

The Reminder



DECEMBER 2024

Senior Men's Club, Birmingham, Michigan

President's Letter



This is a bittersweet moment, writing my last article as the President of the SMCB. It has been an honor to serve as your President and while it involved a lot of work, the year has been made easier by the tremendous support of the other officers and committees. There is no way that the SMCB could have the quality and breadth of activities without everyone pitching in and doing their part. I thought a lot about this as I prepared my speech for the Veteran's Day ceremony that was held in Birmingham a few weeks ago. I thought about how the men in the club have such a thirst to serve and participate in not only our activities but to also help and serve others.

I have to say thank you to all of the veterans that are in the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham. It has given me another opportunity to meet and learn from veterans that I might not have otherwise met. They are all outstanding men who continue to serve their communities.

It never seems enough to just tell the veterans thank you. I have often thought about what is the best way to show veterans that we truly appreciate what they did and the impact on all of our lives throughout the relatively short history of this great country. When I started working with The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial several years ago, I wondered why we would have the word "Legacy" in the title. After talking with dozens of WWII veterans, hearing their stories and talking with their families, I now realize that "Legacy" is the most important word in the title. People will often ask, why is WWII relevant today? Why should we build a memorial to something that happened 80 years ago? My answer is that there is so much to learn by looking at all the greatest generation accomplished and contributed to society. Our lives would not be the same today if these brave men and women didn't do what they did during the war as well as what they did after the war. One of the hardest things to do is to get a WWII veteran to accept our thanks for their service. The answer that I usually get when I thank them is, "I didn't do anything special, I did what my country asked me to do". I get the same response when I talk with the Rosie the Riveters. They don't feel that they did anything special, that the country needed workers in factories so they went and did their job. I hate to disagree with such distinguished Americans but you did do something special and we all thank you for this. Of course this doesn't apply to just WWII veterans, this applies to all the veterans that have served our country. It is the sense of duty that is in the hearts of these men and women. After serving, they came back and continued to serve their communities in different ways.

Of course, the person that I learned the most about service from was my father, Robert Maten. He was (and always will be) a Marine who served in Korea. It turns out he served in the same area as my father-in-law, Francis McFall, who also served in the Marine Corp. They were both proud of their service but never boasted or bragged about it. They felt that it was their duty. We knew the Marine Corp hymn from an early age, learned all of the "Marine Corp jokes", and would always remember November 10th, the Marine Corp Birthday. Throughout my father's life, as an example to me and my siblings, he served the community in many ways not only as a teacher and Customs inspector as careers but also serving the church, city government, and numerous charities. That has instilled a sense of duty in me. I strive to serve in whatever capacity I can for others. One of the saddest yet proudest days of my life was sitting at the cemetery after my father had died and the Marines took the flag off and carefully folded it. They handed it to my mother and said, "On behalf of the President of the United States, the United States Marine Corps and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service." In the midst of my grief, my heart swelled with pride.

Thank you again for a great year and I know the club leadership is in good hands for 2025. I look forward to continue to serve the SMCB in whatever ways that I can.

John Maten



DECEMBER LUNCHES AT THE IROQUOIS CLUB

DECEMBER 6TH

Rolls & Butter
Garden Salad
Peas
Baked Mostaccioli
Sliced Prime Rib
Dessert:
Brownies

DECEMBER 13TH

(PLATED)

Rolls & Butter
Iroquois Club Salad
Rosemary Chicken
Mashed Potatoes & Mixed Vegetables

Dessert:
Mini dessert platters per table

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Fellowship • Shared Interest • Community Service



December 2024 Speakers

Monthly Speaker Chair: Ray Buratto

December 6th.....Mr. Cheyvoryea Gibson, Head of Detroit FBI Office
"How the Detroit Regional Office Leads the FBI's Counter-Terrorism Fight"

December 13thBirmingham Groves High School Concert Choir
Directed by Carolyn Carrano
"Holiday Celebration"

Senior Men's Club Activities

Friday 11/1 Meeting: Michael Dzialo, our guest speaker, presents a \$1,000 check to the SMC Foundation



Diwali Celebration



Friday 11/8 Veterans Day: Pat Quigley Induction to Life Member



Players commemorate the First Annual Pickleball Tournament



Friday 11/15 Meeting: Joel Adelman Induction to Life Member



Thursday 11/19: Walking Group Enjoys pre-Holiday Breakfast at Crumpets in the Somerset Inn



This annual event gets folks into the Holiday Spirit. The Walking Group meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:15 AM and walks for 45 minutes. In fall and winter the venue is Somerset Mall. In spring and Summer Shain Park and Barnum Park are the destinations. Walking is good exercise and all are invited to join the Group as their schedules permit.

SCORE Group

The SMCB SCORE group met recently with other mentors from Oakland County. We exchanged ideas and best practices. Three of our members, Garner, Vorce & McGee received awards for Exemplary Service. We heard from Hannah Awada who founded Hummus Goodness. In 2019 she started her company in a small church kitchen in Birmingham. With help from her SCORE mentor, she has grown it into a regional hummus juggernaut. It is in stores all over the Midwest. Locally find it at Holiday Market, Papa Joe's, Plum Market, Nino's, and Market Square.

After the meeting we toured Incubizo in Ferndale. What's that? It's a well-appointed shared office workspace environment that includes all amenities you'll need to run a business for less than the cost of a traditional office. Tenants include entrepreneurs, freelancers, start-ups, and other professionals. It's a real gem in our own backyard.

Join our SMCB SCORE group. We learn new things, go interesting places, meet great people, give back to our community and have fun. Lately we have been diving deep in to AI with webinars and such. See Rich McGee (248-703-7231). You don't need to have a consulting or business background. Do you have common sense? Can you listen?



CLASSIC MOVIE GROUP



On Monday, December 9th at 1:00 PM, Waller Harris will present, via Zoom, the holiday musical classic "Meet Me in St Louis" (1944) (1 hour / 53 minutes). Directed by the legendary Vincente Minnelli, the movie is divided into a series of seasonal vignettes, starting with the summer of 1903. They tell the story of a year in the life of the Smith family in St Louis leading up to the opening of the World's Fair in the spring of 1904. The enduring popularity of this film comes from a terrific blend of music, romance and humor. Staring Judy Garland and Margret O'Brian as two of the four Smith sisters and Mary Astor as their mother, we are treated to a host of musical numbers featuring songs that are now standards including: "The Trolley Song", "The Boy Next Door" and "Have Yourself a Merry little Christmas".

This movie was both a commercial and critical success and was also the most successful MGM Musical of the 1940s. The film remains extremely popular to this day holding a 100% Rotten Tomatoes score and a 7.5/10 IMDb rating. Also, the AFI ranks this film as number ten on its Greatest Movie Musicals list.

A preview of the movie is now available to watch by pressing the CMG Movie Preview Button on the Club's Homepage.

So, mark your calendars now and plan to join Waller, and the rest of our Group, on December 9, to watch, enjoy and discuss this outstanding Christmas Classic from the golden age of MGM Musicals.

Please note that the Zoom link for the movie will be at the top of the Scheduled Events eBlast for the week of December 8, which will be published on the previous Friday morning of December 6.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on December 9.

Fred Hansz / Chairman

Camera Club

Camera Club does not meet in December, July, or August. We are always on the lookout for new topics and presenters. From travelogues to techniques for capturing or handling images. Ideas are always welcomed by the Chair. Contact Jay Hall with your ideas or thoughts. Remember: THIRD THURSDAY at THREE.



Investment Group

Please join us at our next Investment Group meeting being held on Thursday December 12, 2024 at 2:45PM. The in-person and Zoom meeting will be held in the basement level of the Baldwin Public Library. As of this writing our December speaker is not finalized. However, rest assured we will provide an insightful topic, which will help for your 2025 investing and beyond!



The Stock Game as of 11/21/24 shows Mike Clement in first place with his portfolio up 99% as he just cashed out of his pick Oklo, Inc. (OKLO). Nice win there Mike! Looking forward to the next stock pick you decide upon. Second place is Randy Barnett who is up 70%, since the start of the stock game, and currently holds a stock by the name of Blacksky Technology (BKSJ). Third place is Mr. Clements again! His second portfolio is up 66% lead by the stock Nano Nuclear Energy (NNE).

As part of fellowship and sharing of information, please watch for the eBlast the week of the Investment Group meeting. We are going to link the Stock Game for others to review besides just the Investment Group members.

If there are members within SMC who have an Investment topic of interest, please give me a call or email so we can work to have a future speaker you would like to hear from. The Investment Group looks to bring in timely, educational and interesting topics. Looking to fill a couple spots yet in 2025.

Belated Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and continued successful investing!!

Special Events

SMCB Holiday Dinner Dance—December 11

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE !!!

Our annual Senior Men's Club of Birmingham Holiday Dinner Dance will be held on Wednesday, December 11, at the San Marino Club in Troy, located on the north side of Big Beaver Road between Rochester and John R. Roads. Our evening will begin with Marine Corps League representatives accepting new unwrapped toys for the Annual Toys for Tots Collection; then a social reception at 5:30 PM as usual, featuring an antipasto table of chips, cheese, and crackers with veggies, 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 \$75 per person and will be on sale at our Friday meetings beginning.

This is one of our most popular and successful annual SMCB events! We look forward to seeing you there.

Return to the North American International Auto Show - January 15, 2025

Tickets for the North American International Auto Show for the bus and entry are \$25.00. Please contact Malcolm Henry to reserve your tickets today! The bus will leave from First Presbyterian Church at 10:00am and return by 3:30pm.

2025 Member Dues Notice



It's that time of year again. September 1 is the date for members to begin paying their dues for the 2025 calendar year. Dues will be the same as last year, \$90. Members are encouraged to round up to \$100.

Life members are exempt from paying dues, but many continue paying as a donation. Thank you.

Please make your check payable to Senior Men's Club of Birmingham or SMCB and mail to:

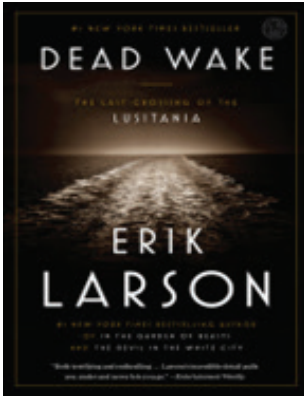
SMCB/Dues
 PO Box 1149
 Birmingham, MI 48012

Alternatively, you can click on the link below to pay by credit card (WIX is the service provider).

[Online Dues Payment](#)
 (Requires Members Portal Login)



MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY READING GROUPS



As the calendar year ends, we will discuss two very different books. The first is a fresh telling of the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915 and the second is the amazing, complex and entertaining story of the making of The Godfather in 1972. Both will lead to lively discussions.

The two groups will continue to meet via Zoom. As always, all members and their guests are welcome. Please let Bob Maxfield or Roger Timm know if you would like to be added to our distribution list.

Wednesday, Wednesday, December 4 at 10:30 AM: *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Eric Larson (New York: Crown, 2016) Bill Price will lead this discussion.

On May 1, 1915, the Lusitania left New York, bound for Liverpool, carrying a record number of children and infants. The passengers were surprisingly at ease, even though Germany had declared the seas around Britain to be a war zone. For months, German U-boats had brought terror to the North Atlantic, but the Lusitania was one of the era's great transatlantic "Greyhounds"—the fastest liner then in service, and passenger ships

had largely been free from U- Boat attack. Germany was determined expand the U-Boat war, and Walther Schwieger, the captain of Unterseeboot -20, was happy to oblige.

From the Boston Globe's review: "Larson provides first-rate suspense, a remarkable achievement given that we already know how this is going to turn out...The tension, in the reader's easy chair, is unbearable..."



Monday, December 16 at 3 PM: *Leave the Gun, Take the Cannoli: The Epic Story of the Making of The Godfather* by Mark Seal (New York: Gallery Books, 2021) This discussion will be led by Fred Freeman.

The story of how *The Godfather* was made is as dramatic, operatic, and entertaining as the film itself. Over the years, many versions of various aspects of the movie's fiery creation have been told—sometimes conflicting, but always compelling. On top of the usual complications of filmmaking, the creators of *The Godfather* had to contend with the real-life members of its subject matter: The Mob. During production of the movie, location permits were inexplicably revoked, author Mario Puzo got into a public brawl with an irate Frank Sinatra, producer Al Ruddy's car was found riddled with bullets, men with "connections" vied to be in the cast, and some were given film roles.

As Seal notes, this is the tale of a "movie that revolutionized filmmaking, saved Paramount Pictures, minted a new generation of movie stars, made its struggling author Mario Puzo rich and famous, and sparked a war between two of the mightiest powers in America: the sharks of Hollywood and the highest echelons of the Mob."

The Washington Post Reviewer wrote that this book "captured me with its joyful energy, extensive research and breathless enthusiasm."

Looking ahead to January:

Wednesday, 1/8/2025 at 10:30 AM: *Better Times Than These: A novel* by Winston Groom (Fred Freeman)

Monday, January 20, 2025: *Colonialism: A Moral Reckoning* by Nigel Biggar (Gordon Allardyce)



2024 DEC Calendar at a Glance as of: Friday, November 15, 2024

Week 1	Date	Time	Group	Location or via Zoom	Notes	Contact	Phone Number
Monday	Dec 2	9:30 AM	Bowling	Escape Lanes, 1950 E. Square Lake Rd, Troy		Dennis Winowiecki	(248) 722-6626
Tuesday	Dec 3	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Somerset North		Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
First Tuesday	Dec 3	10:00 AM	Special Events Committee	Baldwin Lib - Delos Bd. Rm + Zoom	Screen + OWL	Ras Desai	(248) 722-4411
Tuesday	Dec 3	10:00 AM	Genealogy	LDS Family Resource Cntr, 37425 Woodward Ave		John Maten	(248) 251-9339
Tuesday	Dec 3	NOON	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Bev. Hills Club, Southfield Rd		Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	Dec 4	1:00 PM	Pickleball	UWM Sports Complex, 867 South Blvd, Pontiac		Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Thursday	Dec 5	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Somerset North		Charlie Blank	(248) 390-8208
Thursday	Dec 5	TBD	Special Event- Schoolcraft Culinary	Schoolcraft- Self Drive		Malcolm Hendy	
Friday	Dec 6	10:30 AM	Weekly Friday Mtg	Iroquois Club + Zoom		John Rusche	(248) 219-8114
Friday	Dec 6	1:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Lib - Jeanne Loyd Room	Card Table Set Up	Kirby Callam	(248) 646-5938
Week 2							
Monday	Dec 9	9:30 AM	Bowling	Escape Lanes, 1950 E. Square Lake Rd, Troy		Dennis Winowiecki	(248) 722-6626
Second Monday	Dec 9	1:00 PM	Classic Movie Group	Zoom		Fred Hansz	(248) 559-3105
Tuesday	Dec 10	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Somerset North		Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Second Tuesday	Dec 10	10:00 AM	Board of Directors	Baldwin Lib - Donor Room	Conference Style+OWL	John R Maten	(248) 251-9339
Tuesday	Dec 10	11:30 AM	Friday Meeting Group	Baldwin Lib - Donor Room	Conference Style+OWL	Rob Tamarelli	(248) 388-2443
Tuesday	Dec 10	NOON	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Bev. Hills Club, Southfield Rd		Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	Dec 11	1:00 PM	Pickleball	UWM Sports Complex, 867 South Blvd, Pontiac		Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Wednesday	Dec 11	TBD	SMCB Annual Holiday Party	San Marino Club, Troy		Jim King	
Second Wednesday	Dec 11	7:00 PM	CPR/AED Refresher Must Pre-Register	Birmingham Fire Station- Adams Rd/248-530-1906		David Dinger	(248) 310-4583
Thursday	Dec 12	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Somerset North		Charlie Blank	(248) 390-8208
Second Thursday	Dec 12	2:45 PM	Investment Group	Baldwin Library- Donor Room + Zoom	Theater Style + OWL	Mike Korsak	(248) 990-0305
Friday	Dec 13	10:30 AM	Weekly Friday Mtg	Iroquois Club + Zoom		John Rusche	(248) 219-8114
Friday	Dec 13	1:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Lib - Jeanne Loyd Room	Card Table Set Up	Kirby Callam	(248) 646-5938
Week 3							
Monday	Dec 16	9:30 AM	Bowling	Escape Lanes, 1950 E. Square Lake Rd, Troy		Dennis Winowiecki	(248) 722-6626
Third Monday	Dec 16	3:00 PM	Readers Group A	Zoom		Bob Maxfield	(248) 481-9791
Tuesday	Dec 17	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Somerset North		Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Tuesday	Dec 17	NOON	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Bev. Hills Club, Southfield Rd		Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	Dec 18	1:00 PM	Pickleball	UWM Sports Complex, 867 South Blvd, Pontiac		Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Thursday	Dec 19	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Somerset North		Charlie Blank	(248) 390-8208
Third Thursday	Dec 19	CANCELLED	Camera Group	No Meeting in December	Screen + OWL	Jay Hall	(248) 622-8640
Friday	Dec 20	CANCELLED	Weekly Friday Mtg	Christmas Holiday		John Rusche	(248) 219-8114
Friday	Dec 20	CANCELLED	Bridge Group	Christmas Holiday	Card Table Set Up	Kirby Callam	(248) 646-5938
Third Friday	Dec 20	5:00 PM	REMINDER Submission Deadline	smcreminder@gmail.com		Maynard Timm	(248) 303-5490
Week 4							
Monday	Dec 23	9:30 AM	Bowling	Escape Lanes, 1950 E. Square Lake Rd, Troy		Dennis Winowiecki	(248) 722-6626
Tuesday	Dec 24	CANCELLED	Walking Group	Christmas Holiday		Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Tuesday	Dec 24	CANCELLED	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Christmas Holiday		Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	Dec 25	CANCELLED	Pickleball	Christmas Holiday		Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Thursday	Dec 26	CANCELLED	Walking Group	Christmas Holiday		Charlie Blank	(248) 390-8208
Friday	Dec 27	CANCELLED	Weekly Friday Mtg	Christmas Holiday		John Rusche	(248) 219-8114
Friday	Dec 27	CANCELLED	Bridge Group	Christmas Holiday	Card Table Set Up	Kirby Callam	(248) 646-5938
Week 5							
Monday	Dec 30	9:30 AM	Bowling	Escape Lanes, 1950 E. Square Lake Rd, Troy		Dennis Winowiecki	(248) 722-6626
Tuesday	Dec 31	CANCELLED	Walking Group	Christmas Holiday		Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Tuesday	Dec 31	CANCELLED	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Christmas Holiday		Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1	Lou Braun	December 19	* Dave Bakos
	a Dr. Adrian Christie		* Ferd Doll Jr
	a Blake Green	December 20	Arnie Nielsen
	a Dr. C.H. Pujara		a Dick Schoelch
December 2	* Noel Peterson	December 21	* John Borden
December 4	Nicholas Pinciotti		Tony DiMaria
	* Tom Tabor		a Rich Harrison
December 7	* Sean O'Keefe	December 22	Arthur Kaye
	Larry Smith	December 23	Bud Feely Jr.
December 8	a Ron Miller	December 24	Robert Sparks
December 9	Tom Anderson	December 26	Larry Pazol
	Ed Burke		Logan Robinson
December 10	a Hemant Rajput	December 27	a Bob Weed
December 11	Bill Peirce	December 28	Willy Williams
December 12	* Dr. Don Overy	December 29	Dr. Bhimsen Rao
	a Jack Withrow	December 30	a Dr. Vic Goldstein
December 13	Tim McGee, Past Pres 2019		
	a Dennis Wolf		
December 14	Paul Lieberman		
December 15	Doug Brown		
	Stuart Main		
December 16	George Dilgard		



The Reminder

A monthly publication of the Senior Men's Club, which meets Friday at 10:30 AM at the Iroquois Club* in Bloomfield Hills.

Officers for 2024 are:

- President, John Maten;
- First Vice President, Ray Buratto;
- Second Vice President, John Rusche;
- Recording Secretary, Jim Hayes;
- Corresponding Secretary, Bo Tamarelli;
- Treasurer, Rich McGee;
- Assistant Treasurer, George Dilgard

THE REMINDER Team:

- Tom Dahlem, Publisher;
- Maynard Timm, Co-Editor
- Tim McGee, Co-Editor
- Tom Dahlem & Tom Booth, Photography.

**The Reminder Deadline for articles is July 21, 2024*

**The Iroquois Club is located on the east side of Woodward Avenue, just north of Square Lake Road in Bloomfield Hills. The meeting is also accessible via ZOOM for those not able to attend in person.*

CONTACT US

The Senior Men's Club mailing address for general Club or SMC

Foundation correspondence is:

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

All mail should be sent to the above address

The Club may also be contacted via email at:

seniormensclub@gmail.com

Visit SMC at:

www.seniormensclub.com