



# SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 29th year! *October, 2020*

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

## Roy Bristow, Big Sir

As a SIR organization you all know how difficult it is to stay engaged during this COVID-19. The absence of monthly luncheon meetings and abbreviated activity schedules make it almost impossible to stay “Connected”. That is why I want to say a special “Thank You” to our Board Executive Committee. We all recognize the importance of making sure our general membership does not feel forgotten. Moreover, staying in touch will help keep our organization intact. Our plan was to accomplish this by contacting you, our members, by telephone every 60 days. Further, we have committed to send Website notes of encouragement to you each and every week. We want you to know and remember that we are thinking of you. And that is how we will come through these difficult times stronger than ever. Continue to be safe and healthy,  
Roy Bristow, Your Big Sir



**Next Branch 161 luncheon meeting: TBA**

### In this issue

- Big Sir message; A Sir for 20 years
- Little Sir report; In Memoriam
- Membership; Activities; Bocce ball
- SIR Cyclers; Bowling
- Golf news
- 2021 Membership Dues
- Branch 161 Activities & Events summary
- Policy and responsibility clauses

## A Sir For 20 Years

Vincent Carl Vargas, we just know him as Vince, has achieved the celebrated milestone of “20 Years a Sir”. He enjoyed a career with Syva Co. as an Information System Consultant and retired in 1997. In September of 2000 he joined our Branch 161 and made SIR his full time job.



Sir Vince has held a number of distinguished positions including 2008 Assistant Secretary, 2010 Little Sir to Bob Damico, 2011 Big Sir, 2020 Nominating Committee Chairman for yours truly, and 2021 Nominating Committee Chairman for next year’s Big Sir Rick Harris.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

Vince and lovely wife, Bobbi, first met as friends in Sacramento, California. The year was 1958. Their paths crossed again in 1977. Dating and romance didn’t follow until January of 1979. A mere 7 months later, July of 1979, the two married. And happily, they just celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary. 20 Years with SIR but 41 years with Bobbi. CONGRATULATIONS !

Vince and Bobbi enjoy “Dinner with the ladies”, and “SIR wine tasting”. Vince shares a love for golf with us all.

So please join me in a heartfelt thank you and our congratulations to Vince Vargas, a 20 year SIR member and Sir extraordinaire.

## Little Sir, Rick Harris

### Upcoming Luncheons:

When this all began in March, who would have thought we'd reach October without being able to meet again? On second thought, maybe it's not a surprise, just a frustration! There are some signs of slow improvement in the situation, and your BEC will continue to review each month until we reach the point of being able to safely meet. There has been some discussion about the use of Zoom, as we are doing for BEC meetings. However, Roy and I participated in a state meeting via Zoom with 150 or so attendees, and frankly it was not very successful with that number of people. Please do what you can individually to keep in touch with your fellow Sirs for the social val-



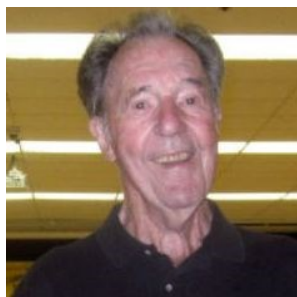
ue, but also in case anyone is in need. Please stay safe and healthy

### October birthdays

One thing we all share with famous people is birthdays. It's fun sometimes to look at this, and of course a complete list is impossible. For October, a few notables from history are Theodore Roosevelt, Lee Iacocca, John Lennon, Dwight Eisenhower, and Christopher Columbus. Fortunately the SIRs listed here are all still with us, making their own history, and can enjoy their special day. Hopefully I didn't miss anyone!

Firoz Bharwani, Bruce Bohnsack, Richard Clark, Fred Critchfield, Tom Denning. Knute Kleinen, Larry Mensch, Al Sauvadon, Robert Schier, Jim Spann, Gary Tucker, Ron Wilson

## In Memoriam



We were sorry to hear of the passing of Sir Dave Goplen.

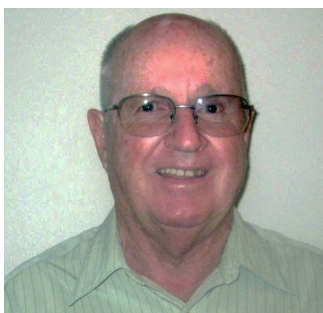
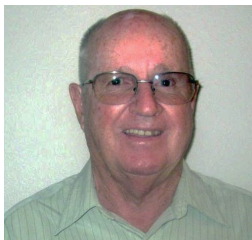
Dave was a member of SIR for 32 years (the longest of any of our members). He joined Branch 73 (San Pablo) in 1988, transferred to Branch 108 (in Brentwood) in 2001, then to our Branch 161 in November 2019.

While in Branch 108, Dave served as Big Sir four times. He served as Membership Chairman for several years while in Branch 108, and was always there to provide assistance and support where needed. He was a Honorary Life Member of SIR (awarded in 2012), and received the SIR Presidential Senior Sir Award (90 years of age) in April of 2020. He was an avid bowler and golfer (he served as President of the Summerset Seniors Bowling league at Harvest Park Bowl in Brentwood).

Plans for a Memorial Service are pending. Once known, we will share that information with you. Please keep Dave, his wife Eva and family in your thoughts and prayers.

## Membership, Will Myers

We inducted another new member in September. His name is Dave Marconi, sponsored by Will Myers. Their photographs are shown below. This demonstrates we can still sponsor new members in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic not allowing us to hold regular SIR meetings. Simply transmit a completed membership application to me, and I will process the induction procedure from there. Remember, you still have a few months of this year to win our annual most members sponsored award.



*Dave Marconi and sponsor Will Myers*

Dave Marconi and his wife, Cynthia, recently moved to Trilogy in Brentwood after living 47 years in Pacifica, California. They have 2 sons who live in the San Francisco area. Dave worked for Sears and Roebuck for 33 years, retiring in 2006. He still works part-time at hardware stores such as Orchard Supply and Lowe's. Dave was a SIR member of the San Francisco Branch # 4 for over 7 years through 2014. He enjoys reading, pickle ball, bocce ball, and golf.

Due to the Covid-19 preventing us from holding regular meetings, there has been essentially no members communicating with our Attendance Chairman who usually is the first of our officers to learn that a member has decided to drop out of our branch and will not be attending future luncheons. For a number of reasons (i.e. State SIR dues, membership roster and notification, etc.), it is essential that your SIR officers know this information as soon as possible. Consequently, when you have decided to drop your SIR

membership (or learn that a member has passed away or moved out of our area), promptly inform the Membership Chairman of this information. Your support here would be appreciated.

Jack Bree, a SIR branch member for over 13 years, moved out of the area due to health issues. This information was passed on to me recently by his sponsor, Frank Smith. With his loss, our SIR Branch membership remains at 174.

### 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.

## Activities, Dick Donald—925-513-2849

As most of you are aware, most activities have been postponed indefinitely because of the shelter-in-place ruling. In particular, this affects wine tasting and the Monday poker game. The plan now is to wait until the ban is lifted, at which time emails will be sent out notifying participants for each activity on resumption plans. Meanwhile, stay healthy!



## Bocce Ball - Alan Jarvie - 408-219-8240

We are still working toward a bocce re-start; as the DBCC continues to re-open their activities, we're looking forward to renewed access to the bocce courts in the very near future. Also, Campo di Bocce in Livermore is open for patio dining and outdoor bocce; both the patio and the bocce courts are shaded, and the food is terrific. Last October, we did a bocce and lunch activity there and had a great time. We'd like to do it again this Fall, please let me know if you're interested; not asking for commitments, just trying to gauge the level of interest.

## SIR Cyclers - Jerry Wiebe

The SIR Cyclers muscled through all the smoke and other negative conditions and turned out nearly every week last month for beneficial bike rides out and back



to Brentwood and The Big Break. Looking ahead we plan to add in travels a bit further out to the Livermore Valley and surrounding areas to enjoy the Fall

colors, vineyards, and new trails. The Cyclers are a hardy group that enjoy each other's company while venturing together along trails and destinations.

Our goal is to stay healthy and active as best as personal conditions allow, yet remain safe and cognizant of the weather and other conditions on the rides.

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 on along.

## SIR Bowling news, John Fry

I have some good news for all you SIR bowlers. Harvest Park Bowl has sent out an email survey to all the previous league bowlers asking if they are interested in bowling if and when conditions allow. There is no date for the start of league play. They are just asking if you are ready to bowl if they get the OK to open. If you are a team member be sure to send in the survey. If you have any questions be sure to call Rob or Sherry at Harvest Park Bowl (925-516-1221).



Here is some information from Harvest Park Bowl.

### Harvest Park Bowl Post-COVID League FAQ

**Four (4) Person Leagues:** One team will bowl on a pair of lanes.

**Two-Three (2-3) Person Leagues:** Two teams will bowl on a pair of lanes

**Oiling the Lanes:** Each league will have fresh oil prior to their start.

Leagues with two squads (A and B) will have the lanes reoiled in between Squad A and Squad B.

### How do the New Squads (A and B) Work?

Each squad will bowl independent of each other, teams in each squad will only bowl other teams within their respective squad. League standings will reflect the wins/losses, high games, etc like normal.

### Are Masks Required when Bowling?

Yes, masks are always required to be worn, upon entering and moving throughout the facility.

### Are guests permitted inside the facility when bowling league?

Depending on to be released State and Local Guidelines, regard capacity limits, we are limited to the number of occupants within the facility; thus, we can not permit additional guests inside the facility.

## Golf, Larry Mensch



### Dry Creek Tournament Results, Tuesday, September 15, 2020

We played two best ball the threesome in a very wooded golf course in Galt. We had 7 teams and paid three places. The letter in the ( ) indicates your flight for token, low gross and low net prize money. This gives everyone an idea how others are doing.

		Gross	Net	Team Score
Team 1	Denning (a)	91	82	
	Rentzel (c)	103	71	143 3rd place \$10 each
	Wiebe (b)	101	80	
Team 2	Bristow (a)	93	90	
	Vargas (c)	117	81	148 5 <sup>th</sup> Place
	Rana (b)	91	74	
Team 3	Harris (a)	91	86	
	Spann (C)	111	79	152 7 <sup>th</sup> place
	Quier (b)	99	81	
Team 4	Mensch	84	74	
	Zierau (b)	94	71	131 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$26 each
	Fanucchi (c)	101	74	
Team 5	Konold (a)	94	83	
	Emerson (c)	105	80	150 6 <sup>th</sup> place
	Fry (b)	101	79	
Team 6	Welin (a)	85	74	
	Pachucki (c)	102	77	139 2 <sup>ND</sup> Place \$15 each
	Welton (b)	95	72	
Team 7	Donnell (a)	85	73	
	Robertson (c)	114	91	144 4 <sup>th</sup> Place
	Carmichael (b)	101	79	

Flighted Gross and Net Winners (1<sup>st</sup> low gross scores, then 1<sup>st</sup> low net etc.. and can't win both).

<u>A flight</u>	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Net</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$2	Mensch 84	Welin 74
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place \$1	Donnell 85	Denning 82

<u>B flight</u>	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Net</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$2	Rana 94	Zierau 71
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place \$1	Welton 95	Carmichael 79

<u>C Flight</u>	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Net</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$2	Fanucchi 74	Rentzel 71
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place \$1	Pachucki 77	Spann 79

**Skins:** Denning \$5.25, Harris \$3.50, Mensch \$7.00, Konold \$7.00, Donnell \$8.80, Ran a \$7.00, Spann \$7.00, Quier \$14.00, Fanucchi \$10.50, Zierau \$17.60.

## Message from Jerry Wiebe, Treasurer

### SIR Branch 161 2021 Dues

Even though we have held just a few meetings this year, many of our costs continue. Your dues cover our insurance, newsletter, memorials, and other miscellaneous expenses throughout the year.

As in years past, our branch will collect \$20 from each member beginning in October to March 2021. We will initiate a new collection process utilizing the U.S.P.S. to cut down on check-in time once we start our monthly meetings.

Please fill out the form below and include your check made out to SIR Branch 161. Mail them to the address below. If anyone wants to save a stamp and drop it off at my address, please call ahead to ensure I will be home. Do not mail me cash, checks only please.

My phone is 916 206-9221

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Mail your payment to:

SIR Branch 161

Attn: Jerry Wiebe

2071 Windward Pt

Discovery Bay CA 94505-9514

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 (\*):** Larry Mensch

We also have a Branch 161 Away Golf Tournament each year. It is a men's and couples, tournament held last year at the Saddle Creek Golf Resort in Copperopolis, as it is again this year, May 6th and May 7th, 2020.

### **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 in 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. The 2020 event was cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions.

### **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.

### **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:** Temporarily 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 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: (925) 634-2738

### Your newsletter team



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