



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

February, 2013 Volume 13 Issue 02

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

Frank Smith, Big Sir

Opening statement

Well our January 22 meeting finally arrived and we had a good turnout despite being delayed by two weeks. Now, it's only three weeks before the February meeting.

Thanks to all of the members who helped getting out the 2013 Handbook with Roster and Calendar. Special thanks to Tom Jones for completing most of the work. For the uninitiated, it takes a lot of effort to publish the Handbook.

Thanks to Dale Welin for telling us about Gary Hess. He not only has a good tale for us each month, but could play pretty good baseball in his youth. I do not know about you, but I enjoyed hearing the story. I know there must be many stories about our members that can be shared with us. Maybe we can start a "story of the month". Any thoughts?

Next luncheon meeting

Our next regular luncheon meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12, 2013.

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.

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 relationships, 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

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Please respect the podium

Your Board of Directors requests your respect to the podium, with NO discussion or talk at your table when someone is speaking at the podium. It is very disrespectful to a Board Member or outside speaker to be competing with conversations in the audience. We ask for your cooperation.

Branch 161 Board of Directors

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Big SIR Report, continued from page 1.

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

Over the months of December and January the Discovery Bay, Branch 161, membership declined to 166 due to illnesses, death, members moving out of state and members simply wanting to resign. With this decline of members we, you and I, need to introduce SIR to our friends and associates. Bring them to a luncheon and recruit them to join. Bringing in new members strengthens us by bringing in new energies, ideas and friendships. I truly relish meeting many of you over the years and building great friendships. I look forward to meeting more of you as I grow in the Big Sir position.

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 and bocce ball are currently on hiatus.

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. We will be having indoor events, including bowling, bridge, and wine tasting, in addition to (outdoor) pickle ball. I have heard talk about maybe a gin-rummy group?? There are still lots to do.

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.

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.

February Birthday Boys

The following Branch 161 members celebrate their birthday in February:

Fred Baca, Mike Cullen, Bob Damico,
Tim Karlberg, Stan Krotz, Myron Lencioni,
Glenn MacBride, Ed Stewart and Jim Venhaus.

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.*

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 **SOME-THING**.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next regular luncheon meeting on February 12th, the **Second** Tuesday.

Frank



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.

Floyd McBeth, Little Sir

January 2013 Recap

For the January lunch we were served Roast Sirloin with Sauce Béarnaise, steamed new potatoes and vegetables. Assorted cookies for dessert, as usual.



Free Lunch Winners

Winners of a free lunch were Frank Cramer and Tom Jones.

January luncheon Speaker

Aprill McBeth from the Discovery Bay Garden Club showed the film *"Over Troubled Waters"*. This film has been shown at some of our theatres and schools. It tells the story of our Delta and our water issues.

The *Save the California Delta Petition* is in opposition to Sacramento's push to build huge tunnels, estimated to cost up to \$60 billion, to bypass the California Delta.

The impacts to the fish, fertile Delta farmland, Delta economy, and recreation in both the Delta and San Francisco Bay more than offset any benefits.

On February 13, 2013 there will be a Town Hall - Delta Water meeting. It will be held at 6:30 pm in the Discovery Bay Elementary School gymnasium. The school is located at 1700 Willow Lake Road.

February Luncheon Meal

The menu will be Lasagna and vegetables with a cookie assortment for dessert.

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

February speaker

In February we will have Ron Tripp, Director of Sales for 1st Light Energy. He will discuss solar power for home owners. Ron is very knowledgeable and can

show us how to go green and save money with our electrical needs. It is the ecological and the "in" thing to do these days.

Floyd

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 was 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.

Hiram (Hi) Jennings, 85, was honored for being a proud, active and faithful Sir since 1991. He was a Member of South Lake Tahoe Branch 160 before joining Branch 161 in 1996. Hi and his wife Shirley have enjoyed many of the activities offered by SIR. His attendance record has been excellent, missing very few, if any, meetings throughout his 22 years as a Sir. Bob Damico presented Hi with a certificate of appreciation at our January 22 luncheon.



Thank you and congratulations Sir Hi!

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 January 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.

Dinner With The Ladies, Micheal White

When: 26 February 2013.

Where: Schooner's Grille & Brewery, 4250 Lone Tree Way, Antioch, CA.

Time: Cocktails 5:00pm, Dinner served at 6:00pm.

Menu Choices: Include salad, non-alcoholic drink (ice tea/coffee and water) and dessert.

Prime Rib, Pub Steak, Teriyaki Chicken, or Linguini Alfredo (indicate your choice below).

Cost: \$22.50 per person (includes tax and tip). All martinis are \$5.

Deadline: Need your RSVP no later than 19th February, 2013. There will be envelopes at our meeting on 12th February. Make your checks out to M. E. White and mail to 2146 Sand Point Road, Discovery Bay, CA 94505. Phone: 634-0415.

DIRECTIONS: Schooner's is in the shopping center at the corner of Dear Valley Road. and Lone Tree Way.

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

Name(s):

Phone:

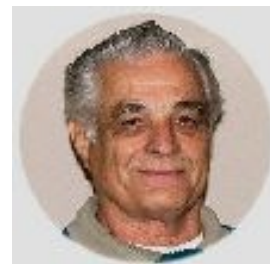
Prime rib _____

Pub steak _____

Teriyaki chicken _____

Linguini Alfredo _____

Dinner With The Ladies, February 26, 2013 at Schooner's Grille & Brewery, 4250 Lone Tree Way, Antioch, CA.



Bowling News, Paul Elmer

We have completed 17 of 35 weeks of bowling with position round being held last week (1-7-13) for the first half champions. Split Happens holds that distinction by defeating the Strikers three out of four games to finish four games ahead. Split Happens, led by Tom Kirtley, Harris and Beth Edwards, and Jean Scurlock did a great job in winning the first half of the season, but watch out, there are 21 other teams not willing to let that happen in the second half. The Strikers, led by Lefty Brabec, Barbara Slifer, Vic Vasquez, and Wes VanBeveran are particularly interested in seeing a possible rematch for the second half.



I have not received any results from the Stockton Tournament yet but, of the eight teams that competed, there were some pretty good scores in singles and all-events. The results from the November tournament in Concord were finally posted with Greg Mattus coming in 3rd place in A Division All-Events. Greg and Dottie Harris came in 1st place for B division doubles. The only tournament in February will be held in Livermore, at Granada Bowl, on the 12th and 13th.

I thought that for this month I would recap the highlights of the first half of the season. For the men, scratch series is Curtis Manning with 735, scratch game is Eric Jensen with 290, handicap series is John Fry with 763, and handicap game is Jim Padilla with 308. For the women scratch series goes to Terry Damico with 602, scratch game is Rosie Elmer with 242, handicap series is Mary Branscum with 754, and handicap game is Karen Capra with 287.

With Bob and Pat Rhiner moving to Texas (we wish them the best, it was fun bowling with them and they will be missed), we had to consolidate two teams so that we now have 22 teams instead of 24 and a vacant. This is a much better mix as bowling against a vacant team is not real enjoyable and not very competitive. The second half of the season should be interesting to see who rises to the top and wins it all.

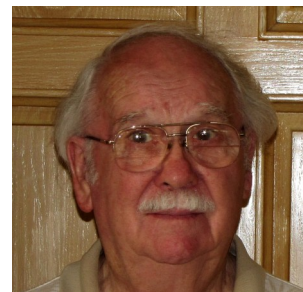
Paul

Bridge - Harry Ohlson

Our next bridge session will be February 19th - 12:30 pm at the Discovery Bay Country Club.

Those wishing to participate please call or email me on or before February 12th. We will be close to 2 tables, so your earliest response is important.

Harry O.



Hall of Famer, Gary Hess, by Dale Welin

Gary Hess attended Occidental College, a small liberal arts college in Eagle Rock, CA, just west of Pasadena. Among other activities at school, Gary played on the varsity baseball team at Occidental College and was elected into their Hall of Fame.

On the trophy Gary received one evening in November, the following statements appear:

Gary Hess, class of '56, strong armed and fleet-footed outfielder. Three times named to the All-SCIAC team: Played on two championship teams: the 1954 team was undefeated in conference play: 1956 the team tied for the conference championship: he led the 1955 Tigers in both batting average and extra-base hits.



At our February luncheon, Gary read an excerpt from his acceptance speech which ended with:

1. Take care of your body, it won't last forever.
2. Take care of your Soul, it does last forever. You are in charge and responsible for both.

Winning is great, but relationships last a lifetime.

Golf News, Dale Welin

Welcome to three reinstated members: Larry Mensch, Wayne Berry and Ed Fitzpatrick. Also a warm welcome to new member Dan Cadigan. We have 42 players in our NCGA golf club for SIR Branch 161 at this time in 2013.



Two events to remember are on the schedule:

- (1) Our first monthly tournament will be Tuesday, March 26 at Elkhorn GC, Stockton. The entry info for this event will be made available early in March.
- (2) We will again host the Discovery Bay SIR Branch 161 Invitational on Monday, April 15 at Discovery Bay Country Club, with an expected 100 or so players. Details for that event will be sent late in March.

We look forward to an active season of golf and hope to see all of you soon.

Dale

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

Dale and Sonja Welin will host the February wine tasting on Thursday, February 28 at 4 PM. These events have been well attended, with the last two wine tastings having a wait list to participate. 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.

Suggestions for new activities

If you have an idea for a new SIR activity and would like to lead it, let Dick Donald know.

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 information contact Bob Damico at:



634-0465 or deltacruz@comcast.net

Your newsletter team



Tom Jones
Editor



LaVan Bock
*email
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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