



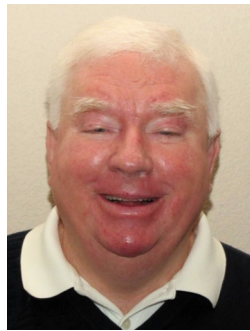
SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

February 2012 Volume 12 Issue 2

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

Walt Shipilov, Big SIR

Branch 161 started off the New Year with its first meeting in 2012. We had 112 members, 5 guests and 2 visitors at the meeting. Highlights of the meeting included:



Little SIR Frank Smith introduced our speaker Bob Taylor, Mayor of Brentwood and past Chair of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, who entertained us with his points of view on everything from City streets to the "art of politics". Jack Hall from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority followed up with the status and plans for several transportation improvement projects in the East County.

Howie (Stand Up Howie) Fisher was surprised when awarded Senior Honorary Lifetime Member status by the State SIR President. He has been one of the mainstays of Branch 161 for over 20 years. Congratulations and thank you Howie! (See picture on page 3.)

Tickets for the August 2nd SIRs Day at AT&T park with the SF Giants playing the New York Mets are available, contact Big SIR Walt Shipilov for more information. Go Giants!!

The membership was reminded that private conversations at the tables when there is a speaker at the podium should be avoided as a matter of courtesy.

2012 SIRs Branch Handbook is currently being finalized by Ralph Pfirman & Mike Reich. This is a difficult task and it is easy to miss errors. Once it is published,

we all will be reviewing the handbook. If you notice any errors let one of the Branch Officers know and it will be corrected in the next version. The handbook should be available at our February 14th Meeting. Thank you Ralph and Mike for all the work.

SIR Membership requirements are simple: men retired from full time employment. Our goal this year is 10% increase over 2011 ending membership, which were 175 members. That would mean we want to add 18 new members in 2012. You are all encouraged to invite an eligible person to one of our monthly luncheons. In January we did not have any new members join and had 5 guest brought by members.

Annual Voluntary Contributions Donation is due again. This is Branch 161's only source of income to help with the administrative costs of running our Branch. Please bring \$20.00 cash or a check (made out to SIR Branch 161) to the next meeting. You can also mail it to our Treasurer:

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

See you at our February 14th meeting.
Walter

In this issue

- Message from Big SIR
- Little SIR report
- Birthday Boys
- Membership report
- Golf, Bowling & Activities news
- Dinner with the ladies
- In memoriam
- Branch 161 contacts

Frank Smith, Little SIR

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



Our Guest speaker, Mayor Bob Taylor, gave a brief “state of the city” briefing, including the completion of the new downtown Brentwood Civic Center. He offered guided tours to anyone who calls and makes a reservation.



The Mayor introduced Jack Hall, a representative of the Contra Costa Transportation

Authority, to discuss the plans for the Hwy 4 bypass. Jack explained that, effective this month, the bypass will become Highway 4, and Hwy 4 will no longer go through downtown Brentwood. Major construction can start on the old by-pass. Highlights of the plan are to extend the existing four lanes, starting just before Lone Tree Way, all of the way to past Sand Creek Road, to just in between Sand Creek and Balfour. Three new bridges (one over Lone Tree and two at Sand Creek) will provide freeway type access to both Lone Tree and Sand Creek. This project will begin this summer and complete mid 2014.



What was not mentioned is that all truck traffic will be moved from old Hwy 4 to the new Hwy 4, immediately creating more traffic.

At the same time, new structures will be constructed to provide access to and from the Antioch bridge from Hwy 4, a long overdue project. No completion of this project was provided.

In February we will have:

Luncheon meal: Lasagna and vegetables with rolls, coffee, tea and the wonderful mix of cookies and brownies.

Please note any special dietary needs need to be pre-arranged several days before the meeting; Contact Bill Konold.

Speaker: The primary speaker will be Greg Eissner from Eissner Financial and he will be accompanied by Campbel Judge, VP Western Region Fidelity Investments. The subject will be Investing for Income in these troubling times.

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

February Birthday Boys

The following Branch 161 members celebrate their birthday in February:

Fred Baca, Bill Chelseth, Mike Cullen, Bob Damico, Tim Karlberg, Stan Krotz, Bill LaForest, Myron Lencioni, Glen MacBride and Jim Venhaus.

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 January Branch 161 meeting.



Golf News, Dale Welin

The 2012 golf schedule is complete at this time and the tournament dates, location and starting times are listed below.



- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Tue., March 20 | Elkhorn GC, Stockton - 8:00 am shotgun |
| Mon., April 16 | SIRS 161 Invitational at DBCC - 9:00 am shotgun |
| Tue., May 15 | Poppy Ridge - 8:00 am from 1st tee |
| Tue., June 19 | Deer Ridge CC - 8:00 am shotgun |
| Tue., July 17 | The Reserve - 8:00 am shotgun |
| Tue., Aug. 21 | Shadow Lakes GC - 8:00 am shotgun |
| Tue., Sep. 25 | Lone Tree GC - 8:00 am shotgun |
| Thur., Oct. 18 | Roddy Ranch GC - 8:00 am from 1st tee |

A couple different courses this year and some of your favorites. See you in a couple months and we will send out info about the March tournament early in February.

Please mark you calendar with these dates. We continue our effort to get shotgun starts and we will have 6 of 8 this year.

Any questions, please call.

Dale Welin

Senior Honorary Lifetime Member award



Howie Fisher with Big SIR Walt Shipilov. Howie was awarded Senior Honorary Lifetime Member status. A past Big SIR, Howie has been one of the mainstays of Branch 161 for over 20 years.

Congratulations and thank you Howie!

Bowling News, Paul Elmer

We have completed week 19 of 35 weeks and are in the second week of the second half of the season. There are four teams tied for first place with 7 wins and one loss. They are team 20, Bowlers Anon, Sharp Shooters, Alley Oops, and Spare Us. So far the scratch series, men goes to Jim George with 726; Scratch game, men goes to Bob Damico with 279; Handicap series goes to Greg Mattus with 837; and handicap game goes to Warren Young with 315. For the women, scratch series goes to Rosie Elmer with 634, scratch game goes to Marlena Morgan with 226, handicap series goes to Mary Gekas with 820, and handicap game goes to Frances Shipolov with 291. Good going people!!

We had a tournament in Stockton at Pacific Bowl where the lanes were quite demanding. We don't have results yet.

The next tournament is in Livermore at Granada Bowl on Feb 14th and 15th, and can be mixed with guests, doubles, singles, and all events.

Bowler Of The Month

The featured bowler of the month is Jim George. Jim has been bowling at Harvest Park Bowl since 2000, where he had an average of 182. Since then he has slipped a little to 170 in 2006, and booked 176 last year. However in the last 5 weeks, 15 games, he has had only two under his average and included a league leading game of 289, and a leading series of 726. He averaged 209.9 in this period and raised his average 9 pins to 182. It was overheard that he should have been given a saliva test but I'm not sure they were serious, although on second thought – maybe! All this is fantastic considering that he, too, is 80 plus years young. Congratulations !!

Many thanks to John and Mary Fry for gathering data in a very usable form.



SIR Activities, Dick Donald

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.



Results from the survey form collected from last month's SIR meeting show a mixed bag of desired activities. One activity that had four people interested was woodworking, so I will be contacting those members about getting together.

Wine Tasting – Dick Donald – 513-2849

The next wine tasting will be on Thursday, February 23, and will be hosted by Richard and Kay Wisdom. If you are interested in attending please contact Dick Donald at 513-2849, or email DickDonald@Yahoo.com . Also let me know if you would like to host a future wine tasting event.

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 and/or wet to enjoy this outdoor activity. We expect to start up again when the weather gets milder, probably in March after daylight savings time starts.

Poker – Ben Mahlberg – 516-4380

We are continuing to have a SIR poker game each month. The next game is scheduled for Thursday, February 16 with Adolph Sisneroz hosting. If you are interested in playing, either as a regular player or as a substitute, in a once-monthly quarter-limit game, please contact Ben at BMahlberg@Yahoo.com or Dick Donald 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 9:00 am and Wednesday at 3:00 pm. 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: Feb. 28, 2012

Where: El Camino Restaurant (Mexican), located on Highway 4, across from Big B Lumber.

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Price: \$15.00 per person (includes tax and tip).

Menu Choices:

Non-alcoholic drink (soda, tea, coffee, and water) free. Indicate your choices on the tear-out form at the bottom of this page.

Deadline: Need your RSVP no later than Feb. 21, 2012. There will be envelopes at our next meeting on Feb 14, 2012.

If you will please send your checks and menu choices to me it would be helpful. Make checks out to James Heck and mail to 5401 Fairway Ct. Discovery Bay, Ca, 94505. Phone 925-634-6142.

Jim.



THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

We're sad to report that SIR Bill Little passed away on January 10th. Bill was a SIR Branch 161 member since August, 2011, and he enjoyed boating, traveling, and RVing. He is survived by his wife Ron-



da, daughter, grandchildren, brother and sister. Please keep Bill and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Pictures needed

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

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:

Chicken Fajitas with Rice and Beans _____ Chile Verde, Pork in green sauce with Rice and Beans _____

Enchilada, Taco, Chili Relleno with Rice and Beans _____

Two Tostadas (Beef or Chicken) with Rice and Beans _____

Bistec Asado, Grilled Steak with Rice and Beans _____

Dinner with the ladies , February 28h, 2012 at El Camino 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
Membership:	Tom Kirtley	(925) 240-8071
Newsletter:		
Editor:	Tom Jones	(925) 634-7026
Distribution:	Bill Konold	(925) 634-2738
Support:	LaVan Bock	(925) 513-1070
Nominating :	Lowell Onstad	(925) 516-8468
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.

This page intentionally left blank for mailing hard copies.