



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 29th year! *December, 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

My fellow Sirs, I am pleased to take this Newsletter opportunity to thank you for the honor and privilege to have served as your Big Sir this past year. I have been blessed with your professional and personal support throughout my tenure in this great SIR organization. It is an experience I will hold dear and remember always.



At the outset of my service as Big Sir I vowed to continue to maintain the high standards set by Sirs before me. Certainly the path that would be 2020 came to us in a way that none of us could have anticipated. Yes I had the advantage of watching past Big Sirs perform their duties. But I had, and we had, no way of knowing what to expect in the year to come.

The COVID-19, something that none of us had even heard of, came upon us without warning and did everything possible to turn our SIR world upside down. Our monthly luncheons were immediately taken from us. For my part there were no more BEC meetings to chair, at least not as we knew them. For our Little Sir, Rick Harris, there were no more luncheon agendas or guest speakers to tend to. Our Activities Directors were without activities to manage. Remember the Mission of SIR? "To Enrich the Lives of Our Members

Through Fun Activities and Events - While Making Friends For Life". The very fabric of our great organization was in disarray. It became painfully obvious that our new mission must be "To Stay Connected", despite the uncertainty and difficulties resulting from the pandemic. I am proud to report that your Branch Executive Committee (BEC) and the entire SIR management Team set such a plan in motion. We scheduled BEC Video Conferencing in order to manage and maintain the business of SIR Branch 161. We initiated "Website Notes" to the General Membership as encouragement and a way to stay in touch on a weekly basis. Further, we instituted a plan to "Reach Out" to all members by telephone and remind them that we were thinking of them and were there for them if they had any needs we could address. The plan to "Stay Connected" was on. A bit later, some of our activities returned on a limited basis. But the fight was far from over, and our "New Mission" continues to be an answer for the "New Normal". I hope these can continue to help us all navigate through these difficult times .

Despite the many challenges we have faced together, I want you to know that I wouldn't have traded this year with you for the world.

Continue to be safe and healthy,

Roy Bristow, your Big Sir, 2020

In this issue

- Big Sir message
- Little Sir report
- Membership; Travel
- Golf news; Beware of Scams
- 2021 Membership Dues
- Policy and responsibility clauses

Our 2021 Branch Executive Committee

Our members may not know who the elected 2021 Branch Executive Committee (BEC) members are. Please see the next page for photos and names.

Sirs, if you haven't yet paid your 2021 dues, please see Treasurer Jerry Wiebe's request on page 6.

Our 2021 Branch Executive Committee



Rick Harris—Big Sir



Dennis Pachucki—Little Sir



Jerry Wiebe—Treasurer

R



Ken Landoline—Secretary



Lowell Thomas—Assistant Treasurer



Jim Jenkins—Assistant Secretary



Bob Damico—Director



Alan Jarvie—Director



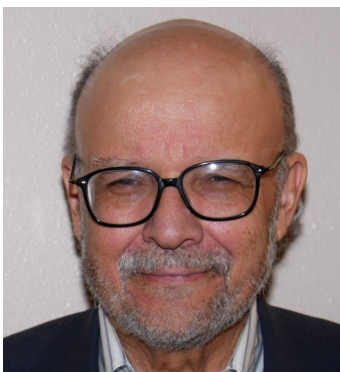
John Fry—Director



Larry Mensch—Director



Lowell Onstad—Director



Luis Figueroa—Director



Phil Newlin—Director

Little Sir, Rick Harris

This will be my final report as Little Sir, and what a strange year it has been for us all. I managed to get 3 meetings under my belt this year, then the best-laid plans got derailed. I know that in addition to our disappointment, several speakers we had lined up were disappointed to miss (or delay) the chance to address our group.



Along with the other responsibilities, a big part of the Little Sir's job is to prepare for the following year's Big Sir assignment. In that regard 2020 has been a challenge as well, but the BEC has continued the operation of the Branch under Big Sir Roy's leadership, and I thank him for the support throughout the year in helping me get ready for what is to come. I also want to thank my fellow BEC members for helping to ensure a solid organization is in place for 2021. As Dennis Pachucki takes over as Little Sir, I will try to support him as Roy supported me.

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

We actually had initiated discussions with the country club about the potential for resuming luncheon meetings, with limitations, but then the virus situation got worse again, and as you know the county regressed to purple status. State SIR has issued a mandate that no branches can conduct in-person activities until further direction is received. Of course, we will update as the situation develops. Please do what you can individually to keep in touch with your fellow Sirs for the social value, but also in case anyone is in need.

Please stay safe and healthy!

December birthdays

People born in the month of December are largely under the influence of the zodiac sign of Sagittarius and those born after December 21st are influenced by Capricorn. Generally, individuals born in the month of December are fun to be around and thus make a lot of friends and admirers. These honest and trustworthy individuals are unassuming and amicable, however they often tend to be a little short tempered. They are adventurous and can be a little assertive at times. Blessed with high spirit and being philosophical by nature people born in December do well in the fields of law, communication and language. Known for their good sense of humor, these individuals detest any sort of restrictions and take high pride in themselves. They love to indulge themselves in discussions pertaining to knowledge and philosophy and make really great teachers. They are also known for their supportive and generous traits and are extremely emotional individuals who are connected to their past. (Source: "The Famous People")

Just a few of the famous people born in December: Frank Sinatra, Walt Disney, Steven Spielberg, Tiger Woods, Pope Francis, Larry Bird, Aaron Rodgers, Ludwig von Beethoven, Howard Hughes, J. Paul Getty, Conrad Hilton and Jimmy Buffett.

So the Sirs listed below are in good company with many who have made indelible marks on the world. They can decide for themselves (or ask their loved ones) if any of the descriptive information above is applicable! I hope you all enjoy your special day. Hopefully I didn't miss anyone!

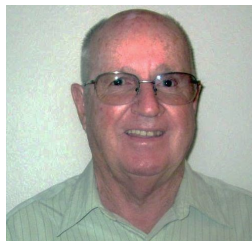
Rod Alvernaz, Arlie Blackshear, Colin Brodie, Dick Donald, Greg Enoksen, Ronald Fritz, Gary Hess, Gerald Marshall, Stephen McDonough, Mike McMahon, Greg Moran, Dennis Platania, John Reichenbach, Jesse Rivera, Lee Thompson, Craig Wilson

Editor's note—thanks to our newsletter contributors

A big thanks to all the contributors to our monthly newsletter. These folks have conscientiously written articles and contributed photographs and other content, meeting a deadline to enable us to produce and publish this newsletter to our members every month. Some members who don't have ready access to email receive a hard copy via USPS mail.

Membership, Will Myers

In November, we saw the addition of one new member, Jim Wenster, sponsored by Terry Brekke. Their pictures are shown below.



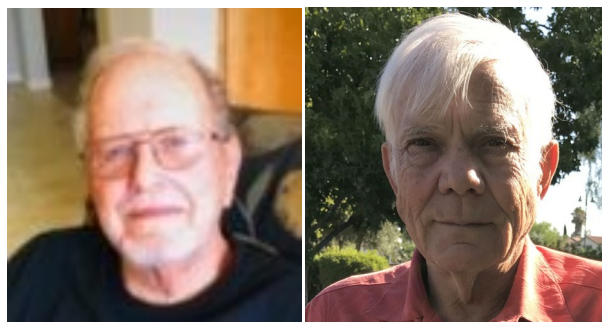
Jim and his wife Linda, moved to Summerset in Brentwood after selling their motorhome in 2019, having traversed the country twice. Jim was born and raised in San Francisco, and after graduating from high school he immediately joined the Air Force where he was a propeller engine mechanic, spending a few years in Japan and the Orient. In 1963 he secured a career as a waterfront longshoreman until his retirement in 2004. Jim likes boating, pool and antique cars.

The winner of our annual award to the member who sponsors the most new members for this year goes to Jerry Wiebe, who brought in 3 individuals. For this he gets an extra free lunch certificate in addition to those he received for each new member he sponsored. Congratulations Jerry.

Mario Mandy (age 93), a recent transfer from SIR Branch 108, has decided to drop from our ranks due to his failing health and that of his wife, Linda. This brings our branch membership number to 171.

Well fellow members, this is my last year as your SIR

Branch Membership Chairman, and I would like to say I enjoyed the opportunity to sustain or increase our membership number over the past three years. Our new Membership Chairman is Luis Figueroa, (949-400-4717) who I'm sure will carry on and serve our Branch well. Be sure to make his task easier by always informing him early whenever you plan to bring in a guest and be a responsible sponsor by encouraging the guest to join, have him complete the membership application, and see that it is delivered to Luis in a timely fashion. Take care and stay healthy.



Jim Wenster

Terry Brekke

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 Travel Opportunities November 2020 (COVID restrictions permitting), Dennis Pachucki

Feb 8-23/2021 Panama Canal: aboard Emerald Princess: Board in San Francisco, Air from Fort Lauderdale, FL Home pickup Pre Trip Orientation. Ports of Call Cabo San Lucas, Jan Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua, Puntarenas, Costa Rica, Fuerte Amador, Panama and Cartagena. Colombia. Price range from \$3335 Interior to \$4170 Balcony DO. SO slightly higher. For additional information contact contact Roy Newman #45 530 755-3713 roy.newman@comcast.net or Talbot Tours 800 662-9933 info@talbottours.com

May 2-10/2021 Columbia River Cruise: Aboard the American Empress.

7 night cruise from Clarkston, WA to Vancouver, WA. Includes Home pick up, R/T Air Pre-cruise stay in Spokane WA (includes Breakfast) Complimentary shore excursion, plus beer and wine with dinners. Price range \$4170 to \$4565 DO. \$6245 to \$6840 SO For Additional Information contact John Pletsch #32 jeplet@sbcglobal.net

July 11-19, 2021 Canadian Rockies by Train: Featuring the Calgary Stampede, Banff, Lake Louise, Athabasca Glacier and Vancouver BC. Includes 7 Breakfast, 1 Lunch and 4 Dinners. R/T air from SFO. Travel by Collette. Cost \$6880 DO, SO slightly higher. For additional information contact Bill Rodman #38 408 274-4521 brodman@sbcglobal.net or Alan Patmore 408 867-4197 alan-patmore@earthlink.net

Golf, Larry Mensch

Non-SIR Golf Event at Lonetree:

In somewhat inclement weather we played at Lonetree for the second time this year.

The team of Dennis Pachucki, Jim Spann and Don Rentzel took 1st place, in our best two competition, winning \$10 each. This was no doubt with the efforts of Don Rentzel who shot a low net of 67. Don's score was the low net over the field.



Second place went to Mike Quier, Ken Fanucchi and Vince Vargas. They scored a net 123 and won \$7 each.

First and second low gross over the field went to Larry Mensch (89) and Bill Konold (91) and their team came in last with a score of 146.

Our first event next year is at Manteca on March 16th. Check the rest of the schedule in the Handbook when you receive it. I believe it will be emailed early in the new year.

Thanks to all that participated this year. We did well considering all that has happened.

Larry Mensch

Beware of scams

Shared by Sir Don Sarkozy

Beware of current credit card scams.

Recently there have been several telephone attempts to "help seniors" (or anyone) by someone allegedly from Visa or MasterCard calling to verify a \$299.79 charge by Amazon on your card (my first hand experience in Brentwood last week). Some other amounts quoted were \$1,000. and up.

They then say they only need your account number, credit card number, or anything they can get from you, and using your provided information your money is gone! Stop! Say nothing & hang up!

It's a SCAM. Call the 800 # on the back of your credit card, explain what you just experienced and request a check of your account. They will help you immediately!

Please don't think you won't fall for it. They are slick & convincing when offering to put your \$299.79, \$899.99 (or whatever amount), BACK in your account! Isn't that nice of them?

Shared by Sir Bob Damico

Another incident was an email allegedly from Amazon stating "your order for a \$899.99 Mac Book Chrome Pro has been shipped" (and to an address other than your own).

If you call their number (noted in the email) to report the error-they'll immediately state they will fix the problem and need your info to process the refund. Don't call or e-mail them...

It's a SCAM. Call the 800 # on the back of your credit card, explain what you just experienced and request a check of your account. They will help you immediately!

Remember ...

Many of us also receive a variety of phone, USPS mail, email and other online scams. Just be alert and aware!

Message from Jerry Wiebe, Treasurer

SIR Branch 161 2021 Dues

By March 2021, our branch needs to collect our annual \$20 dues from each member, and we are asking you to use the U.S.P.S. for your payment. If anyone would like to save a stamp, you may drop it off at my address, below, but please call ahead to ensure I will be home. My telephone is 916 206-9221.

Please fill out the form below and include it with your check made out to SIR Branch 161. Mail them to the address below. Do not mail me cash, checks only please.

I really appreciate the Sirs who have made my job easier by already submitting their 2021 dues. Thank you, Gentlemen, and I look forward to checking off more of your names in the coming weeks!

My phone is 916 206-9221

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: _____

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

Bill Konold: bkonold@comcast.net

Tel: (925) 634-2738

Your newsletter team



Tom Jones
*Editor and email
distribution*



Dennis Pachucki
*Paper copies
and USPS mailing*

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