



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 30th year! August, 2021

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the Lives of Our Members Through Fun Activities and Events—While Making Friends For Life

Rick Harris, Big Sir

Our first Luncheon Meeting since March 2020 was held July 13, and by all accounts was very successful. It was great to see people reunite with their SIR friends and enjoy a nice lunch.

I'd like to thank all the Branch Executive Committee members for supporting the re-start. We all had a healthy amount of anxiety about the potential for things to go wrong. A number of people took on responsibilities beyond their "day jobs" to make this run smoothly, and the results were very positive. I would also like to thank the membership for their cooperation and good attitudes in dealing with the situation.

Our next Luncheon Meeting is Tuesday, August 10, and it's an important one as our membership will elect next year's branch officers. You can review the slate of nominees elsewhere in this newsletter, and I hope as many of you as possible can participate in the process.

Note that if you attended the July Luncheon Meeting or any other event, we have all the information needed to comply with the Covid protocol. If you have NOT completed a waiver and shown proof of vaccination, or still have not paid your 2021 dues, these will be needed to attend the August meeting. Also, the guidance from health authorities continues to evolve. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so, and of course use your best judgement based on your own health status. By all means, if anyone who attended our July luncheon has any Covid symptoms, please let us know as we want to take every reasona-



ble precaution to protect the health of our members.

We are looking forward to another successful meeting, and seeing all your smiling faces again!

Your 2021 Big Sir,

Rick Harris

Little Sir, Dennis Pachucki

This month's meal will be meat-loaf.

Our guest for August will be our own Jim Wangeman. He will have a great presentation on his experiences with bowling alleys.



August Birthdays

Al Box, William Carmichael, Earl Cole, Fred du Pont, Paul Erchul, Luis Figueroa, Rick Harris, Mike McCleery, Ward Messersmith, Willard Myers, Don Patterson, Lynn Pierce, Don Ramos, Terry Silva.

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2022 Proposed Officers and Directors

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Vince Vargas, Will Myers, and the late Micheal White, presented the 2022 slate of Branch Executive Committee candidates to the current BEC at their May 11th meeting. The BEC approved the slate of candidates. Our Big Sir, Rick Harris, will present the 2022 candidates to the Branch members at our August 10th luncheon meeting for a voice vote. We encourage you to attend the meeting and show your support for our candidates.

OFFICERS		DIRECTORS	
Big Sir	Dennis Pachucki	Membership	Luis Figueroa
Little Sir	Ken Landoline	Attendance	Phil Newlin
Secretary	Bruce Bohnsack	Activities	Alan Jarvie
Assistant Secretary	Saul Gold	Bowling	John Fry
Treasurer	Jerry Wiebe	- Assistant	Paul Elmer
Assistant Treasurer	Lowell Thomas	Golf	Johnny Welton
		- Aassistants	Larry Mensch & Bill Konold
		Communications	Bob Damico
		- Newsletter Editor	Tom Jones
		- Sunshine, Awards	
		Audit/Nominating	Larry Mensch
		Dinner with Ladies	Dennis Pachucki
			(Non-director position)

Bowling news, John Fry

(article submitted by Bob Damico)

The Monday Sirs and Ladies Summer bowling league has completed the sixth week of bowling, with six more weeks to finish. The league is smaller than usual this summer; only five Doubles teams competing against one another.

First place in the Team standings is Team 1-Ron & Marie Wilson. Second place is Team 3-Jerry Dittman & Tom Kirtley. Third place is Team 2- Bob & Terry Damico. Fourth Place is Team 5-Mitch Wisinski & Eloise Gatson. Fifth place is Team 4-Paul & Rosie Elmer.

The Season High Scores are as follows: Men's Scratch Series, Mltch Wisinski- 697. Men's Scratch Game, Bob Damico- 268. Men's' Handicap Series, Tom Kirtley -794. Men's Handicap Game, Paul Elmer- 288. Women's Scratch Series, Rosie Elmer-722. Women's Scratch Game, Terry Damico-247. Women's Handicap Series, Marie Wilson-746. Women's Handicap Game, Eloise Gatson-262.



Photos from the July Luncheon (courtesy of Bob Damico)



Awards



Dick Donald—11 years as Activities Chairman



Bill Konold—11 years as Attendance Chairman



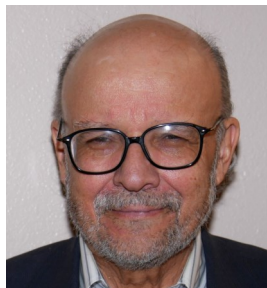
Will Myers—3 years as Membership Chairman



Dale Welin—2020 SIR Branch 161 Golf Champion

Membership, Luis Figueroa

This month has been busy as the branch prepared for our first luncheon since the COVID pandemic began. Both the logistics and attendance were superb with close to 100 members, including 3 guests participating.



For those not familiar with the member sponsoring process, the following information is provided. Branch members wishing to sponsor a new member should invite the prospect to a regular luncheon meeting as his guest. Only an existing member can sponsor a new member. The guest sponsor should always call or text Luis Figueroa, Membership Chairman, at (949-400-4715) and Phil Newlin, Attendance Chairman, at (408-505-5359) that he is bringing a guest at least 4 days prior to the upcoming meeting. By knowing in advance, the guest will be given an introductory SIR package containing a welcoming letter from our Big Sir, a Membership Application form and a copy of our Branch Newsletter, and a meal will be ordered.

If the guest later decides to become a SIR member and completes the Membership Application, his sponsor should see that it is delivered to Luis Figueroa at least 5 days before the next meeting. The prospective new member and his sponsor will be asked to attend the next regular meeting (or whichever meeting they both can attend). The Branch Executive Committee (BEC) will vote on the membership and, if approved, the new member will be inducted prior to that meeting luncheon. Please remember that all guests must follow the required COVID procedures, sign the COVID waiver form and bring proof of their vaccination.

Every branch member who brings in a guest will receive a bottle of wine. If the guest decides to become a member, his sponsor will be rewarded with a free lunch certificate. The member who sponsors the most members for the year will receive an additional free lunch certificate.

Another way to recruit new members is to invite guests to an activity sponsored by the branch. In this way the guest is more engaged with folks who share mutual interests. The guest can later be invited to a luncheon by his sponsor. It's important for every branch member to do their part and help sponsor new members!

In July we added no new members. However, 2 bottles of wine were given to Phil Talley for bringing in guests Richard Pontes and David Rardin. Dick LaForge was also given a bottle of wine for bringing in guest Kelly Vik.

Since the pandemic started the branch has inducted the following members using our virtual application process. During the July 13th meeting many of these members, along with their sponsors, were recognized. The sponsors received free luncheon certificates for their recruitment efforts.

Member Name	Year	Sponsor's Name
Leon Thompson	2020	Branch 108 transfer
Angel Aviles	2020	Chris Diaz
Terry Brekke	2020	Rich Barber
Mike McMahon	2020	Frank Cramer
Rudy Promani	2020	Jerry Wiebe
Sean Murphy	2020	Phil Newlin
Dave Marconi	2020	Will Myers
Dennis O'Connell	2021	Bill Konold
John Sutton	2021	Bill Konold
Dan Lippstreu	2021	Johnny Welton
Sid Cruser	2021	Luis Figueroa

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.

SIR Cyclers, Jerry Wiebe (916) 206-9221

The SIR Cyclers continue their scheduled rides every week riding each Thursday into Brentwood for a coffee stop, and riding Sunday for a longer and more challenging ride on the Marsh Creek Trail through Brentwood, Oakley and Antioch. Occasionally they take their bikes into the Livermore Valley where they peddle up Mines Road to the Lake Del Valle entrance, about an 860-foot climb from Robertson Park. It is a test of stamina for we seniors, yet very self-rewarding and inspirationally fun, especially the thrilling ride back down the hill! We look ahead to plan travels to our surrounding areas and more fresh experiences. The Cyclers are a healthy, hardy group who enjoy each other's company while riding together to their destinations.



During the upcoming warm months and longer days, we assemble and leave from Jerry's driveway at 2071 Windward Point at 8:30am.

Several new members have joined us, and we would love to see more of you. If you would like to join in on the fun, contact Jerry with any questions you may have, then get that bicycle you have hanging on the wall of your garage down, and come along for some healthy exercise and camaraderie.

Update and more good news for all our SIR Bicyclists:

A Bike Lane is scheduled to be installed sometime this year on Walnut Blvd. between Marsh Creek and Vasco Road by the County Public Works Dept per East Contra Costa County Bicycle Advisory Committee.

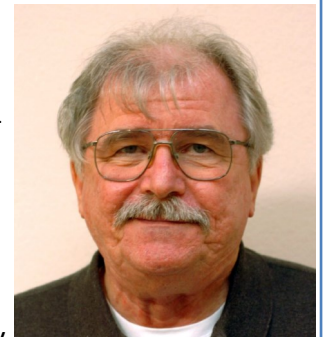
Pedestrian/Bicycle Flashing Lights that were installed for the Marsh Creek Trail Crossings at Delta Rd. and, also, Laurel Rd. in Oakley. They are in an awkward place for use by cyclists but are working.

Mokelumne Aqueduct Trail Bridge - The Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge over Highway 4 near Lone Tree is funded by Contra Costa Transit Authority and is still scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

The Marsh Creek Trail bike path extension in Oakley through the former DuPont chemical plant has been built. It is not yet linked up to the Marsh Creek Trail at Big Break due to a piece that has Vineyards on it due to that property's use and is still in negotiation.

Activities, Alan Jarvie (408) 219 8240

As noted in last month's Newsletter, we restarted SIR Poker on June 21. This is a weekly, low-stakes, 7-player game, played 6:30-9:30 on Monday evenings, and hosted by the players on a rotating basis. We use a rotating schedule with everyone playing ~4 times every 5-6 weeks, this arrangement works best with a pool of at least 10-12, so there's definitely room to add more players. Let me know if you'd like to join in.



We're restarting our monthly Wine Tasting on August 26; as in the past, we'll usually hold our tastings on the 4th Thursday of the month, @ 5:00pm. We design the tastings for 12 couples / 24 participants, providing 24 1-ounce tastings per bottle; each couple brings a bottle of wine for tasting, (typically, these are moderately priced wines, recent winners have included several varieties of Trader Joe's "2 buck Chuck"), and an appetizer to share. The bottles are covered to protect the wine's "identity", each taster scores each wine, and at the end of the evening the scores are totaled and the wines are uncovered.

We need hosts to volunteer for the four tastings planned for this year – August 26, September 23, October 28 and November 18 (that's the 3rd Thursday, to avoid colliding with Thanksgiving) – we'll skip December due to the holidays. Please let me know if you're interested in joining in, and especially if you'd like to host one of the four 2021 tastings.

Please note that our SIR COVID protocol applies to both these activities, all attendees - including spouses and guests - must sign a waiver, and show proof of vaccination (we don't need, and won't retain, a copy of this vaccination record).

I'm looking forward to seeing you all as we continue to get our Branch back up and running !! - R, AJ

Golf News, Larry Mensch

The next tournament is on August 17th at Brentwood. Please let me know if you want to play. More information to follow.



The Results from the golf tournament at The Reserve at Spanos Park in Stockton.

There are 3 ways to win money in this tournament. First, the team game of 2 best ball of the foursome.

Team 1	Welton Mygrant Douglas Goodwin	Team Score 126	2nd place	\$10 each
Team 2	Harris Diaz O'Connell Vargas	Team Score 141	6th place	
Team 3	Denning Donnell Sutton Spann	Team Score 122	1st place	\$17 each
Team 4	Konold Lippstreu Rentzel Jewell	Team Score 131	4th place (tie)	
Team 5	Lyman Ramsdell Pachucki Fanucchi	Team Score 129	3rd place	\$3 each
Team 6	Fry Zierau Carmichael Emerson	Team Score 131	4th place (tie)	

The 2nd way to win money is to sign up for the flighted Skins Game for \$5.

In the 0-18 handicap flight (no pops on par 3's) there were 8 players and 7 skins worth \$5.50 each.

Tom Denning	1 skin	\$5.50
Lee Donnell	2 skins	\$11.00
Bob Lyman	2 skins	\$11.00
Johnny Welton	1 skin	\$5.50
Karl Mygrant	1 skin	\$5.50

Golf, continued

In the 19-36 handicap flight (only 1 pop on par 3's) there were 11 players and 7 skins worth \$7.50 each

John Douglas	1 skin	\$7.50
Dennis O'Connell	1 skin	\$7.50
Jim Spann	1 skin	\$7.50
Don Rentzel	3 skins	\$22.50
John Fry	1 skin	\$7.50

The 3rd way to win money is to sign up for the flighted Low Gross/Low Net game for \$5.

In the A flight, handicap 0-18:

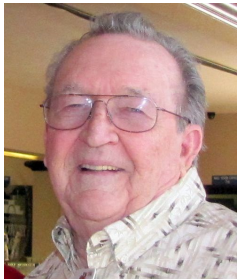
1 st	Low Gross	Tom Denning	\$14
1st	Low Net	Dan Lippstreu	\$14
2nd	Low Gross	Lee Donnell	\$6
2nd	Low Net	Bill Konold	\$6

In the B flight, handicap 19-36:

1st	Low Gross	John Douglas	\$21
1st	Low Net	Don Rentzel	\$21
2nd	Low Gross	Ken Fanucchi	\$9
2nd	Low Net	Dennis O'Connell	\$9

In Memoriam

We were sad to hear of the passing of two Sirs.



Stan Krotz passed away on July 1, 2021. He was a charter member of Branch 161 - he joined in November 1991.

At this time we have no information on his Funeral/Memorial service. We will share that information with you when it comes available.

Please keep Stan, his wife Lindy and their family in your thoughts and prayers.



Al Fleischer, a member of Branch 108 for eighteen years, passed away on July 16, 2021. Al was an avid bowler, bowling in the Monday SIR and Friday Summerset Seniors Leagues for many years.

Details of the Liturgy of Remembrance are included in this newsletter.

Sympathy cards may be sent to:

The Fleischer Family, 330 Winesap DR. Brentwood, CA 94513.

Al Fleischer remembrance

A Liturgy of Remembrance for Deacon Al Fleischer will be celebrated Tuesday Morning, July 27, 2021, at 11:00 am in St. Anne Catholic Church in Byron, CA (2800 Camino Diablo, Rd). We will gather to remember Deacon Al and honor his life, work, and ministry. Fr. Ron Schmidt, Pastor, will preside and Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P. will reflect on the Gospel Al selected for this occasion – Luke 24: 13-35, the Road to Emmaus. Let us gather in peace, remember with gratitude, and bless Al's memory with love.

You are invited to share stories, renew friendships and meet Al's family at the Church after the Liturgy. Water, Coffee and Cookies will be available.

Podcast Corner, Phil Newlin

Fellow Sirs, welcome back to the second edition of Podcast Corner. I hope that you enjoyed and improved your knowledge with the inaugural podcasts suggested in the July newsletter. Below is this month's suggested podcast for you and I've included last month's suggestions, in case you missed them.



If you have an interest in learning about and understanding the world around you, some of its history, about human nature, and other areas of general interest, this Podcast Corner may be of interest you. Each month, I'll suggest one or more educational/informational podcast episodes that I have discovered or have been member-recommended. I'll give a brief description and a website link for each episode.

If you have a recommended podcast episode or subject category, such as hot rods, golf, or healthcare, that you believe would be of interest to the members, please send it to me for research, or review and inclusion in one of the next newsletters. Send your suggestions to newlinp@sbcglobal.net.

If you are not familiar with podcasts, go to the inaugural edition in the July 2021 newsletter, where you'll find information about podcasts and how to get started.

This month's recommended podcast again comes from 99% Invisible from their Infrastructure category describing items we see daily when we are out driving on the road. You'll learn about stop signs, freeway exit services signs, road reflectors, and roadside mailboxes--all quite interesting.

Episode 413, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/ubiquitous-icons-highways-101/>

Previous (July) recommended podcasts.

Episode 308, Curb Cuts, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/curb-cuts/>, describes how they got started and by whom, and how the movement advanced. An interesting and entertaining story with bits of trivia included. Ever wonder where the football huddle originated?

Episode 443, Matters of Time, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/matters-of-time/>, covers a few different aspects our worldly time system. Check it out to learn what a "knocker-upper" is and what large (geographically) country has only one time zone and why.

I hope you enjoy this Podcast Corner and these podcasts and share them with others. I'm looking forward to your recommendations.

27th Annual Al DiGiusto Boat Cruise and Luncheon

We have our first group-dining event since COVID scheduled for August 19, 2021; at the Boardwalk Grill in Discovery Bay (outdoor seating). This is our annual Al DiGiusto Boat Cruise and Lunch, which was started in 1993 by Fallen SIR Al DiGiusto, and has continued in his memory since 2005. Last year, due to COVID, the event was cancelled. This year it will be a little different:

SIR Event Waiver Forms and COVID Vaccination verification must be on file or presented for each attendee.

Boat rides are optional and will be up to Boat Captains to arrange with their fellow members.

(Dining only, without boat Ride, continues to be an acceptable and popular choice).

Cost is \$20 per person (includes non-alcoholic drinks, dessert, tax, and tip): We have 4 menu choices:

Chicken Wrap, Chicken Caesar Salad, Tri Tip sandwich, or Fish & Chips

House Wine: \$5.00 glass, Draft Beer (Domestic- \$4.00), (Premium: \$4.75)-16oz. size

Arrive by 11:30 a.m.- lunch will be served at noon.

Call 925-872-4920 if you have questions.

Use the form below to submit your menu choices. Sign up deadline is August 12, 2021

————— Detach and return this stub with your payment by August 12, 2021 —————

REMEMBER: If you do not have a SIR Event Waiver and COVID Vaccination verification on file, mail it in with your payment or bring to the Lunch. NOTE: SIR Event Waivers and COVID Vac. Verification are required for Sirs', wives, significant others, and any guests attending the luncheon.

Your Name(s): _____ Phone Number: _____

Your Menu choices:

Chicken Wrap _____

Chicken Caesar Salad _____

Tri -Tip Sandwich _____

Fish & Chips _____

Mail this menu form with your check (made out to R. C. Damico) to:

Bob Damico

1621 Gamay Ln.

Brentwood, CA 94513

**SIR EVENT WAIVER AND RELEASE OF
LIABILITY FOR EXPOSURE TO COVID-19**

Branch Name: Discovery Bay

Branch Number: 161

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the general unavailability of insurance to cover liability related to that matter, the SIR branch listed above ("Branch") is requiring members, visiting SIR members from other branches, guest speakers, guests, and spouses/significant others attending events sponsored by the Branch or by Sons in Retirement, Incorporated ("State Sir") to agree to the following:

1. In attending activities sponsored by the Branch or State SIR, the undersigned agrees to comply with mask, social distancing, and other Covid-19 protocols required by applicable government bodies, the Branch, State SIR, and the applicable venue. Failure to do so will result in the attendee being asked to leave the event.
2. Regardless of adherence to mandated protocols, requirements, recommendations, and vaccinations, the undersigned acknowledges that there is a risk of Covid-19 exposure whenever an individual enters a public space, a building with other people, or a group of other individuals.
3. Knowing the foregoing risk, the undersigned assumes the risk of Covid-19 exposure and accepts sole responsibility for any exposure to Covid-19 and resulting health conditions that may occur due to attendance at a Branch or State SIR event.
4. The undersigned hereby releases and holds harmless the Branch, State SIR, and their respective officers, directors, and members from any and all responsibility for illness, death, or other losses arising from exposure to Covid-19 at a Branch or State SIR event.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAS READ AND UNDERSTANDS THE ABOVE WAIVER AND RELEASE, UNDERSTANDS THE RISKS POSED BY COVID-19, AND SIGNS THE WAIVER AND RELEASE VOLUNTARILY.

Attendee's Name (print): _____

Attendee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Once you sign this document, it is valid for all future Branch and or State activities.

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 mail a check for \$20 (made out to SIR Branch 161) 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 Phil Newlin by the Friday preceding the meeting if you don't plan to attend.

Phil Newlin: ward28fred-sirs@yahoo.com

Tel: (408) 505 5359

Your newsletter team



Tom Jones
*Editor and email
distribution*



Dennis Pachucki
*Paper copies
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View SIR Happenings, the State SIR newsletter: <http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>