
Richard W. Huff	Otha D. White
Lloyd E. Jones	

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

Nominating Committee

President George Stern has appointed a SMC Nominating Committee with the most important responsibility of selecting candidates for Club Officer positions for 2016.

Committee members are Past President Stu Shuster, Chairman, plus Past Presidents John Flintosh and John Steele, as well as members Bob Beach and Jim Bayson.

In accordance with the Club constitution, nominations and the election of officers for 2016 will take place during the first two weeks in November. Members with officer candidate suggestions are encouraged to contact any committee member.



—Dick Harper

New Associates:

Lewis R. Robbins
4029 Hillsdale
Auburn Hills, MI 48326-4305
248-475-1757
LewRobb79@aol.com
Sponsor: Roger Hammer

Yash P. Malhotra
2131 Birchwood Way
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-1603
248-851-5695
Ymalhotra06@gmail.com
Sponsor: Swarn Rajpal

William H. Laitinen
6097 North Shore Dr.
West Bloomfield, MI 48324-2142
248-360-0366
billbets@hotmail.com
Sponsor: Tom Fogarty

Deepak V. Dighe
5530 Walnut Circle
West Bloomfield, MI 48322-1296
248-345-1444
eepak@dighe.us
Sponsor: Swarn Rajpal

Dropped:

Joseph F. Carolin	Charles J. Maher
Ricardo Chalela	Arthur Morat
John M. Gilmour	Eric P. Nagler
William Hiotaky	John W. Smith
Masat Izu	Michael D. Soule
Alfred F. Kebl	Angus R. Stinson
Henry P. Lee	Terry L. Stinson

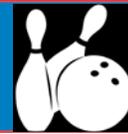
Directory on Website

We are continuing to make progress on getting expanded member information on the Club website. Our objective is to include basic member data, a photo and general background and interest information.

Irv Poston has current individual information in our records for all members. Tom Booth is continuing to add member photos. Please see or contact Irv to learn what we do have for you as well as how to update and expand information as appropriate.



Games



Stonycroft Golf Scramble

Join us for our annual fun-filled and competitive scramble at Stonycroft Hills on Tuesday, August 11.

- 8:00AM Continental breakfast
- 9:00 AM Shotgun start
- 12:00 Lunch, awards and wild golf tales

Cost: \$33 Stonycroft Members; \$48 Non Members.

Power carts may be rented at the Pro Shop for \$10.

See any Committee member for reservations and further information.

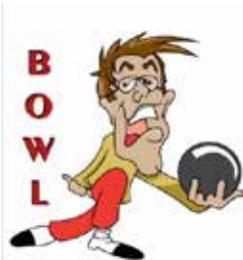


—Chuck Travers

Bowling

Last month, we reported that Thunderbird Lanes – our bowling home for the last 22 years – was closing for the summer, supposedly for some building improvements. **Tom Venier** has been looking for an alternate for summer bowling. We have now learned that Thunderbird is closing permanently, meaning that we have to find another bowling site for next season.

Tom has contacted a number of possible bowling sites to determine the best choice. Summer bowling is unlikely, since bowling establishments are unwilling to open in the morning for 8-10 bowlers. **Bob Klein** has accepted our bowling chairman position for next year; he and Tom will establish team rosters.



—Dick Harper

Thursday Golf

Our weather finally has turned a little better on Thursdays. On June 18, we managed to get 28 golfers on the Springdale course, despite an overcast and very humid day. Eleven were in our "45 and under club" led per usual by **Perry Driggs** at 37, with **Tim McGee** at 38 – two great scores! **Mike Fritz** was closest to the pin on hole number 6 at 8 feet 3 inches. Unfortunately he missed the putt, so the "Big Bucks" will carry over and now totals \$40.



—Tom Schrift

SMC v. Grosse Pointe SMC Annual Golf Challenge

The Second Annual Golf Challenge was held at Lincoln Hills Golf Course on Tuesday, June 16. The rain clouds parted for the day and sunshine greeted the 44 players. The competing golfers were aged from 60 to 90. Eleven two man teams from each club squared off for a total of 20 points per each competition. Total match points available were 220.



Final Score: GPSMC 110; SMC 101. The Grosse Pointe Club again claimed the bragging rights for the year.

Although it was not the best day for the SMC, there were some shining performances for our cause:

- **Ty Perkins** and **Tony DiMarco** scored a SMC high of 15 points for a total of 20.
- **Kirby Callam** and **Tim McGee** scored 14 points.
- **Perry Driggs** and **John Perryman** scrapped for a 10 point draw with GPSMC's top handicap team.

The Committee has noted that there are many competitive golfers who are members of SMC but do not play in the Monday or Thursday Leagues. We need you to volunteer for the 2016 competition. If you do not volunteer, you will receive a letter from our Club President that starts with 'GREETINGS' you have been selected by....."

The Committee looks forward to winning in 2016.



Bill Shaffmaster and Tom Booth at the May 25, 2015 Royal Oak Memorial Day Parade. They rode in Tom's GTO and had a great time.

New Life Members:

Dick Halsted

Our newest Life Member is **Dick Halsted** – a Birmingham native who was educated in the public schools of Adams, Quarton, Barnum and Baldwin High School. Dartmouth College was next, where Dick joined the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders program, spending several summers at Quantico, VA and being designated a second lieutenant in the Marine Reserve. He never expected active duty, but the Korean conflict changed that – Dick was called to active duty, anticipating he would be sent to Korea. By a stroke of luck he was sent to Camp Lejune and spent two years commanding an anti-tank company.



Stateside duty enabled him to marry wife Nancy, who has stayed by his side for 63 years – a union that produced two sons, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Back from military service, Dick has had a varied working career – first two years as a Fisher Body Pontiac plant foreman, then as a trade representative with the Saturday Evening Post, followed by buying and operating the Halsted-Johnson Insurance agency for 35 successful years.

Dick believes in giving back to the community and was elected to the Birmingham School Board in 1964, where he experienced the formation of teacher unions, collective bargaining, teacher strikes, lost millage votes, firing of a superintendent, and closing Baldwin High School- a tumultuous eight years.

He has been a member of the Birmingham Rotary for 27 years, serving as president and has been a board member and treasurer of the non-profit Franklin-Wright Settlements – a social service agency in southeastern Detroit. Nancy and Dick live in Bloomfield Township and are longtime members of the Birmingham Unitarian Church. Welcome to Life Membership, Dick!

—Gene Jacoby

Cliff Wagoner

Cliff Wagoner is our newest Life Member. He was born and raised in Indianapolis – the son of a children’s author and lecturer. Cliff received a BA degree in French from Butler University, followed by a letter from Uncle Sam. Sent to Korea, he was on the way to the front when he was injured in a truck accident. Following hospitalization, Cliff was assigned to a management position in Japan, where he spent the rest of his army service.



He attended Purdue University under the G.I. Bill, earning a BS in electrical engineering. Chrysler recruited him to attend the Chrysler Institute where he obtained a Masters in Automotive Engineering, spending his business career with Chrysler. One highlight was his involvement with Dale Carnegie courses – introduced at Chrysler by Lee Iacocca. Cliff became a volunteer assistant and felt that this course was a life changing event for him and his career.

After retirement in 1991, Cliff started an activity which led to another career – he started walking for health reasons – mainly at Somerset Mall. He became a familiar face there and the marketing director offered him several minor part time positions. This was followed by a full time role in merchant relations, which continues to this day. Cliff is responsible for solving every day routine problems.

In addition, Cliff is responsible for organizing “Skywalkers” at Somerset. These are the men and women who walk there and are recognized with coffee and bagels and special discounts at selected merchants at the mall. From humble beginnings, under Cliff’s direction, this activity has expanded with more than 1000 registered participants. Congratulations, Cliff – still a very active, new Life Member.

—Gene Jacoby

Beaumont Volunteering

Several months back, *The Reminder* discussed volunteering opportunities available to SMC members – with particular mention of the Volunteer Services organization at Royal Oak Beaumont. Many groups and functions at Beaumont are available. Any interested member can visit www.beaumont.edu. At the bottom of the page, under Patient Services click Volunteer to access volunteer opportunities. Their website describes the contact and information gathering procedure.



Any questions can be directed to the undersigned.

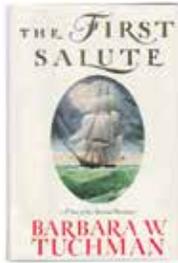
—Dick Harper

Groups



Book Reading Groups

Barbara Tuchman made her mark as a historian with her book *The Zimmerman Telegram*, then achieved international fame with her book *The Guns of August*—a book about the second World War that became an international best seller. In 1988, two years before her death, she wrote the book our Wednesday reading group will discuss on July 1 at 10:30AM, *The First Salute: A View of the American Revolution*. In this book, Ms. Tuchman places the Revolution in the context of centuries-long conflicts between England and France, and England and Holland. She shows how the aid France and Holland gave to the American colonies made American independence possible.



At 1:00PM on July 20, the Monday reading group will take up Brad Stone's *The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon*. Describing this book, the publisher wrote: "Amazon started off delivering books through the mail. But its visionary founder, Jeff Bezos, wasn't content with being a bookseller. He wanted Amazon to become "the everything store"—a store that offered limitless selection and seductive convenience at disruptively low prices. The book describes Bezos as driven, vengeful, punishing, and brilliant. You can get this book at amazon.com.



—Frank Auld



Computer Group

The Computer Group will not meet during July and August. For reader information, here are our plans for future programs:

- September 16 – **Tom Allen** will discuss how to effectively utilize an iPad
- October 28 – **Rodger Gach** will provide an introduction to Windows 10
- November 18 – **Josh Rounan** will review digital services available at Baldwin Library

— Jon Haber



Classic Movie Group

Please plan to join us on Monday, July 13, at 1:00PM when we will screen "One Touch of Venus" (1948) **Fred Leydorf's** pick for the July presentation. In this lighthearted musical comedy fantasy a young department store clerk (Robert Walker) doesn't know quite what to do when a statue of Venus (Ava Gardner), located in the Special Arts Gallery of a New York department store, comes to life and instantly falls in love with him after he gives the statue an innocent kiss. Fast paced action, with special magic that only Venus could conjure up, along with memorable songs make this a timeless classic that will keep the viewer fully engaged from start to finish.



—Fred Hansz



Investment Group

The Stock Game winner was **Jerry Peck** with an outstanding 122% gain. **Bob Bazzell** slipped to second place, but also doubled his money with a 108% gain. The late **Bob Rossi**, who won last year, finished third, up 86%. The winners divide the prize fund of \$465, with Jerry earning an additional \$25 for picking the most improved stock – Ambarella, up a striking 135%.

Mike Clement, Kirby Callam, John O'Leary, Tom Venier and Dick Bradley followed with gains of 45% or more. Overall, 52 of the 65 players had gains – the overall gain was 16.5% for the 7 ½ month game period. SMC stock picker performance looked good compared to an overall 11.7% gain for the S&P 500.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9 at 2:45PM. Agree Realty (with a current safe 6% yield) will provide an update on retail real estate. The new Stock Game will start October 9. Have a profitable summer!

—George Miller



Camera Group

The Camera Group will not meet during July and August.

—John Slocum

Special Events

St. Clair River Cruise and River Crab Dinner

If you are considering joining us for this years' summer cruise, we urge you to buy your tickets early as we expect a sellout.

The cruise is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22. We will depart the First Presbyterian Church at 2:00PM by luxury coach bound for Port Huron and the dock of the Huron Lady II. At 4:00PM, we depart on a leisurely cruise down the St. Clair River, to the famous River Crab Restaurant in St. Clair, Michigan.



Dinner will be served in our special dining room overlooking the river and will include your choice of chowder or salad, one of eight main course entrees and a dinner beverage. Entrée choices include: Grilled Salmon, Broiled Great Lakes Whitefish, Coconut-Macadamia Shrimp, Maryland Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Artichoke Linguine, Lemon Chicken, Cajun Chicken Tortellini, or a grilled 10 oz. Ribeye Steak. A light desert of Key Lime pie and coffee will be served on our sunset cruise back to Port Huron. A cash bar will be available aboard ship and at the River Crab.

The total cost of the evening including luxury coach, river cruise, dinner and all gratuities is \$75 per person.

Capacity on the Huron Lady II is 100 passengers. Please remember to purchase your tickets early and come prepared for a very enjoyable evening.

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

Annual Picnic & Car Show

Summer's here, so don't forget to mark Friday, August 7 on your calendars.



Planning is well under way for the Annual Picnic & Car Show. This traditional event is again being held at Beverly Park, conveniently located on Beverly Road, just west of Southfield Road. From 10:30AM to 2:30PM, enjoy fellowship, admire members' classic cars, join in games, win prizes etc..

Musical entertainment this year for the first time will be provided by our Mens Club's Chorus.

The buffet includes pulled pork, chicken, coleslaw, beans and sweet corn.

Members with vehicles to display should contact Stu Shuster. We look for an increase over the 17 fine cars shown last year.

Ticket sales at the Special Events table started June 26 and will continue until July 24.

—Bob Stevenson and Martin Rowell

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Al Eicher

developed a series of 18 lectures and visual presentations serving libraries, historical societies and colleges. Other presentations include "The Orphan Train in Michigan," "When Mark Twain Came to Michigan" and "When Amelia Came to Michigan." Al keeps busy presenting these varied lectures throughout the year.

One of Al's largest clients for his speeches is the Senior Men's Club. He has served several times as Program Chairman, selecting prominent speakers for weekly meetings. Speakers have included the President of DTE on Wind Turbine and Green Energy, the President of Pulte Homes, the President of the VFW, the Commanding Officer of Selfridge Field, and most recently the Chairman of the Board of the Michigan Parkinson Foundation.

"The Senior Men's Club is a great organization, from a friendly greeting at the door, to an invigorating presentation, there is a strong sense of camaraderie. This is especially important when a member loses his wife." says Al.

Al and his wife Kathryn are long-time residents of Bloomfield Hills. They have two adult children and five grandchildren. Al's son David works with his father on a variety of projects. He serves as President of Program Source International. In 2002 Al and Dave received the "Award of Merit" for distinguished professional service in preserving Michigan history from the Historical Society of Michigan.

—Chuck Ragains

Senior Health Matters

Think You're Having a Stroke? Call 9-1-1 Immediately!

F.A.S.T. is an easy way to remember the sudden signs of stroke. When you can spot the signs, you'll know that you need to call 9-1-1 for help right away. F.A.S.T. is:

Face Drooping – Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven?

Arm Weakness – Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

Speech Difficulty – Is speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, like "The sky is blue." Is the sentence repeated correctly?

Time to call 9-1-1 – If someone shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 9-1-1 and get the person to the hospital immediately. Check the time so you'll know when the first symptoms appeared.

Beyond F.A.S.T. – Other Symptoms You Should Know

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the leg, arm or face
- Sudden confusion or trouble understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

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

Member Card Information

Please update your Member card. One of our members recently experienced a medical problem at a Friday Club meeting. Thanks to immediate attention provided by DO Augie Perrotta and almost immediate EMS response to our 911 call, this member is recovering.

However, the back of this member's card did not list anyone to call in an emergency situation. While wife names and numbers are listed in the Club Directory, this might not be the most appropriate contact. In addition, of course, many members do not have wives listed. Please check and update your card ASAP.



—Dick Harper

Medical Emergency Preparedness

The Senior Men's Club needs your help!

Those of you that are BLS/CPR (Basic Life Support/Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) trained and certified, we ask that you make it known to us. Also, those of you who are physically able and wish to be part of a team of First Responders that will take charge in a Medical Emergency of a fellow member, please contact me.

We are in the process of developing a plan and protocol that will coordinate with TCH. TCH has many trained and certified BLS/CPR staff and they have an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) at the front desk. TCH feels a paternalistic responsibility for the welfare of the SMC and all others under their roof. Your Club leadership has placed high priority on this endeavor. I ask that you respond to our call. It may be you that will need the team's help someday!

—Dave Dinger, Vice Chair Visitation-Health Committee



The Survey Says...

The Improvement Committee recently conducted a survey of new members to identify how we could make our Friday meetings more interesting and attractive. Once again, we learned how important good speakers are to attendance at meetings. A striking 87% of respondents told us the "main speaker" was very important. Club camaraderie was second at 64%, with special event information third at 56%. Other meeting elements are clearly less important – discussion leader was very important to only 22%, the business portion even lower at 15%, with food lowest ranked at 10%.

OK – what can we do to get good speakers and expand attendance? We need your help – our 600 plus member body has a broad array of contacts, suggestions and ideas about interesting speaker possibilities – your club needs your help. We have open dates for 2015 and 2016 is coming up in a planning sense. Program Chairman Dick Kamp would like to hear from you – soon!

—Dick Harper

Mystery Lyrics

OK, OK – so last month's mystery lyrics were too easy – no fewer than 14 readers got the right answer, telling us that this lyric line:



Hate California – it's cold and it's damp had to be from "The Lady is a Tramp." We thought we should recognize less frequent contributors, so congratulations to Bill and Dolly Johnson, Tom and Rose Marie Venier, Omer Petti and Madge Woodward, Bob Gardner, Chuck O'Connell, John O'Brien, Ben and Judy Ewing, and Roger Timm.

This month's challenge – hopefully more difficult – was suggested by Irv Poston. The mystery lyrics are:

*Haven't you noticed, suddenly
I'm bright and breezy
Because of all the beautiful and new
Things I'm learning about you.*

Can you name that tune and the Broadway show?

Sports Trivia

Last month we asked what announcer Budd Lynch, outfielder Pete Gray and jazz man Wingy Manone had in common. I know – this was a little weird, but 12 responders remembered that they each had only one arm. Congratulations to these less frequent responders – Dick Halstead, the Johnsons, Dave Schwartz, Pete Good and John Ridan. Lynch lost an arm in World War II, Gray in a "truck accident" and Manone in a New Orleans street car accident.

This month we will ask if you can remember two of the most memorable announcer end of game sport calls ever. Who uttered these unforgettable calls and what were the occasions?

"The Giants win the pennant, the
Giants win the pennant!"
"Do you believe in miracles?"

—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.tchserves.org

CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 14 at 9:30AM

Reminder Deadline: Friday, August 14

Bowling Practice: No summer bowling

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

River Cruise: Wednesday, July 22, 2:00PM

Annual Picnic: Friday, August 7, Beverly Park, 10:30AM-2:30PM

Stonycroft Golf Scramble: Tuesday, August 11, 8:00AM

Group Meetings

Book Reading Groups: Group A: Wednesday, July 1, 10:30AM

Group B: Monday, July 20, 3:00PM

Classic Movie Group: Monday, July 13, 1:00PM

Camera Group: No meetings in July and August

Computer Group: No meetings in July and August

Investment Group: No meetings in July and August

All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.

SMC ON THE WEB:

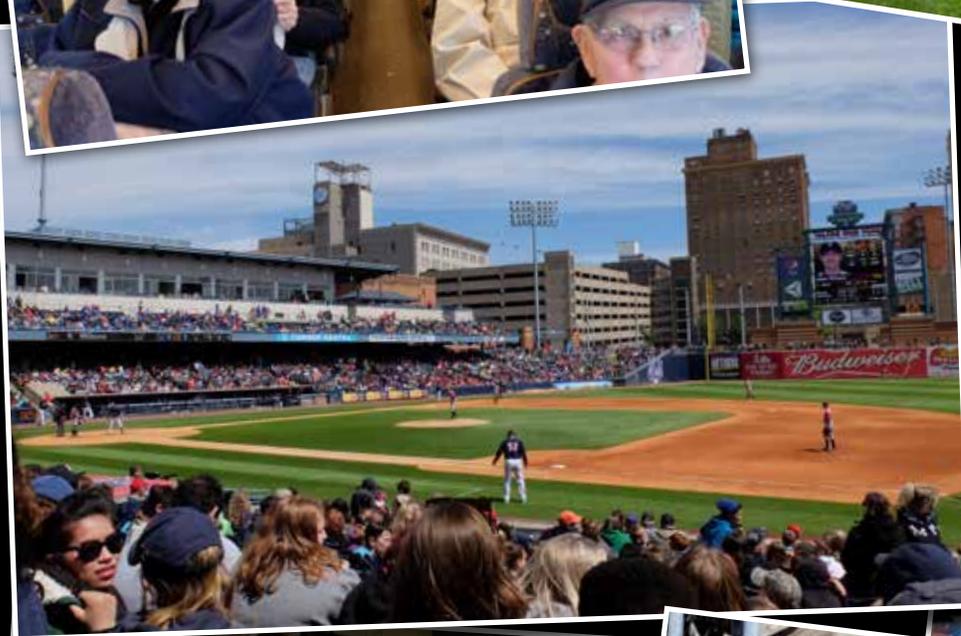
www.seniormensclubbirmingham.com

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



SMC at the Ballgame

Wednesday, May 20, 2015



Lunch at the Real Seafood Company overlooking the Maumee River



Tour of the world-renowned Glass Pavilion of the Toledo Museum of Arts



Glass Sculpture