



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

December, 2013 Volume 13 Issue 12

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

Frank Smith, Big Sir

Opening statement

WOW ! REALLY WOW !!! Our November meeting set the record for attendance at 80%. Highest for the year. Now the sermon. Thanks to all for "showing up" especially following the lowest turnout in October. The bad news - we were several meals short. Two reasons; First, we had more guests than anticipated, and second is that several members who have not been around all year showed up. Therefore our "count" was a little off. Please make sure you call if you are not coming as that helps take the "guessing" out of the count. Bill Konold did an outstanding job all year, working with the DBCC to insure we all got fed and did not overrun too many times. My thanks to him. My sincere apologies to those men had to wait and wait and wait to get served; It was not the DBCC fault.



Next Regular luncheon meeting

Our next regular meeting will be the 'Christmas with the ladies' luncheon on December 10th, the second Tuesday of the month. All attendees must have purchased a ticket(s). Therefore, you DO NOT need to notify us if you ARE NOT going to attend; Our Count will be based on the number of tickets sold. If you have a ticket and something comes up and you cannot attend, call Tony Pacheco (240-0523) and he MAY be able to refund your money. LAST chance to call is Thursday, December 5th.

Attendance

Our goal is to have 70% of the membership at our

luncheons. This year we met that objective 50% of the time.

Membership

Recruiting is still a very important key to keeping us strong, so please continue to remind friends and neighbors to come visit us and possibly join. Finding new members is like finding money; Remember, you get a free meal for bringing in a new member.

Activities

SIR is not just about attending monthly luncheons, but includes a multitude of activities. Details on these activities are in this newsletter. Read about them and consider joining. If we do not provide an activity YOU are interested in, let us know and maybe we can start it up.

Big Picture

Check out www.sirinc.org to see what is "happening" statewide. Also, visit our own Branch 161 website for more Branch information and pictures.

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Big SIR Report, continued from page 1.

Newsletter

Continue to share the Branch 161 Newsletter with your wife, significant other, or insignificant relative or friend. Share the newsletter with others; it is 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.

Frank

December Birthday Boys

The following Branch 161 members celebrate their birthday in December:

Colin Brodie, Pete Dean, Dick Donald,
Gary Hess, Clinton Sparks,
Robert White, Craig Wilson

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.*

The Story of The Rooster, official SIR logo

From the SIR Inc. web site (www.sirinc.org) ...



"Of all the creatures on earth, none express more independence and dignity with sureness and aplomb than the rooster. The majesty of his presence is felt in every barnyard, and when he crows he can be heard for miles, not in a fainthearted crow, but with a noise that calls attention to his being."

Our founders chose the rooster as the official logo to represent the freedom he displays around the barnyard. We have paid our dues to the business world and now is the time for us to strut and crow a little.

We share the dignity of retirement with one another as members of SIR.

Thanks to Vince Vargas for submitting this topic.

Floyd McBeth, Little Sir

November 2013 Recap

The lunch this month was Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes with gravy. We also had a large portion of Broccoli and a good assortment of cookies for dessert.



Free Lunch Winners

The two lucky winners who were in attendance were awarded free lunches in the future. They were Joe Arroyo and John Fry. This is another reason to attend our monthly luncheons.

November Speaker

Ms. Lisa Ferrante was our speaker this month. She is a specialist in financial planning. She covered the state of the economy and how you need to be prudent in retirement accounts. She also discussed how a con artist approaches the elderly in order to con them out of their money. She answered many questions from our members.



Annual Christmas lunch with the ladies

A special Christmas lunch will be served to our ladies and us. We will have Roast Turkey Breast, mashed Yukon Gold potatoes, green beans, with red onions and bacon. Cranberry Sauce will be on the table with bread sticks. We will have a special dessert of Chocolate Ice Cream Sundaes with whipped cream, topped with a Maraschino Cherry.

Please note: Any special dietary needs need to be pre-arranged several days before the meeting. Contact: Bill Konold @ 634-2738 to arrange this.

December program

We will be entertained by Steven Gary, who performed for us in the past. He will sing Christmas Carols and help spread the Holiday Cheer.

Floyd McBeth

Branch 161 recognizes a 20-year member



Frank Cramer receives a Certificate of Appreciation (and a free lunch) from HLM Bob Damico for his 20 years of loyal membership in Branch 161.

Think about it; 20 years!! That's 240 meetings he could have attended; He may not have attended all of them, but certainly over 200 - WOW!!

Honoring our Veterans

At our November luncheon, we again honored our Veterans by playing a video featuring the five branches of the service.

Attendees joined in a singalong of the marching songs of all five branches of the service.

In Memoriam

We're sad to report that our fellow Sir Howie Fisher passed away in Manteca on Friday, November 15, 2013.

Howie was a 22-year Branch 161 member, Past Big Sir, Past Area Governor, Honorary Life Member, and Senior Life Member.

Until recently, he was active in SIR Golf, Bowling, Bridge, the Discovery Bay Lions Club, and the Discovery Bay Yacht Club; He "made his mark" in our community.

Information on Memorial Services will be forthcoming. Sympathy cards may be sent to his wife and family:

Mrs. Delores Fisher, 2241 N. Union Road, Manteca, CA 95336.

Mrs. Marge Peterson, 10740 Celeo Lane, San Jose CA 95127.

Donations

The family requests donations be made to:

Elks National Foundation
2750 North Lakeview Avenue

Chicago, IL 60614-2256

In memory of Charles Howie Fisher, Lodge # 1474.

Induction of 2014 Officers & Directors



Our 2014 Officers & Directors were inducted by HLM Ralph Pfirman at our November meeting.

Left to right: Lowell Onstad, Mike Reich, Chuck Niessen, Remy Gianinni, Micheal White, Ralph Pfirman, Len Fadda, Tony Pacheco, Floyd McBeth, Jim Davis, Dale Welin, Bob Damico.

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.

Three new members were inducted at our November 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.

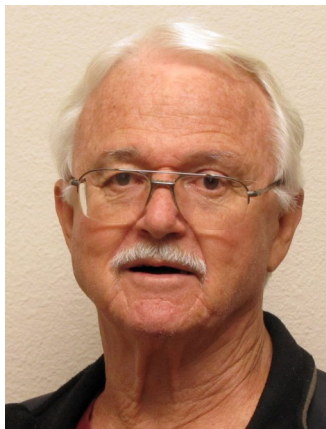
See the last page of this newsletter for more information.



John Davis retired from the county of Los Angeles in 2003. He has lived in Discovery Bay for 7 years.

John and his wife Teri have two sons and three grandchildren.

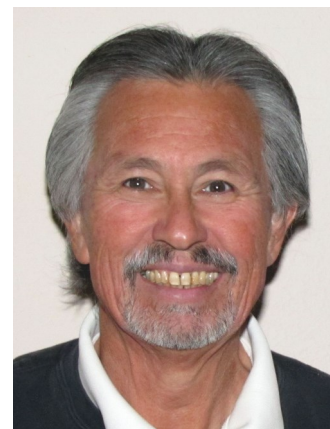
Hobbies include boating and wine tasting.



Stan Hodge retired from Hodge Corp. in 2012. He has lived in Discovery Bay for 14 years.

Stan and his wife Frances have 18 children and grandchildren.

Hobbies include "everything but golf".



Daniel Cruz retired in 2012 from a career of teaching and coaching track & field. He has lived in Discovery Bay for 24 years.

Daniel has 1 daughter and 1 grandson.

Hobbies include singing, golf and boating.

Bowling News, Paul Elmer

We have completed 11 of 35 weeks with Team 3 (Misfits) led by Shirley Madsen, Dottie Harris, Pam Jarvie, and Greg Mattus in first place by 5 games over Team 15 (Brentwood Café) led by Tami Fanucchi, Ken Fanucchi, Karen Capra, and Dennis Pachucki.



At this point season highlights so far are: for men, Jose Arroyo – scratch series 708, scratch game – Curtis Manning 282, handicap series is Vic Vasquez with 753, and handicap game goes to Warren Young with 295. For the women we have Gail Smith with a scratch series of 702, scratch game is held by Peggy Hampton with 235, Rosie Elmer has handicap series with 720, and Lorraine Burt holds the handicap game with 269.

There were 22 SIR tournaments this year, ranging in location from Yuba City to Modesto, and San Jose to Carson City and Reno. Of those 22 tournaments our SIR group entered 15 of them. Not only entered but placed as well. There were 63 categories of cash places paid to our group (Branches 161 and 108) which includes singles, doubles, and team events. This means that well over 100 checks were cashed (approximately 125) this year. Believe it or not, this was down some from 2012.

Most of the tournaments were down about 30% in attendance from 2012, ours included with 105 this year against 140 from 2012. Hopefully 2014 will bring more participation although I believe that our branches did well.

Merry Christmas and see you at the December Luncheon.

Paul

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



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.

2014 Branch 161 Meetings Calendar

01/14/2014	07/8/2014
02/11/2014	08/12/2014
03/11/2014	09/9/2014
04/8/2014	10/14/2014
05/13/2014 (note 1)	11/11/2014
06/10/2014	12/9/2014 (note 1)

Note 1: Mother's Day and Christmas With The Ladies are not 'required' Branch luncheon meetings.

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

Al and Dana will be hosting the December wine tasting. If you are interested in attending this very popular activity please contact Dick Donald at 513-2849, or email DickDonald@Yahoo.com

Pickleball, Bob Lyman – 628-7906

Come try pickleball on our new courts in Discovery Bay at Cornell Park on Willow Lake Road. Drop-in play 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, competition and socializing. Just bring yourself; we have everything else needed

Photography, Tom Jones

A new photography group is being formed. Several Branch 161 members recently expressed interest in sharing their photographic knowledge and skills. Anyone wishing to join, contact Tom Jones at 634-7026.

Golf News, Dale Welin

We have a golf club for Branch 161, which requires membership into our SIR 161 NCGA golf club. We have 40 players now and if there are other members of the Branch wanting to join, the time is now. New members should contact Dale Welin (e-mail address: dalewel-in2867@comcast.net or call 516-9463. We play once a month from March thru October.



For the 40 continuing members, renewal dues are due now. An e-mail was sent last week and please send your check to Dale Welin. If there are any questions, please call.

Dale Welin



Don Ramos receives the Golf Championship trophy at our November luncheon meeting.

2014 Branch 161 Handbook - please update your contact information

The 2014 issue of our Branch 161 Handbook will soon go into production/printing, for distribution at our January luncheon meeting. Please check the 2013 Handbook, and be sure to communicate any errors or updates in your contact information (names, address, phone number, email address) to LaVan Bock. LaVan will update the Branch Roster, which will be electronically imported into the Handbook. Once the Handbook is in production, we will be unable to make any changes/corrections until the 2015 Handbook.

The Roster is also used to maintain our mailing list and the 'Birthday boys' list; So, it's important that this information is correct. LaVan will accept updates/corrections for the Roster any time of year.

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

Your newsletter team

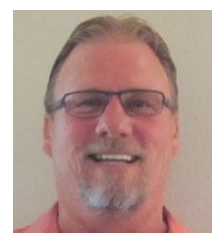
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