



President's Message

Dear Members,

As we look forward to our August break, we can only hope the wildfires subside. There has been an average of 55 new fires in Canada every day in July, bringing the number of active fires to more than 900 on July 20. Wildfires are part of nature's cycle, and though they can cause massive devastation, they are also critical to keeping parts of the ecosystem healthy by recycling and dispersing nutrients into the soil and environment. Of course, this fact is of little comfort to people whose lives are disrupted by the fires through property damage and harmful air quality.

While the Club is in its annual August recess from Board of Directors and Friday meetings, future planning and behind the scenes operations continue. Under the leadership of John Maten, we have been evaluating versions of Club Management Software. We are now in the process of participating in 60-day free trials of two finalists, ClubExpress and Wild Apricot. These trials should be completed in mid-September.

Our Annual Car Show and Picnic will be held at the Beverly Park Pavilion, Beverly Rd. west of Southfield Rd. in Beverly Hills on Wednesday, August 12. Picnic starts at 10 am with lunch served at 11 am. Unless you are displaying your car, please park at Beverly Elementary School. It is east of the park, on Beverly Rd. This is the Club's only stag event. Members and guests are invited to bring a classic car, limited to the first 15 registered. So, act fast. If you bring a classic car, you do not have to pay for lunch. We will have a buffet lunch of picnic type foods catered by The Iroquois Club. The tariff is \$30.00 for those who do not bring a classic. Reservations can be made through the Ticketstripe link in any of the SMCB eBlasts sent out titled "SMC Annual Picnic and Car Show." Or you can contact Jim Zyla at 248-561-1520 for registration. Sales end on August 6 at 3 pm.

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

NEW MEMBER

Gary Reizian
Ved Singla
Rodge Wasserman
Reuben Slone
Howard Baron
Thomas Young
Gary Eisenberg
Kurtis Kramer

SPONSOR

Gary Melikian
Bhimsen Rao
Harvey Minkin
None
Paul Kovceses
Michael Jacob
Paul Gold
Jack Burns



This Month...

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Special Event - Leader Dogs for the Blind

Thirty-six SMCB members and guests visited the campus of Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Michigan, on Monday, July 13, following the organization's outstanding June 19 presentation to the club, where dogs in training demonstrated the remarkable work they do in preparing to become leader dogs.



Leader Dogs for the Blind was established in 1938 through a partnership between Lions Clubs International and the Leader Dog Foundation. Today, the expansive Rochester Road campus includes residence halls, veterinary and medical facilities, and extensive training areas for both clients and dogs. The organization depends on 50 to 100 volunteers every day, while more than 400 volunteers throughout the community are currently raising future leader dogs.

Until you take a tour, it's difficult to appreciate just how large and comprehensive the campus really is. In addition to training leader dogs, the facility offers Orientation and Mobility programs that teach individuals who are legally blind to travel confidently using a white cane. Throughout the campus, visitors see Golden Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers of every age, from playful puppies to highly trained working dogs.



"become who I was again."

One of the highlights of the visit was hearing from Jeff Hawkins, a Leader Dog graduate. Jeff shared his deep personal story of gradually losing his sight in his 20s and then spending the next 15 years struggling with isolation before deciding to apply for a leader dog. He explained that receiving his dog transformed his outlook on life, giving him the confidence to believe it was "onward and upward" and allowing him to "become who I was again."

-Jim Zyla



LEADER DOGS
FOR THE BLIND





Senior Men's Club March in the Clawson 4th of July Parade





Detroit River Cruise June 17th

We had almost 120 members and guests join us for a trip (down river this time) on the Detroit River on June 17th aboard the Diamond Belle. The weather was perfect for a cruise, and we all enjoyed our boxed lunch (sandwich, fruit, chips and cookie) provided by the tour company.

Another highlight was narrative about the Gordie Howe International Bridge by Heather Grondin (Chief Relations Officer of the Windsor-Detroit Bridge authority) as we approached and spent several minutes circling underneath the bridge. Since the ribbon cutting ceremony and opening of the bridge has been delayed, the first question was "When will the Gordie open?" - that question remains unanswered. Each of us were given a Gordie Howe bridge lapel pin by Heather.

Several people remarked they had never seen Zug Island with the factories and all the smoke and fire they generated. The steel plant on the island is still in use, but on a much smaller scale than in its heyday.

Thanks to all that attended!

- Paul Kovceses



The Annual Classic Car Show and Picnic is Coming!

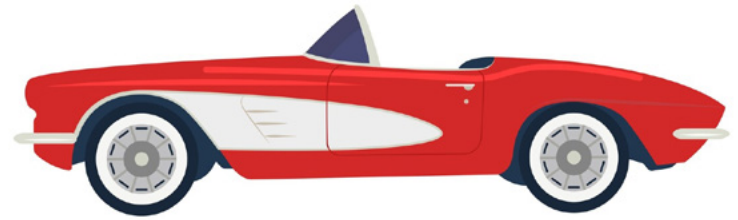
It is Wednesday, August 12 at Beverly Park on Beverly Rd. in Beverly Hills. The price is \$30 and it's a deal considering the crew at the Iroquois Club provides the food. We are limiting the number of classic cars on display to 15. Go to the Senior Men's Club web site and click Special Events, then click on the Ticket Stripe link to register.

If you're not bringing a classic car, park at Beverly School, next to the park to the east.

There will be games - bocce ball and corn hole - the committee decided not to include Greco-Roman wrestling this year.

The picnic starts at 10:00. Food will be served at 11:00.

-Jim Zyla



BY THE NUMBERS

The Gordie Howe International Bridge

The Gordie Howe International Bridge, decades in the making, is finally set to open to vehicle traffic on July 27.

The bridge connecting Detroit and Windsor is a major infrastructure project that will link one of the busiest international land border crossings in North America. Ahead of its opening, the Detroit Free Press looks at the project by the numbers:

- 2018: The year construction of the bridge began.
- \$4.7 billion: The amount it cost to build the bridge, in U.S. dollars.
- 1.5 miles: The length of the bridge.
- 150 feet: The distance between bridge deck and the water.
- 123 feet: The width of the bridge.
- 6,000: The number of lighting fixtures on the bridge.
- Six: The number of lanes on the bridge. Three are U.S.-bound and three are Canada-bound.
- 6: The number of toll lanes.
- 60: The number of inspection lanes.
- \$5.75: The standard toll rate for a small- to medium-size personal vehicle.



70 Years of Fellowship Begins Here

Questions & Answers About Our 2027 Anniversary Celebration

In 2027, the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham will celebrate an important milestone - our 70th Anniversary. Throughout the coming year, you'll see special features in The Reminder, hear stories at Friday meetings, and enjoy events that recognize where we've been, who we are today, and where we're headed.

Our anniversary theme is:

Yesterday - Today - Tomorrow

Here are answers to some of the questions members have already begun asking.

Have we celebrated milestone anniversaries before?

Yes. Our 50th and 60th Anniversary celebrations were among the most successful events in club history. They brought together record numbers of members to celebrate the friendships, traditions, and accomplishments that have made the Senior Men's Club such a special organization. We expect our 70th Anniversary to continue that tradition - and perhaps become our best celebration yet.

Why is the Club celebrating an entire year?

Seventy years is much more than a number. It represents thousands of Friday mornings, lifelong friendships, countless volunteer hours, memorable speakers, shared interests, and a tradition of service that began in 1957 and continues today. A milestone like this deserves more than a single dinner or one special event. A year-long celebration allows us to recognize the people, programs, and traditions that have shaped our Club while looking ahead to the future.

Has the Club changed over the years?

Absolutely. Membership has grown from just a handful of men in 1957 to nearly 600 members today. Programs have expanded, technology has changed how we communicate, and our impact in the community continues to grow. Yet the qualities that define us remain remarkably consistent. Fellowship continues to be the heart of the Senior Men's Club. It is strengthened by our Shared Interests and our commitment to serving others. Every Friday meeting reminds us why those traditions have endured for seven decades.

Is all this planning really worth the effort?

The Anniversary Committee certainly believes so. Bringing members together is never wasted effort. Every event creates opportunities to reconnect with longtime friends, welcome newer members and guests into our traditions, and strengthen the sense of community that makes this Club unique. The Board of Directors agrees and has budgeted \$7,865, committing the resources necessary to make this a memorable year for all members.

When does the celebration begin?

Planning has already been underway for several months, and you'll begin seeing anniversary features in every issue of The Reminder. Our official Kick-Off takes place this November with a special live performance by the Birmingham Village Players, presented exclusively for Senior Men's Club members and their guests. Between now and then, we'll share stories from our history, introduce the people who have shaped our organization, highlight today's accomplishments, and preview what's ahead as we begin our next chapter.

Yesterday gave us our foundation. Today celebrates who we are. Tomorrow belongs to the members who will carry the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham into its next generation.

The celebration has officially begun!

- Dick Bradley, Jim Buckley, HP Culp, Jay Kafarski, John Willis
70th Anniversary Co-Chairmen

NEW LIFE MEMBER INDUCTIONS



David “Dave” Ladd

Dave Ladd grew up in Beverly Hills and graduated from Seaholm High School. He went to Michigan State where he received an MBA in financial administration. (Go Green). He spent most of his career with the Beaumont Hospital Corporation, serving his last 30 years as Director of Planning.

Dave says he enjoys many of the Club activities, especially Friday meetings, Investment study and Reading group. He is currently Secretary of the Visitation and Health Committee and works lunch registration.

He has been married to Sandy for 36 years. They have 3 children- Elizabeth in Tyler, Texas, Bruce in West Bloomfield and Ken in Canton, MI. They have 4 grandchildren.

Dave believes the Senior Men’s Club has enriched his life. He looks forward to every Friday. He has made many friends and learned a lot from our speakers. He thinks it is wonderful to be part of an organization that cares so much about our broader community and takes action to do something about it.

- Bo Tamarelli

Fred Simon

I recently had the pleasure of spending a few minutes in conversation with our newest Life Member, Fred Simon - and let me tell you a bit of his Life Member story:

Fred was raised in Brooklyn, New York, where he attended James Madison High School. Following his graduation, Fred attended Brooklyn College and received his bachelor’s degree in financial accounting. His love of columns of numbers and dollar signs led him to Carnegie Mellon, where he earned a Master of Science degree in Industrial Administration.

Following his academic achievements, Fred began a career with Ford Motor Company that spanned more than 30 years. He served in both the United States and Australia, ultimately concluding his career on the car side of the business as a Program Manager, with more than 1,000 employees reporting to him. His final project involved taking the newest version of the Lincoln Continental from concept to initial production. After this successful career, Fred continued to share his extensive managerial experience through public speaking and consulting, working in association with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) until 2005.



On the personal side, Fred has been married for nearly 63 years and has two daughters and three grandchildren. One daughter is a child psychiatrist in Westchester, New York, and the other lives in Brookline, Massachusetts, where she teaches history. His grandchildren, ranging in age from 10 to 21, keep Fred busy whenever he sees them.

Fred enjoys attending Friday meetings during the summer months—he is a snowbird and spends winters in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea - and enjoys playing golf with fellow club members. He shared that one of the most impressive aspects of the Club is the Friday lunch, where members exchange life and work experiences and explore the many talents and educational backgrounds each member willingly share.

Please join me in welcoming and congratulating our newest Life Member, Fred Simon.

- Bo Tamarelli

NEW LIFE MEMBER INDUCTIONS



Jim Smallwood

We recently had the pleasure of spending time getting to know our newest SMCB Life Member, Jim Smallwood. It was a wonderful conversation.

Jim was born in New York City but moved to Shreveport, Louisiana at the age of three, where he grew up and graduated from C. E. Byrd High School - now more than a century old and recognized as a Blue-Ribbon school. He went on to attend the University of Oklahoma, earning a degree in business administration. While attending Oklahoma, he entered the Naval Reserve Officer Training Program (NROTC) and upon graduation entered the Marine Corps as a Second Lieutenant.



C. E. Byrd High School

Jim was part of the third battalion to land in Vietnam during the early days of the war (1965–66). He saw action in and around Da Nang. During his Marine Corp career, Jim was involved in Marine Corps sponsored competitive rifle and pistol competitions, it was at one of those matches he met his future wife, Ann.

Jim and his wife, Ann, have been married for more than 58 years and spend their winters in Naples, Florida. They raised two daughters, and although they sadly lost one daughter not long ago, they are grateful to have their other daughter living nearby in Birmingham when they are in Michigan. Jim lives just a couple of blocks from Baldwin Library and The Community House, making it easy for him to walk to meetings. His grandchildren continue the family tradition of achievement, including graduates of Michigan State University and one currently in her third year of medical school.

Jim's long and successful career in industrial relations began in Shreveport with Sperry Rand Corporation at an ordnance plant. He went on to serve as Chief Industrial Relations Manager for a facility with more than 5,000 union employees representing two major unions. Subsequent roles and promotions took him to Joplin, Missouri, and eventually to Troy, Michigan, where he worked with Vickers, LOF, Stirling Engineered Products, and Aeroquip. He ultimately retired as Vice President of Human Resources.

Jim enjoys attending Friday meetings during the summer and fall, participating in the investment group, Computer/Technology Group, and especially playing duplicate bridge. Jim is a Bronze Life Master. He credits Kirby Callum with his bridge education and sparking his passion, along with helping many other SMCB members learn bridge.

Jim believes SMCB and the SMC Foundation are tremendous assets for senior men. He speaks highly of the organization's outstanding speakers and is especially impressed with the Foundation's careful and thoughtful work in ensuring that grants, and members' donations, support worthy causes within the community.

One last thing, filed under "small world stories" is that three SMCB members all went through a very small Navy air base in Millington, Tennessee (yes Tennessee). As Jim related, he, Tim McGee and Kirby Callum all spent time at this small base (but at different times). Jim practicing his sharp shooting, Tim learning how to be a jet mechanic, and Kirby, landing and taking off jets as a Navy flier. They have shared stories throughout the years about life at Millington.

- Bo Tamarelli

NEW LIFE MEMBER INDUCTIONS



Jim Whitledge

I recently caught up with Jim Whitledge, one of our newest Life Members. Jim has built a remarkable life, enriching the lives of his family, colleagues, and hundreds of students he taught and counseled throughout his career.

Born in Detroit, Jim graduated from Redford High School before earning degrees from three universities, culminating in a Ph.D. (It was nice to meet you, Dr. Whitledge!). He earned both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Art degrees in Education and Guidance and Counseling respectively from Western Michigan University (Go Broncos!), an Education Specialist from Wayne State University (Go Tartars!), and finally a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Counselor Education from Mississippi State University (Go Bulldogs!).

Jim devoted more than 40 years to Education and Counseling, including over 34 years at Farmington High School and North Farmington High School. During that time, in 1988-1989, he took a sabbatical to serve as the full time President of the American School Counselor Association. He also spent four years on the faculty at the University of Detroit Mercy, as the Director of the School Counseling Program for Master Degree students. From that time until retirement in 2010, he was the full time Consultant for the Guidance and Counseling Program for the Oakland Intermediate School District. In that capacity, he supported 350 counselors across the 28 school districts in Oakland County.

Jim and his wife Pat have been married for more than 62 years. They have two daughters, Julie and Karen, and four granddaughters. Karen's twin daughters (Addie and Bella) just graduated from Avondale High School (GoYellow Jackets!) and

will be attending Michigan State University (Go Green, Go White!) this fall. Julie and her husband Curt live in Oak Park, IL. Their oldest daughter, Ava, is a graduate of the University of Washington (Go Huskies!) and lives in Seattle. Their youngest daughter, Lily, is a graduate of Michigan State University (Go Green!), and lives in Chicago.

Since joining the club, Jim has been an active member of the Classic Movie Group and the Computer Group. Although he enjoyed golfing for nearly 30 years, these days he prefers watching others chase the little white ball. Jim especially appreciates the camaraderie of the club and looks back fondly on the meetings and lunches at the Birmingham Community House.

- Bo Tamarelli



Do you want to learn more about our Club and to meet other members?



**Tuesday Sept 8 12:00 Noon (session lasts until 2pm)
Birmingham Baldwin Library Donor Meeting Room**

This Orientation session is for any SMCB Associate Members who wish to progress to full Active Member status. It is a wonderful opportunity, especially for our new members, to learn more about our Club and the various Activity Groups, as well as to meet other SMCB members.

Please contact SMCB Membership Chair Kevin Doucet if you have any questions, and to confirm your attendance.

Email: Doucets410@gmail.com

Cell: (248) 977-9394



"bringing joy and support to those who face difficult challenges. The Club offers the perfect avenue to do just that. Furthermore, the Club fosters deep fellowship through the diverse range of activities it provides for its members."

Getting to Know . . . Frank Ritacco

Coming to us from New Rochelle, NY, we welcome Frank Ritacco. A third-generation Italian American, Frank's family held close the

family traditions of the "nonni" (grandparents). Part of those traditions is a strong belief in the Catholic faith and Catholic education manifested in Frank's education at Salesian High School and culminating in an MBA from Iona University, both in New Rochelle. For Frank, a "foundational work ethic" was learned as he delivered newspapers and pumped gas at his dad's service station. These formative habits were with him throughout his career stops at United Technologies, Pernod Ricard and Smiths Group, PLC.

He credits a Royal Oak publication for leading him to SMCB and regards it as a foretelling of his current role as Publicity Chairman. So impressed by his first Friday meeting Frank became an Associate on September 20, 2025 and moved to Active status on March 27, 2026. He hit the ground running and continues to expand the Club's media presence in the Detroit metropolitan area. He credits his predecessor Chuck Steltenkamp's "formidable legacy to build upon", Nick Pinciotti, Bo Tamarelli and Rick Paul for his inspiration. He appreciates the many kudos received for securing the "Spotlight" feature on the Club in several of the C & G Newspapers and for launching a digital version of the Community Calendar. He is appreciative of anyone stepping forward to help in upcoming efforts to expand our reach and visibility on local digital platforms and community broadcast networks.

Frank believes the wealth and breadth of experience of our members would be invaluable in mentoring high school students. Noting "we have a wonderful opportunity to help guide and support them" Frank encourages us to pass along what we've learned to the younger generations. He would advise an 18-year-old self of the "importance of being patient and learning to be empathetic", two traits that have contributed to his personal and work life successes.

His musical tastes run from classical to Frank Zappa - a veritable "C to Z". Though his tastes have softened over the years he still enjoys rock, jazz and funk, as well as the occasional opera. He's seen La Traviata and will soon see Tosca at the Detroit Opera House, an "absolute magical gem" of a venue.

Married to Italian-born Lucia since 1983, they've raised a daughter and son and have just welcomed Grand Child #1. In his spare time, he cycles and is at the South Oakland YMCA almost daily, either swimming or on their automated strength machines.

Recognizing it's time for him to give back, Frank notes it's all about "bringing joy and support to those who face difficult challenges. The Club offers the perfect avenue to do just that. Furthermore, the Club fosters deep fellowship through the diverse range of activities it provides for its members." Walking the talk, he's sorted groceries at Forgotten Harvest and gardened at Micah 6. When he isn't giving of himself, one of his favorite pastimes is enjoying a caffè with new friends he's made through the Club.

His advice to all members: "Attend the Friday meetings if you are able to do so and become involved. Volunteer your time and join a committee. The value of this Club is measured by your involvement!"

He's most appreciative of Friday speakers "who have chosen a path of community service" and believes we'd benefit by a speaker who can give practical advice and guidance on maintaining a healthy mind and body as we age.

Thank you, Frank, for your example and commitment to this Club's ideals!

- Ray Buratto



Getting to Know . . HP Culp

Active member since May 2025

**"Always smile; it increases
your face value."**

You may recognize him as our 2026 Greeter Chair, or a Co-Chairman of the 70th Anniversary Committee, or as the guy who volunteered to help in your home improvement projects. Or as the teller of lame EV jokes and riddles, namely:

"Q: Why shouldn't you drive an EV down a dead-end street. A: Because there's no outlet."

He's not known for his tree climbing abilities for in exploits over the years he's broken bones many of us didn't know we had. BTW, he's still available for select items on your "honey do" lists.

A product of Lockport, NY, via a stop at Purdue for a mechanical engineering degree and an executive MBA from the University of Chicago, H. Paul Culp joined SMCB in 2025 in search of a golf league. Like so many members, golf has opened a wide range of opportunities for HP who graciously shares his time and talents with us. He bowls, he plays golf, he serves on the 70th Anniversary Committee. And in his spare time, he enjoys his own home projects, playing his Ludwig acoustic drums, trying to emulate the "groove" of Motown legends Uriel Jones and Richard "Pistol" Allen, watching his hometown Buffalo Bills, loving on his two Golden Retrievers, or simply tooling around in his Mustang convertible.

Drawing upon 40+ years' experience in automotive and Tier 1 manufacturers, his advice to an 18-year-old HP would be "show your value every day in your work life and personal life and maintain relationships that are important to you. And stay out of trees." Of course. He might have added "never bypass a safety system on a multi-ton forging press", an incident which nearly cost him and a colleague their lives.

A spirit of volunteerism comes easy to HP. Active in his Phi Delta Theta fraternity Chapter Advisory Board at Purdue, he jumped into the community engagement work of SMCB and relishes the social aspects of working with other capable men who enjoy the same things.

In October he will celebrate 44 years married to Laura, who he met while living at Belleville's Lemon Tree Apartments. Thinking of himself a real catch, he nearly walked away from Laura when she twice failed to answer his knock on her door. Lucky for him, the third time was a charm. Their daughter Rachel is an MSU honors PhD biochemist working for a start-up developing an early blood marker for ovarian cancer.

HP enjoys the auto related guest speakers at some Friday meetings. He'd like to invite a Chicago based fraternity brother to speak about his work in college and career planning but is apprehensive that, in the interests of full disclosure, his pal "knows more about [him] than [he] care[s] for the public to know."

HP once thought he had command of the German language when he got German colleagues laughing at a joke he told in German. He readily admits that bier may have been a factor.

His advice to new members: "Find your niche and get involved. Give back to the community. SMCB makes it easy to do." He closed our chat with this beauty . . . **"Always smile; it increases your face value."**

Be sure to give him a hardy "BOILER UP" the next time you see him.

- Ray Buratto



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Howard Baron



Dave Breeden



Stan Grandon



Ron Lustig



Vince Polley



Chandu Ravani



Gary Reizian



Jim Rillema



Jayanti Shah



Reuben Slone



Tom Young



2027 Handbook

Please review your personal information by October 1st

Please go to the SMCB website and log in to access the “Members Portal” (and click “2026 Photo Directory”) to confirm your personal information is correct.

<https://www.seniormensclubbirmingham.com/members-portal>

Any corrections should be sent to:
smcbhandbookgroup70th@gmail.com

All Handbook committee members will receive the same email if you use the address above.

I am pleased to formally announce that work on the 2027 SMCB Handbook is underway! We want to ensure that your personal contact information is accurate for the next Handbook, which is planned to be published in late December 2026.

The 2027 Handbook Committee consists of:

Nicholas Pinciotti, Chairman (joined SMCB in 2024)
Phone: 972-841-7750

Paul Kovceses, Vice-Chairman (joined SMCB in 2015)
Phone: 248-255-2042

Rob (Bo) Tamarelli, Incoming President (joined SMCB in 2023)
Phone: 248-388-2443

John Rusche, Current President (joined SMCB in 2021)
Phone: 248-219-8114

Jack Burns, Handbook Chairman Emeritus (joined SMCB in 2001)
Phone: 248-644-7619

Jay Kafarski, 70th Anniversary Liaison (joined SMCB in 2013)

Phone: 248-953-4873

Jay Reynolds, Member (joined SMCB in 2017)

Phone: 248-977-0092

Steve Connolly, Member (joined SMCB in 2019)

Phone: 248-819-6464

The team will begin reaching out to Committee and Activity leaders in late August, but you can start by reviewing your personal information now.

Help us continue to improve the content and accuracy of the Club’s Handbook!

- John P. Rusche



SMCB Golf – MidSummer Update

July Recap

Our July schedule featured two 2man scramble tournaments at Lincoln Hills and Springdale. Every team at both venues managed to post scores under their team average, a terrific accomplishment across the board. Three flights were used at each course, and prizes were awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in every flight. Great participation, great scoring, and great sportsmanship all month long.

August Tournament – Greystone Golf Club

Our August outing is set for Tuesday August 25th at Greystone Golf Club 67500 Mound Road, Washington Township

- Format: Fourman scramble
- Registration: 8:00 AM
- Shotgun Start: 9:00 AM
- Holes: 9
- Lunch: Provided following play

Players Registered: 28 so far — room for more

You may register with any member of the golf committee. We’d love to see a full field.

September – Tim McGee Memorial Tournament

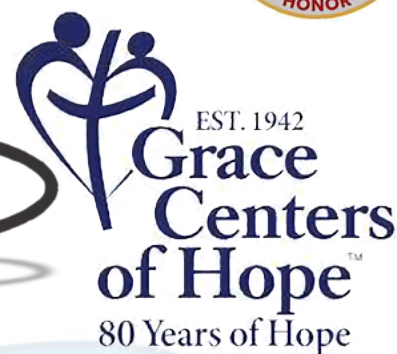
The annual Tim McGee Memorial at Selfridge Air Force Base is scheduled for Friday September 18th. This Marine Corps fundraiser supports the Veterans Home and Toys for Tots - a meaningful event for a great cause.

- Applications are available with the Golf Committee, or you may see George Glinsky.
- You do not need to form a foursome to participate.
- Donations are welcome for those who wish to support the event even if they cannot play

The Men of the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham Proudly Support these Organizations



Matchan Nutrition Center

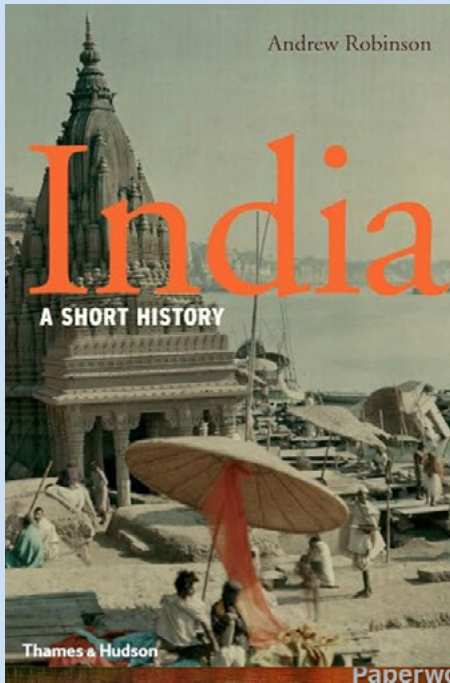




MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY READING GROUPS

In August we will continue our discussion of India with a second book that captures the India's history in 200 pages. We'll then move to a 2024 best-selling novel that captures the horror and challenges of the Viet Nam War and its aftermath.

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, August 5: *India – A short History* by Andrew Robinson (London: Thames and Hudson, 2025). Roger Timm will lead this discussion.

This book places as much emphasis on individuals, ideas and cultures as on the rise and fall of kingdoms, political parties and economies. India has always been a land of great contradictions. To Alexander the Great, the country was a place of clever naked philosophers and massive armies mounted on elephants – which eventually forced his army to retreat. To ancient Rome, it was a source of luxuries, mainly spices and textiles, paid for in gold—hence the enormous numbers of Roman gold coins excavated in India. At the height of the Mughal empire in 1700, India boasted 24 percent of the world economy—a share virtually equal to Europe's 25 percent. But then its economy declined. Colonial India was known for its extremes of wealth and poverty, epitomized by the Taj Mahal and famines, maharajas and untouchables, and also for its spirituality: many-armed Hindu gods and Buddhist philosophy, Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore.

From the Library Journal: “In this engrossing read, Robinson examines the broad sweep of Indian-subcontinent history, distilling four millennia into 200 pages. An excellent introduction to the subcontinent's history.”

Monday, August 17: *The Women: A Novel* by Kristen Hannah (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2024).

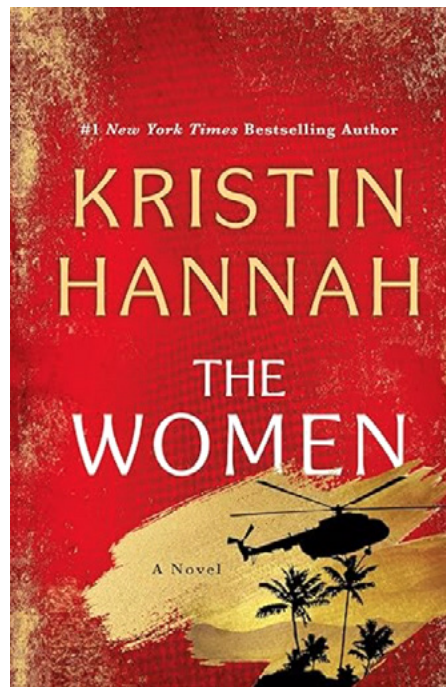
This discussion will be led by Bob Maxfield.

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances “Frankie” McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

From the NY Times review :”Hannah is in top form here... Her real superpower is her ability to hook you along from catastrophe to catastrophe, sometimes peering between your fingers, because you simply cannot give up on her characters”.

-Bob Maxfield



Looking ahead to September:

September 2:

The Guarded Gate: Bigotry, Eugenics, and the Law That Kept Two Generations of Jews, Italians, and other European immigrants out of America by Daniel Okrent (Fred Freeman)

September 21:

How the South Won the Civil War: Oligarchy, Democracy and the Continuing Fight for the Soul of America by Heather Cox Richardson (Don Haffner)



CLASSIC MOVIE GROUP



On Monday, August 10th at 1:00 PM, Waller Harris will present, via Zoom, the classic American crime/drama film “The Shawshank Redemption” (1994) (2 hours 22 minutes). Frank Darabont directed this critically acclaimed drama that stars Tim Robbins as Andy Dufresne, a banker wrongly convicted of murder and Morgan Freeman as his fellow inmate and friend Red. The film follows Andy’s two-decade incarceration at Shawshank State Penitentiary, where he maintains hope, uses his accounting skills for the corrupt Warden Norton, played by Bob Gunton, and secretly plans his successful escape. This movie is an outstanding story of friendship, perseverance and redemption against all odds.

The deep unwavering bond between Andy and Red forms the emotional core of the film. Freeman’s warm reflective voiceovers ground the story and perfectly guide the viewer through two decades of prison life.

Despite initial box office disappointment, the film later became a beloved classic and is now often ranked as one of the greatest films ever made. The IMDb score is 9.3/10 and the Rotten Tomatoes score is 89%.

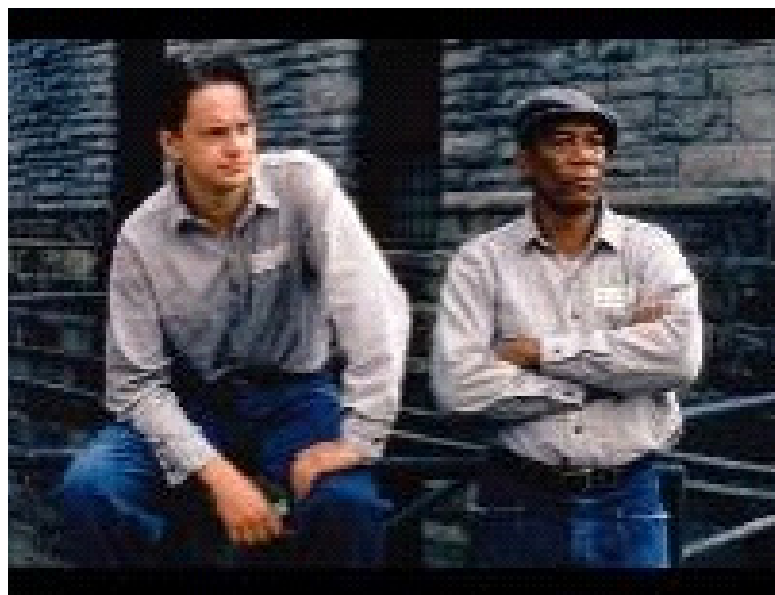
The trailer for this movie is now available to watch by pressing the CMG Movie Preview Button on the SMCB Homepage.

So, mark your calendars now and plan to join Waller, and the rest of the Classic Movie Group, on Aug 10, 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 August 9, which will be published on the morning of Friday August 7. 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 regarding this month’s presentation.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday August 10.

— Fred Hansz



Andy and Red in the Prison Yard



COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY GROUP

MESSAGING APPS & CYBERSECURITY

We examined how everyday messaging platforms handle security, privacy, and user data. The conversation established that while stock tools like standard SMS and iMessage offer basic convenience, their security guarantees vary dramatically. Apple's iMessage delivers robust end-to-end encryption exclusively between Apple devices, but silently downgrades to standard, unencrypted SMS text (the familiar green bubble) when communicating with Android users. Signal was identified as the gold standard for security and privacy due to its non-profit structure and universal default encryption. Telegram was highlighted as surprisingly vulnerable, as standard chats are not end-to-end encrypted by default. The group also evaluated mainstream cross-platform applications, noting that WhatsApp provides reliable global communication over Wi-Fi and data

without cellular roaming fees, though users should remain mindful of Meta's contact-data aggregation practices. Expanding beyond messaging, we spent significant time addressing text based phishing and digital scam tactics. Attendees were advised never to open links or attachments from unknown senders and to refrain from calling back unfamiliar phone numbers, as doing so simply confirms an active line to automated spammers. For personal protection, security suites like Bitdefender, AVG, and NordVPN were recommended, alongside built-in iOS safety options like Advanced Data Protection and biometric authentication.

Regarding digital payment safeguards and international money transfers, attendees were reminded that peer-to-peer services like Zelle carry strict financial caveats, as transactions offer no bank liability or fraud protection once funds are transferred.

Technology Group Logistics & Next Steps

The Computer & Technology Group will regularly meet on the 3rd Monday of each month from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the Baldwin Library. Please note that due to Yom Kippur, the September meeting will shift to the 4th Monday. Our next gathering is set for August 17, with an upcoming dedicated deep-dive session on comprehensive cybersecurity tools currently in planning.

Venmo and PayPal were cited as significantly safer alternatives for personal purchases, thanks to PayPal's established buyer protection features, while Revolut was recommended for low-cost international bank transfers. We concluded with a practical breakout session assisting members with app installations and device security configurations.

-Richard Koppel



CAMERA/PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP

The Camera/Photography/Travel group is looking forward to a very active fall with some great activities that are going through the planning stages. After the success of our Cranbrook tour in May, we've decided to get back on the road for a few adventures:

For September, we plan to have a guided photography tour of Oudolf Garden and the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory on Belle Isle. (Thank you, John Rusche, for the recommendation!). The garden was designed by Piet Oudolf, a world-renown garden designer. Most of the planting took place in fall 2020 and it looks fantastic! The Conservatory is one of the gems of the Metro Area, and is well worth a visit, even if you are not into photography. But for our photographers, we hope to get some solid tips on techniques and approaches for great outdoor photography as part of the tour.

In October we will take an Architecture Tour of a few of the architectural masterpieces of Detroit. Think about the Guardian Building, Michigan Central Station, the Masonic

Temple and the like. This will be a guided tour as well. We are so blessed to have some incredible, iconic buildings in Detroit! For November, our plan is to head to Woodward Camera in Birmingham to get a look at 'What's new in cameras and photographic equipment' – just in time for the holidays!

Now, the first two of these events will be weather-dependent and may have a fee. We're working through the details, including transportation and will forward the details out to the members as soon as they are firmed up.

Note that our plan is to continue our meetings on the third Thursday of each month, though we may need some flexibility due to the availability of guides and facilities. Please do let me (dssanders10@gmail.com) or Al Hibbert (alanhibbert11@gmail.com) know if you have interest in attending one, two, or all three events.

Have a great rest of your summer and be sure to take pictures to capture the moments!

-Dave Sanders

DISCUSSION GROUP: TRUST IN THE MEDIA

The discussion began with a compelling contextual foundation set by Richard Koppel. Drawing on recent Gallup polling data showing a steep, decades-long decline in American media trust, with particularly sharp declines noted among Republicans and Independents. The central dilemma for the group: Is declining public trust primarily a supply-side structural flaw rooted in newsroom ideological homogeneity and corporate ownership, or is it a demand-side phenomenon driven by audience polarization, algorithmic echo chambers, and elite cueing?

Participants shared personal anecdotes illustrating media inaccuracies, including a vivid account of a family story regarding East Germany that was badly distorted in a major report. Veteran contributors and news professionals in the room cautioned against discarding the institutional press based on isolated errors, emphasizing that most journalists strive for fairness even when complex facts are open to interpretation. The economic reality of modern journalism has a recurring theme: profit motives necessitate outrage to drive clicks and advertisement revenue. An academic participant likened newsroom dynamics to university faculties, where hiring patterns organically lead to ideological homogeneity over time. Members noted that while local news retains relatively strong public trust, skepticism overwhelmingly targets national and international coverage, where editorial narratives feel most pronounced.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE & CRITICAL READING

The group referenced historical missteps in journalism, such as Walter Duranty's 1930s New York Times reporting from the Soviet Union, which downplayed the Ukrainian famine and Stalinist purges while retaining a Pulitzer Prize. Such precedents highlight the enduring need for audience vigilance and multi-source verification.

Included as potential solution the group evaluated three distinct paths: regulatory intervention, market solutions, and critical education. Educational reform emerged as the clear favorite among attendees, arguing that schools must aggressively rebuild instruction in critical thinking and media literacy rather than retreating to avoid controversy. Participants concluded that absolute media neutrality is an illusion; instead, objectivity is something readers must actively construct for themselves by



consulting diverse outlets including Ground News or Straight Arrow News. Participants experienced a shared realization that whether media bias is real or perceived, technological shifts have amplified societal fragmentation, reinforcing the importance of localized community engagement and critical reading habits.

- Richard Koppel

Upcoming Discussion Group Schedule

Members are encouraged to mark their calendars for our upcoming discussions, each held at the library unless noted otherwise:

August 3: *Predicting the Mid-Term Election Results* — Led by Larry Imerman

Reminder: Please remember to submit your prediction ballots to Larry for our annual informal election-prognostication contest!

August 31 (Rescheduled): *Do We Still Live in a Democracy, or Is It at Risk?* — Led by Ray Buratto

October 5: *Is the U.S. and World Economy at Risk of a Steep Decline?* — Led by Larry Nahigian

November 2: *Has the U.S. Lost Its Post-1945 Geopolitical Leadership?* — Discussion Leader TBD

December 7: *What Does the Midterm Election Outcome Mean?* — Led by Richard Koppel



No Friday Meeting

August 7, 14, 21, 28 - 2026



Next Meeting: September 11, 2026

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



AUGUST 2026 CALENDAR

SMCB/SMCF CALENDAR AT A GLANCE - AUGUST 2026

UPDATED: 7/28/2026

Week 1	Date	Start / End Time	Group	Location and/or via Zoom	Contact	Phone Number
Monday	Aug 3	7:00 AM	Monday Golf - Lincoln Hills GC	2666 W 14 Mile Rd, Birmingham	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
First Monday	Aug 3	2:30 / 4:00PM	Discussion Group	Baldwin Library - JLR Room & Zoom	Richard Koppel	(248) 210-9326
Tuesday	Aug 4	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Shain Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
First Tuesday	Aug 4	11:30-1:00pm	Special Events Meeting	Baldwin Library - Delos Room & Zoom	James Zyla	(248) 561-1520
First Wednesday	Aug 5	10:30 AM	Reading Group B	Zoom	Roger Timm	(248) 644-4050
Wednesday	Aug 5	Noon / 1:00 PM	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Beverly Hills Club, 31555 Southfield Rd	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	Aug 5	1:00 / 3:00 PM	Pickleball	Paddle & Par, 31535 Southfield Road, Beverly Hills, (248-714-4743)	Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Thursday	Aug 6	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Barnum Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Thursday	Aug 6	7:00 AM	Thursday Golf - Springdale GC	316 Strathmore Rd, Bloomfield Township	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Friday	Aug 7	N/A	Weekly Friday Meeting	No Meeting in August	Rick Paul	(248) 521-9247
Friday	Aug 7	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	Aug 10	7:00 AM	Monday Golf - Lincoln Hills GC	2666 W 14 Mile Rd, Birmingham	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Second Monday	Aug 10	1:00 PM	Classic Movie Group	Zoom	Fred Hansz	(248) 559-3105
Tuesday	Aug 11	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Shain Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Wednesday	Aug 12	Noon / 1:00 PM	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Beverly Hills Club, 31555 Southfield Rd	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	Aug 12	1:00 / 3:00 PM	Pickleball	Paddle & Par, 31535 Southfield Road, Beverly Hills, (248-714-4743)	Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Wednesday	Aug 12	10:00 AM	SMC Annual Picnic and Car Show	https://ticketstripe.com/events/3079109141807451	James Zyla	(248) 561-1520
Thursday	Aug 13	7:00 AM	Thursday Golf - Springdale GC	316 Strathmore Rd, Bloomfield Township	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Thursday	Aug 13	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Barnum Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Friday	Aug 14	N/A	Weekly Friday Meeting	No Meeting in August	Rick Paul	(248) 521-9247
Friday	Aug 14	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	Aug 17	7:00 AM	Monday Golf - Lincoln Hills GC	2666 W 14 Mile Rd, Birmingham	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Third Monday	Aug 17	11:30-1:00	Computer/Technology Group Meeting	Baldwin Library - JLR Room & Zoom / Laptop	Richard Koppel	(248) 210-9326
Third Monday	Aug 17	3:00 PM	Reading Group A	Zoom	Bob Maxfield	(248) 481-9791
Tuesday	Aug 18	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Shain Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Wednesday	Aug 19	Noon / 1:00 PM	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Beverly Hills Club, 31555 Southfield Rd	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	Aug 19	1:00 / 3:00 PM	Pickleball	Paddle & Par, 31535 Southfield Road, Beverly Hills, (248-714-4743)	Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Thursday	Aug 20	7:00 AM	Thursday Golf - Springdale GC	316 Strathmore Rd, Bloomfield Township	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Thursday	Aug 20	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Barnum Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Friday	Aug 21	N/A	Weekly Friday Meeting	No Meeting in August	Rick Paul	(248) 521-9247
Friday	Aug 21	1:30 / 4:30 PM	Bridge Group	Baldwin Library - Jeanne Lloyd Room	Kirby Callam Frank Schmid	(773) 339 8369 (248) 647-0767
Third Friday	Aug 21	5:00 PM	REMINDER Submission Deadline	smcbreminder@gmail.com	Ray Buratto	(248) 390-6244
Week 4						
Monday	Aug 24	7:00 AM	Monday Golf - Lincoln Hills GC	2666 W 14 Mile Rd, Birmingham	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Tuesday	Aug 25	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Shain Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Tuesday	Aug 25	10:00/12:00pm	Foundation Board Meeting	Baldwin Library-Donor or Rotary room	James Fleck	(704) 576-8832
Wednesday	Aug 26	Noon / 1:00 PM	Cycle For Life (Spinning)	Beverly Hills Club, 31555 Southfield Rd	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Wednesday	Aug 26	1:00 / 3:00 PM	Pickleball	Paddle & Par, 31535 Southfield Road, Beverly Hills, (248-714-4743)	Dave Anderson	(248) 408-8096
Thursday	Aug 27	7:00 AM	Thursday Golf - Springdale GC	316 Strathmore Rd, Bloomfield Township	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Thursday	Aug 27	8:15 AM	Walking Group	Barnum Park - Birmingham	Wei Feng	(248) 935-0426
Friday	Aug 28	N/A	Weekly Friday Meeting	No Meeting in August	Rick Paul	(248) 521-9247
Friday	Aug 28	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	Aug 31	7:00 AM	Monday Golf - Lincoln Hills GC	2666 W 14 Mile Rd, Birmingham	Joe Schulenberg	(248) 885-6194
Monday	Aug 31	1:00/2:00 PM	Genealogy	Baldwin Library - Donor Room & Zoom	John Maten	(248) 251-9339
Monday	Aug 31	2:30 /4:00pm	Discussion Group	Baldwin Library-Donor room	Richard Koppel	(248) 210-9326



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Dr. Bharat Bhatt
Al Eicher
Larry Hadley
Mark Kelly
Jim Kenning

2 Bill Cole
Mike Gallagher

3 Adam LaRose

4 Stephen Connolly
Richard Moxley
Gerald "Smoke"
Smokevitch

5 Bill Sheehan

6 Mike Maher

7 George Stern, Past
Pres 2015

8 Dr. Tom Dolnicek
Ron Lustig

10 Dr. Jeffrey Lipton
Dick Rappleye

11 Jack Fitzpatrick
Dr. Charles Greenberg

12 George Glinski

13 John Martin

14 Jim Martin
Walt Oehrlein
Scott Stone

15 Rick Block
Rod Hagenbuch
Dr. Joel Seidman

16 Fred Gade
Fred Hansz
Dr. Harvey Minkin

17 Ted Barnhart

18 Dennis Callan
Tom Kimble
Tom McNally
Bob Swanson

19 Dave Breeden
Mike Collins

21 Fred Conway
John Skubik
Dave Zimmer

23 Dennis Schultz
John Willis

24 Joe Schulenberg

26 Jon Bird
Richard Lenter
Dan McMahon

28 Steve Lipton
Dick O'Brien

29 Ray Finocchio
Jim Fleck
Ray Froling

30 John Schafer

31 Chuck Moss
Art Pope



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

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All mail should be sent to the above address

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seniormensclub@gmail.com

Visit SMC at:

www.seniormensclub.com