



# SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 30th year! *October, 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

Our branch continues to operate as many activities as feasible, with covid mandates and related issues creating obstacles along the way. As you likely have heard by now, our county is now requiring proof-of-vaccination (or a negative covid test) to enter restaurants and other indoor public spaces. In this case SIR was ahead of the game. Most dining establishments have ongoing staffing issues, as well as product shortages that are significantly impacting their operations. The country club has these issues, but is committed to supporting our monthly luncheon meetings, and I'm sure you've noticed a few new faces there. The restaurants Dennis Pachucki has been working with to re-start Dinner With the Ladies are all saying they cannot serve groups of our size for now, so this activity is unfortunately suspended until the situation improves.

So, while we have a number of activities occurring, there are some we cannot do for now. We are as active as we can be, but with our annual dues cycle coming up, some of you may be wondering what you're paying for. Maybe a little transparency would help. There are items the branch has to fund on an ongoing basis, regardless of how many activities are conducted. This is not an all-inclusive list, but provides an overview:

All SIR branches pay an assessment quarterly to State SIR, based on the number of members. Approximately 80% of this assessment goes toward insurance.

For the past couple years, we've actually charged members less for lunches than paid to the country



club. Why? They increase prices annually, and not in whole dollar amounts. We need to keep payment simple, and dues help offset any deficit.

Free luncheon tickets for speakers, new member sponsors, and winners of our drawings.

Awards for member appreciation milestones and recognition.

We send a memorial card and plant a tree in memory of each Fallen SIR (more than we wish for).

Bottles of wine are given to members who bring guests, and the guests receive a 50% lunch discount.

Costs for printing ink, paper, envelopes, postage, etc to conduct branch business.

Occasionally, not often, a big ticket purchase needs to be made. An example is the large screen monitor we are now using for presentations. Our SIR branch shared the cost of this purchase with the country club.

All this is said just to help members understand that dues are a necessary component to the operation of our branch. We are a not-for-profit organization run by volunteers and will never charge members more than is needed to maintain a healthy branch. I'm sure

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as you've read this, you've been expecting to hear "how much?". For 2022, the Branch Executive Committee has established a dues payment of \$25. The payment window opens November 1, and hopefully this explanation will prove useful.

Our next Luncheon Meeting is Tuesday, October 12, and I hope to see you all there!

Your 2021 Big Sir,  
Rick Harris

### **Little Sir, Dennis Pachucki**

#### **October Lunch Menu**

Beef Lasagna with broccoli w/ cheese.

#### **October Guest Speaker**

Louis Quecada a retired San Jose Police officer also was a Public Relations spokesman for the department. Presently, in charge of security for all the Horse Racing Tracks in the State of California. Presentation should be very interesting. Unfortunately Louis had to cancel last month but we had a great last minute substitute for a presentation from Don Paiva executive manger of the Patriots Foundation who did a great job.



### **October Birthdays**

Bruce Bohnsack, Fred Critchfield, Tom Denning,  
Knutte Kleinen, Larry Mensch, Al Sauvadon,  
Jim Spann, Gary Tucker, Ron Wilson

### **Membership, Luis Figueroa**

In September we inducted 1 new member, Peter Schneider. Peter is sponsored by Gino Pagano. A photo of Peter and Gino, is shown below. Peter is married to Mindy Schneider and has lived in Discovery Bay since 2002. His family sold the Sun Chemical Recycling business in



1999. Peter has a son and one granddaughter. He is active in the stock market and has written two books. He is also active in the Discovery Bay Yacht Club.

At the September luncheon we had 4 guests: Rich Allen (Al Sauvadon, sponsor), Mike Sadler (Russ Reid, sponsor), Rob Ryan (Harlin Averitt, sponsor), and Al Goodspeed (Don Rentzel, sponsor).

Any branch member who brings in a guest will receive a free bottle of wine. If the guest decides to become a member, his sponsor will also be rewarded with a free lunch certificate. The member who sponsors the most new members for the year will receive an additional free lunch certificate.

If a guest wants to become a member of our branch please direct him to our website so they can download the latest application form. If you plan to bring a guest to the luncheon you need to contact either Phil Newlin (ward28fred-sirs@yahoo.com ) or Luis Figueroa (figueroa50@yahoo.com) so we can plan for the additional meals and also prepare guest packages.

In September we did experience some attrition. The following are no longer members: Gregory Enoksen has resigned due to ongoing health related issues. He had been a member since 2018. Michael McMahon has resigned due to health issues. He had been a member since 2020. Milton Piver has resigned. He had been a member since 2020. Robert Schier has resigned. Robert had been a member since 2012. Roger Sweeney has resigned due to health. Roger was a long serving member and had been with the branch since 1995. Tom Elmer has resigned. Tom had been a branch member since 2016. Dave Vencio has resigned. He had been a member since 2013.

The branch membership stands at 146.



*Gino Pagano with new member, Peter Schneider*

### **SIR Cyclers, Jerry Wiebe (916) 206-9221**

SIR Cyclers have moved their weekly long ride to Monday to accommodate more riders that are unable to join us on Sundays due to other obligations, which could also include watching football. OK...that part was for a smile for the fans! Also, Fall is upon us, and the days are getting shorter, so we have moved our starting time to 9:00 a.m.

We have two scheduled rides every week pedaling each Thursday into Brentwood for a coffee stop, and riding Sunday for a longer and more challenging ride on the Marsh Creek Trail through Brentwood, Oakley, and Antioch. Occasionally they take their bicycles into the Livermore Valley where even more numerous bicycling trails are located.

All levels of bicycling experience are welcome, including those that may prefer to ride on electric bikes. The Cyclers are all well suited to help others brush up on their riding skills if one hasn't been riding for a while. You've heard it said, "That it's as easy as riding a bike!"

We assemble and leave from Jerry's driveway at 2071 Windward Point at 8:30am. Several new members have joined us, and we would really enjoy seeing more of you. 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, dust it off and come along for some healthy exercise and camaraderie.



### **Activities, Alan Jarvie (408) 219 8240**

As noted in last month's Newsletter, we have put our Wine Tasting program on hiatus through the end of the year. We expect conditions will allow us to resume our monthly tastings in January 2022 - as before, on the 4th Thursday of the each month - and we have hosts lined up through the first four months of the year - Pam and I on January 27, Randy & Lynda Zierau on February 24, Vince & Bobbi Vargas on March 24, and Dick & Cam Donald on April 28.

Also, we need poker players !! We routinely play with 7 at the table (7 being the optimum number for poker), we use a rotating schedule with 9 players with everyone playing 4 times every 5-6 weeks, and also giving us the ability to schedule around players travel plans, family commitments, etc. However, for a variety of reasons, these nine players will drop to six by the end of October, so if one of us can't play for any reason, we don't have a game. We'd like to add 4-6 players to the group; this is a nickel-dime game completely suitable for rookies, so if you'd like to join in please let me know - 408-219-8240, akjarvie1@gmail.com



## Golf News, Larry Mensch

SIR Golf at Rancho Solano September 7, 2021

Sixteen golfers played at a very nice Rancho Solano Golf Course. The slight wind made the 99-degree temperature almost tolerable.



There were 2 flights and three ways you could win money.

In the A flight. The team of Mensch, Lyman, Donnell, and Lippstreu narrowly edged their rivals by one stroke winning \$14 per player. There were 6 skins in the A flight worth \$6 each. 3 were won by Tom Denning and one each to Lippstreu, Mensch, and Welton. In the low gross/low net competition in this flight Tom Denning earned \$12 in the low gross section with a score of 80. Second place went to Lee Donnell earning \$6. The low net winner was Larry Mensch earning \$12 with a net 74 and the second place went to Johnny Welton earning \$6.

In the B flight. The team of Douglas, O'Connell, Fry, and Spann defeated their rivals by 7 strokes and earned \$14 each. There were 8 skins worth \$5 each and Ken Fanucchi won 5 of them. John Douglas, Vince Vargas and John Fry won 1 skin each. In the low gross/low net competition, Ken Fanucchi earned \$12 with a 1st place low gross score of 98. Second place went to John Fry for \$5. The low net first place, earning \$12, was Vince Vargas with a score of 76. Jim Spann earned \$5 for second place.

The Paradise Valley course in Fairfield, is where we will hold our last tournament of the year on Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

It is our Championship Tournament for Branch 161. It is an individual low net competition. The winner gets his name on the perpetual trophy. Any Sir is eligible to play and win prize money if you have a valid GHIN handicap. To earn the Championship Title, you must have played in at least 2 of our tournaments and be a member of Branch 161.

The cost is \$55 and \$5 each for the optional flighted skins and low gross/low net games. Send your entry fee made out to Larry Mensch 4308 Monterey Ct., Discovery Bay, CA 94505

## Bowling news, John Fry

Attention SIR Bowlers, The Winter league has started. We bowl every Monday at Harvest Park Bowl starting 10:00 AM.

We always have room for new bowlers, no experience necessary.

If you haven't bowled in our league before and are interested in joining the league please let me know. (John Fry 925 783 5614)

SIR Branch 161 is sponsoring the seventeenth annual Bob Matteucci Bowling tournament on Tuesday September 28, 2021 at Harvest Park Bowl

Harvest Park Bowl is now under new ownership and there have been some changes.

Masks are Required in the Bowling center.

Operating hours now start at 10:00 AM instead of 9:00 AM.

Payment must be made by cash or check, no credit cards accepted.

The cost of league bowling will remain the same.



## Podcast Corner, Phil Newlin

Fellow Sirs, welcome back to this month's edition of Podcast Corner. I hope that you enjoyed and improved your knowledge with the podcasts suggested in previous newsletters. Below is this month's suggested podcast for you and I've included last month's suggestion, in case you missed it.

If you have an interest in learning about and understanding the world around you, some of its history, about human nature, and other areas of general interest, this Podcast Corner may be of interest to you. Each month, I'll suggest one or more educational/informational podcast episodes that I have discovered or have been member-recommended. I'll give a brief description and a website link for each episode.

If you have a recommended podcast episode or subject category, such as hot rods, golf, or healthcare, that you believe would be of interest to the members, please send it to me for research, or review and inclusion in one of the next newsletters. Send your suggestions to [newlinp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:newlinp@sbcglobal.net).

If you are not familiar with podcasts, go to the inaugural edition in the July 2021 newsletter, where you'll find information about podcasts and how to get started.

This month's recommended podcast again comes from 99% Invisible from their History category describing how the bicycle, pee-wee golf, the can opener, and wine windows were born out of disasters. Listen, learn, and enjoy.

Episode 454, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/war-famine-pestilence-and-design/>

Previous (September) recommended podcast:

Episode 437, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/science-vs-snakes/>

I hope you enjoy this Podcast Corner and these podcasts and share them with others. I'm looking forward to your recommendations.



## 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. Dues will be \$25 starting 2022.

**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.

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### Your newsletter team



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