



# SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 33rd year! January 2024

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

## Jim Wangeman, Big Sir

Hello Sirs,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

First, I would like to thank 2023 Big Sir Ken Landoline and our Board of Directors for the outstanding job they have done. This year has been a very successful year for our organization!



Thank you for entrusting me to lead the organization as your Big Sir for 2024. I promise to do my best to bring the organization to new heights. I'd also like to welcome our 2024 Little Sir, Steve Bordi. Between us we will be sure to engage quality speakers for our events.

My primary goal for 2024 is to bring new quality members to SIR Branch 161. I will accomplish this in part by working diligently with the BEC to attract quality members.

I am also pleased to advise you that we have been able to secure the same pricing at Discovery Bay Country Club for our luncheons. 2024 luncheons will be \$30 inclusive. While keeping that price, we have also been able to upgrade the quality of the meals being served.

I would like to thank you all personally for your membership. Each of you bring value to our group, and I look forward to the camaraderie at our monthly

meetings and to your valuable input! See you at our first meeting of 2024 on January 23<sup>rd</sup>!

Thank you,

Jim Wangeman, Big Sir 2024

### January events & activities

*Check the respective articles for more details*

#### Meetings

**General meeting & luncheon - Jan 23.**

Branch Executive Committee meeting - Jan 23.

#### Activities

Bowling

- Jan 8, 15, 22 and 29, Brentwood Bowlero
- Jan 16 & 17, Napa

Cycling (3 weekly rides)

- Jan 1 & 3 - long ride
- Jan 5 - short ride

Dinner With The Ladies - Jan 30

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## Little Sir, Steve Bordi

Our January luncheon speaker will be John Elam, City Manager of Brentwood (circa early 2000's). The subject: Senior demographics of Brentwood, Discovery Bay and surrounding areas.



### January Luncheon Menu

Chicken Fried Steak, Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Seasonal Veggies

### January Birthdays

Don Abate, Albert Delgado, Paul Elmer, Martin Freitas, David Harrison, Kenneth Marsh, Art McSherry, Gale Nelson, Jerry Nielsen, Russ Reid, Jerry Wiebe

## SIR Cyclers, Jerry Wiebe (916) 206-9221

We continue to enjoy our California weather year after year that provides so many opportunities for morning and early evening bicycle riders. Riding just a few miles a week helps you to maintain your balance and strengthens your muscles to help keep you in good health.



All levels of bicycling experience are welcome, and electric bike riders are encouraged to join us. We are here to help you brush up on your riding skills if you have not ridden for a while. It only takes a few weeks to wake up those muscles and build some endurance. Just start at a mile a day...then add another, then another. In no time you'll be surprised how stronger you feel. The best part is feeling good... ALL OVER!

Contact your physician and discuss the health benefits of bicycling. Our cyclists often get up in the morning on Lee Donell's driveway on the corner of Windward Point and Clipper Drive. When you feel confident about a longer trip, we have as many as three rides a week. Our favorite morning trek is on Friday, pedaling into Brentwood to enjoy a cup of coffee and a lot of gab at a local coffee shop. We are always on the lookout for new members to join us at this fun

exercise activity that has a lot of plusses.

Now get that bicycle down you have hanging on the wall of your garage, dust it off, and put some air in the tires. We are waiting for you!

## Webmaster updates, Tom Jones

### Web site upgrade

Some folks may have noticed that our web site ( [sir161.org](http://sir161.org) ) has a new look & feel, additional functionality, and expanded content. These changes are in support of the BEC (Branch Executive Committee) goal to appeal to a broader audience of prospective members. Feel free to explore the site via the expanded menus. Meanwhile, we'll continue to tweak the site as it seems appropriate.



In addition to more pages, under **Membership** in the menu we now have an online membership application for prospective new members. Folks uncomfortable submitting online forms still have the option to download and print a paper form to mail to our Membership Chairman.

### 2024 Member Handbook

Thanks to input from a number of BEC members and Activities Chairmen, our **2024 Member Handbook** is nearing completion; We're on schedule to publish (via email) at the beginning of the new year. Included are calendar dates for our general meetings and several activities.

Along with the 2024 Handbook, you'll receive an updated Branch 161 Membership Roster. Please respect our members' privacy and don't share the Roster outside our membership.

### Artificial Intelligence

SIR Inc and our Branch 161 BEC have expressed a desire to investigate how artificial intelligence could be used to enhance our Branch publications and marketing. Several of us on the BEC and support staff are actively pursuing artificial intelligence for possible application within our Branch.

## Golf News, Johnny Welton

It is the time of year when we look forward, backward, and try to enjoy special moments with family and friends. Looking back on our year, SIR Branch 161 Golf has had a great year. The Friendship Tournament was a wonderful success. Participation in local events was up. Prizes were spread around. The weather was better. No covid! The Individual Championship crowned a returning champion after close competition. And the Season Long Leaders Event turned out to be a one-time success. Be sure to thank your SIR Branch 161 Golf Committee: Tom Denning, Lee Donnell, Dan Lippstreu, David Vicencio, and Johnny Welton.



Looking forward to 2024, we have another great schedule of events. We had a great time at Franklin Canyon last year, but the rumors are confirmed. Franklin Canyon Golf Course is to become a storage facility. The golf course will be closing in June. Our date to play there in June was cancelled. However, a date in May was confirmed. Confirmation has still not been received for Swensen Park Golf Course, but it is expected soon. This year the SIR Branch 161 Golf Committee will include: Bill Konold and Mike Kaufman. Welcome. There is room for two more members to join the Committee. Let me know if you are interested. For 2024 the committee will share the event coordination with me. Committee members have volunteered with a little arm twisting to take a leadership role for specific events so I can travel a bit more. It will be an exciting year with many surprises!

As you focus on family, friends, and the special memories that the Holidays create, remember the good times that you have shared with your SIR Branch 161 Golf buddies, plan for more, and ... tell a few golf stories!

Happy Holidays!  
Johnny

### 2024 Golf Schedule—not finalized

Additional details will be in the 2024 Handbook

Tuesday, February 27 9:00	Shadow Lakes
Tuesday, March 19 9:00	Lone Tree, Antioch
Tuesday, April 16 9:30	Las Positas, Livermore
Tuesday, May 21 11:00	Franklin Canyon
Thursday, May 11: 9:30	Diablo Creek
Tuesday, June 18 9:00	Elkhorn, Stockton
Tuesday, July 16 9:00	Swensen Park
Thursday, August 22, 8:00	Diablo Creek
Tuesday, September 17 9.00	Manteca Park, Manteca
Tuesday, October 15, 9:30	The Reserve, Stockton

### Christmas luncheon report, Bob Damico

One Hundred twenty attended our annual Christmas Luncheon on December 12th. Members, wives/significant others and several special wives of our fallen Sirs enjoyed the entertainment, food and festive celebration of the Holiday Season.



Outgoing 2023 Big Sir Ken Landoline hosted the event with his wife Marian.

Incoming Big Sir for 2024 Jim Wangeman and his daughter Mary were in attendance to co-host and celebrate with us.



## Christmas luncheon report, continued

The Liberty High School Carolers started the program by singing several traditional Christmas Carols before lunch.



Our very own SIR Roy Bristow provided our entertainment, singing many of our old favorite Christmas Songs.

Santa made an appearance and greeted everyone with Candy Canes and presented Roses to the ladies.



## Membership, Luis Figueroa

In December there was no scheduled luncheon and instead the annual Christmas event was held. The entertainment was provided by Roy Bristow.



In 2023 our Branch recruited 12 new members and lost 27. The net loss of 15 members was disappointing, and the numbers approached those in the depths of the COVID Pandemic in 2020. Another striking statistic is the 12 guests for the year, which is significantly lower than the average of ~ 20 in the last three years (not including 2020, when the Branch was closed). The Branch currently offers eleven activities, eight of which are coed. With the elimination of all COVID restrictions I expect the Branch to continue actively recruiting new members.

The median Branch member age increased from 79.8 to 80.4 years. Given the current median age trend it is imperative to continue bringing guests for luncheons and exposing them to the wide range of activities available if they join.

One bright spot in 2023 is that our monthly luncheon attendance has held steady with > 60% participation rate, and actually exceeds 70% when we do not include those inactive members on Policy 25.

Last year one Branch member recruited 2 new members and thus Jim Wangeman, our new Big Sir, is our Branch's top recruiter and will receive an additional free meal certificate for his outstanding efforts during the January luncheon. The Branch is in appreciation of all members who recruit guests at the monthly luncheons and later sponsor them for membership. The guests are the primary source for candidates in our recruitment efforts. Thanks for doing your part!

Please refer to the membership section on our Branch web site at [www.sir161.org](http://www.sir161.org) to better understand the new member process, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Prospective members have the option to become inducted at their first luncheon meeting if they have already completely filled out their application and submitted it, or wait until after attending the first luncheon and later submitting the application. In addition, when bringing in guests, please notify Phil Newlin or myself in advance of the meeting in order to allow time for the preparation of a guest package. The Branch will continue to give a free bottle of wine to any member who brings in a guest to our luncheons, and a free lunch certificate to the member who sponsors a new member.

I am looking forward to a fruitful year working with you as Membership Chairman.

## Bowling news, Ron Wilson

We just finished week 15 of our 34 week winter league at Bowlero Bowl in Brentwood. As of now The "Pin Wizards" Keith Jones, Fred Critchfield, Gail Smith and Ron Wilson are in first place with 41 wins and 19 losses.



SIR Branch tournaments for the 2024 year begin at Napa Bowl in Napa on January 16-17. Today we have 6 bowlers signed up and would really like to have a few more. This will be a unique tournament due to Napa Bowl now being fully equipped with the new String Pin Setter technology. It will be fun to experience this technology and determine for ourselves if it affects scoring. You can go to You Tube and search "Bowling String Setters" and see how this new equipment works.

The second 2024 tournament will be at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento on February 15-16. Contact me if you would like to bowl either of these tournaments.

We are always looking for new bowlers. Our league consists of SIR Men and spouses or significant others. Do not be fearful if you are new to bowling or a low average bowler as we welcome all. In fact these types of bowlers can often times be among the league leaders due to handicap scoring.

Should you be interested in bowling with us contact me at 925-354-6647.

Ron Wilson

## Dinner With The Ladies, Dennis Pachucki

**When:** January 30, 2024

**Where:** Sports Bar & Steakhouse, 2477 Discovery Bay Blvd, Discovery Bay.

**Time:** Arrival & Cocktails starting at 5:00 pm. Dinner served at 6:00 pm.

**Menu Choices:** Salad, dessert & non-alcoholic beverage (soft-drink, water, coffee) are included.



### Entrees:

- Traditional slow-roasted Prime Rib (6 oz)
- Orange Bourbon Glazed Salmon (8 oz)
- Braised boneless Short Ribs (1/2 order)

All entrees include mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

**Cost:** \$40.00 per person (includes tax and tip)

**Deadline:** We need your RSVP no later than Friday, January 26 – there will be envelopes at our General Meeting on January 23.

Please send your checks to me in advance.

Please make your checks out to Dennis Pachucki and mail to:  
2125 Sand Point Road, Discovery Bay, CA 94505.  
Cell phone 408-309-5206

----- Detach and mail with your check -----

Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Your Menu choice(s) and write 1 or 2 next to your choice:

Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_

Orange Bourbon Glazed Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

Short Ribs \_\_\_\_\_



## 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 \$25 (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. It is suggested that hats be removed while reciting the Pledge Of Allegiance.

**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*



**Bob Damico**  
*Paper copies*

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

**CALLING ALL Sirs!**

**\*\*\***

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**Help our Branch by bringing in new members.**

**First: For each guest You bring to lunch-You get a FREE bottle of wine and His first lunch is Half Price.**

**And then:**

**If He becomes a member, You get a FREE Lunch.**

**It's a "Win - Win - Win"; The Branch gets a new member,  
You get rewarded, and our New Member gets to enjoy  
the SIR experience.**