



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

January, 2013 Volume 13 Issue 01

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

Frank Smith, Big Sir

Opening statement

Welcome to 2013. As I am writing this message in the middle of December, some of my comments may be incorrect. Welcome again to 2013. There may be many cloudy days in store for us.



Despite the country's problems, we will attempt to keep our Branch moving forward. In order to accomplish this, our volunteers will be doing everything possible to maintain the level of participation in our many activities. Also, this will be the last year for some of them, including me, so please seriously consider helping out by volunteering. 2012 has been eye opener to what goes on in the background. It has also been rewarding, as I have met many more of you, and have discovered that our Branch is made up of many really nice guys.

Next luncheon meeting

Our next regular luncheon meeting will be on Tuesday, January 22nd, 2013. This is the **fourth** Tuesday in January.

If you know you will not attend this luncheon make sure that you contact our Attendance Chairman, Bill Konold at 634-2738 or bkonold@comcast.net. If you miss the meeting and do not let us know in advance, you may be charged for the meal, since we have to guarantee seating to the Country Club.

Christmas luncheon meeting with the ladies

Our December 11th meeting was the annual Christmas Luncheon with our Ladies, held at the Discovery

Bay Country Club. There was great entertainment in addition to a special meal. This event was sold out, with six couples on the waiting list; Working with Janelle, we were able to seat all twelve people.

If you did not get tickets this time and want to make sure you attend next year, get your tickets purchased earlier. This also applies to the Mother's Day Luncheon. We "sell out" at 160 tickets but, based on this one, we may be able to accommodate 172.

An apology

As members were arriving for the Christmas luncheon, I had a brain dump and could not remember any names. So, to all of my old friends and some new ones, I really knew you, just not your names. Sorry!

Attendance

Attendance at our regular luncheon meetings is important to us as a Branch. If you are not there you will be missed. Our luncheons are a time to renew rela-

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tionships, exchange stories about our recent experiences, and plan for new events to participate in. So it is important to us that you participate in our regular monthly luncheons.

The Board recently revised our luncheon attendance policy. In summary, you are expected to attend 5 luncheon meetings per year to be a member in good standing. If you are an active member and miss more than 3 meetings in a row or more than 5 luncheon meetings in a year you may be dropped from membership by the Branch Board. If you will not be available to attend for a long time due to travel, illness, or being a caregiver, you can request to be placed on *inactive* status for six months by the Branch Board. Just let us know.

Membership

Last month our Branch 161 membership continued to stand at 172. We had no membership activity in December.

Activities

The Fall Bowling League continues on Monday mornings with pins flying and balls rolling everywhere. Some have had great scores and others not so much, but people are having a great time. This is fun for everyone. Make sure to try this activity. Block out your Monday mornings for the Spring now.

Golf is on hiatus until March, 2013 and NCGA dues are due to Dale Welin if you are interested in playing in our monthly Branch tournaments in 2013.

Bocce is on hiatus also. No sun, no polino. No sun, no bocce.

Our Branch activities remain strong and well attended. Continue to participate. For you daring SIRs, try something new or try it again, you might like it this time. With the exception of Pickle Ball, we will be having indoor events during the winter months; Bowling, Bridge, and Wine Tasting. I have heard talk about maybe a Gin-Rummy group. There are still lots to do - GO GET'EM SIRs.

Big Picture

Check out www.sirinc.org to see what is "happening" statewide. While you are browsing the Internet, visit our own outstanding Branch 161 website at www.sir161.org for more Branch 161 information and pictures.

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, Tony Donofrio, Paul Elmer, Len Fadda, George Fraser, John Lopp, Earl Medeiros, Phil Paulson, Mike Reich, Russ Reid, Adolph Sisneroz, Bob Smith, Frank Smith, Ralph Tatum, Jack Thomas and Jerry Wiebe.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Boys!!!!.

If your name is missing or not correct let Big Sir, Frank Smith at 513-2885, know so our records are corrected.

Newsletter

Continue to share the Branch 161 Newsletter with your wife or significant other, or make sure that she shares the newsletter with you, the actual Branch member, if that's the way it works in your household. Then share the newsletter with others; It's a great ice breaker to invite guests to our luncheons.

Remember - Get out there and participate in our Branch activities, or create a new one for others to join you in doing. Just get out there and do SOMETHING.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next regular luncheon meeting on January 22nd, the **FOURTH** Tuesday in January 2013.

Frank

Floyd McBeth, Little Sir

December Recap

For the December luncheon with the ladies we were served roasted turkey with cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes with gravy and vegetables. Dessert was pumpkin pie.



Entertainment was provided by "The Vintage". Soft music was played during lunch, followed by a duet singing Christmas songs.

Free Lunch Winners

There was no drawing for a free lunch this month.

January luncheon

January Luncheon Meal

The menu will be roast sirloin with Béarnaise sauce, steamed new potatoes and seasonal vegetables. This will be complimented with rolls, coffee, tea and the always wonderful mix of cookies and brownies.

Please note: Any special dietary needs should be pre-arranged several days before the meeting; Contact Bill Konold.

Speaker

In January we will not have a speaker. Instead, the Discovery Bay Garden Club has offered us the documentary video entitled "Over Troubled Waters". This has been shown in several theaters, and those that have seen it have not only enjoyed it, but have become more aware of the problems we have with our Delta water and the proposed Peripheral Canal. April McBeth from the Discovery Bay Garden Club will handle the projector, but because of the length of the film we plan to have no discussion.

Floyd

Thoughts and prayers

Loyd Sindel passed away on December 13, 2012. Loyd had been a member of SIR since 1994 and recently dropped his membership due to his failing health. He was recognized as **Senior Sir** (90 years old) in January 2012. Please keep Loyd, his wife Ila and his family in your thoughts and prayers

A Memorial Service will be held January 12 at 11:00 a.m. at the Delta Community Presbyterian Church, 1900 Willow Lake Road, Discovery Bay.

2013 Branch 161 Meetings Calendar

01/22/2013 (note 1)	07/9/2013
02/12/2013	08/13/2013
03/12/2013	09/17/2013 (note 1)
04/9/2013	10/8/2013
05/14/2013 (note 2)	11/12/2013
06/11/2013	12/10/2013 (note 2)

Note 1: Due to availability of the Discovery Bay Country Club, the January meeting will be held on the 4th Tuesday and the September meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday.

Note 2: Mother's Day and Christmas With The Ladies are not 'required' Branch luncheon meetings.



SIR Branch 161 on the web

www.sir161.org

For more Branch 161 news & photos, and links to state SIR information, visit our web site. The latest issue of SIR Happenings can be downloaded via a link on our web site.

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 it 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.

There were no new members inducted at our December Branch 161 meeting.

SIR Membership Requirements

Membership in **Sons In Retirement** is open to men retired from full time occupation, regardless of age, race, color or religion.

See the last page of this newsletter for more information.

Photos from the Christmas luncheon with the ladies

Thanks to photographers Bob Damico and Jim Davis.



For more photos, visit the Photo Gallery on our web site.

Bowling News, Paul Elmer

Here we are, January 2013. If you are reading this, you know that the world did not end on 12-21-12 according to the Mayan calendar. If the world did end on that date there is no use writing this article. However, being the cynic that I am, the article will be written (only joking folks). If you are reading this, I was correct.



2012 has been a record year in some respects. In the SIR tournaments (20 of them) our SIRs and guests entered 11 of them. Of those 11 tournaments we had an amazing 96 cash places, with our own Bob Matteucci tournament having 36 of them. Carson City had 22 and Reno had 15. The other 23 were scattered among the remaining 8 tournaments entered.

Most notable cashes were Bill Konold/Greg Mattus 1st in doubles Div B at Livermore; Marie Wilson placed 1st in Division 3 singles and Division 3 all-events in Carson City; John Fry placed 1st in Division A all-events at Pinole; Mary Hirshberger 1st in Division 3 singles in Reno; and Doris Cole who placed 1st in Division 3 singles in Brentwood. This was a really great effort and showing by our SIRs and guests.

After 14 of 35 weeks of bowling, Split Happens, led by Tom Kirtley, Harris Edwards, Beth Edwards and Jean Scurlock is in 1st place by 2 games over Strikers, led by Lefty Brabec, Vic Vasquez, Wes Van Beveren, and Barbara Slifer. The first half ends in early January and 5 teams are within range of 1st place.



The featured bowler this month is our outgoing Big Sir, Walt Shipilov. Walt started bowling last year with SIRs and, after 81 games, he established an average of 153. This year he is up 8 pins over that and has a high game of 225. Although he enjoys golf as well, we are pleased to have this

gentle bear bowling with us as well as having him been the 2012 Big Sir.

Let's examine a little background about this Austrian-

born gentleman who came to California in his teens. Walter settled in San Jose, and worked for 56 years in civil engineering and information technology, after which he spent 3 more years working for Bechtel in Greece. He, along with his wife, Frances and their son, moved to Discovery Bay 3 years later and became very active in local activities, including our SIR Branch 161, where we were glad that he decided to join in the bowling league.

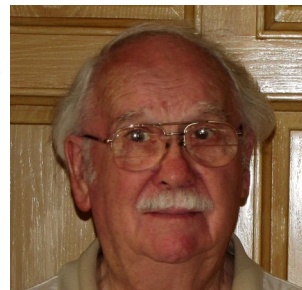
Paul

Bridge - Harry Ohlson

Our next bridge session is January 29th, 12:30 pm at the Discovery Bay Country Club. All SIRs bridge players (past and present) are welcome.

Please call early for seating 925-513-3048.

Happy New Year, Harry O.



Dinner With The Ladies - Micheal White

Due to the timing of our monthly luncheon meeting, here will be no Dinner With The Ladies in January.



We'll continue with this popular event in February.

Editor's Note

A big thanks to everyone who contributed articles, photographs and other content to our 2012 newsletters; Meeting a schedule every month is very much appreciated, and makes timely publication possible. Thanks also to everyone who contributed material for this January, 2013 issue on a compressed schedule due to folks' holiday and travel plans.

Golf News, Dale Welin

Happy New Year from the golfers of Branch 161.

The 2013 schedule and venues are shown below. We have added one new course this year and hope that you will participate beginning in March. If there are members in the Branch that would like to join our golf club, please call Dale Welin at 516-9463 for the details. If you have not renewed for 2013, contact Dale. The cost to renew is \$36.00 and the cost for a new member is \$46.00 the first year.



Tuesday, March 26: Elkhorn GC, 9:00 am shotgun.

Monday, April 15: Discovery Bay SIR Invitational, 9:00 am shotgun.

Tuesday, May 21: Deer Ridge CC, 8:00 shotgun.

Tuesday, June 18: The Reserve, 8:30 am shotgun.

Tuesday, July 16: Swenson Park, 8:00 am shotgun.

Tuesday, Aug. 20: The Bridges (San Ramon), 8:30 am shotgun.

Tuesday, Sep. 24: Lone Tree CC, 9:00 am shotgun.

Thursday, Oct. 17: Poppy Ridge CC, 8:00 am 1st tee start - Club Championship Tournament.

Dale

SIR Travel Opportunities Reminder

Various bargain-priced trips are available to SIR members through local travel agencies and other SIR branches. Look for the TRAVEL binder located on the entrance table at each monthly meeting. For more info. contact Bob Damico at 634-0465 or deltacruz@comcast.net



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.



Wine Tasting, Dick Donald – 513-2849

Vince and Bobbi Vargas will host the January wine tasting on Thursday, January 24 at 4:00 pm. If you are interested in attending or hosting please contact Dick Donald at:

513-2849, or email DickDonald@Yahoo.com.

Pickleball, Bob Lyman – 628-7906

Pickleball is still looking for a few more good men (and women)!! The winter schedule is now Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9:00 am and Wednesday at 3:00 pm. So come join in the fun for a little exercise and competition. We play at the public tennis courts on Willow Lake Road. Just bring yourself; we have everything else needed.

Your newsletter team



Tom Jones
Editor



LaVan Bock
*email
distribution*



Bill Konold
*Paper copies
and mailing*

You can also download a copy of this newsletter from our web site at www.sir161.org

If we can improve this publication, please let any one of the team know.

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 *(Revised July, 2012)*

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 to when 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 is at noon. All members are expected to attend Luncheon meetings unless prevented by illness, absence from the Branch locale, or acting as a caregiver to a spouse or companion. If you cannot attend, you are required to notify the Attendance Chairman by the Friday prior to the luncheon meeting or you may be charged for the luncheon.

Regular members missing three consecutive meetings without notifying the Attendance Chairman, or missing more than five (5) meetings within the last 12 months for any reason, shall be notified by letter or email of the Branch Executive Committee's pending action to terminate their membership.

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.

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.

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.

If you're unable to attend a meeting

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