



From President John P. Rusche

Dear Fellow Members,

As we welcome July, our thoughts naturally turn to the red, white, and blue, to Independence Day, and to the blessings we share as Americans. This year carries special meaning as our nation marks 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It is a fitting time to pause, give thanks, and reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and vision that helped build the country we are privileged to call home.



For many of us, patriotism is not simply a word for the Fourth of July. It is found in service, citizenship, family, faith, friendship, and respect for one another. It is seen in the veterans among us, in the stories we carry, and in the quiet ways we support our community. As an Air Force veteran, I am proud to be among the 144 (nearly 25%) Club members who are veterans. Our Senior Men's Club has long been a place where our values are honored through mutual respect, community service, inclusion, integrity, fellowship, enrichment and shared activities.

As we gather this month, I encourage each of you to take part in our Club activities, welcome guests and new members, and reach out to those we have not seen in a while. The strength of our club has always come from its members—their good humor, experience, generosity, and willingness to lend a hand.

Our membership efforts remain strong. In the past month we have welcomed 12 new members:

NEW MEMBER	SPONSOR	NEW MEMBER	SPONSOR
Chandrakant Ravani	Kirit Ravani	James Rillema	Bill Peirce
Mark Ernst	None	Vince Polley	Charles Bruggemann
Eugene Greenstein	Alan Reinstein	Ron Lustig	Marty Reisig
Edward Shaw	Al Hibbert	Stan Grandon	Fred Simon
Jayanti Shah	Jayprakash Shah	Glen Davis	None
Dan McMahan	Marty Reisig	Harold Silk	Kirit Ravani

May this Independence Day season remind us that freedom is both a gift and a responsibility. Let us celebrate proudly, remember gratefully, and continue to do our part to keep our community strong for those who follow.

Wishing you and your families a safe, joyful, and patriotic July.

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Friday Meeting Menus

JULY 10

Rolls & Butter
Garden Salad
Mixed Vegetables
Wild Rice Blend
Chicken Marsala

Dessert:
Chocolate Chip Cookies

JULY 17

Rolls & Butter
Caesar Salad
Peas
Mashed Potatoes
Salisbury Steak

Dessert:
Brownies

JULY 24

Rolls & Butter
Caesar Salad
Mixed Vegetables
Mac N Cheese
Parmesan Cod

Dessert:
Chocolate Chip Cookies

JULY 31

Rolls & Butter
Garden Salad
Green Beans
Fettuccine Alfredo
Chicken Piccata

Dessert:
Brownies



July 2026 Speakers

July 10, 2026

John McElroy, Acclaimed Automotive Journalist, Broadcaster, Analyst, Lecturer
Host: Ray Buratto

July 17, 2026

M.L. Elrick, Award Winning Detroit Free Press Journalist
Host: Ray Buratto

July 24, 2026

Dr. Todd Allen, Glenn F. and Gladys H. Knoll Department Chair of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences, University of Michigan
“Hydrogen Power”
Host: Doug Koschik

July 31, 2026

Dr. David D. Howell, Jr., Radiation Oncologist, Ohio Health Physician Group
“Confessions of a Veteran Cancer Physician”
Host: Bo Tamarelli



Leader Dogs for the Blind Shares Mission Beyond Guide Dogs

The Senior Men's Club of Birmingham welcomed representatives from **Leader Dogs for the Blind** in Rochester Hills for an informative presentation on June 19.

Special Events Manager **Stephen Moran** and Manager of Personal Giving **Caroline Ethington** explained that Leader Dog is much more than a guide dog organization. Members learned about the wide range of services the organization provides to people who are blind or visually impaired, including orientation and mobility training, white cane instruction, assistive technology, and guide dog partnerships, all offered at no cost to clients.



The presentation highlighted the organization's long history of empowering individuals with vision loss to live with greater independence, confidence, and mobility. Members also gained insight into the extensive training and care that goes into preparing each Leader Dog and the many ways volunteers and donors support the organization's mission.



We thank Stephen and Caroline for an engaging presentation and for helping our members better understand the life-changing work being done by Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Special Event Monday, July 13
Tour of Leader Dogs for the Blind Campus in Rochester
Details to follow
Visit [TicketStripe](#) for more information, and purchase tickets.

- Jay Kafarski

See photos by [Tom Dahlem](#) [click here](#).



Honoring Our Veterans



Our Friday, May 29 meeting was made even more meaningful as members paused to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. In observance of Memorial Day, the colors were presented by Mark Donna, Willy Williams, Lon Kolakowski, and George Glinski while attendees stood in salute as the flags of each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces were displayed.



The moving ceremony reminded us of the sacrifices made to preserve the freedoms we enjoy and recognized the many veterans who are part of the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham. We extend our sincere thanks to the color guard and to all who have served our country.

- Jay Kafarski Photos by Tom Dahlem





Special Event - River Cruise, June 17th





Top Ten Questions - Getting to know . . . Chuck Steltenkamp



Chuck grew up in Clawson, Royal Oak, and Troy and graduated from Troy High School. His BA in English is from Michigan State, earned an MA from Oakland University and then back to MSU for a Ph.D. He taught English at Brother Rice, Troy Athens, and then returned to where it all started, Troy High School, for the next 39 years! I also taught writing at night at OCC, spending at total of 41 years in classroom teaching.

With an accumulation of nearly an additional 50 years of wisdom, Chuck would advise his 18-year-old self to “quit worrying so much; everything was going to work out just fine.”

Trained in teaching writing and literature, the classroom was always Chuck’s home. Whereas many educators pursue terminal degrees to leave the classroom and go into administration, Chuck chose to stay with the kids, as he viewed much of administration (not just in schools) as dealing with unhappy people; he much preferred the energy of students dealing with language and literature.

Asked to share both his funniest and most troubling career moments Chuck says he survived with a “smart-aleck sensibility”, with his funniest moments being the give-and-take with teenagers, who mostly shared the same sensibility. The most troubling times were trying to maintain some calm with a classroom full of kids when there was trauma (death in the family, 9/11, etc.).

He credits former colleague, Mike Frank, Life member of SMCB, for involving him in the Club, saying “he nabbed me the week I retired! I was instantly impressed with the quality of men in the group and the variety of activities available. My membership just keeps getting better.”

Chuck got involved in publicity for SMCB when Bo Tamarelli approached him. “Like any good salesman, he pitched it to me and then waited until I cracked and said yes. John Rusche was very supportive in the transition. All of the members who I communicated with were helpful and supportive (particularly if I made some error). Doing speaker bios was a very interesting task. Some were easier to edit than others, but it was always fascinating to be the first to get the backgrounds of these individuals. As for other committees, I’m always open to suggestions.”

His observations on SMCB: “It seems that we members have

similar interests in staying involved and connected in our retirements through both physical and intellectual activities. I’ve met so many interesting people in the club and the group just keeps getting bigger.”

Dr. Steltenkamp’s involvement in The Players, an all-male theatre club in downtown Detroit that’s been around for over 100 years, fills much of his free time. He acts, directs, and does committee work with them. Beyond that, he’s a fan of working out, smoking cigars, following MSU sports, being in book clubs, and watching old movies.

Still, family life is foremost. He and wife Sue have been married for 37 years. She is a retired special-ed teacher. They have one son who is married with a one-year-old daughter in Chicago. Their daughter lives in New York City. “We are fortunate in that both of our kids are very good people and thriving in their careers” says the proud father.

If you’ve played pickleball with/against Chuck, you’ll know he’s a worthy competitor. He played racquetball for many years and considered pickleball a return to his love of racket sports. He says he enjoys the competition, but the camaraderie is the best reward. Summing it up, he told me “I swear that each time I leave, I cannot recall how many games I won or lost but have always enjoyed myself. I threw the discus in college and then coached track and football for many years, so this is a fun continuation of a life in sports.”

Molly Reeser is Chuck’s favorite Club speaker. He saw her presentation about the Camp Casey Program, putting on horseback riding parties for kids with cancer. His daughter had a bout with cancer (she is fine now), so this resonated with him. Before Reeser, he wondered what he was going to do in retirement. Since then, he and his wife have both been active volunteers.

Without hesitation Chuck let me know he’d like to have MSU coaching legend Tom Izzo speak to the Club. He’s heard him speak before and knows he’d be great. Maybe he can set up a presentation on the history of The Players? Admitting he’s been very impressed by the variety of speakers and breadth of expertise that we get on a weekly basis, he noted “the effort and continuity that goes into our speaker program is amazing.”

Closing our interview with a question regarding his advice to new members, Chuck was quick to say “Find something that interests you and jump in. Every group has been welcoming and there are some great guys around. When I taught at Troy

High School, with its big variety of clubs and sports, I used to tell my students, if you can't find something that interests you here, you're not looking hard enough. I think it's the same with SMCB."

Be sure to say "hi" to Chuck and thank him for this inside look and for his work as our community media connection.

- Ray Buratto



Andy Acho – Life Member Inductee

It was a pleasure speaking with Andy a few days ago - I have to say, it was a remarkable conversation. Andy has enjoyed an equally remarkable career and life experience.



Andy is a Chaldean who was born in Baghdad, Iraq, and emigrated to the United States, where he attended Visitation High School in Detroit. He earned both his Bachelor of Science in Engineering (1963) and his Master of Business Administration (1967) UDM (Go Titans!). He later completed post-graduate executive management training at Duke University (Go Blue Devils!).

Andy and his wife of more than 55 years, Dee, live in West Bloomfield. Their son, Steve, is an accomplished singer / songwriter with more than 50 million downloads on Spotify. Their daughter, Lisa, lives in Santa Barbara, California, with their two grandchildren.

Andy has an unusually diverse background, having acquired financial, real estate, and insurance licenses. Over the years, he has also worked as a newspaper editor, radio broadcaster, and actor appearing in several advertisements, and even served as a Parish Council President. He remains very active and enjoys playing tennis. On the lighter side, he does not play golf or bridge.

Andy spent more than 45 years with Ford Motor Company, holding positions across a wide range of disciplines, including Product Engineering, Product Planning, Quality Control, Manufacturing, Finance, New Business Development, Corporate Business Strategy, and International Sales and Marketing, among others. In his final role as Worldwide Director of Environmental Outreach and Strategy—a position created for him by Bill Ford—Andy championed the development and implementation of proactive environmental stewardship initiatives in more than 40 countries. These efforts not only protected the environment but also saved the company

millions of dollars annually. He currently serves on the board of Ford's Retired Executives group.

Andy has been actively involved with numerous educational and environmental organizations, including Chairman of the Henry Ford Health System Ophthalmology Advisory Board. He served as Chairman of the Corporate Advisory Board at Smith College's Picker Engineering Program in Massachusetts. In 1996, he was appointed by Governor John Engler as Chairman of the Great Lakes Recycle Board, serving the governors of eight Midwestern states. In 2001, he was among the first individuals nationally to receive the Wildlife Habitat Council's President's Award, recognizing his outstanding commitment to preserving and protecting the environment for future generations, as well as his global vision for environmental and economic sustainability.

To help educate and inform others about the growing Chaldean minority, Andy wrote and narrated a 16 min video in 1991 called "Chaldean History & Culture". It was played in Detroit schools and is available on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/XGptq0Nq7ZY?si=nnPOkglMGryA5YON>). The video shows the link between the Chaldeans the followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Andy has been an active contributor to SMCB activities, regularly attending Friday meetings and serving as Monthly Speakers Chair. In this role, he has helped arrange visits such as the new Ford Michigan Central station tours, spoken at meetings, and recruited new members. Andy is proud to be a member of the Senior Men's Club and values the time he has shared with so many accomplished and admirable men.

- Bo Tamarelli



Group Induction Ceremony



At the May 29th Friday meeting, a Group Induction Ceremony was held where 7 SMCB Associate Members were inducted into Active Membership. Pictured from left to right are Bob Loosevelt, Bob Weltman, Dale Stoy, John Taube, Regis Calendar, Tom Phillips, and Mike Bindus.

- Kevin Doucet Photo by Tom Dahlem



Jay Hall Becomes Life Member

Jay was one of the first people I met at the club, and one of the first whose role I came to understand. My original name tag did not include my nickname, “Bo,” so I needed to find out who Jay Hall was to get it corrected. He was more than happy to help, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity over the past four+ years to get to know him.

Jay is one of our newest Life Members. Born in July 1941, he grew up in Pontiac, Michigan, and attended Webster Elementary School, now home to Micah 6. Interestingly, the SMC Foundation helped refurbish one of its classrooms. He graduated from Cranbrook School for Boys in 1959.

College beckoned, and over the next 12 years Jay earned two degrees from the University of Michigan. He first started in Engineering Mechanics but left to join the Army. After three years he returned to earn a bachelor’s degree in Experimental Biology in 1967. After working a year, he returned to U of M where he completed a master’s degree in Bioengineering in 1971.

Jay’s professional career spanned several leadership roles in hospital clinical engineering. He became a Registered Professional Engineer in 1976. Aside from stints at two consulting companies, he worked at the VA Hospital, St. John Hospital and Medical Center, William Beaumont Hospital, and Henry Ford Hospital. Over the course of his career, he advanced from engineer to manager, chief engineer, director, national director of quality assurance, and vice president. For more than 35 years, he also owned and operated his own biomedical forensic consulting practice as a side business.



President John Rusche, Life Member Jay Hall and 1st Vice President Bo Tamarelli

Jay is a veteran who served in the U.S. Army’s 34th General Hospital in Orléans, France, as a Specialist 4 and neuropsychiatric corpsman. There, he worked with inpatient psychiatric patients before they returned to the United States. His service may be connected to patients who were involved in various hallucinogenic (psychedelic drug) studies reportedly conducted by the CIA in pursuit of creating “super warriors.”

If you’d like to know more about that chapter of his life, you’ll have to ask Jay directly. If I say anything more, well, you know what might happen to me...

Jay and his wife, Nancy, have been married for more than 62 years. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. One daughter lives nearby in Farmington Hills, while the other resides in Portland, Texas near Corpus Christi.

When asked what he has enjoyed most about club membership, Jay spoke of the refreshing opportunity to meet and connect with professionals outside of his work life. The friendships and relationships he has built through the club have been especially rewarding.

Jay has volunteered as the Chair of the Camera Club for over 7 years and has led the effort that helps us get to know one another through the name tags we wear each Friday. (I’m certainly glad we’re a name-tag group—it makes connecting with people so much easier.)

- Bo Tamarelli



LIFE MEMBER INDUCTION – Keith Termaat, June 12, 2026

Keith was born April 27, 1940, two weeks before Nazi invasion of his native Holland. In 1952, he emigrated to USA with parents and brothers. After Sputnik, he was selected for a Science Honors Institute and elected Class President. In 1964, Keith graduated with Tau Beta Pi honors from UM with BS and MS degrees. He joined Ford Motor to lead development of product safety, structural systems, and standards to eliminate toxic materials from operations. His service on SAE and ANSI (ISO) Boards of Directors to advance



Past President Ray Buratto, Current President John Rusche, Life Member Keith Termaat and 1st Vice President Bo Tamarelli

global standards was featured in Business Week. He served on Session of First Presbyterian Church, where he secured staging for Men's Club events. Keith has three daughters and, with his wife Paulette of forty-two years, has fourteen grand and great-grandchildren. Keith and Paulette retired from Ford in 2001 and reside in Bloomfield and near Charlevoix in a self-designed ancestral home. At Senior Men's Club, he delivered invocations, introduced his new pastor, joined the walking, investment, and discussion groups, and applied for a Pontiac schoolchildren grant. Keith continues to preside over an environmental not-for-profit.

- Malcolm Hendy



Associate Orientation - June 9, 2026

Led by Kevin Doucet and Bo Tamarelli, the most recent group of Club Associates fulfilled their next-to-last requirement for elevation to full, and Active membership.

On June 9, JB Shah, Jay Shah, Ron Lustig, Tom Smith, Mike Barrett, Larry Hadley, Daryl Moseley, Don Schenk, Mickey Madden, John Mitchel, Darrell White, Daniel McMahon, James Rillema, Eugene Greenstein and John Minni attended the most recent fully interactive orientation to all things Club related, with presentations by Doug Koschik, Rick Paul, Bo Tamarelli, Ray Buratto, Jim Fleck, Mike Korsak, and Kevin Doucet. Representative of our established membership these fifteen "newbies" come from all backgrounds and ages. As noted by their completion of the Activities Interest Survey, they share a common interest in this Club's various activities and the opportunity to add to its reputation and growth and their own fulfillment.

Join me in welcoming them to a new and exciting chapter in their lives!

- Ray Buratto



Walking: The Best Exercise May Be Simpler Than You Think

The Senior Men's Club Walking Group has long believed that a daily walk offers far more than just physical exercise. Recent discussions among members Richard Koppel and Dr. Swarn Rajpal reinforce that belief with both science and common sense.

Richard recently shared an engaging presentation by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman ([Click here](#)), who explained why walking may be the most natural and effective

form of exercise. Walking strengthens the heart, improves circulation, maintains mobility, and keeps us active without the stress that many other forms of exercise place on the body. But the benefits don't end when the walk is over.

As Dr. Rajpal points out, social interaction is equally important to healthy aging. Regular conversations with friends help reduce loneliness, improve mood, provide emotional support, and give us a stronger sense of purpose. At the same time, lively discussions stimulate memory, critical thinking, and lifelong learning, helping keep our minds as active as our bodies.

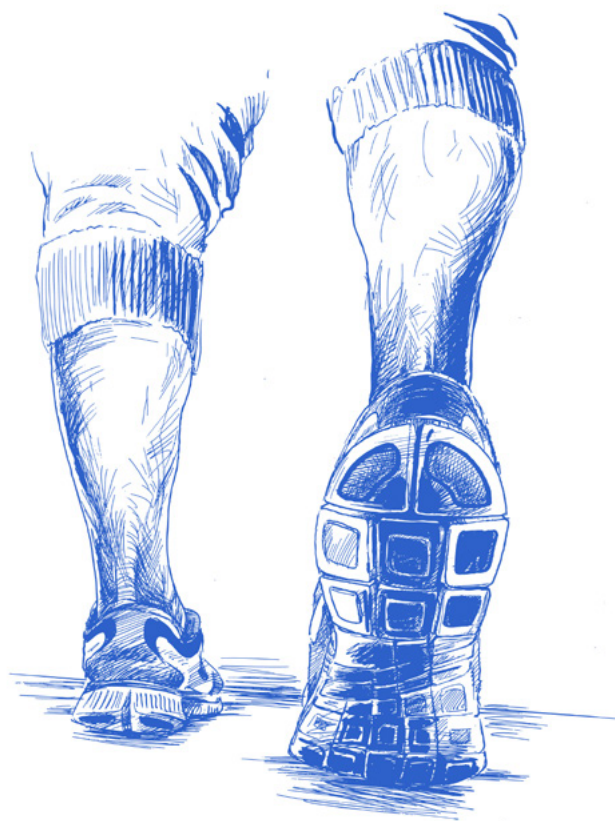
That is exactly why our Walking Group doesn't head straight home after the walk. The tradition of gathering for coffee afterward is just as valuable as the miles we cover together. Those conversations, laughs, and shared experiences provide exercise for the brain and nourishment for the spirit.

As Dr. Rajpal summarizes:

"Socializing is exercise for both the emotions and the brain."

If you've been thinking about joining the Walking Group, there's never been a better time. Come for the walk - stay for the coffee, conversation, and camaraderie. Your body, mind, and friends will all benefit. We walk every Thursday at 8:15. See the club calendar in the Reminder for details.

- Richard Koppel and Dr. Swarn Rajpal



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Yesterday - Today - Tomorrow

The Countdown Begins... 70th Anniversary Celebration – 2027

Seventy years.

In 2027, the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham will celebrate an extraordinary milestone - **our 70th Anniversary.**

For seven decades, our Club has brought together men who value fellowship, lifelong learning, shared interests, and service to others. Together, we have built a remarkable organization with a proud Tradition of Excellence.

The celebration begins this fall.

Over the coming months, you'll begin seeing the theme of our anniversary appear throughout the *Reminder*, on our website, and at Club events:

Yesterday - Today - Tomorrow

These three words tell the story of our Club - where we've been, who we are today, and the legacy we are building for future generations.

The 70th Anniversary Committee has been meeting for several months planning a year-long celebration worthy of this milestone. Highlights already on the calendar include:

- November 2026 – Our official Anniversary Kickoff featuring an exclusive performance by the Birmingham Village Players.
- May 19, 2027 – A special 70th Anniversary Gala celebrating the history,

accomplishments, and future of our Club.

Many more events, historical features, commemorative items, and opportunities for member participation will be announced throughout the coming year.

Whether you've been a member for forty years or four months, this celebration belongs to all of us. We invite every member to join us as we celebrate 70 Years of **Fellowship - Shared Interest - Service.**

The 70th Anniversary Committee extends its sincere appreciation to the many volunteers who have already devoted their time and creativity to planning this memorable celebration. The best is yet to come!

Special thanks to the men who have participated in the planning process:

Dave Anderson	Dave Basile	Doug Brown
Jim Buckley	Ray Buratto	Jack Burns
Tom Dahlem	Tom December	Kevin Doucet
Paul Ferszt	Jim Fleck	Don Haffner
Pankaj Hukku	Art Kaye	Tom Kimble
Jim King	Jeff Kitson	Bob Loosvelt
John Maten	Pete Mehra	George Miller
Chuck Moss	Tony Parrottino	Rick Paul
Bill Peirce	Nick Pinciotti	Frank Ritacco
John Rusche	Frank Schmid	Joe Schulenberg
John Skubik	Jim Suhay	Bo Tamarelli
Dennis Winowiecki	Steve Zimmer	Jim Zyla

Co-Chairmen - 70th Anniversary Committee

				
H.P. Culp 5/2/25	John Willis 2/16/24	Jay Kafarski 6/28/13	James Buckley 2/21/25	Dick Bradley 3/12/12

T r a d i t i o n o f E x c e l l e n c e



Senior Men Answer the Call for Foundation Donations

The Foundation's grants depend on the generous support of Club members. Every gift broadens the Foundation's reach, helps fund meaningful grants, strengthens local organizations, and improves the lives of the people they serve. In that spirit, the Foundation approved four grants at our June 16th board meeting totaling \$48,500: Life Remodel | \$10,500; PACE of Southeast Michigan | \$18,000; Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County | \$10,000; and Vets Returning Home | \$10,000. These awards bring the year-to-date total to ten grants totaling \$109,500. To learn more about our grants, visit our web page: [SMC Foundation Webpage](#)

The generosity of Club members enables the Foundation to continue its important work. Gifts of every size help provide the resources needed to meet community needs and support local organizations that make a lasting impact. Through the middle of June, ninety-seven men have *answered the call*, contributing \$60K to the Foundation.

Special recognition goes to those men who will join us for the Jacoby Luncheon in November by contributing \$1,000 or more. Members include Dave Anderson, Mike Bica, Fred Conway, Dave Dinger, Dave Strubler, John Rusche, Tom Booth (\$1,000 each), Don Price (\$1,250), and Gary Melikian (\$2,000). And extra special thanks to Kirit Ravani for his donation of \$5,000 and John Carter for his generous contribution of \$7,500.

If you have not already done so, please consider making a contribution to the Foundation. Your support will help continue the tradition of service, generosity, and community involvement that reflects the best of the Club.

Watch for our next mailing in August or visit our web page to download a donation form.



Discussion Group Introduces New “Current Events” Format

The Discussion Group recently introduced a new meeting format that proved to be an immediate success.

Rather than focusing on a single topic, members gathered for an informal “Current Events” discussion, much like friends meeting over coffee to exchange ideas on issues making headlines. The format encouraged a wide-ranging conversation while giving several members the opportunity to introduce subjects they felt were timely and thought-provoking.

Topics included the role of government accountability, the changing landscape of higher education, challenges facing Michigan’s K-12 education system, Detroit’s continuing revitalization, and the role of investigative journalism in today’s media environment.

One of the liveliest discussions centered on higher education and the changing value of a college degree. Members explored the effects of rising tuition costs, the growing importance of technical and vocational education, employer demand for practical skills, and whether today’s educational system is adequately preparing students for the future. International education models and apprenticeship programs also entered the conversation as examples of alternative approaches.

The group also examined Detroit’s continuing transformation. While acknowledging that significant challenges remain, members discussed the city’s economic development, changing demographics, and future prospects. By the conclusion of the discussion, the overwhelming sentiment was one of optimism that Detroit is moving in the right direction.

The meeting concluded with a presentation on the Boston Globe’s Pulitzer Prize-winning Spotlight investigation into the Boston Archdiocese abuse scandal. The presentation sparked a broader conversation about investigative journalism, media credibility, and the importance of evaluating information from multiple sources in today’s rapidly changing news environment. These issues will serve as the foundation for future Discussion Group meetings.

Members expressed enthusiastic support for the new Current Events format, appreciating the opportunity to explore a variety of subjects in a relaxed, respectful atmosphere. The format encourages participation from everyone, regardless of viewpoint, and reflects the Senior Men’s Club tradition of lifelong learning through thoughtful conversation.

If you enjoy exchanging ideas, learning from fellow members, and discussing issues shaping today’s world, the Discussion Group welcomes your participation.

- Richard Koppel



Computer & Technology Group Off to a Strong Start

The Senior Men’s Club’s newest interest group, the Computer & Technology Group is off to an impressive start.

The kickoff meeting, led by Richard Koppel, attracted members with a wide range of technology experience, from seasoned professionals to those who simply wanted to become more comfortable using today’s devices. One thing quickly became clear: everyone has something to learn, and everyone has something to share.

Rather than focusing on technology for technology’s sake, the discussion centered on practical, everyday topics that matter to our members. Artificial intelligence generated the greatest interest, with lively conversations about ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and Perplexity. Members also expressed interest in learning more about smartphones, streaming services, password security, online scams, navigation apps, smart home devices, and many other subjects that affect daily life.

Several members shared real-world examples of how they are already using AI to simplify everyday tasks from converting business cards into phone contacts and creating editable documents to estimating home replacement costs and even redesigning kitchens. Along the way, the group exchanged valuable tips on smartphone security, protecting personal information, and recognizing online scams.

One of the most popular ideas to emerge from the meeting was to include a hands-on tutorial and troubleshooting session at each gathering. Members will be encouraged to bring their phones, tablets, or laptops and receive help with specific questions in an informal, collaborative setting.

To help guide future meetings, members will receive a survey asking about technology topics they’d like to explore, their experience level, preferred meeting times, and whether they would be willing to lead discussions on subjects they know well. The goal is to build a group where everyone can both learn and contribute.

If you’ve ever wanted to better understand your smartphone, computer, streaming TV, artificial intelligence, or online security - or if you simply enjoy learning about technology - you’ll find a welcoming group of fellow members eager to explore it together.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, at the regular time and location. New participants are always welcome.

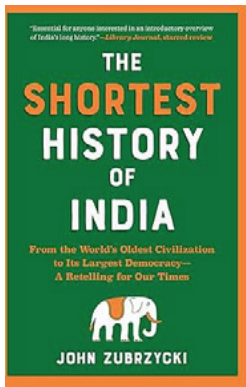
- Richard Koppel



Monday and Wednesday Reading Groups

July's discussions are sure to be of interest to a wide variety of SMCB members. The first takes on the seemingly impossible task of presenting India's long and complex history in less than 300 pages. The second tells the thrilling story of the rescue of survivors of the Bataan Death March during World War II.

We urge members to check the Club's website for the schedule of books to be discussed in coming months. Both groups will continue to meet via Zoom throughout the summer. As always, all members and their guests are welcome.



Wednesday July 1st 10:30 AM: *The Shortest History of India: From the World's Oldest Civilization to Its Largest Democracy* by John Zuberzky (New York: The Experiment, 2023). This discussion will be led by Bhimen Rao.

India—a cradle of civilization with five millennia of history, a country of immense consequence and contradiction often defies ready understanding. What holds its

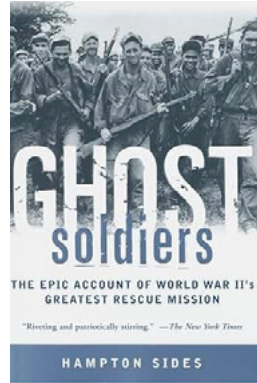
people together—across its many cultures, races, languages, and creeds—and how has India evolved into the liberal democracy it is today? From the Harappan era to Muslim invasions, the Great Mughals, British rule, independence, and present-day hopes, John Zuberzky distills India's colossal history into a gripping true story filled with legendary lives: Alexander the Great, Akbar, Robert Clive, Tipu Sultan, Lakshmi Bai, Lord Curzon, Jinnah, and Gandhi. India's gifts to the world include Buddhism, yoga, the concept of zero, the largest global diaspora—and its influence is only growing. Already the world's largest democracy, in 2023, India became the most populous nation.

"Astounding. . . . A compelling and delightful read. . . . Effortlessly brings to life ancient civilizations and famed dynasties, taking readers on a roller-coaster spanning five millennia."

—Hindustan Times

Monday July 20 at 3 PM: *The Ghost Soldiers: An Epic Account of World War II's Greatest Rescue Missions* by Hampton Sides (New York: Vintage Books, 2002).

Doug Koschik will lead this discussion



On January 28, 1945, 121 hand-selected U.S. troops slipped behind enemy lines in the Philippines. Their mission: March thirty rugged miles to rescue 513 POWs languishing in a hellish camp, among them the last survivors of the infamous Bataan Death March

In *Ghost Soldiers* Hampton Sides vividly re-creates this daring raid, offering a minute-by-minute narration that unfolds alongside intimate portraits of the prisoners and their lives in the camp. Sides shows how the POWs banded together to survive, defying the Japanese authorities even as they endured starvation, tropical diseases, and torture. Harrowing, poignant, and inspiring, *Ghost Soldiers* is the mesmerizing story of a remarkable mission. It is also a testament to the human spirit, an account of enormous bravery and self-sacrifice amid the most trying conditions.

"Riveting and patriotically stirring without ever slipping into mawkishness or sentimentality."

—The New York Times

Looking ahead to August:

Wednesday: August 5 *India – A short History* by Andrew Robinson (Roger Timm)

Monday, August 17: *The Women: A Novel* by Kristen Hannah (Bob Maxfield)

- Bob Maxfield



Classic Movie Group



On Monday, July 13th at 1:00 PM, Tom Booth will present, via Zoom, the classic American crime caper film “The Sting” (1973) (2 hours 9 minutes).

The movie stars Paul Newman and Robert Redford as two con men who team up in Chicago, in 1936, to pull off an elaborate “big con” against a ruthless mob boss, Robert Shaw, to avenge the murder of a mutual friend.

Directed by George Roy Hill, the film is known for its intricate, but understandable, plot, stylish period settings and an iconic Scott Joplin ragtime score, interpreted and played by Marvin Hamlisch.

The film opened to positive reviews by the critics, overwhelming audience acceptance and was very successful financially. The movie was nominated for ten Academy Awards and won seven Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Screenplay, by David S Ward who based much of his work on real life cons as documented in David Maurer’s 1940 book “The Big Con: The Story of the Confidence Man.” The movie remains very popular today with a Rotten Tomatoes Score of 95% and an IMDb of 8.2/10. The movie is considered a masterpiece because it perfectly balances unmatched star chemistry, a masterfully layered plot and a perfect nostalgic 1930’s aesthetic.

On an interesting technical note: Director Hill shot The Sting using full frame 35 mm film and historically correct lenses to capture the 4/3 aspect ratio look of films that were made in the 1930’s. It was his intent to release the film in this format, but since Wide Screen films were very popular at the time, the Universal executives felt that the film had to be released in this format. So, to accomplish this, the studio simply cut the bottom and top off the full frame image to create the Wide Screen version that felt they needed to sell the film. We are fortunate to have a full frame DVD of The Sting in our CMG Archives, and this is the film that we will show. Therefore, you will be able to see the 20% of the original image that was removed for theatrical release and enjoy the film as the Director had envisioned that we would.

The trailer for this movie is now available to watch by pressing the CMG Movie Preview Button on the SMCB Homepage.

So, mark your calendars now and plan to join Tom, and the rest of the Classic Movie Group, on July 13, to watch, enjoy and discuss this outstanding American classic.

Please note that the Zoom link for the movie will be at the top of the Scheduled Events eBlast for the week of July 12, which will be published on the morning of Friday July 10. In addition, if you click on the film title, you will be taken to the trailer and if you click on the Additional Information items you will be directed to some excellent videos and essays.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday July 13.

– Fred Hansz



Investment Study Group

Thank you for those that have attended the Investment Group meetings so far in 2025. For those existing and new members that would like to learn more about the Investment Group, please go to the SMC website and click the Investment Group tab. Also, I am in the book, and I can be reached to talk about the Group, Investments or other topic of interest.

If you have a particular topic or speaker in mind for later this year and/or in 2027, please let me know.

Happy Investing!

- Mike Korsak





No Friday Meeting



July 3, 2026

Next speaker: John McElroy

July 10th



Our Friday Speaker

July 10, 2026 -10:30 a.m. at

Iroquois Club or via Zoom

John McElroy

**Acclaimed Automotive Journalist, Broadcaster,
Analyst and Lecturer**

"Getting Up to China Speed: The Crunch is On"



John McElroy is President of Blue Sky Productions, which produces "Autoline Daily" the first industry webcast of industry news and analysis. He is also the host "Autoline After Hours," a weekly live webcast that focuses on new cars and technology. The show can be seen online at www.autoline.tv and on YouTube at the Autoline Network.

McElroy also broadcasts three radio segments daily on WWJ News radio 950, the CBS affiliate in Detroit. He writes a monthly op-ed article for *Ward's Auto World*.

McElroy brings an extensive background to covering the auto industry. He took his first plant tour when he was only six years old. As he got older, he read any and every book about cars he could get his hands on, which led to an understanding of automotive engineering principles. As his enthusiasm for cars grew, he successfully—though briefly—ventured into amateur road racing. He also gained valuable insight to the industry working as an hourly UAW employee in various automotive manufacturing plants while working his way through college, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in English at Wayne State University.

As a journalist, McElroy put his automotive background to good use. His past experience includes five years at Detroit Editor for *Road & Track*, and as the American correspondent for *World Cars*, which was published by the Automotive Club of Italy. He was also invited to write the annual automotive entry for the *Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook*. He spent most of his career at the trade magazine *Automotive Industries* where he ultimately rose to Editorial Director.

McElroy has appeared as an automotive expert on ABC World News Tonight, CBS News, and NBC Nightly News. He is often interviewed by CNN, NPR, and CBC in Canada. He is frequently asked to speak to automakers, suppliers and industry organizations. He was a founding member of the jury of the North American Car and Truck of the Year. In 2018 he was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

Meeting at the Iroquois Club, 43248 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Township

North of Square Lake Road. Lunch reservation required by previous Monday. **To participate via Zoom, Click on this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876805084?pwd=d3U3OGIHT1RlelN2ckpXcnehYTVVQZz09>

Dial in: 646-558-8656 - Meeting ID: 848 7680 5084 - Passcode: 901373



Our Friday Speaker

July 17, 2026 -10:30 a.m. at

Iroquois Club or via Zoom



M.L. Elrick

Award Winning Detroit Free Press Journalist

"The state of local, state and national politics — and whether our elected officials can do anything to bring stability to both of our state's biggest universities?"

M.L. Elrick is the On Guard government watchdog columnist at the Detroit Free Press. He is a Pulitzer Prize-and Emmy Award-winning investigative reporter, an adjunct professor of Journalism at Michigan State University, director of the student investigative reporting program *Eye On Michigan*, host of the ML's Soul of Detroit podcast, and co-author of "The Kwame Sutra: Musings of Lust, Life and Leadership from Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick."

Elrick ran for Detroit City Council in 2021. He finished second in the primary election and again in the general election. Elrick lives in Detroit with his wife and two daughters.

Meeting at the Iroquois Club, 43248 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Township

North of Square Lake Road. Lunch reservation required by previous Monday. **To participate via Zoom, Click on this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876805084?pwd=d3U3OGIHT1RleIN2ckpXcNhYTUVVQZz09>

Dial in: 646-558-8656 - Meeting ID: 848 7680 5084 - Passcode: 901373



Our Friday Speaker

July 24, 2026 -10:30 a.m. at

Iroquois Club or via Zoom

Dr. Todd Allen

Glenn F. and Gladys H. Knoll Department Chair of
Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences,
University of Michigan
"Hydrogen Power"



An offer to skip history class in high school to listen to a Navy ROTC recruiter sent Dr. Todd Allen on a serendipitous journey that led to him becoming one of the top U.S. experts in nuclear energy. Dr. Allen began his career as a submarine officer in the U.S. Navy, where he learned the practical applications of operating a nuclear power plant. Then he earned a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering at the University of Michigan.

After receiving his doctorate, Dr. Allen served as a staff scientist at Argonne National Laboratory and helped develop Generation IV Roadmap, a document that framed the resurgence of nuclear research programs in the early 21st century.

Afterwards, Dr. Allen joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin and then helped lead the Idaho National Laboratory. Since 2019, he has been the Chair of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences at the University of Michigan.

He is the author of over 200 technical publications, many of which are readable. Dr. Allen is a native of Michigan and tries very hard to find ways to watch baseball. His best summer ever, he visited 64 different stadiums across the U.S.

Meeting at the Iroquois Club, 43248 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Township

North of Square Lake Road. Lunch reservation required by previous Monday. **To participate via Zoom, Click on this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876805084?pwd=d3U3OGIHT1RleIN2ckpXcnhYTVVQZz09>

Dial in: 646-558-8656 - Meeting ID: 848 7680 5084 - Passcode: 901373



Our Friday Speaker

July 31, 2026 -10:30 a.m. at

Iroquois Club or via Zoom

Dr. David D. Howell, Jr, MD, FACR, FAAHPM

**Radiation Oncologist, Ohio Health Physician Group
Athens, Ohio**

"Confessions of a Veteran Cancer Physician"



This thought-provoking presentation takes a clear, practical look at how we understand cancer in today's world—separating fact from fiction while bringing complex topics into everyday perspective. From cancer incidence and screening to the way statistics and headlines shape public opinion, the discussion will explore how concepts such as overdiagnosis, relative risk, and medical bias influence the choices patients and families make. The presentation also examines the emotional and philosophical side of cancer care, including what truly matters most to patients during diagnosis and treatment. Informative, approachable, and grounded in real-world experience, this talk offers valuable insight into living with cancer, navigating information wisely, and making personal healthcare decisions with greater confidence and clarity.

Dr. Howell has had a practice in cancer care for nearly 40 years. He attended college and medical school at the University of Michigan, served his internship at Henry Ford Hospital, and residency in radiation oncology at the University of Pennsylvania. He has worked both in private practice and in academia, having been on the faculty at Wayne State University School of Medicine as well as the University of Michigan School of Medicine. He was one of the first US physicians to have been board certified both in Radiation Oncology and Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and the first US physician to be both a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and a Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Meeting at the Iroquois Club, 43248 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Township

North of Square Lake Road. Lunch reservation required by previous Monday. **To participate via Zoom, Click on this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876805084?pwd=d3U3OGIHT1RlelN2ckpXcnhYTVVQZz09>

Dial in: 646-558-8656 - Meeting ID: 848 7680 5084 - Passcode: 901373



July 2026 Calendar

SMCB/SMCF CALENDAR AT A GLANCE - JULY 2026

UPDATED: 6/26/2026

Week 1	Date	Start / End Time	Group	Location and/or via Zoom	Contact	Phone Number
First Wednesday	July 1	10:30 AM	Reading Group B	Zoom	Roger Timm	(248) 644-4050
Wednesday	July 1	Noon / 1:00 PM	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Beverly Hills Club, 31555 Southfield Rd	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	July 1	1:00 / 3:00 PM	Pickleball	UWM Sports Complex, 867 South Blvd, Pontiac	Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Thursday	July 2	7:00 AM	Thursday Golf - Springdale GC	316 Strathmore Rd, Bloomfield Township	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Thursday	July 2	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Barnum Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Friday	July 3	N/A	Weekly Friday Meeting	No Meeting - July 4th Holiday	Rick Paul	(248) 521-9247
Friday	July 3	1:30 / 4:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Library - Jeanne Lloyd Room	Kirby Callam Frank Schmid	(773) 339 8369 (248) 647-0767
Week 2						
Monday	July 6	7:00 AM	Monday Golf - Lincoln Hills GC	2666 W 14 Mile Rd, Birmingham	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
First Monday	July 6	N/A	Genealogy	Cancelled - No Meeting	John Maten	(248) 251-9339
First Monday	July 6	2:30 / 4:00PM	Discussion Group	Baldwin Library - Donor Room & Zoom	Richard Koppel	(248) 210-9326
Tuesday	July 7	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Shain Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
First Tuesday	July 7	10:00 / 11:30 AM	Special Events Meeting	Baldwin Library - Rotary Room & Zoom	James Zyla	(248) 561-1520
First Tuesday	July 7	11:30AM / 1:30PM	SCORE Meeting	Baldwin Library - Rotary Room & Zoom	Rich McGee	(248) 703-7231
Wednesday	July 8	Noon / 1:00 PM	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Beverly Hills Club, 31555 Southfield Rd	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	July 8	1:00 / 3:00 PM	Pickleball	UWM Sports Complex, 867 South Blvd, Pontiac	Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Second Wednesday	July 8	7:00 PM	CPR/AED Refresher (Must Pre-Register)	Birmingham Fire Station-Adams Rd (248) 530-1906	Dave Basile	(248) 761-7464
Thursday	July 9	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Barnum Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Thursday	July 9	7:00 AM	Thursday Golf - Springdale GC	316 Strathmore Rd, Bloomfield Township	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Thursday	July 9	11:30 AM/1:00 PM	Computer/Technology Group Meeting	Baldwin Library - Donor Room & Zoom / Laptop	Richard Koppel	(248) 210-9326
Friday	July 10	10:30 AM	Weekly Friday Meeting	Iroquois Club + Zoom	Rick Paul	(248) 521-9247
Friday	July 10	1:30 / 4:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Library - Jeanne Lloyd Room	Kirby Callam Frank Schmid	(773) 339 8369 (248) 647-0767
Week 3						
Monday	July 13	7:00 AM	Monday Golf - Lincoln Hills GC	2666 W 14 Mile Rd, Birmingham	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Second Monday	July 13	1:00 PM	Leader Dogs for the Blind Campus Tour	See TicketStripe for Details	James Zyla	(248) 561-1520
Second Monday	July 13	1:00 PM	Classic Movie Group	Zoom	Fred Hansz	(248) 559-3105
Tuesday	July 14	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Shain Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Second Tuesday	July 14	10:00AM / Noon	Board of Directors Meeting	Baldwin Library - Donor Room & Zoom	John Rusche	(248) 219-8114
Wednesday	July 15	Noon / 1:00 PM	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Beverly Hills Club, 31555 Southfield Rd	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	July 15	1:00 / 3:00 PM	Pickleball	UWM Sports Complex, 867 South Blvd, Pontiac	Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Thursday	July 16	7:00 AM	Thursday Golf - Springdale GC	316 Strathmore Rd, Bloomfield Township	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Thursday	July 16	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Barnum Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Friday	July 17	10:30 AM	Weekly Friday Meeting	Iroquois Club + Zoom	Rick Paul	(248) 521-9247
Friday	July 17	1:30 / 4:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Library - Jeanne Lloyd Room	Kirby Callam Frank Schmid	(773) 339 8369 (248) 647-0767
Third Friday	July 17	5:00 PM	REMINDER Submission Deadline	smcbreminder@gmail.com	Ray Buratto	(248) 390-6244
Week 4						
Monday	July 20	7:00 AM	Monday Golf - Lincoln Hills GC	2666 W 14 Mile Rd, Birmingham	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Third Monday	July 20	3:00 PM	Reading Group A	Zoom	Bob Maxfield	(248) 481-9791
Tuesday	July 21	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Shain Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Wednesday	July 22	Noon / 1:00 PM	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Beverly Hills Club, 31555 Southfield Rd	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	July 22	1:00 / 3:00 PM	Pickleball	UWM Sports Complex, 867 South Blvd, Pontiac	Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Thursday	July 23	7:00 AM	Thursday Golf - Springdale GC	316 Strathmore Rd, Bloomfield Township	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Thursday	July 23	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Barnum Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Friday	July 24	10:30 AM	Weekly Friday Meeting	Iroquois Club + Zoom	Rick Paul	(248) 521-9247
Friday	July 24	1:30 / 4:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Library - Jeanne Lloyd Room	Kirby Callam Frank Schmid	(773) 339 8369 (248) 647-0767
Week 5						
Monday	July 27	7:00 AM	Monday Golf - Lincoln Hills GC	2666 W 14 Mile Rd, Birmingham	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Tuesday	July 28	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Shain Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Wednesday	July 29	Noon / 1:00 PM	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Beverly Hills Club, 31555 Southfield Rd	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	July 29	1:00 / 3:00 PM	Pickleball	Paddle + Par, 31535 Southfield Rd, Beverly Hills	Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Thursday	July 30	7:00 AM	Thursday Golf - Springdale GC	316 Strathmore Rd, Bloomfield Township	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Thursday	July 30	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Barnum Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Friday	July 31	10:30 AM	Weekly Friday Meeting	Iroquois Club + Zoom	Rick Paul	(248) 521-9247
Friday	July 31	1:30 / 4:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Library - Jeanne Lloyd Room	Kirby Callam Frank Schmid	(773) 339 8369 (248) 647-0767



July Birthdays

- 1 John Marsh
- 2 Chris Crossen, Martin Rowell
- 4 Keith Brown, Carl Guething
- 6 Jim Brisko
- 7 Dr. Peter Ajluni
- 8 Jim Buckley, Dr. Pankaj Hukku
- 9 Jim Whitledge
- 10 Hal Schwartz
- 11 Jim Tittsworth
- 12 Tom Demrick, Tom Sowden
- 13 Dick Donnelly
- 14 George Madias
- 15 Jack Davis, Marshall Hunt
- 16 Tom Garner, Harold LaCount, Alan Szuma
- 17 Larry Nahigian, John Rusche
- 18 Steve Hix, Bill Krieg, Roger Melton
- 20 Dr. Piyush Desai
- 22 Benson Barr, Dr. Swarn Rajpal, Past Pres 2022
- 23 Bill Burke, Dr. Jay Lorber, Jeff Miller
- 24 Jay Hall, Vance Neff
- 25 Phil Button
- 26 Art Ciagne, Tony Parrottino Jr
- 27 John Elkins, Dave Ladd
- 28 Rich McGee
- 29 Lyle Beadle
- 30 Dr. Jim Labes, Tim Parsons
- 31 Raj Modi, Eric Oppenheim, Tom Russell



Sports Trivia

The only one correct partial response from last month's question was from Nick Pinciotti. He was correct that Harmon Killebrew was the first of four hitters to clear the left field roof. No one knew that Ted Williams was the first to clear the right field roof in 1939 one year after the upper deck was built. Norm Cash did it 4 four times and Mickey Mantle 3. The right field roof was cleared another 23 times by a host of other players totaling 31.

I'm preparing this question as I watch the US Open golf tournament and realized we have never asked a golf question. How about who won the first US Open Golf Championship. Sorry, I had no idea so I looked it up to see Horace Rawlins won it in 1895. But I do remember who won the first Masters Tournament in 1934. Do you???

Tom De Corte
tcdecorte@comcast.net
1-757-634-4818 (cell)



THE REMINDER

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

THE REMINDER Team:

Ray Buratto, Managing Editor
Jay Kafarski, Editor & Graphic Design
Tom Dahlem & Tom Booth,
Contributing Photographers

SENIOR MEN'S CLUB OFFICERS

The 2026 Officers are:

President, John P. Rusche
First Vice President, Bo Tamarelli
Second Vice President, Rick Paul
Recording Secretary, Jim Buckley
Corresponding Secretary, Nick Pinciotti
Treasurer, George Dilgard
Assistant Treasurer, Doug Koschik

CONTACT US

The Senior Men's Club mailing address for general Club or SMC Foundation correspondence is:

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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