



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

January 2012 Volume 12 Issue 1

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement

Walt Shipilov, Big SIR

Happy New Year to all the Branch 161 SIRs! I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season.

First of all, I would like to thank Vince Vargas and the Branch Executive Board for doing a great job last year. 2011 was a good year for our SIRs Branch. Our membership grew to an all time high of 175 active members. Vince will be a difficult act to follow.



The Discovery Bay Country Club is a great place to have our monthly Luncheon meetings. Their management & staff support our branch with quality food and excellent service. We must follow the club's dress code and provide them with accurate lunch counts in advance for each meeting. Each of you is expected to attend each monthly lunch meeting. If you are unable to attend, it is very important that you notify the Attendance Chairman, Bill Konold at 634-2738 or by email at bkonold@comcast.net. The Branch is charged for lunches when there are no-shows.

This year we have much the same activities as 2011:

- Paul Elmer has taken over the responsibility for the Bowling league & tournaments.
- Dale Welin schedules Golf matches.
- Jim Heck leads the Dinner-with-the-Ladies program.
- Dick Donald is responsible for the wine tasting group, bocce ball, pickle ball and gets the new activities organized & started. New ideas for Activities go to him and are always welcome.

- Bridge activities have been suspended until there is more participation.

Where do we go from here? Last year, we asked what activities would be of interest to you. Many were suggested e.g., fishing, RV outings, model railroading, a computer support group, etc. Some succeeded and some did not have enough interest. One very successful new activity is wine tasting; It started slow and is now up to 8 couples and meets monthly. If there are any ideas for new activities, let any Board member know and we will see how to get it started and encourage participation. **Everyone, get out there and participate in something. Just do it.**

Membership continues to be a challenge for all organizations. Each SIRs branch has a goal to increase its membership by 10%. Our current members are the most effective in introducing men to our SIR branch. Please introduce your neighbors, friends and newly retired to one of our luncheons. Membership is open to men retired from full time gainful occupation, regardless of age.

See you at our January 10th meeting. Walter

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Frank Smith, Little SIR

Luncheon meal: For the January 10th meeting, Chef Jeff will prepare roast sirloin w/ sauce Bearnaise, steamed new potatoes, and vegetables. In addition we will have our usual rolls, butter, iced tea, coffee with cookies and brownies for dessert.



Please note: Any special dietary needs need to be pre-arranged several days before the meeting.

Speaker: Our January speaker will be Mayor Bob Taylor, of Brentwood who will discuss the change of the Hwy 4 By-Pass to Highway 4 and the elimination of Highway 4 through Brentwood. This change will result in acceleration of construction of the old "by-pass." These changes affect all users of the old by-pass.

December recap: In December, our branch had our annual Christmas luncheon with the Ladies. Chef Jeff presented a wonderful Turkey Dinner including potatoes and gravy, with mixed vegetables. The chocolate cake, rich and moist, topped off the dinner.

Prior to the lunch, Vince Vargas, our outgoing Big SIR, introduced SIR Dean Steichen, Regional SIR Director. The Director presented Presidential Awards to Elwood Davis and Loyd Sindel.



Loyd received a Super Senior Certificate for his 90th birthday in December. Elwood received a Super, Super Senior Certificate for turning 95 earlier this year. Congratulations to both.

Entertainment was provided by the Summerset Singers and well received. They sang several familiar Christmas songs and a couple of less known ones.



Free Lunch winners: The winners of the free lunch drawing were: Carl Wilkinson and Frank Smith. As always, I am sure they will both enjoy their free lunch. Frank

Reminders

Voluntary contributions defray the administrative costs of running our organization. For those who have not "donated" their contribution, be sure to bring \$20.00 cash or a check (made out to SIR Branch 161) to our next meeting. You can also mail it to our Treasurer:

Tony Pacheco, 2111 St. Andrews Ct, Discovery Bay, CA 94505

Dress Code for our meetings is "Country Club Casual", which means no jeans or denim, cutoffs or exercise shorts, shirts must have a collar, no tank tops or T-shirts, no flip-flops or thong type sandals. Please ensure that your guests are aware of this policy. Simple etiquette requires that hats be removed while in the dining room.

Attendance Policy

Our Branch is obligated to pay for lunches not served. Please contact Bill Konold by the Friday preceding the meeting if you don't plan to attend.

Bill Konold, 634-2738 or email: bkonold@comcast.net

January Birthday Boys

The following Branch 161 members celebrate their birthday in January:

Andy Anderson, LaVan Bock, Rex Brehmer, Lou Bruton, Bob Burke, Alberto Delgado, Paul Elmer, Len Fadda, George Fraser, John Lopp, Earl Madeiros, Phil Paulson, Mike Reich, Russ Reid, Adolf Sinneroz, Bob Smith, Frank Smith, Jack Thomas, Jerry Weibe and Carl Wilkinson.

Membership, Tom Kirtley

Sponsor a new member

Branch members wishing to sponsor a new member should invite the prospect to a regular luncheon meeting as a guest.

If the guest wishes to become a SIR member, the sponsor should obtain an application form from Membership Chairman Tom Kirtley. Have the guest complete the form, and return the form to Tom.

The prospective member and their sponsor should attend the next regular luncheon meeting. The Executive Board will vote on the membership, and the new member will be inducted immediately prior to the luncheon.

No new members were inducted at our December Branch 161 meeting.



Golf News, Dale Welin

Happy New Year to the golfing SIRS,

We have 45 players signed up in our golf club with NCGA at this time. We are working on the 2012 venues and schedule and it is almost complete.

We will announce the complete schedule in early January, 2012.

At this time of the year, stay warm and out of the rain and fog. Have a good and healthy new year.



Dale

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

We're sad to report that Bill Scholle passed away on November 30th, his 82nd Birthday. Bill's heart condition had worsened and he had been in the hospital for 3-4 weeks prior to his passing. Bill was a SIR Branch 161 Member since 1998, had served on the Board, enjoyed golf, poker, boating, bowling, bocce ball, and writing. We will miss his sense of humor and particularly his tongue-in-cheek newspaper articles "A Senior Moment" and "Our World". As was so very well stated at his Memorial Service by our Past Big SIR Vince Vargas: "Bill was like our own Discovery Bay Herb Caen (of San Francisco Chronicle Fame), often writing about us and our community". We'll miss Bill, please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Branch 161 on the web

Be sure to visit our web site at www.sir161.org for news and information from our Branch 161.

If you're having any difficulty viewing or navigating the web site, please call Tom Jones, webmaster.

Pictures needed

Pictures help add interest to our newsletter, and we encourage activities leaders to take pictures of their events.

Our candid cameraman, Bob Damico, often pops up at SIR activities and snaps pictures for the record. Many of Bob's pictures appear in various issues of this newsletter and on our web site.

Bowling News, Paul Elmer

As of week 14 of 35 weeks of bowling MJ's Pinbusters, who was in first place last month, has now slipped to fourth. CATCH 22 has taken over the number one slot and is led by Dottie Serafin, Ed Fitzpatrick, Cliff Boehrer and Art Lopez. They currently enjoy only a one game lead over Team 24 with James Gekas, Mary Gekas, Myron Leoncioni, and Nancy Leoncioni.



The results of the Concord tournament in November included Greg Mattus - 6th in All-events and 8th in doubles along with Bill Bayer. These were the only money places won by branch 161 and 108.

We have two tournaments upcoming in January with the first being held at Pacific Bowl in Stockton on Tuesday, January 17th only. The second will be on Monday, January 30th and Wednesday, February 1st in Sonoma at the Napa Bowl. Please see me for the sign up sheets.

This month's featured bowler is Al Winston. Al had a very good month, with 9 of 12 games over his average, and raised his average 4 pins over this time period. This is quite an accomplishment as he had knee surgery only a few weeks before the season started, and keeping in mind that he is 80 plus years young. Al has had a high average of 205 in 2005 and a 203 average in 2007. This is after having four 300 games with the first in 2003 and the last in 2007. Well Done Al !! Thanks to John Fry who helped with the research.

Paul



SIR Activities, Dick Donald

I will be passing out a survey during the January SIR meeting to help determine where future activity interests lie. If there is any activity that you think would be suitable for SIRs, this will be your opportunity to let it be known.



Following are some ongoing SIR activities, including details on current plans. Feel free to call Dick Donald (513-2849) for more information on these and other activities.

Wine Tasting – Dick Donald – 513-2849

The next wine tasting will be on January 26, and will be hosted by Al and Dana Box. This month's tasting will feature (what else?) box wines. If you are interested in attending please contact me at 513-2849, or email me at DickDonald@Yahoo.com . Also let me know if you would like to host a future wine tasting.

Bocce Ball– Dick Donald – 513-2849

Bocce ball is currently on a winter hiatus. The consensus of players is that the weather lately has just been too cold to enjoy this outdoor activity. We expect to start up again when the weather gets milder.

Poker – Dick Donald – 513-2849

We are continuing to have a SIR poker game each month. The next game is scheduled for Thursday, January 19. If you are interested in playing, either as a regular player or as a substitute, in a once-monthly quarter-limit game, please contact me at dickdonald@yahoo.com .

Pickleball - Bob Lyman – 628-7906

Try Pickleball with the SIRs in 2012. Come join in the fun for a little exercise. Play is taking place Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9 am and Wednesday at 3:00. We play at the public tennis courts on Willow Lake Road. When new players try the game we all focus on teaching.



Dinner With The Ladies, Jim Heck

When: 24 January 2012

Where: Tao San Jin Restaurant, 5867 A, Lone Tree Way, Antioch, Ca.

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Price: \$21.00 per person
(includes tax and tip).

Menu Choices:

Egg Rolls, Fried Prawns, BBQ Spareribs, Hot and Sour Soup, Mongolian Beef, Cashew Chicken, Steamed Rice, Sweet and Sour Prawns, Sesame Chicken, Fish Fillet with Spicy Garlic Sauce and Cookies, Includes Non-alcoholic beverage.

Deadline: Need your RSVP no later than 17 January 2012. There will be envelopes at our general Meeting on January 10, 2012. If you will please send checks to me prior it would be helpful. Make checks out to James Heck and mail to 5401 Fairway Ct. Discovery Bay, Ca, 94505. Phone 925-634-6142.

Tao San Jin is in the Empire Shopping Center on Lone Tree Way.

Jim.



From the Christmas lunch



Vince and Bobbi Vargas



Walter and Frances Shipilov

From your newsletter team

This publication is produced and published through a team effort by LaVan Bock, Bill Konold, and Tom Jones. If we can improve this publication, please let any one of the newsletter team know.

----- Tear out and return with your check -----

Make your checks out to Jim Heck and mail to Jim Heck, 5401 Fairway Court, Discovery Bay, CA 94505.

Name(s):

Phone:

Dinner with the ladies, January 24h, 2012 at Tao San Jin Restaurant

Branch 161 Officers

Big SIR:	Walt Shipilov	(925) 634-3246
Little SIR:	Frank Smith	(925) 513-2885
Secretary.:	Jim Davis	(925) 634-3232
Assist. Sec:	Remy Giannini	(925) 634-7007
Treasurer:	Tony Pacheco	(925) 240-0523
Asst. Treasurer:	Mike Reich	(925) 634-7970

Branch 161 Directors

Bob Damico	(925) 634-0465
Paul Elmer	(925) 534-5690
Jim Heck	(925) 634-6142
Tom Kirtley	(925) 240-8071
Lowell Onstad	(925) 516-8468
Dale Welin	(925) 516-9463

Branch 161 Chaplain

Chaplain:	Gary Hess	(925) 634-5114
Assistant:	Clint Sparks	(925) 634-2076

Branch 161 Committee Chairmen

Attendance:	Bill Konold	(925) 634-2738
Assistant:	Bill Chelseth	(925) 516-8767
Activities:	Dick Donald	(925) 513-2849
Audit:	Lowell Onstad	(925) 516-8468
	Myron Lenicioni	634-3369
	Mike McCleery	(925) 240-8501
Bowling:	Paul Elmer	(925) 634-5690
Assistant:	John Fry	(925) 634-8647
Dinner with the ladies:		
	Jim Heck	(925) 634-6142
Golf:	Dale Welin	(925) 516-9463
Assistant:	Lowell Onstad	(925) 516-8468
Greetings:	Remy Giannini	(925) 634-7007
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Pins, Supplies:	Peter Constantine	634-0208
Programs:	Frank Smith	(925) 613-2885
Sunshine:	Bob Damico	(925) 634-0465
Song Leader:	Howie Fisher	(925) 634-0490
Backup:	Tom Jones	(925) 634-7026
Webmaster:	Tom Jones	(925) 634-7026

Membership Requirements & Principles

Membership is open to men retired from full time occupation, regardless of age, race, color or religion. There are no dues, fees or assessments. Member volunteers and staff administer and govern all branch activities. Voluntary member contributions provide for these activities. SIR supports no outside cause or interest. We prohibit discussions of politics and religion or the selling of anything to any member. The only requirements to join SIR are that a man be retired, or semi-retired, and sponsored by an active member.

Attendance Policy

Luncheon meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Discovery Bay Country Club, 1475 Club House Drive. (There are exceptions where we need to hold our meetings on a different Tuesday, so please check the Meetings Calendar (elsewhere in this issue).

Social hour is at 11.00am and lunch at noon. All members are expected to attend. You are required to notify the Attendance Chairman by the Friday prior to the meeting if you cannot attend. Regular members missing three consecutive meetings without notifying the Attendance Chairman, or attending less than seven meetings within the last year, shall be notified by Form Letter #4 of their pending membership termination. Certification of attendance at another branch will be considered a credit to attendance.

Responsibility Clause

All tours, trips and other activities for or by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches do not assume responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants, or in any matters pertaining to tours, trips, or other activities.

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