



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 30th year! *January, 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

It is an honor to have been selected as your Big Sir for 2021. Since 2020 lowered the bar significantly, I will make a bold prediction that things will improve, even though it will be a while before life as we once knew it returns.



I would like to recognize 2020 Big Sir Roy Bristow for his dedication and hard work. He was dealt an unprecedented situation, and many of you may not realize how much effort went into holding the branch together without the core activities to serve as the “glue”. You should know that all your Branch Executive Committee members continued to perform their roles to ensure we have something to return to when the pandemic eases. Thanks to all the BEC members for their roles in preparing me to serve as Big Sir.

I see 2021 as a year of hope. As we approach the time when members can congregate again, we will have our plans ready and will move forward safely and within the rules. Of course, we have no clear timetable for this, but when feasible we will be ready, and in the meantime our efforts to keep in touch with branch members will continue. The value of SIR goes well beyond the luncheon meetings we all miss, and

hopefully you will make an effort to stay safely connected with your circle of Sirs.

Unfortunately, I must pass on some sad news from the State SIR organization. Jim Johnson, the 2021 State President-Elect, passed away unexpectedly December 11. I met Jim a couple of times, and he was a very nice man, only 70 years of age. Our branch (thanks to Bob Damico) has sent condolences to his wife Ginny and family, and I thought you should know.

Let’s pray for a better year, and I hope to see you again soon!

In Memoriam

It was with deep sadness that we heard of the passing of Tom Dinette, prior member of SIR Branch 108. Tom passed on December 10, following an extended period of illness. Although he didn't transfer to Branch 161 (he was already into his extended period of illness), he will be remembered by prior Branch 108 members.

Our sincere condolences to Tom's wife Lesley and their family.

We were sad to report the passing of our fellow Sir Rene’ McClain. He became a member of Branch 161 in March of 2017.

Please keep Rene’, his wife Doris and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

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- Little Sir report; SIR Travel; 2021 Handbook
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Memorial Web Page

If you haven’t yet seen it, we’ve initiated a **Memorial To Fallen Sirs** page on our web site. Click the relevant link on the right of the site **Home** page.

Little Sir, Dennis Pachucki

Well, greetings fellow Sirs. I've gone from your Greeter to now communicating with you as your Little Sir. I'm very upbeat that I will be able to provide you with luncheon menus and speakers in the year 2021, now that we have a vaccine.



As your Greeter I always tried to get to know each Sir a little better and sometimes got in trouble for creating slight registration delays.

Because of the pandemic I'd like us to share a few words on some of the joyful happenings you've had during our shut downs, so others can enjoy and get to know each other a little better.

For example: My family members came over for an early dinner, afterwards we went by pontoon boat to Orwood, we had a few hot toddy's and sang Christmas carols on the way back, very delightful.

Please feel free to email me at dpa-chucki@comcast.net or call at 408-309-5206. I will paraphrase your input so others can get ideas on how we can help beat this shutdown gloom. I will keep your inputs anonymous if requested. With that being said this will be in the January newsletter.

We wish all a safe and Happy New Year.

December Speaker

None

January Luncheon Menu

None until meetings resume.

January Speaker

None until meetings resume

January Birthdays

Alberto Delgado, Paul Elmer, Tom Elmer,
Len Fadda, Martin Freitas, David Harrison,
John Lopp, Ken Marsh, Art McDonald,
Jerry Nielsen, Matias Pardo, Russ Reid,
Don Shegich, Frank Smith,
Eric Swalwell, Jerry Wiebe

SIR Travel Opportunities, Dennis Pachucki

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

Send your brief trip information to Don Murray by the 25th of the month .Only trips of at least 4 days or more in length will be listed to Don Murray Asst. State Travel Chairman dmurray721@comcast.net or 925 837-9402 – 721 El Capitan Drive-Danville, CA 94526.

2021 Member Handbook

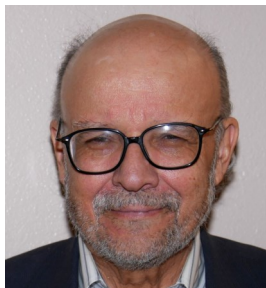
We recently distributed the 2021 edition of our Branch 161 Handbook. This year, the BEC agreed that it would be distributed electronically as a PDF file. This allows our members to store the file on their computer or mobile device, and also to print it for their bookshelf or desk. If you did not receive the file, please let me know:

(webmaster@sir161.org).

A very small number of our Sirs don't have access to email, and they received a printed copy.

Membership, Luis Figueroa

Last year, as a result of the leadership of Will Myers, combined with the diligent recruiting efforts of existing members, the Branch recruited 23 new members and lost only 13. This gain of 10 members is especially great considering we were only allowed to hold 3 months of regular luncheon meetings due to the Covid-19 virus restrictions. Fortunately for us, 5 of these new members were fellow Sirs who transferred to our Branch from the Brentwood Branch 108 which disbanded in 2019. Of the 13 members lost, 6 moved away, 6 passed away and one has health issues. With our median member age increasing from 77.5 years to 78.4 years, we can expect to see an increase in the number of members drop this year. Consequently, we must continue to sponsor new members even when we are not holding regular meetings. Because we can expect the current virus pandemic to prevent us from having regular luncheon meetings for a number of months, recent changes in the process of sponsoring new members now allows you to do this before regular meetings are held. Simply pro-



vide our regular Membership Application to your prospective new member, have him complete it, you sign it and forward it to me. After our BEC approves the application, I will conduct the induction process via telephone. This was done successfully last year for three of our new members, so I will be looking forward to awarding you a free lunch certificate for new members you sponsor this year. Recruitment this way may prove to be a little more difficult without our regular meetings, but remind the prospective members we still have activities which they can participate in even during this time.

Once regular luncheon meetings are held, refer to the Membership section on our branch web site SIR161.org to see the new member process. Prospective members have the option to become an inducted member at his first meeting or to wait until after attending his first meeting. We will continue to give a free bottle of wine to any member who brings in a guest, and a free lunch certificate to the member who sponsors the most members for the year.

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.

Golf, Larry Mensch

Our first event of 2021 is March 16th in Manteca. The cost will be announced next month. Next year's schedule is in the Branch 161 Handbook.

Also, if you haven't played in our monthly golf events and want to give it a try, please send me your name and email address and I will add you to my email list. I send announcements out that way in addition to announcements in the newsletter.

Larry Mensch (ljmensch@comcast.net)



Bowling news, John Fry

Well it was a quick start and STOP for our SIR bowling league. We started the league on Monday November 9th and by Wednesday November 11th everything got shut down.

I can't imagine anything changing until we get the virus under control and right now things seem to be moving in the wrong direction.

So stay safe, follow the health guidelines, and hopefully we will be Bowling next Year.



Message from Jerry Wiebe, Treasurer

SIR Branch 161 2021 Dues

We are a not-for-profit group where all dues support benefits to members.

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 Phil Newlin by the Friday preceding the meeting if you don't plan to attend.

Phil Newlin: newlinp@sbcglobal.net

Tel: (408) 505 5359

Your newsletter team



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