



# SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 28th year! December, 2019

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

## Alan Jarvie, Big Sir

My year as Big Sir has given me a greater understanding, and a greater appreciation, for the work of the BEC. Our Officers and Directors, along with several individuals who aren't currently on the Board, work hard to keep our Branch successful. These on-going efforts include the following:

- Working with the Discovery Bay Country Club to produce our monthly meeting schedule and lunch menus, including our Mothers Day and Holiday luncheons
- Arranging speakers for our regular lunch meetings, and entertainers for our Mothers Day & Holiday luncheons
- Collecting information and providing input to the DBCC kitchen and dining room, on the expected attendance at each monthly meeting
- Producing the regular reports and record-keeping required to maintain our non-profit organization status, and to comply with the requirements of the legal and insurance umbrellas provided by the State SIR organization.
- Maintaining and managing our finances
- Working with local restaurants to produce our monthly "Dinner with the Ladies"
- Organizing our monthly Wine Tasting parties.
- Producing and distributing our annual Branch Handbook and monthly Newsletter, and maintaining our Branch website



- Organizing and operating our Branch 161 Golf and Bowling leagues
- Organizing and supporting a variety of Branch activities, including bicycling, tennis, pickle ball and bocce
- Leading the effort to bring in new members
- Organizing a variety of special annual events, such as the Al DiGiusto Boat Cruise & Luncheon, and the Eric Jensen Memorial Collector Car Show

So my thanks go out to our 2019 team, and although several long-serving BEC members have decided to step down, the 2020 members are a strong group, and they'll keep our Branch running smoothly. Wishing us all a joyous Holiday season, and very Happy New Year!!

Best regards, Alan Jarvie

**Next regular meeting: January 21, 2020**

### In this issue

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**Editor's Note:** Special thanks to all contributors/authors for making it possible to publish this newsletter early this month.

## Roy Bristow, Little Sir

This will be my last 2019 newsletter contribution. I want to thank you all for your help and support. It has been my pleasure to be your Little Sir.

### November speaker

The team of Al Sauvadon & Bill Ramirez “brought-down-the-house” in November with a Veteran’s Day theme for our luncheon.

Al Sauvadon never disappoints with his motivational style presentation. He was quick to remind us all how fortunate we are To Be Americans! Al spoke from his heart. He shared some personal experiences about how he was not American born, left his home in France with his family, moved to America, and earned his American citizenship. Al’s dream to become an American had come true. It was a proud day for the entire family. Father, Mother, and Al Sauvadon, AMERICAN FAMILY.

Al greatly enhanced our Veteran’s Day reminder by inviting Bill Ramirez to share his rendition of “God Bless America”. Every Sir rose in unison as Bill began to sing and many of us had tears in our eyes by the song’s end. We were seated once again and Al reminded us one last time of our good fortune to be Americans, one and all.

The meeting was closed with Bill in song once again. This time, our National Anthem, “The Star Spangled Banner”. There were over 125 Sirs there that afternoon and more than 125 U.S. flags at the tables as well. And don’t you know, everyone was standing and smiling and waving their flags. And, yes, tears all around. “God Bless America”!

**Video link:** If you weren’t able to attend, or need a reminder, here’s a link to a video of the event:

<https://youtu.be/Wj6pEnE-OzY>



## December entertainer

Our Christmas Luncheon with the ladies entertainment will be, Discovery Bay’s own, Bill Ramirez.

Back by popular demand, Bill was a huge hit as entertainer for the May “Mothers/ Ladies Day” luncheon. He sang his way into our hearts then, and is sure to once again, prove to make December one of our most memorable luncheons of 2019.

Wear your dancing shoes and plan to dance the afternoon away. Guaranteed to be a special Christmas lunch menu and a great time for everyone.



## December birthdays

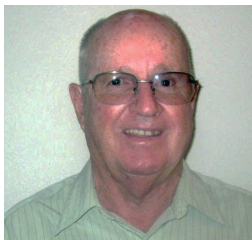
Rodrigo Alvernaz, Arlie Blackshear, Colin Brodie,  
Dick Donald, Gregory Enoksen, Ronald Fritz,  
Gary Hess, Stephen McDonough, Greg Moran,  
Dennis Platania, John Reichenbach,  
Robert White, Craig Wilson

## December luncheon menu

Rolls w/ butter  
Roast Turkey Breast, Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Vegetable Medley  
Special Dessert  
Includes Ice Tea & Coffee

## Membership, Will Myers

Our November Branch membership saw a significant increase with the addition of 9 new members. They are, Rod Alvernaz, Rich Barber, Keith Willis, Walter Roberson, Paul Erchul, Gregory Mattus, Ronald Fritz and Dave Goplen who all transferred from the Brentwood Branch 108, and George Nolta who transferred from the Rancho Cordova Branch 117. Their photographs are shown on the next page.



Rod Avernaz and his wife, Jean, have lived in Brentwood, CA for 20 years, moving there after living 30 years in Castro Valley, CA. Rod was born on a small island in the Azores, Portugal. He immigrated to the USA in 1954 and became a naturalized citizen in 1960. He has four children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Richard Barber lived in Brentwood for 21 years, moving there from Lake Panorama, Iowa, a community much like Discovery Bay. He retired in 1993 from Enron Corp where he worked as a mechanical engineer, manager and engineering officer. He and his wife, Ruthanne, have been active at the Delta Community Presbyterian Church since 1998. Rich has been a Master Mason since 1963 and currently serves as Chaplain of the Antioch-Brentwood Masonic lodge.

Keith Willis has lived in Summerset II in Brentwood for 20 years, living formerly in Fairfield, CA. He worked 20 years as a driver for Lucky Stores before retiring in 1980. Keith has a son and a daughter.

Walter (Robbie) Robertson has lived in Summerset II in Brentwood for 14 years, living formerly in Concord, CA. Robbie retired from Pacific Bell in 1990 and the Acalanes Union High School District in 2002. He and his wife, Roberta, have two daughters, one son and four grandchildren. He was in the US Navy from 1959 to 1964. Robbie golfs and fishes.

Paul Erchul has lived in Brentwood for 2 years, living prior to that in Antioch, CA for 30 years. He retired in 2007 from the Field Ironworkers local union #378 with B.T. Mancini. Paul enjoys boating, fishing, camping, travelling and social events.

Greg Mattus has lived in Brentwood for 13 years, previously living in San Bruno. He retired in 2006 as a teamster truck driver. Greg has 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren. He enjoys bowling, fishing and travelling, and looks forward to golfing with our Sirs.

Ronald Fritz and his wife, Sharon, have lived in Brentwood for 21 years, moving there from Moraga, CA. They have one daughter, 2 granddaughters and 2 great grandsons. Ron retired in 1998 from AT&T where he worked as an engineer at the FAA facility in Oakland, CA. He also was with the Air National Guard from 1953 to 1962. Ron enjoys fishing and gardening.

Dave Goplen and his wife, Eva, have lived in Brentwood for 20 years, living previously in Richmond, CA. They have been married 62 years and have 3 daughters. He retired in 1986 from Chevron where he worked as a Draftsman Engineer. Dave has been a Sir for 34 plus years with Branches 73, 108 and now 161. He enjoys bowling.

George Nolta is presently moving to Oakley, CA after residing in Citrus Heights, CA for the past 20 years. He and his wife (who recently passed away after 63 years of marriage) have 2 children and 4 grandsons. George worked for Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. in Oakland, CA for 17 years where he managed computer system development projects. His current interests are genealogy, family history research, water aerobics, and reading.

A free lunch certificate was given to Ken Fanuuchi, winner of our annual award to the member who sponsored the most new members for this year. This is the second year that Ken has won this event.

A bottle of wine was given to Bill Konold for bringing in guest Maty Pardo, and two bottles of wine to Jerry Wiebe for bringing in guests Lee Donnell and John Davelaar.

Ken Johnson, a Sir member for almost two years, is moving to Texas and attended his last meeting this past month. His loss brings our end of November membership to 162.

### SIR Membership Requirements

Membership in Sons In Retirement is open to men regardless of age, race, color or religion. See the last page of this newsletter for more information.

### Editor's Note

Sincere apologies for the poor quality of pictures in this issue, especially pictures of newly-transferred members; Due entirely to camera operator error on my part.



## Newly Transferred Members

**Dave Goplen**



**George Nolta**



**Greg Mattus**



**Keith Willis**



**Ronald Fritz**



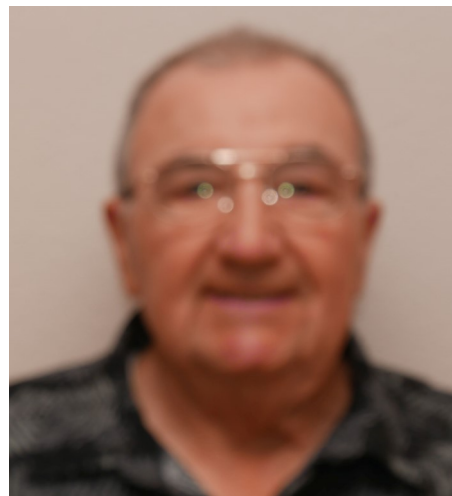
**Rich Barber**



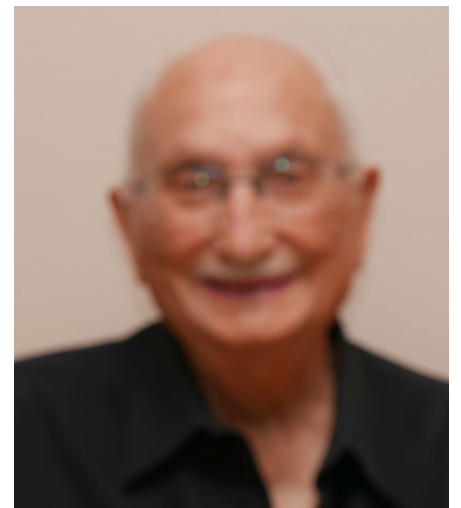
**Paul Erchul**



**Walter (Robbie) Robertson**



**Rod Alvernaz**



## Golf News, Larry Mensch

### SIR Golf 2020

Most of you have already sent me your information about being a part of SIR golf next year. If you haven't, send me your information as soon as possible. You would need a GHIN number from some source, and I would need to know your GHIN number.



You can continue your SIR Golf Club membership for \$39, or \$49 for first timers. It makes it easier for me to put tournaments together if you join the SIR Golf Club, but not a necessity, especially if you only plan to play a few times.

March 17, 2020 at Manteca is our first tournament. 9:00 am. The cost is \$43 and includes golf, cart, and prize money. Picture of 2017 Manteca players below.



April 13, 2020 at Discovery Bay is the Annual Discovery Bay Invitational. The cost is \$49 which includes golf, cart, range balls, and prize money. 9:30 am Shotgun.

Check the Handbook for the rest of schedule and put it on your golf planning calendar.

Larry Mensch, 951 514-1448, [ljmensch@comcast.net](mailto:ljmensch@comcast.net)

### 2020 Handbook

We're busy working behind the scenes to prepare the 2020 Branch 161 Handbook. We'll shortly be sending the compiled Handbook to the printer, and plan to have your personal copy available at the January 21 luncheon meeting.

A big thanks to all the activity chairmen for promptly providing the schedules & locations of their events. Thanks also to our Branch members who provided updates to their contact information.



## Tennis report, Larry Mensch

There are usually 6-8+ players on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. We start at 8:00 am and play for about 1 ½ hours to 2 hours. Usually rotating players in and out so everybody gets to play and not wear out.

We play an easy game of tennis that all can enjoy. It is drop-in. Bring a friend.

This past month we held our bi-annual or so breakfast at the Discovery Bay Country Club after our Tennis game.



We generally go to Starbucks for coffee afterwards, or some of us just go for coffee.

## 2020 Officers Inducted



*Big Sir Alan Jarvie inducted the 2020 Officers.*

## Bowling News, Paul Elmer



There are 6 weeks left (as of Nov. 20) in the first half of the SIR winter season. Team 6 (Bowling Buddies: Lorraine Burt, Mary Pita-Fry, Mary Branscum, Fred Critchfield) is still in the lead but by only one game. Four other teams are within 4 games of them, which shows that the competition is there and very competitive. The competition is shown also in the season high scores; for the men, Scratch Series- Mitch Wisinski; 687 and Ron Wilson 2nd with 645, Scratch Game, John Fry; 256 and Mike Carmichael 2nd with 254, Handicap Series; Tony Guarascio 724, Jesse Rivera nd with 685, Handicap Game; Russ Reid 281 and Fred Critchfield 2nd with 274. The women are also quite close with Scratch Series; Rosie Elmer 585 and Terry Damico 2nd with 576, Scratch Game; Vicky Reid 248, Mary Pita-Fry is second with 209, Handicap Series; Mary Patterson 716 and Lorraine Burt second with 658,

Handicap Game; Jean Scurlock 256 and Linda Jensen 250.

No one from Branch 161 attended the Concord Tournament in November and the last tournament of the year is in Danville on December 4 - 5.

This is the last bowling news that I will be writing, as John Fry will be writing them starting in January. I have been writing these articles for 7 years and have seen people come and some go. In 2012 we had 24 teams (all full) and now we have 14 (basically full). Over these 7 years we have lost 34 people, Some have moved, but sadly most have passed.

From Elwood Davis, Jim Heck, Eric Jensen, Ann Wangeman, Al Winston, Tom Burt, Roberta Bodine and many others to some that have moved - Bob Rhiner, Jim Davis, Cliff Boehrner and others all bring back great memories of the SIR Bowling League and and the fellowship that goes with it. Thanks to all of you.

## SIR Travel, Dennis Pachucki

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 table in the Discovery Bay CC lobby at our monthly luncheons. Some of the available 2020 trips are listed below.

May 9 - 21, 2020. "The Passion Play In Oberammergau"

Aug 29-Sept 9, 2020 Top of Switzerland with Oberammergau



## A thank you message from Dale

I was really surprised with the recognition that took place on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at the SIR Branch 161 luncheon. I very much appreciate the very nice words that Alan Jarvie and Larry Mensch shared with all of you. After 18 years as golf chairman and a Board Director for Branch 161, we have left the golf program in the very capable hands of Larry Mensch.

It felt very good to me when Larry asked the Branch 161 golfers who have played golf with us over the past 18 years to stand. THAT WAS SPECIAL TO ME. Thank you to those 40 or so golfers that have supported the golf program in the last 18 years. A very sincere thank you to all of you and Alan and Larry.

Dale Welin

## SIR Activities, Dick Donald

We're always looking for new activities among SIR. If you have a suggestion for an activity not currently supported, let us know and we'll see if we can get a group going. You can contact me at 513-2849 or: email DickDonald@Yahoo.com.



Following are some ongoing SIR activities, including details on current plans.

### Wine Tasting – Dick Donald – 513-2849

The next wine tasting will be January next year. We are skipping a December wine tasting because of the holidays.

### Bocce Ball – Dick Donald – 513-2849

Bocce ball continues informally at 10 AM Tuesday mornings, when the weather is favorable. If you would like to play just show up..

### Pickleball - Bob Lyman – 628-7906

Something new - very basic beginner pickleball exposure for both men & women is now being conducted at 3:30 pm Sunday evenings at the Cornel Park pickleball courts. Come down and check it out. If you ever played a racquet sport of any kind and have the energy to use those skills again, come check out pickleball. It is a great game with lots of good social interaction. The best courts in Contra Costa County are right here in Discovery Bay. Regular drop in play times are Tues, Thur & Sat at 9 am. Have any questions, check with SIR players Dennis Pachucki, Phil

Talley, Greg Moran, Don Patterson, Terry Silva, Randy Zierau or Bob Lyman.

### SIR Cyclers — Jerry Wiebe — 916-206-9221

The SIR Cyclers ride weekly on Thursday mornings at 8:00am during the long warm days of summer and invite their spouses and new SIR riders to join them on their rides.

They meet at Jerry's home in Discovery Bay for a moderate ride into Brentwood and back. Some weeks they may travel to other nearby towns' bike trails to enjoy a new riding experience. An email message is sent weekly to inform interested participants of the riding plan for that week.

If anyone would like to join their rides, contact Jerry Wiebe by phone or email to be added to the weekly email distribution. We look forward to and encourage SIR members to join us on our rides.



## New Attendance Chairman

Beginning in January we will have a new Attendance Chairman. If a SIR member is not going to attend a monthly luncheon, they should call **Paul Elmer** at (925) 462-9160 or they should email him at [prelmer@comcast.net](mailto:prelmer@comcast.net)

## 2020 Branch 161 Meetings Calendar

01/21/2020 (3rd Tuesday)	07/14/2020
02/11/2020	08/11/2020
03/10/2020	09/1/2020 (1st Tuesday)
04/14/2020	10/13/2020
05/12/2020 (Mothers Day)	11/10/2020
06/2/2020 (1st Tuesday)	12/8/2020 (Christmas)



## Branch 161 Activities and Events

### **Bowling (\*):** John Fry

Sirs & Ladies Bowling league happens every Monday @ 9:30 am at Harvest Park Bowl. Our league consists of four-person teams, with approximately 20 teams, and consists of two seasons – a Winter session of 36 weeks and a Summer session of 16 weeks; both are sanctioned with the USBC. We bowl every Monday except for Holidays, and we always have room for more bowlers, seasoned bowlers as well as newcomers. During the year various SIR Branches sponsor Bowling Tournaments throughout Northern California; Check the state SIR website ( <http://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling/index.html> ) for dates and details.

### **Golf:** Larry Mensch

Golf is usually on the third Tuesday of each month from March through October, at various local courses. Also, there are a number of state-wide SIR-sponsored events during the year; Information can be found on the state SIR website, <https://www.sirinc2.org/golf2018> .

### **Away Golf Tournament (\*):** Roy Bristow

We also have a Branch 161 Away Golf Tournament each year. It is a mens and couples, tournament in which 42+ people participated in 2018. Last year it was at the Saddle Creek Golf Resort in Copperopolis, as it is again this year, May 1-3, 2019.

### **Pickle Ball (\*):** Bob Lyman

If you have ever played a racquet sport of any kind, and have the energy to use those skills again, come check out pickleball. It's a great game for both men and women, lots of good social interaction and the fastest growing sport in the country, with the best courts in Contra Costa County right here in Discovery Bay. Play is at the Cornell Park pickleball courts. Check the monthly Activities|Pickleball article for drop-in play days/times and learning day(s).

### **Wine tasting (\*):** Dick Donald

Monthly on the 4th Thursday, at different hosts each month. Each couple brings a bottle of wine and an appetizer to share. The bottle is covered so that the label is not visible and is poured in 1 ounce 'tastes', which is graded on a scale of 1 to 5 by each participant. At the end of the evening the bottles are uncovered and the scores are totaled to determine how each wine is rated.

### **Bike Riding (\*):** Jerry Wiebe

9:00 a.m. Thursday mornings, meeting at Jerry's address, 2071 Windward Point, Discovery Bay, for a weekly 13 mile ride into Brentwood, sometimes further on other routes, and when possible, a mid way coffee shop stop for a leisurely bit of group chit-chatting.

### **Tennis (\*):** Larry Mensch

Tennis is a new activity that was added this year (2019). It is a mixed co-ed group, similar to the pickle ball group. We play Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at the Discovery Bay Community Center starting at 8:00 am. Players rotate in so that everyone plays. It is an easy-going tennis group that usually ends up at Starbucks afterwards. Sometimes, we'll go out for breakfast or lunch, especially if the weather is not good.

*Continued ...*

## **Branch 161 Activities and Events (*continued*)**

### **Dinner with the Ladies (\*):** Dennis Pachucki

SIR Dinner with the Ladies is a well attended event. We have 8 annual events at various local restaurants. Dinners are typically the last Tuesday of the month, 5:00 PM socialization and 6:00 PM dinner. All Sirs and ladies and their guests are welcome. Look for dates and locations in our Monthly newsletter.

### **Poker:** Dick Donald

SIR Poker is a weekly, low-stakes poker game. It's played every Monday evening at 6:30 through 9:30. Games are quarter-limit dealer-choice and the dealer antes a quarter for everyone. A schedule is made with a different host and six additional players each week. Everyone plays about seven times over two and a half months.

### **Annual Al DiGiusto Boat Cruise and Luncheon (\*):** Bob Damico

In 1993, Al DiGiusto conceived the idea to plan a SIR event that would introduce some of our non-boating members and their wives to the world of boating in the Delta. Sirs with boats invited members and their wives to ride with them on a cruise to one of many Delta waterfront restaurants for lunch. Al coordinated this successful event until his passing in 2005, and the event continues in his honor. This year's boat cruise and luncheon will be Thursday July 18, 2019, and starts at the Boardwalk Grill in Discovery Bay. There will be sign-up sheets at the June meeting.

### **Eric Jensen Memorial Collector Car Show:** Bill Konold

Our September meeting is also the SIR Collector Car Show. So polish that Collector Car of yours and bring it to the meeting. Any interesting car, old or new, is welcome. Got a new Hemi, a cool Corvette, or an old Mercury? Bring it to the September meeting and park with other SIR car enthusiast members. Tire kicking is both before and after the meeting, so arrive a little early, stay a little late, and enjoy the machinery.

### **Christmas Lights Boat Ride (\*):** Dick Donald

A mid-December evening ride with "Captain Morgan" on the waterways of Discovery Bay, to observe the Christmas light displays. We'll have an appetizer tray provided by the Boardwalk restaurant, and drinks will be available for purchase aboard.

### **Sporting Events (\*):**

The state SIR organization puts together special "SIR Days" for a variety of sporting events, such as A's & Giants games, Golden Gate Fields horse racing, Sacramento River Cats, AAA baseball, etc. Information on these events can be found on the state SIR website ([http://www.sirinc.org/siractivities/SIR\\_sports.htm](http://www.sirinc.org/siractivities/SIR_sports.htm)), and flyers are routinely included in our monthly newsletter.

### **Bocce Ball (\*):** Dick Donald

We are re-starting our weekly game, and we will once again use the Discovery Bay Country Club facilities.

### **Beer Tasting:** On hiatus.

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(\*) denotes a co-ed and/or couples activity. Details & schedules of individual activities can be found in our Branch 161 monthly newsletter. Contact information for coordinators can be found in the current Branch 161 Handbook.

## Membership Requirements & Principles

*(revised 2019)*

Membership is open to men, regardless of age, race, color, or religion. Member volunteers and staff administer and govern all branch activities. Nominal membership dues help 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. Prospective members must be 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 when we need to hold our meetings on a different Tuesday, so please check the Meetings Calendar elsewhere in this newsletter).

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 (not counting May and December), will have their membership reviewed by the Branch Executive Committee (BEC), and may receive a notice from the BEC of their decision to consider terminating the absent Sir's 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

**Annual dues** defray the administrative costs of running our organization. For those who have yet to pay their dues, be sure to bring \$20 cash or check (made out to SIR Branch 161) to the next meeting. Or you can mail it to our Treasurer, Jerry Wiebe.

**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 email or call Paul Elmer by the Friday preceding the meeting if you don't plan to attend.

Email: [prelmer@comcast.net](mailto:prelmer@comcast.net)

Tel: (925) 462-9160

### Your newsletter team



**Tom Jones**  
*Editor and email  
distribution*



**Dennis Pachucki**  
*Paper copies  
and USPS mailing*

**View SIR Happenings, the State SIR newsletter: <https://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>**