



# SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 28th year! Feb, 2019

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

## Alan Jarvie, Big Sir

Thank you to Liz Fuller, Senior Community Library Manager, for last month's presentation on the new Brentwood Public Library. Despite some technical incompatibility issues between her equipment and ours, she delivered a very clear and informative picture of the activities, resources and services that today's library provides.



Also, a thank you to Bob Turner, our new SIR Area 17 Governor. Bob joined us for our January 15 luncheon, and presented Larry Mensch with a well-deserved Certificate of Appreciation for his contributions as Secretary, Little SIR and Big SIR.

And one more thank you, this one to you, our members. We began collecting our annual dues at the January lunch, and already we are just shy of 80% of our total membership contribution !! Remember, the \$19 we collect for lunch only covers the cost of your lunch; our dues cover all of our other costs, such as printing, mailing, and lunches for speakers and guests. Your continuing support keeps our Branch running.

Our next Luncheon Meeting is Tuesday, February 12, and I look forward to seeing you then !!

Alan Jarvie

**Next Luncheon Meeting:** February 12, 2019.

## Roy Bristow, Little Sir

### February luncheon menu

Chicken Marsala, with steamed red potatoes & vegetable medley, Cookies/Brownies, Breadsticks & Butter, Coffee and Tea.

**Important note:** If you have any special dietary needs, please contact Bill Konold by the Friday before the meeting.

Telephone 925-634-2738 or email  
bkonold@comcast.net

### February birthdays

Frank Alexander, Gene Bianchi, Roy Bristow,  
John Carmelich, Dave Ciruli, Mike Cullen,  
Bob Damico, John Emerson, Robert Jacobsen,  
Stan Krotz, Glenn Macbride,  
Dane McCoy, Jim Venhaus.

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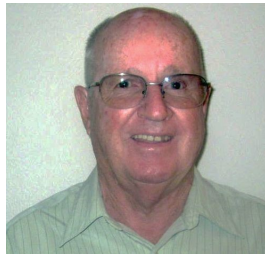
*Bob Turner SIR Area 17 Governor presents a Certificate of Appreciation to 2018 Big Sir Larry Mensch*



*Little Sir Roy Bristow (R) and Big Sir Alan Jarvie( L) present a certificate of appreciation to guest speaker Liz Fuller (center), County Senior community Library Manager*

## Membership, Will Myers

As mentioned in our January Newsletter, last year we lost more Sir members than we recruited. We have to do better this year, as our membership's median age is 77 and it can be expected that loss of members for various reasons will continue.



Mike Tomaselli and his wife Linda moved from San Jose and have lived in Discovery Bay since 1988. Mike enjoys bocce ball and fishing, while he and Linda do a lot of traveling.

Dennis Kutsuris and his wife, Catherine, have lived in Discovery Bay since March 1985. Dennis retired from the Hayward police department in May 2002 after 28 years of service (21 in Investigations). They have three children, Chris, Cathy and Mikayla.

In January, we added three new members, but lost two. Member Harlan Averitt sponsored Ken Graunstadt, member Ken Fannucchi sponsored Mike Tomaselli, and member Frank Alexander sponsored Dennis Kutsuris (see the new member photos below). This is a good start for the year, and we greatly appreciate these sponsors. Unfortunately, we had no guests in January, so we can expect no new members will be added in February.

Unfortunately, Robert Sanocki has decided to drop out of our SIR branch. After about 3 years as a member, he presently finds himself too busy with technical writing contracts. Regretfully, Jim Wetzal has passed away after being a SIR member for only 8 months.

Ken Graunstadt and his wife, Mary Jo, have been residents of Byron for 24 years and have many interests including travel, tennis, food, wine and life. Ken has lived and worked in East Contra County for 50 years in the Investment Recovery Industry, and involved in racing over that time period.

With the above addition of three new members and the loss of two, our January branch membership now stands at 152.

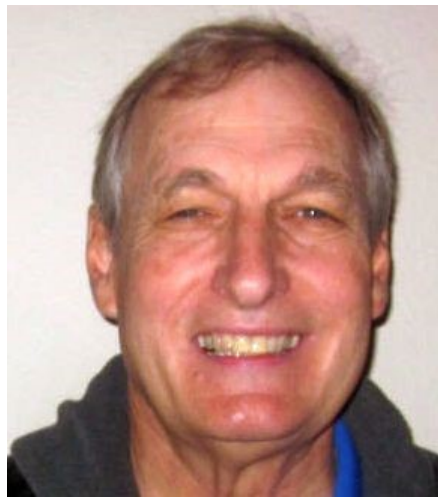
### SIR Membership Requirements

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.

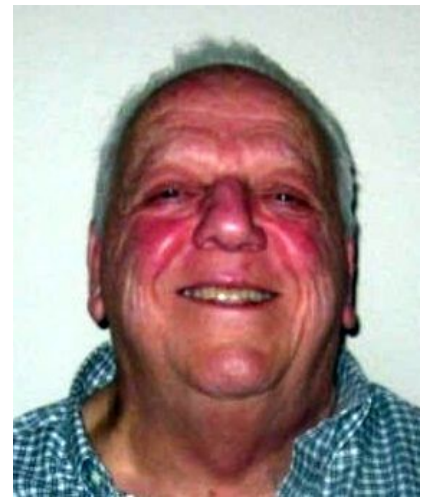
## New Members Inducted at the January Meeting



*Ken Graunstadt*



*Dennis Kutsuris*



*Mike Tomaselli*

## Bowling News, Paul Elmer

Bowling Buddies (Lorraine Burt, Tony Tell, Fred Critchfield) won the first half of the 35 week season and will face the winner of the second half (unless they win it again) to have their names emblazoned on the Elwood Davis - Jim Heck Memorial Trophy located in the display case behind lanes 7-8. The first week of the second half has Bowling Buddies, Luck is Better, and Team 1 all tied for first place with four wins. The competition is tough with 5 other teams at 3 wins, only one game back. This second half of the season should prove to be an exciting one!

Individual high scores are, for the women; High Scratch Series; Vicky Reid 614, High Scratch Game; Rosie Elmer 234, High Handicap Series; Mary Pitta-Fry



715, and High Handicap Game; Jean Scurlock; 276. For the men; High Scratch Series; John Fry; 714, High Handicap Series; Curtis Manning; 756, High Scratch Game; Mitch Wisinsiki; 279, High Handicap Game; Greg Mattus; 289.

The first two tournaments of the year were held in Stockton on Jan. 8th, and Napa on the 22nd and 23rd. No results in yet for those tournaments. Livermore comes due on February 12th-13th, Concord on March 19th-20th, and our first big tournament of the year in Carson City on April 12th-15th. All of these entry forms are on line at [www.sirinc3.org](http://www.sirinc3.org) or see Paul Elmer or John Fry for the entries. The May Tournament will be held at our own Harvest Park Bowl on May 15th. This is the SIR State Tournament, a one day tournament with doubles and teams, open only to Sirs. No spouses or guests, open to the first 128 bowlers.

## 2019 Branch 161 Meetings Calendar

01/15/2019 (Note 1)	07/9/2019
02/12/2019	08/13/2019
03/12/2019	09/10/2019
04/9/2019	10/8/2019
05/14/2019 (Note 2)	11/12/2019
06/4/2019 (Note 3)	12/10/2019 (Note 2)

**Note 1:** Third Tuesday in January.

**Note 2:** Lunch with the ladies.

**Note 3:** First Tuesday in June.

### Editor's Note

Thanks to Bob Damico for various photographs in this issue of our newsletter.

## Golf News, Dale Welin

The reason we do not plan our golf schedule for January and February is what you have been seeing outside, mainly rain on and off for the past 7 - 10 days. The DBCC course is a swamp as I write this article.



We have 34 players signed up in our NCGA golf club for Branch 161. We handed out a small piece of paper showing the venues to those golfers that attended the January luncheon with the 2019 courses that have been scheduled. Also the list is in the back of the new yellow covered handbook for 2019. Entry information for the March 19 tournament at Deer Ridge will be sent mid-February.

## 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 Country Club lobby at our monthly luncheons. Some of the available 2019 trips are listed below. For more information contact Dennis Pachucki.



Feb. 2-7, 2019: Yellowstone in the Winter: Destination Salt Lake City, Yellowstone National Park, Jackson Hole, WY.

Feb 15-Mar 2, 2019: Cruise from San Francisco to Ft Lauderdale. 15 day cruise aboard the Coral Princess with port stops at Cabo San Lucas, San Juan Del Sur, Puntarenas, Fuerte Amador, cruising through the Panama Canal, Cartagena, and Ft Lauderdale.

March 11 – 15, 2019: Spring Training – Scottsdale, AZ.

April 6-21, 2019: Princess Hawaii Cruise R/T San Francisco.

April 24-28, 2019: San Antonio Spring Fiesta: 5 day tour includes, Fiesta Flambeau Parade, City Tour, Tower of Americas, River Walk, Alamo.

May 8-12, 2019: Golden Spike 150th Anniversary. Destination Salt Lake City .

May 10-16, 2019: Music Cities Tour . 3 nights in Nashville and 3 nights in Memphis.

May 19-26, 2019: America's Music Cities. Eight day escorted tour featuring New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville.

May 21 – June 1, 2019: Princess Alaska Cruise Tour: 7 day Land – 8 day cruise.

May 24 – June 17, 2019: Machu Picchu and Galapagos, add onto Peru Amazon Jungle.

June 3-18, 2019: Great Rivers of Europe: 18 day Grand Circle Cruise – Vienna to Amsterdam Transverse the Rhine-Mine-Danube Canal.

June 25-29, 2019: Ashland, Oregon & The Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

July 25 – Aug 3, 2019: Alpine Swiss Villages: Unpack twice, an In-Depth Look at the World Famous Bernese Oberland, Plus Swiss Confederation (National) Day Celebration.

August 8-16, 2019: U.S. and Canadian National Parks.

Aug 23-Sept 3, 2019: Crystal Alaska Cruise and Land.

Aug 23 – Sept 9, 2019: Princess Cruise Iceland and Norway on the Pacific Princess.

Sept 3-13, 2019: Princess Cruise Alaska – Grand Princess: R/T San Francisco.

Sept 7-22 2019: Taste of Bordeaux.

## 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 held on Thursday, February 28th, hosted by Dick and Cam Donald. If you are interested in attending this very popular activity please contact Dick Donald at the number above, or email DickDonald@Yahoo.com.

### Pickleball - Bob Lyman – 628-7906

You ever play a racquet sport of any kind and have the energy to use those skills again, come check out pickleball. Great game for both men and women, lots of good social interaction and the fastest grow-

ing sport in the country. With the best courts in Contra Costa County right here in Discovery Bay. Play is at the Cornel Park pickleball courts and current drop in play times are Tues, Thur & Sat at 9am (WEATHER PERMITTING!!!). Best time for learning is Saturday and we have all the equipment. 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 9:00 A.M. and includes spouse and friends. The Cyclers most commonly meet at Jerry's home in Discovery Bay for a moderate ride into Brentwood and back on the much improved Balfour Road that now includes the added safety of bicycle lanes in both directions all the way into Brentwood and beyond. Midway they usually include a stop to enjoy a cup of coffee and perhaps a snack and good conversation. Some weeks they travel to other nearby towns' bike trails that provide a new experience. A message is emailed weekly to inform interested participants of the riding plan for that week. If anyone would like to join in, contact Jerry Wiebe by phone or email to be added to the weekly email distribution. We look forward to and encourage new members joining us on our rides.

## In Memoriam

We were sad to report the passing of Jim Wetzel on January 11. A SIR Branch 161 member since April 2017, Jim was a long-time Discovery Bay resident, bowler, musician, and family man.

Please keep Jim and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Sympathy Cards may be sent to:

The Wetzel Family,  
3952 Lighthouse Place, Discovery Bay, CA 94505

## Annual Dues Reminder

If you haven't already paid your annual dues, they can be paid at the next luncheon meeting. Please bring \$20 cash or a check payable to SIR Branch 161 and pay when you sign in for the luncheon.

### Dinner with the ladies, Dennis Pachucki



**When:** February 26, 2019

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

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

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

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

**Cost:** \$28.00 per person (includes tax and tip).

**IMPORTANT: We need your RSVP no later than Wednesday, February 21** –  
there will be envelopes at our General Meeting on February 13.

Please send your checks to me in advance, made out to Dennis Pachucki, and mail to  
2125 Sand Point Road, Discovery Bay, CA 94505. My cell phone is 408-309-5206.

----- Please detach and mail with your check -----

**Your Name(s):**

**Phone:**

Your Menu choice (s) :

Prime Rib  Rare  Med Rare  Med  Med Well  Rare

---

Orange Bourbon Glazed Salmon  Short Ribs  Mushroom Risotto

## SIR Day at the Races !!

**When:** Saturday, March 29, 2019

**Where:** Golden Gate Fields

**Times:** Turf Club opens at 11:00 AM

**Buffet Hours** 12:00 – 3:30 PM

1<sup>st</sup> race post-time 12:45 PM

**Cost:** \$41.00 per person

**Deadline:** I'll need your RSVP and check no later than Wednesday, March 19, 2018



Golden Gate Fields is offering a special discounted "Turf Club" group rate of \$41 per person, for SIR groups on this date. The package includes valet parking, admission and reserved Turf Club seating, the daily racing program, Turf Club buffet, tax & tip.

This is a fantastic opportunity for spending time with family and friends, as well as networking with SIR groups from all over the East Bay, while enjoying a superb luncheon buffet.

In lieu of renting a bus at \$25+ per person, we plan to car pool as we have in the past, so please let me know if you can provide transportation, or if you will need a ride.

Please make your checks out to Alan Jarvie and mail to me at:

4121 Windward Court, Discovery Bay, CA 94505.

Cell phone 408-219-8240

----- Please detach and mail with your check -----

**Your Name:**

**Phone:**

**Number of attendees**



I can **PROVIDE** transportation for \_\_\_\_\_ people

I will **NEED** transportation



## Membership Requirements & Principles

Membership is open to any man regardless of age, color, or religion that can reasonably participate in SIR activities, events, & luncheon meetings, and is also willing to volunteer and bring guests for the purpose of perpetuating the organization. The only requirement to join SIR is that a man be sponsored by an active member. Member volunteers and staff administer and govern all branch activities. Nominal annual dues 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.

## 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 Bill Konold by the Friday preceding the meeting if you don't plan to attend.

Bill Konold, [bkonold@comcast.net](mailto:bkonold@comcast.net)

Tel: 634-2738

### Your newsletter team



**Tom Jones**

*Editor and email  
distribution*



**Dennis Pachucki**

*Paper copies  
and USPS mailing*

Let us know if we can improve this publication.