



# SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 30th year! February, 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

I hope you are well as you read this message.

This month our new State SIR President, Stu Williams, held a “Fireside Chat” via Zoom. There was no fire, but it was a good reach-out to the branches to update them and solicit input. There was plenty of dialogue because everyone is getting antsy to resume activities, especially the outdoor ones that are arguably more safe.

“Immune in June” is the new catchphrase being used by SIR to express the optimism that comes from finally having a vaccine rollout, with hope that we can return to some level of normal activities. Of course, this catchphrase is based on applying simple logic, nothing concrete, but there is reason for hope.

In the meeting there was considerable discussion about outdoor activities such as golf, and the State President is approaching this with urgency. There is a keen awareness that activities are at the core of what SIR is all about. Frankly, I attended the meeting with



hope that more specifics would be shared on this topic, but the decision-making process is still ongoing. In addition to the “Fireside Chat”, several training sessions for branch officers were also held via Zoom. The use of Zoom is becoming more routine, and actually works better for some meetings where participants are not geographically close. It appears that a new way of doing business has been discovered and will likely continue even after the virus subsides. What it cannot do very well is support the social aspect that we all miss.

Lastly, I hope you all are working to get vaccinated. This is a key aspect of SIR’s “Immune in June” aspiration. I followed the directions we sent you previously, have an appointment for my first shot (which I hope they have the vaccine for), and I hope you are having similar success.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and enjoy life as best you can!

Your 2021 Big Sir,  
Rick Harris

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### 20-year Award

Tom Snyder joined Branch 161 in January 2001.

Big Sir Rick Harris paid him a visit to present him with his Twenty-Year Award Certificate and Free Lunch ticket (that he’ll hopefully be able to use in 2021).

Congratulations Tom!!



## Little Sir, Dennis Pachucki

Good News, the vaccine is available and we may be meeting together again this year, hooray.

No lunch, speakers/entertainment, or dinner with ladies, again. However, my job is to provide some sort of amusement. With that said, this month we held our monthly family pontoon boat ride pilgrimage to Orwood for take-out food and refreshments. We met a very interesting local, his nickname is Shoes. He is a concrete contractor, very good I hear, but never wears shoes, even when standing in concrete. He also arranges a yearly motorcycle ride to Lake Topaz, again not wearing shoes, the bikers all enjoy the ride. The boat ride back instead of Christmas carols this time, we danced to the Bee Gees performing our best disco moves, you got to love being the skipper of a pontoon boat observing these events.

Happy Valentine's Day.....remember flowers for your loved ones.



## 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.

### February Birthdays

Frank Alexander, Ralph Arthur,  
Gene Bianchi, Roy Bristow, John Carmelich,  
Dave Ciruli, Mike Cullen, Bob Damico,  
John Emerson, Robert Jacobsen,  
Stan Krotz, Dane McCoy, Jim Venhaus,  
John Welton, Keith Willis

## The Sunshine Chairman needs your help.

He needs and depends on inputs from the membership to be effective. If/when you know of the passing of a fellow Sir, a Sir spouse, or a Sir that is seriously ill, please notify Bob Damico (email [deltacruz@comcast.net](mailto:deltacruz@comcast.net), or call 925-872-4920), so he can send an appropriate greeting card from Branch 161.

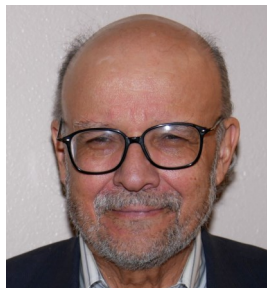


## Memorial Web Page

Visit our **Memorial To Fallen Sirs** page on our web site. Click the relevant link on the right of the site **Home** page.

## Membership, Luis Figueroa

As we begin the new year, our branch faces the continuing COVID-19 challenges, which limits our luncheon meetings, activities, and the traditional new member recruitment methods.



I do encourage our membership to continue talking to potential new recruits and get them acquainted with our branch using our excellent website. While it remains challenging new members can still be inducted remotely and we can keep tabs of those earned bottles of wine for your recruitment efforts. Let me know if I can be of any help.

As the COVID pandemic winds down and our activities come back to normal our existing members may want to consider inviting membership eligible guests to our activities. Bringing a guest to an activity will give him a much better feel for SIR, and Branch 161 in particular. He will meet others with like interests in a more closely connected environment, which, I believe will provide an effective Branch 161 experience; and in turn, providing Branch 161 with a new member.

### 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

The first tournament of the year will be held at Manteca on March 16, 2021. The first tee time is 9:00 am. The format will be 2 best balls of the foursome. The cost is \$43 which includes golf, cart, and prize money. Send your check made out to Larry Mensch, 4308 Monterey Court, Discovery Bay, CA 94505 by March 9th so I can confirm reservations with Manteca.



The SIR monthly tournaments are listed in the Branch 161 handbook. The tournaments at Woodbridge and Boundary Oak are still tentative.

Any Sir can play in the monthly tournaments if they have a current GHIN number. We currently have 34 players signed up to receive monthly email announcements about the up-coming tournaments, and any Sir can add their name to the monthly email announcements by contacting Larry at [ljmensch@comcast.net](mailto:ljmensch@comcast.net).

## Tennis, Larry Mensch

The tennis group has very consistently played this past year. It has been cold at times (37 degrees) but that didn't stop us from playing. We generally have a cup of coffee at Callahan's afterwards, which is just as much fun as the tennis. We play Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00 am at the town center.

## 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.



## **Activities, Alan Jarvie 408-219-8240**

As you know, shelter-in-place has resulted in many of our Branch activities being put on hold. However, the recent availability of vaccines means there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and we've been working on tentative plans for our restart. As soon as we get the okay from the state SIR organization, we'll broadcast an email to the membership, along with activity-specific details.



### **Poker**

SIR poker is a weekly, low-stakes, 7-player game. We play on Monday evening, 6:30-9:30, with a rotating host. Most recently we've had a pool of 10-12 players, with everyone playing ~7 times over 10-12 weeks.

When we get the green light from the state SIR organization, we'll produce a schedule with a different host and six additional players each week. We should be able to get started within a few weeks of getting that green light.

### **Wine Tasting**

We hold our monthly wine tastings on the 4th Thursday @ 5:00pm. Each couple brings a bottle of wine for tasting, and an appetizer to share. The bottles are covered to protect the wine's "identity", each taster scores each wine, and at the end of the evening the scores are totaled and the wines are uncovered.

Re-starting this activity will probably take a little longer than poker. We plan the tastings for 12 couples/24 participants, allowing 24 1-ounce tastings per bottle, so "social distancing" may be a factor, as well as the sharing of food. Once we know when we can have our first tasting, the first step will be to request hosts for each month's tastings.

### **Bocce**

This is a very informal gathering; Each week we organize teams from whoever shows up. No league, just an opportunity to get some fresh air, some exercise and some relaxation. For the past several years, we have played on Tuesday mornings at 10:00, from mid-March through October.

As a courtesy, the DBCC has allowed us to use their bocce courts at no cost to us, and our continued access will of course depend on any applicable county restrictions.

### **Beer Tasting**

Until beer tasting went on hiatus in 1999, we held it immediately following our regular lunch meetings, in the lounge adjacent to the main dining room. If there is renewed interest, we will bring it back.

### **Special Events**

SIR Day at the Races at Golden Gate Fields

Organized by the state SIR organization, as these events are scheduled - usually twice a year, spring and fall - we inform the membership. In the past, we've found that car-pooling was our most cost-effective means of transportation, and we organize that at the Branch.

At present, GGF is open for live racing but horses only, no spectators, with no indication when they expect to get back to normal.

### **Lunch & Bocce at Campo di Bocce**

In October 2019 and again in November 2020, we had a group lunch and played bocce at Campo di Bocce. If there is interest, we will continue to organize this event - regulations willing, of course.

## Get your Covid vaccination

Getting your Covid vaccination couldn't be easier for anyone 65 and older in Contra Costa County. Go to [www.coronavirus.cchealth.org](http://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org) to sign up. Use the link labeled "Click here to request an appointment from CCHS". In 24-48 hours you'll receive an email with a link to schedule an appointment for your vaccination.

If you don't have access to a computer, you can call Contra Costa County Health at 1-844-729-8410 or contact your health provider.

## In Memoriam

We were sad to hear of the passing of our fellow Sir Paul Schmidt. He passed away suddenly on January 13, 2021.

Paul was 84 years old, and joined Branch 161 in April of 2019.

We will share any information regarding a Memorial service if/when that information becomes available.

Please keep Paul and his family in your thoughts and prayers



## ICE (In Case Of Emergency), Phil Newlin

We go about our daily activities with relative ease and convenience. At any given time though we may encounter an emergency situation at home or away in which we are unable to communicate with those providing help. Under these circumstances, emergency medical and contact information is invaluable to family, friends, and first responders.

There are a number of methods to present this information "In Case of Emergency", or ICE, including bracelets or jewelry, wallet cards, and on your mobile device. Each of these methods have their pros and cons. I use all three methods to cover as many situations as possible.

The bracelets and jewelry are easy to get to, but have limited space for information. Typically, these would be engraved by a retailer and have additional costs when they need updating. Wallet cards provide space for much more information and are free if you make your own, and can be updated easily, but are not as durable unless protected. Retailers can make printed plastic or laminated cards for a fee. Below is an example for a wallet card you can create yourself.

Now, with our mobile devices, there are features that access information quickly and easily. I've provided the steps to setup emergency information for iOS (iPhones) and Android phones. These steps can be downloaded from our web site ( [www.sir161.org](http://www.sir161.org) ) - click the ICE link on the right side of our Home page.

Emergency Medical ID Card			Conditions/History		
Your Name Here			Medical conditions or history goes here		
Full Address with City, State, Zip Code		Phone Number	Medications		
		Blood Type: Blood Type			
		Date of birth mm/dd/yy.	Medication #1    Dosage #1    Frequency/Reason #1		
<b>Emergency Contacts</b>			Medication #2    Dosage #2    Frequency/Reason #2		
Contact #1	Day Phone #1	Night Phone #1	Medication #3    Dosage #3    Frequency/Reason #3		
Contact #2	Day Phone #2	Night Phone #2	<b>Allergies/Other Information</b>		
<b>Physicians</b>			Allergies/Other Information		
Doctor #1	Physicians Phone #1				
Doctor #2	Physicians Phone #2				

[www.AllFreePrintable.com](http://www.AllFreePrintable.com)

## 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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](mailto:newlinp@sbcglobal.net)

Tel: (408) 505 5359

### 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/>**