

The Reminder



December 2021

Senior Men's Club, Birmingham, Michigan

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SMC Foundation Gives Its First Grant

The Senior Men's Club was founded 65 years ago on pillars of fellowship, shared activities and community service. An example was the Club raising in excess of \$80,000 annually to support The Community House and gifts to other area charities.

The Community House's adoption, prior to the pandemic, of a new business model stimulated the formation of the Senior Men's Club Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charity. The Foundation would act as the Club's charitable arm, since the Club is considered a nonprofit 501(c)(7) social club.

"The decisions of the Community House encouraged us to reassess our charitable giving," said former Senior Men's Club President and current Foundation President Tim McGee. McGee added. "The Senior Men's Club Foundation of Grosse Pointe and the creation of The Community House Foundation in 2017 provided us examples of how organizations can successfully split their charitable activities from their other functions."

The Senior Men's Club Foundation's mission is to enhance the physical, spiritual and mental well-being of older men in the tri-county area," said McGee. The Foundation made its first grant this October to the Alzheimer's Association of Michigan. The \$5000 grant supports the Association's respite program for family caregivers of Alzheimer sufferers. The funds, administered by the Association, will be restricted to male caregivers living in the Detroit metropolitan area.

The formal representation of the \$5,000 check to the Alzheimer's Association will occur on December 3 during the Club's regular Friday meeting.

"We have all known men who have acted as caregivers for their wives who have suffered from Alzheimer's or dementia. Many lack family in the area or others who might provide relief from 24/7 caregiving responsibilities. The grant is intended to help those men by allowing them to bring in a home health aide or bring their loved one to a licensed day care program," stated McGee.

For further information on the Senior Men's Club Foundation, contact the Senior Men's Club Foundation at PO Box 1149, Birmingham, MI, 48009.

- Larry Imerman

December Program

Chair: Dave Ladd

December 3Michael S. Dzialo, President & Chief Investment Officer, Managed Asset Portfolios
"Using Common Sense and Logic to Navigate a Crazy World"

December 10.....Members of the Michigan Opera Theater present a Holiday Serenade

Fellowship • Shared Interests • Service



Holiday Dinner Dance – December 14, 2021

After a break because of COVID in 2020, we will resume holding our Senior Men's Club of Birmingham Holiday Dinner Dance on Tuesday, December 14, at the San Marino Club in Troy, located on the north side of Big Beaver Road between Rochester and John R. Roads. As in 2019, our evening will begin with a social reception at 5:30 PM featuring an antipasto table of chips, cheese, and crackers with veggie dip and punch. We will be seated at 6:45 PM for announcements and introductions, followed by dinner at 7 PM and dancing thereafter until 10:15 PM. Free valet parking service will be provided.

Tickets for this event are \$60 per person and will be on sale at our Friday meetings from October 29 through December 10. Tickets are also available directly from Tony DiMarco at 248-643-7368. Reserved group tables are available upon request, and we will be happy to arrange seating for couples and/or singles as well. Tables will be limited to 8 persons. For those who prefer to observe Social Distancing, tables for 6 will be available. Reservation forms will be available at the Special Events table.

We have invited the members of NEXT to join us. Please consider inviting friends and relatives to join you! We ask that groups reserving tables please designate one person to collect the ticket fees for the group and make one payment for the table. Note any special dietary requests on the reservation form.

Dinner will be served family style (all you can eat), with entrées passed around at each table. The menu will include Farfalle Alfredo and a mixed green salad with all entrées. Dinner entrées will include Tenderloin of Beef with mushrooms, Chicken Piccata with capers and artichoke hearts, or baked Orange Roughy with lemon garnish, along with side dishes of peas with mushrooms and buttered redskin potatoes. Dinner will conclude with a raspberry sundae dessert. Gluten-free and vegetarian alternative entrées will be available upon prior request.

A cash bar will be available throughout the evening, with cocktails at \$6, wine at \$5, beer at \$3, and free soft drinks. The San Marino Club will be festively decorated in a Christmas motif with flowers and candles at each table. Dave Tatrow's four-piece stringed instruments group The Waifs (with a vocalist) will entertain us through the evening, opening with a salute to the Armed Forces, followed by a sing-along and seasonal favorites for our listening and dancing pleasure, and the SMC Chorus will serenade us with songs of the season. This is one of the most popular and successful annual SMC events, so please save the date and make your reservation plans early!





Proposed SMC Constitutional Amendment

Recommended Amendments to the SMC Constitution:

What: Pursuant to Article VII of the Club's Constitution, the Executive Board at its November 9 meeting adopted the following motion and submits it for membership consideration and approval:

To amend these two (2) Articles of the Club's Constitution as follows:

ARTICLE V - The Executive Board

Section 1 - Delete reference to "groups" in Section 1 and re-letter existing sub-sections (e) and (f) as (d) and (e).

Reason for the proposed change? Effective January 1, 2022, the governing structure of the club will provide for "subcommittees", not "groups"

Section 1, subsection (d)

Delete this subsection which currently provides:

"The Executive Director of the Community House and the Director of the Birmingham Department of Public Services or their designated representatives shall be ex-officio members".

Reason for the proposed change ? These relationships no longer exist

ARTICLE XII - Dissolution

Delete existing language:

"In the event that it becomes necessary to dissolve the Club, any net assets remaining shall be donated to The Community House Association of Birmingham, Michigan."

and substitute:

"Should the Club dissolve, any net assets remaining shall be donated to the Senior Mens Club Foundation, Birmingham, Michigan. If the Foundation no longer exists at dissolution of the Club, the Club's Executive Board shall donate the remaining assets in accordance with IRS regulations then in effect."

Reason for the proposed change ?

The Community House Association is no longer a principal beneficiary of the Club's charitable donations.

This proposal will be voted at the club's December 3 Friday meeting.

CPR/AED Notice

The Medical Emergency Preparedness Team is developing a list of candidates for the next CPR/AED training class at the Birmingham Fire Department January 22, 2022. This is an opportunity to Acquire/Review a life skill for which your family and the SMC will value. Please see me for further details and to facilitate your enrollment.

Dave Dinger, Team Leader

Meal Choices in December

December 3rd (Buffet): Rolls & Butter, Caesar Salad, Mixed Vegetables, Fettuccine Alfredo, Parmesan Cod, Dessert: Chocolate Chip Cookies

December 10th (Plated Meal): You must select your meal - Rolls & Butter, Iroquois Salad

Choice of:

Chicken Marsala, with Mashed Potatoes & Mixed Vegetables

Broiled Salmon w/ Herb Butter, with Mashed Potatoes

2022 Dues

Please return this dues coupon with your check, payable to SMC or go to www.seniormensclub.com and click the "Pay by Credit Card Button."



Tour Shinola and Lunch

Save the Date - January 20

A limited number of members and guests will have the opportunity to have a truly unique experience on January 20.

Tour Shinola's watch assembly area and then visit both the Center for Creative Studies Transportation Design Studios and the College's Product Design Studios. All three are located in the Center for Creative Studies' Taubman Campus (the old GM headquarters building on Grand Boulevard in Detroit) followed by lunch at the iconic Traffic Jam and Snug on West C. More information to follow. Bus transportation provided.



SMC 2022 DUES COUPON - \$70.00

2022 dues are payable *before* January 1, 2022. A \$10.00 late fee *must* be added *after* January 1, 2022.

Make checks payable to SMC. To pay by mail, send a check and this coupon to:

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

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Cell Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____

Contact info has changed from 2021 Handbook

Life Members pay no dues, but may use the coupon to update their information and make a voluntary contribution

Essay: Communication In the 21st Century

THE LETTER

The letter, more than the US. Postal' Service, would be missed more than the Service as it fades into the shadows cast by Digital advancements. Consider the difference between a paper letter and an email.

The email can speak for itself, stuttering as it often does, reflecting scars of unthinking back spacing, cuts of whole thoughts transferred to new syntax where they lose sense. Its tactile relationship to a message is limited to that provided by fingers on plastic keyboards and the "mouse."

The letter, though, is worthy of deeper reflection---as can be specialty greeting "Cards".

To write and send a letter, one starts with both a pent-up idea and a commitment to the extended process required to create it.

A choice made to use pen, ink, pencil, or a keyboard to embed one's thoughts into fiber-woven stationery, signals that the writer intends for those thoughts to have a better chance of enduring. Use of the pen or pencil engages kinetic energy that sets into motion a sequence of mind-absorbing actions that free the writer's emotions to commingle with the crafted words.

Even then, a judgment of imperfection can set the composer to wadding the paper, sensing with the joy of confidence that a clean sheet of paper will reveal a more perfect thought. The "white space" in greeting cards announce their own invitations for the inclusion of original thought.

So done, and the artful signature surged dramatically into place, there is the careful fold necessary for the insertion ritual. Snuggled into the envelope as intended, both hands summon all senses to the underside of the flap, where the tongue continues the kinetic process that includes thoughts about where and how the recipient will undo it.

Now comes required use of all the body limbs to set the letter in a place where it can be picked up and later dropped in an appropriate mail deposit. The sense of achievement one experiences when the hand gives up the letter for the last time is unlikely to be duplicated by the striking of the send key.

Ah, but now, the recipient; the search for that special something begins when one decides to "get the mail."

Whether dropped through a slot in a door, or retrieved from a mailbox, the recipient thumbs through (ah, the hands again) magazines, promotion envelopes and other items in search of something special: a letter.

At this point the character of the recipient is revealed by the extent to which the letter is fondled, examined visually, or sniffed. Is it ripped immediately, and the letter pulled from its faithful cocoon? Or is it clutched securely in one hand, put into a pocket, to be opened and read in a quiet place?

Will the opening wait until a comfortable place to sit is decided upon, much like preparing to savor food? There the envelope can be examined for tell-tale stains before tearing open carefully at an end. Or is a letter-opening blade to be used?

Is it, the letter, slid from the envelope, much the way a poker player slides a new card to the peeking eye, ever so slowly, ever so carefully? Or is it pulled quickly, unfolded, the eyes engaged rapidly from salutation to signature?

Do the eyes race over the contents to prepare for an emotional response, and then return to the salutation for the careful sequential examination?

The reflection, the evaluation, questioning of syntax, meaning, are rapid in the brain as the hands still grip the letter; the handwriting or the printing, is examined for evidence of haste, or great care that might suggest respect for the recipient

Next, the decision about what to do with the letter: return it to the envelope, crush it with all the feelings of hurt, rejection, disappointment; or hold it tenderly in kind regard for the pleasing information it bears.

Should a copy to be made, the letter saved? Where? Greeting cards, too, shout for placement and preservation. Another challenge for the "recipient."

I hope that the 663 words above prompt meaningful remembrances of those occasions in life when you've either sent, or received, a letter that "touched" you.

Will such experiences disappear with the Post Office?

- John Reddy



Classic Movie Group

On Monday, December 13, at 1:00PM, Waller Harris will present, via Zoom, one of his favorite musical films, "Holiday Inn" (1942) (1 hour and 44 minutes). In this long-standing holiday classic, singer Bing Crosby and dancer Fred Astaire are close friends who both compete for the affection of the beautiful and talented Marjorie Reynolds. Irving Berlin wrote twelve songs for the film, including the iconic "White Christmas", which won him an Oscar for Best Original Song. With so many wonderful songs and a fast-moving story, this film is a pleasure to watch from start to finish and will certainly help to put you in a holiday mood. So, mark your calendars now and join us on the 13th to watch one of the greatest musical films of all time. Waller asks that you have plenty of popcorn and holiday treats on hand to help make your movie going experience complete for you and your family. Watch for our access information eBlast as we near the show date. Looking forward to seeing you on December 13th.

- Fred Hansz / Chairman



Monday and Wednesday Reading Groups

December's discussions will focus on two very different books. One is a serious discussion of energy policy that will build on some of our recent discussions. The other is a lively historical novel that will entertain us with a remarkable caper carried out in Victorian England. During the recent meeting of the Monday group we considered the possible return to in-person meetings. After some discussion, it was decided to continue meeting virtually until early spring when we will reevaluate that decision. So, for at least the next three months both groups will continue to meet via Zoom.

Thanks to Roger Timm for continuing to serve as Zoom Master.

Wednesday, December 1, at 10:30 AM: The New Map: Energy, Climate and the Clash of Nations by Daniel Yergin. (New York: Penguin Books, 2021)

This book led the American Energy Society to name Daniel Yergin "the energy writer of the year". In doing so, the association wrote, "The New Map earned energy's highest literary prize for its ambitious survey and realistic assessment of energy and how it shapes human affairs." Other reviewers agreed with this assessment but challenged his belief that fossil fuels will prevail far into the future. This should lead to a good discussion.

Gordon Allardyce will lead this discussion

Monday, December 20 at 3 PM: The Great Train Robbery by Michael Crichton. (New York, Knopf, 1975)

This historical novel is based on an actual train robbery in 1855. It is the story of Edward Pierce, a Victorian gentleman, who assembles a team of characters to pull what became the crime of the century.

The Los Angeles Times reviewer called it "a work of intelligence and craftsmanship... written with grace and wit." and the NY Times saw it as "a nineteenth-century version of The Sting... Crichton fascinates us."

This discussion will be led by Tom Booth

Looking ahead to January

Wednesday, January 5, 2002 at 10:30 AM: To be announced when selection process is completed.

Monday, January 17 at 3 PM: Leadership in Turbulent Times by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Jon Haber)

- Bob Maxfield



Investment Study Group

The next Investment Study Group meeting will be held Thursday December 9th at 2:45 PM at the Baldwin Library. With the great turnout at the last month's meeting we will have the December meeting at the basement conference room. Thank all who attended last month!

Our speaker will be our Club's long time guest, and arguably one the Investment Groups best speakers, Leon LaBrecque. Leon's presentation title is: Tax Law Update: Change on the Horizon.

During the last election cycle, President Biden promised significant changes to the tax law, foreshadowing massive tax increases for many Americans. Biden's tax proposal carries an enormous price tag and could raise tax revenue by trillions. If enacted, it could also set off a chain reaction of cascading outcomes.

The House Ways and Means Committee offered its own tax proposal. Their changes include some brand-new provisions and others that conflict with President Biden's \$3.5 trillion plan. Both sides of the aisle in Washington DC have engaged an age-old debate over who should pay, and how much.

The discussion of the emerging tax law changes along with his insights with various stocks for 2022. This interactive event will focus on the key differences in these two tax proposed plans, how they might affect you, and what you can do now to prepare.

We will provide a stock game update along with the camaraderie of each others company!

Greed remains good,
- Mike Korsak



Camera Group

Third Thursday at Three. The Camera Club will meet on the second floor (take the elevator) at BPL December 18, 2021, picking up with the lectures by Joel Sartore and his National Geographic series. We will do two "how to" lectures from the DVD: Special Occasions, and Family Vacations. Hopefully the "Powerdvd" software will work flawlessly this time!

-Jay Hall

MYSTERY LYRICS

Clearly, there aren't many old time rock and roll fans in our Club, because only one member knew the answer to last months mystery lyric challenge. We asked if you could recognize the lyrics to the classic song Rolling Stone magazine says is the greatest guitar solo of all time. These lyrics are:

“Many people come from miles around
To hear you play your music when the sun goes down”

Hearty congratulations to Joel Adelman, who knew these lines are from the Chuck Berry classic “Johnny Be Good”. Hopefully, we can do better this month with a Sinatra song, which includes these lyrics:

“If I don't see her each day, I miss her
Sorry for you, she has no sister”

Can you name that tune?

SPORTS TRIVIA

We tried something different in the way of sports trivia last month, asking if you could remember a sports hero with a unique nickname from your early days. As an example, I gave you Joe “Ducky” Medwick of the St. Louis Cardinals, who played in the first major league game I attended with my father.

Maybe this was a little unclear, because only Joel Adelman responded, but with a really good item. Joel remembered taking his son to the first game Mark “The Bird” Fidrych pitched and won for the Tigers in 1976, especially his antics on the mound (talking to the ball, etc). Great memory! Joel's answer suggests a possible trivia item for this month:

What is your favorite sports memory?

Mine is the famous picture of Mickey Lolich jumping into Bill Freehan's arms at the conclusion of the 7th game of the 1968 World Series against the Cardinals. (Do you recall that Lolich pitched and won three complete games in that series – a feat that will never happen again). Do you have a favorite sports memory – Tigers, Lions, Wolverines, or ?.

- Dick Harper
RNHarper32@comcast.net

The Reminder

A monthly publication of the Senior Men's Club, which meets Fridays at 10:30 AM, at the Iroquois Club, 43248 Woodward Avenue, north of Square Lake Road.

Officers for 2021 are: President, Maynard Timm; First Vice President, Swarn Rajpal; Second Vice President, Paul Kovceses; Recording Secretary, Larry Imerman; Corresponding Secretary, John Maten; Treasurer, Jim Suhay; Assistant Treasurer, John Skubik; Officers at Large: Ras Desai, Dennis Winowiecki.

THE REMINDER includes: Dick Harper, Editor Emeritus; Jay Kafarski, Publisher; Maynard Timm, Co-Editor; Tim McGee, Co-Editor; Tom Booth, Gene Markel and Roger Timm, Photography.

OFFICIAL MAILING ADDRESS

The Senior Men's Club's official mailing address is:

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

All mail should be sent to this new address.

Dates to Remember

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 14 at the

Baldwin Library.

Reminder Deadline: Deadline for January Reminder is Friday, December 17.

Reading Group A: Wednesday, December 1, at 10:30 AM via Zoom.

Investment Study Group: Thursday, December 9th at 2:45 PM at the Baldwin Library.

Classic Movie Group: Monday, December 13, at 1:00 PM via Zoom.

Camera Group: Thursday, December 16 at 1:00 PM at the Baldwin Library.

Reading Group B: Monday, December 20 at 3:00 PM via Zoom.

Walking Group: Somerset Collection at 9:45 AM.

For more information, contact Larry Imerman, 248-642-9432

SMC Bridge: Fridays 1:00 pm, Baldwin Library, 2nd floor.

Spinning: Beverly Hills Club on Wednesdays at noon. \$10 for non-member guests. Contact Joe Schulenberg for info.



Visit our website at
www.seniormensclub.com