



# SIR HAPPENINGS

NOVEMBER 2009

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement

## President Dave's Column

My term of office is nearing its end and I have many fond memories to treasure. It has been an honor and a pleasure to have been able to serve as your President. Some of my most enjoyable experiences have been to visit and present Honorary Life Membership Awards to so many very deserving members. I am told that I have been privileged to present more HLM's than any other President in the history of SIR. This occurred because the HLM rule changes adopted in November 2008 opened the door and I just happened to be at the right place at the right time.

Our State committees and State and Branch officers continue to provide a much needed service for all of us. We could not function without their time consuming dedication. Words are not sufficient to describe the gratitude we owe them.

As I reflect on the past year, I want to thank the State Board for their dedication and cooperation. The following recap of Board actions would not have been possible without their support.

One of the first things we did early on was to recognize that we had many complaints from the Branches about our supplier of badges. With the support of our Executive Committee and the State Board, we engaged a new supplier. The Branches have had nothing but praise for the professional way it is now being handled and for the quality of the badges they produce.

We also instituted the Leadership Action Plan to help the branches better understand the effect of ageing on their branch, what they can do to increase membership and what they can do to stop membership loss. While only 20 percent of the Branches took advantage of the information available, we did plant a seed. I would hope that in the future



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## Passing the Torch

Dwight Sale, Sir Happenings Publisher

At the State Board meeting on November 11, 2009, we were privileged to observe a ceremony that has been repeated 52 times in SIR history. President **Dave Reiser**, passed the State President's gavel to incoming President **Buck Kendrick**.

President Reiser remarked that it was an honor and pleasure to serve as President. He recounted that some of his most enjoyable experiences were the awarding of a record 58 Honorary Life Memberships to deserving members. He thanked all of those who helped him along the way. He enumerated some important board actions: A new badge supplier that cured a nagging problem we have all had with badges, the Leadership Action Plan, the printing and distribution of a three fold SIR brochure, the presenting of gifts at the annual meeting and a myriad of important administrative matters. He reminded us that two new Branches were formed – Branch 174 was sponsored by 171, and Branch 77 was sponsored by 136 – a bright spot on the membership front.

President Reiser received a well deserved and heartfelt standing ovation for his outstanding record.

Incoming President, Buck Kendrick (you may see his name as Floyd D. Kendrick but he prefers "Buck"), thanked President

Reiser and then made a special Past President's Honorary Life Membership Award to President Reiser (on the left in the picture). Buck then remarked that he will carry on the good work done before. His main effort will be on membership. He asked for the continuing support of all members.



# Honorary Life Members in the News

## **Amador Branch 96, Jackson**

### **Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman**

Two “real” Sons In Retirement were honored recently at a Branch 96 luncheon held in Jackson. It was a surprise presentation for the two men when President Reiser participated in the HLM awards along with their wives, who suddenly appeared to “pin” their husbands.

**Ken Edwards** has served as a Big Sir, Area 27 Governor, Branch Director, and many other activities.

**Bill Garrett** has been a member of the State Rules Committee, served as the Big Sir of two branches – 2 and 96 – Branch Director and also chaired many other special events.

In the picture from left to right are: Ken Edwards, President Dave, and Bill Garrett.

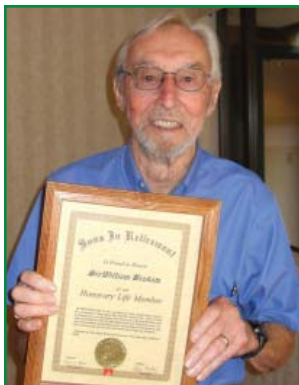


## **Aptos-Rio Del Mar Branch 104, Aptos**

### **Jack Kemerling, Branch Member**

Branch 104 in Aptos was honored to have SIR President, Dave Reiser, in attendance at our July luncheon meeting. Dave attended the luncheon to present **William (Bill) Brocaw** with the prestigious Honorary Life Membership Award, who is shown in the picture.

As our members know, this honor is not awarded for just being a great guy – which he is – but rather for what he contributes to the Branch to make it a success. In his 16 years as a member, Bill has been a longtime Director, Chairman of several committees, plus heading up, or working on, many other projects. Branch 104 members are fortunate and honored to have Bill Brocaw as a fellow Sir.



## **Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto**

### **Don Reed, Bulletin Editor**

**Frank Denny** and **Warren William** were recently honored at a Branch 103 luncheon with Honorary Life Membership awards.

Frank is a charter member of Branch 103 and has served in many positions, including Treasurer and as an auditor for many years.

Warren has been a member of the Branch since 1983 and has served in almost every capacity, including Little Sir and Big Sir and other capacities too numerous to mention.

Pictured from left to right are **Frank Denny**, State President **David Reiser**, and **Warren William**.



Also attending the luncheon honoring the two HLM recipients were **Gary Pelton**, Region 7 Director, **Jerry Strain**, Area 22 Golf Chairman, and **Julius Manrique**, Area 22 Governor.

## **Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek**

### **Frank Crua, Big Sir**

Meet our latest Honorary Life Member...**Floyd Skelton**. Floyd was born and raised in Wichita Kansas, the land of “OZ”. In his early years, he worked in the printing business with his father and this led to a job with the Bayer Corporation which took him to sunny California. Floyd has been and remains an avid “Raider Fan,” but mentioned at the meeting that this was getting harder to do. He is also considered a pretty good wine connoisseur and was once heard to say that “if he was ever poor, at least he could enjoy a good wine.”

Floyd has been a terrific member, having served as Big Sir, Director, Webmaster, Bulletin Editor, to mention just a few of his contributions.

Floyd is shown receiving his Honorary Life Membership Award from State President, Dave Reiser. Standing next to Fred is his wife Mary.



## Honorary Life Members in the News

*Windsor Branch 176*

### **Branch 176 Go to Guy**

**Mike Wedemeyer, Big Sir**

Congratulations are due to our own **Ken Marshall** for being awarded an Honorary Life Membership. President **Dave Reiser** honored Ken when he presented the coveted award at a Branch luncheon. Also present for the occasion was Area 13 Governor **Don Davis**.

Ken, a member of our Branch for over eight years, has played a key role in the success of our Branch. He was our newsletter Editor before becoming our Little Sir and then our Big Sir and did an outstanding job in all three positions. He has chaired numerous committees including the Picnic and Christmas functions. He has also been a strong supporter of recruitment, including making up and distributing SIR brochures. In Branch 176, Ken is our “go to” guy and is always willing to help.



Pictured left to right are: **Ken Marshall, Dave Reiser, and Mike Wedemeyer.**

## News from the Branches

*China Camp Branch 151, Fairfax*

### **“Ellis Island” of California**

**Eckart Sellinger, Bulletin Editor**

**Sam Ennis**, the new travel chairman of China Camp Branch 151, organized his first day trip to the Angel Island Immigration Station. It is only a short ferry ride from Tiburon to this Island in San Francisco Bay, which is often referred to as the “Ellis Island” of California due to its history. Following many years of Spanish control of the island, it served as both a military base and the site of two government facilities – Quarantine and Immigration Stations – for nearly 100 years starting in the mid-1800’s. The Immigration Station structures have recently been refurbished and were a key part of the interesting docent-led tour, after which the picnic facilities were available for lunch.

The group found the visit very educational. They enjoyed the exercise touring the island, and are pictured with San Francisco Bay in the background.



# News from the Branches

**John Muir Branch 19, Clayton**

## **Polynesian Splendor**

**Bill Stephenson, Bulletin Editor**

Once each year, Wild and Crazy Hawaiian Shirts are dug out of the closets and “Polynesian Splendor” takes place at a Branch 19 luncheon. Finalists are selected by a representative vote on the best shirt at each table. The final winner is then selected by membership applause.

This year the winner was not immediately identified among the nine finalists (see photo), so to meet a deadline, the newsletter editor named the unknown finalist as “Duke” Kahanamoku of Hawaiian surfing fame... the real motive for this was that the editor wanted to see if the members were observant, paying attention and reading the newsletter. However, in the final vote, past Big Sir **Allan Anderson**, (5th from the left in the picture) was this year’s winner. Incidentally, Allan is a two-time winner wearing the same shirt and winning the prize of a free lunch!



**Lake Tahoe Branch 160**

## **Wild Shirt Day**

**Larry Coffman, Bulletin Editor**



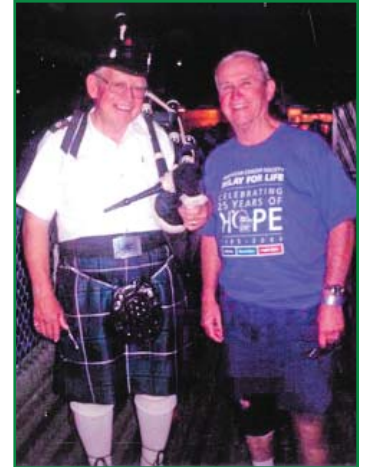
The Wild Shirt Contest turned out to be not exactly too wild, as you will be able to tell from the picture of the winner Treasurer **Don Hanifen**. Everyone will think that we are a bunch of pretty sedate guys if that was the wildest shirt.

**Tri-City Branch 106, Fairfield**

## **Bagpiper**

**Bob Du Sell, Bulletin Editor**

It is traditional at every “Relay For Life,” that an all-night walk around the track is lead-off by cancer survivors, their families, and friends following a remembrance ceremony from the grandstand after dusk. **Bob Staib** says that he has been honored to be asked to lead these gallant survivors to start the walkathon both in Vacaville and Fairfield these past few years.



Bob’s lifelong urge to play the bagpipes was not realized until after he retired in 1995, moved to Vacaville from the Midwest, and found a Shriner’s pipe band with an offer of free instruction and a good deal on a used set of pipes. He considers becoming a bagpiper the crowning achievement of his life.

The picture, taken at Vacaville High School’s football stadium, shows Bob Staib in his bagpipe regalia, along with **Tom Harlow** who actively assisted on the event.

Do you wonder what Bob wears under his kilt? Mmmm.

**Almaden Branch 94, San Jose**

## **Certificates of Appreciation**

**Ron Bianco, Branch Member**

Pictured are members of Branch 94 that have been awarded Certificates Of Appreciation for the work they have done for the Branch this year.

In the top row from left to right are: **Jay Bandana, Doug Turner, Dennis Delsenroth, and Dennis Pitchford**. Seated are **Earl Bowers, Andy Rosetta, and Ron Raecker**.



# News from the Branches

## Pajaro Valley Branch 85, Watsonville

### A Great Barbeque

Jack Kemmerling, Area 10 Governor

The setting for Branch 85's annual barbeque was a warm August day with picnic tables set under the trees with great food, great drink and great fellowship ...what could make it better? Why – of course – it was also Ladies Day at this annual event. Greeting everyone were Big Sir **Don DeWald** and his wife Rae, plus Little Sir **John Radov** and his wife Aneita.

Among those who contributed to make this a huge success, were the cooks who grilled the Chicken and Tri-tip to perfection. They are pictured left to right: **Chris Asmussen, Bill Cutting, Rick Anderson, Bill Roberts** and **Van Wilber**.



## Sports: State Football

### SIR Day at the Oakland Raiders

vs. the **Baltimore Ravens**

January 3 (Sunday) at 12:15 PM

Tickets \$36 – \$46 – \$56 – \$71



## Sports: State Basketball

### SIR Day at the Warriors

vs. the **Chicago Bulls**

January 18 (Monday) at 1:00 PM

Tickets \$15 Club 200 Sideline

Tickets \$55 Lower Level



## Sierra Branch 77, Sonora

### A New SIR Branch!!

Norm Whitsed, Area 27 Governor

The headline in the Union Democrat Newspaper read:

# Sons in Retirement

## New Chapter forming to take on Mother Lode overflow

The lengthy story went on to say that the “barnyard” – also known as the Elks Lodge – was overrun with “Roosters,” prompting the formation of the new Sierra Branch 77, which will serve Sonora, Jamestown, Tuolumne, Twain Harte, Angels Camp, Copperopolis and any point in between. This will help to handle the overflow of the current Sonora and Twain Harte Branches.

**Roger Milligan**, who is the Big Sir of the new branch led the first luncheon meeting, which took place on September 24th at the Sonora Elks Lodge. There was a lot of publicity covering the formation of the new Branch and that has helped to bring in quite a few new members, in addition to those that transferred their memberships ...so, the new Branch is off to a very good start.

In the picture left to right is Area 27 Governor **Norm Whitsed**, Branch 136 Big Sir **Don Nilan**, Branch 172 past Big Sir **Roy Sweeney** and Branch 77 Big Sir **Roger Milligan**.

Photo courtesy of *The Union Democrat*.



# Eating In with Branch 146

*Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek*

## **Terrific Food**

**Harry Tutton, Branch Member**

The Branch 146 Cooking Group was founded in 1999 and is the original and longest established cooking group in the Branch. Wow, do these guys cook some good food!

Led by Big Sir **Dave Johnson**, the Cooking Group puts on their aprons and meets once a month at the home of a member who prepares a bountiful meal for all to enjoy. The following are some of the recent meals prepared by the members:

- **Dave Johnson** - Spring Salad with Honey Lemon Vinaigrette, Jambalaya with Rice, Carrots Vichy, Frozen Vanilla Yogurt with Blueberries
- **Gene Diana** - Italian Manicotti
- **Dan Hungerford** - Baked ham, Cole Slaw with Pineapple, Potato Au Gratin, Chunky Apple Sauce, Black and White Cheese Cake
- **Charlie Kiser** - Grandma's Tamale Goo
- **Frank Mandic** - Spring Salad, Honeybaked Ham, Norwegian Parsley Potatoes, Glazed Carrot Coins, Holiday Peas, Cheese Cake
- **Barney Meade** - Hawaiian Fruit Bowl, Pork Shoulder cooked 6 hours, Rice, Spinach and Shredded Cabbage, Macaroni Salad, Lime Jello and Tofu Pie
- **Don Nunn** - Fresh Salad Greens, Spiced Pork Chops, Potatoes Au Gratin with Wine, Old Fashioned Fruit Cobbler
- **Bob Spellman** - Shrimp Scampi, Pasta, Greek Salad, Lemon Bars

Wine is part of all the meals and in September, The Cooking Group has a wine bottling session at the home of Bob Spellman, where they bottle over 100 bottles of bulk wine purchased from a Half Moon Bay winery and put a personal label – with the member's name and photo – on each bottle.

The Cooking Group is happy to share good food ideas, and so in 2002, the Group published a cookbook with recipes from members and wives of Branch 146 and sold over 500 copies.

The Cooking Group has been so successful, that other members of the Branch have formed cooking groups with catchy names like "Cooking Too," "Tres Gourmet," and the "LAW (Lunch and Wine) Group." We hope your Branch has a cooking group for a great chance to share good fellowship and good food!

In the picture from left to right are members: **Frank Mandic, Dan Hungerford, Bob Spellman, Charlie Kiser, Dave Johnson, Don Nunn, and Barney Meade.**



# Eating Out with Branch 146

Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

## A Beautiful Setting

John Pearl, Branch Member

In August, the Explore and Dine group took advantage of San Francisco's Palace Hotel's 100 year anniversary by taking a tour of the hotel and having lunch in the famed Garden Court. The hotel had reopened after the 1906 earthquake and fire in 1909, making 2009 the year it has been open for 100 continuous years.

The tour was conducted by a person who is part of the "City Guide" group that gives tours all over San Francisco. We learned a lot about the hotel and the people who have been involved with it over the years. We also had one of our largest turn-outs for any of our outings.

The beautiful and professional grade photo was taken by our branch photographer **Rich Ahlf**, who joined us with his wife Shirley.



Provided by the Publisher

A young man was sitting in class when the professor asked him if he knew what the Roe vs. Wade decision was. He sat quietly, pondering this profound question. Finally, after giving it a lot of thought, he sighed and said, "I think this was the decision George Washington made prior to crossing the Delaware."

.....  
A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day..... 30,000 to a man's 15,000 words. The wife replied, "The reason has to be because a woman has to say everything twice." The husband then turned to his wife and asked, "What?"

## Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact. Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

**Dwight Sale, Publisher**

## State Golf

### Gene Drennan, chairman, State Golf Column

One of the most enjoyable things about golf is the simple act of enjoyment. The enjoyment of the weather, your playing partners, a great shot, a not so great shot, the realization that no matter how bad you play there is ALWAYS ANOTHER DAY!!!!

One of the least enjoyable facets of the game of golf is the breach of etiquette by some of the players that purport to play the game under their rules. Temper tantrums, using four-letter words to express their feelings and the worst of all...the physical destroying of the golf course they are playing.

We as SIR golfers have a responsibility – based upon our senior age – to police ourselves and demonstrate our leadership by conforming to the rules of etiquette at all times on the golf course. We should take pride in showing all around us that we understand, and do all the things we need to do to make the game enjoyable, not only to ourselves, but all the people around us. We buy the finest equipment, take lesson after lesson – to develop the perfect swing – yet, we do not take the time to learn the basic rudiments of on course etiquette. We would never allow our children, when growing up, to use the language we hear on the golf course.

The straightest line to golf greatness is the ability to use the 6 inches between our ears to understand – and daily use – golf etiquette in every round that we play.

I believe – and many champion the idea – that golf can be the most rewarding, challenging, and sometimes frustrating game in the world. Where else can you hit the perfect drive – dead center fairway – followed by the most unbelievable shank ever seen? Why make it worse by then trying to sail your club an additional 50 yards. As a good friend of mine once told me after an errant shot, hey Gene, you hit it there ...How True!!

Let's use our head, enjoy the game, and get rid of the temper so the people who play with us would want to play another round with us. Contrary to what has been said, the name Golf was not chosen because all the other four-letter words were already taken!!!

Hit em straight, far, and most of all, enjoy the game. Laugh a lot and tell your fellow golfers how much you enjoy playing with them ...Ciao

*Gene*



## State Bowling

### Carl Elvik, Chairman, State bowling committee

This is going to be a very short message from our Bowling Committee. I want to remind all bowlers that we still have three tournaments left from November to December.

Our State Bowling Committee wants to wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season. We also invite all newly appointed Area Bowling Chairmen, and bowling Directors to our semi-annual meeting in January 2010.



*Carl*

### Sunnyvale Branch 62

## State Bowling Tournament

### Lee Rogers, Bulletin Editor

At a recent Branch luncheon Carl Elvik, the State Bowling Chairman, presented the first of what will become a perpetual bowling trophy.

The State tournament was held in Paradise on May 19th. The first place winners were Tom Birley, Marvin Hershel, Bud Collinson, and Lee Wriglesworth of Branch 62. Shown (left to right) in the picture is State Bowling Chairman Carl Elvik and holding the trophy Tom Birley, Marvin Hirschel and Bud Collinson.





## OK...So What Do We Do Now?

Walter Schick, State Publicity Chairman

Activities! Some Branches have a one-activity focus, and as long as you can golf or bowl, you will enjoy Sons In Retirement ...but, what happens when you can't? What happens to the guest who doesn't golf? We should offer diverse activities to all retired men.

Try one on the list of 75 SIR Activities in these five areas: Sports, Education, Fitness, Social and Couples. A healthy Branch plan aims for at least 10 branch activities. To promote new activities, an Activity Coordinator or Committee is very useful and really necessary.

Image posters to promote Activities can be ordered online from Costco to use at the luncheon sign-in area ...try gluing them on a poster board to add color to your luncheon sign-in area. The couples activity poster – shown below from **Phil Goff** of Branch 116 in



Walnut Creek— has from 40 to 60 at each outing ...ask me for a poster instruction document. It is easy to add couples activities. The full list can be viewed in the Public Relations section on the SIR website: sirinc.org.

Your SIR Membership application has a blank back page. List your activities, including State and Area in the top section for easy check-off of interests. Then list the other 50 potential activities for easy check off ...you'll get some new activities started.

In addition to the common Area activities of Bowling, Pool, Fishing, Computers, and Investments, encourage other branches to list your activities in their newsletters. Other Sirs can attend as visitors until they build up enough men for their own Branch activity. If an activity has two or three men in your Branch that are interested, publicize it to the other branches to form an Area activity ...coins or stamps or bicycling may be candidates.

Yosemite Branch 179, Fresno

## Amazing Golfer

Joe Bigham, Bulletin Editor

Both **Darren Adams** and Branch 179 Golf Chairman **Art Daly** had tears in their eyes when Darren accepted his trophy for winning flight 3 in a golf tournament for all the Fresno Branches.

Accurately driving a little round ball down a fairway and putting it into a tiny hole is hard for most golfers, who aren't called "Tiger"...It's even harder for Darren, because he has Parkinson's Disease, which leaves him with sometimes uncontrollable tremors.



"Lots of guys I have played with recently think my putting would be better if I didn't have so many tremors," said Darren, son of former Branch 179 Big Sir Tom Adams, but on the day of the tournament "I was hitting it really well."

Darren explained in an interview how he compensates. "I just try to do a bunch of practice swings before I commit to the shot, but once I commit ...that's it! Sometimes it works out well, like it did that week, and sometimes it doesn't, like it didn't the following week."

Like most golfers, Darren is philosophical about the game of golf: "That's what golf is," he concluded "It's trial and error."

Yosemite Branch 179, Fresno

## Recent Honorary Life Member

Joe Bigham, Bulletin Editor

**Douglas Hansen** (on the left) received his Honorary Life Membership certificate from President **Dave Reiser** at the September Luncheon.



# SIR WEBSITE

The SIR website's address is "sirinc.org" and it contains a wealth of information useful to all Sirs. Most SIR forms, the SIR Manual, the State Roster and many other documents of interest are on the website. How should you view the Website? First launch your web browser. Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox are common web browsers.

In the address box type in "sirinc.org" without the quotation marks and press enter. The SIR website Home Page shown at the upper right will appear.

You will see on the Home Page headings like "How To Join" and "Branch Websites." Click on them and see what a good job our Webmaster and his website team have done.

To move from the "Public" Home Page, to the SIR section click on the "SIR Documents" link. You will be prompted to enter User Name (**safety**) and Password (**first**). Note: check the "Remember Password" box.

You are now on the "SIR Documents" page shown at the lower right where you will find a host of interesting documents. A recent view of the Documents page is shown in the image at right. For a test, click on the "Complete list of SIR Forms" link and then click on "Form 20-Branch Personnel" which is the form Branch Secretaries use to report new Branch Officers and changes. It can be filled in on the screen if you want and then printed or just printed as a blank form. It is also available as a Microsoft Word® document. To access some of the SIR forms you need the "Adobe Reader" on your computer. It is free and directions for downloading are on the website.

Another item listed on the "SIR Documents" page is, "State Roster & Branch Locator." These documents contain names and addresses, so to preserve members' privacy you are prompted for a User name and Password to view these documents. Your **Branch Email Contact** has the User name and Password and will gladly give it to you. It is SIR policy to not publish these.

# Happenings Travel Bulletin

## December 2009

**December 26, 2009-January 3, 2010**

### New Year's Cruise

A wonderful New Year's cruise aboard the Norwegian Spirit, round trip from New Orleans. 8 nights, including a pre-cruise in New Orleans! Included are several ports of call in the Caribbean and in Cozumel, Mexico. Costs range from \$1,790 to \$2,795 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Harry Redlick at 650-583-3961.



## February – March 2010

**February 17-28, 2010**

### Eastern Caribbean Voyager

10 day cruise aboard the Ruby Princess (their newest ship), round trip from Ft. Lauderdale. Ports of call include: Princess Cay, Bahamas, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Kitts & Nevis, Barbados, St. Lucia, and Antigua. Prices, including r/t air, start at \$2147 PPDO. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call George Smith at: 530-342-3133.



**March 10-17, 2010**

### Cruise the Caribbean

Experience a 7 night cruise aboard the luxurious MS Silver Cloud, of Silversea Cruises. Along the way, visit an exciting array of ports...Bridgetown, Barbados, Castries, St Lucia, St George's, Grenada, Kingstown, St. Vincent, & Grenadines, St John's, Antigua, Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda, and San Juan. Prices start at \$2970 and include r/t air. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call Bob Spellman at 925-934-8428.

**March 12-27, 2010**

### Round Trip Cruise to Hawaii

This is a 15 day cruise...5 days cruising to Hawaii, then 5 days visiting 4 of the islands and then 5 days cruising back to San Diego. Cruising on a Holland America ship is cruising at its finest and this smaller ship, with only 1400 passengers, has everything the larger ships have to offer. Prices range from \$2245 to \$4475. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call Jerry Weisner at 209-334-5181.



**March 19-27, 2010**

### The Magnificent Copper Canyon

This 9 day trip features a private rail car train ride and sightseeing through the Copper Canyon in Mexico. Also a private coach will take us from Phoenix to San Carlos on the Sea of Cortez, with a scenic cruise on the Sea of Cortez, visits to silver mines and visits with the local Mayo Indians. All but 3 meals are included. Cost is \$2312 PPDO. Call Rick Wayne at 925-371-6667.

## April – June 2010

**April 25-May 7, 2010**

### Discover Croatia

This is truly a wonderful trip featuring the Dalmatian Coast and Slovenia. An unforgettable journey to explore the hidden treasures and wonders of Croatia with medieval castles, tranquil lakes, rolling green hills, and sandy beaches. Trip includes 17 meals in all. Prices range from \$2229 (land only) to \$3899 (land and air) PPDO. Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Henry Puccinelli at 415-457-3390 or Paul Hiatt at 415-454-2240.

**May 7-22, 2010**

### Panama Canal Cruise

Cruise from Florida through the Panama Canal to San Francisco. One night pre-stay in Ft. Lauderdale and then a 15 day cruise aboard the Sea Princess, with port stops in: Aruba, Cartagena, Panama, Costa Rico, and Mexico. Prices range from \$2680 to \$3655. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Midge Damont at 650-588-6645.



**May 11-21, 2010**

### Shades of Ireland

Round trip to Dublin. Tour Kilkenny, Blarney Castle, Jaunting Car ride, Ring of Kerry, Kilarney, Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, Galway, and castle stays. Cost is \$2895 PPDO, including r/t air. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Tom Marks at 530-342-1441.

**May 21-June 1, 2010**

### Italian Lakes and Greek Islands

Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Italian Lakes and visit the most popular of the Greek Islands. Stay 3 days in Stresa on the shores of Lake Maggiore, cruise on the Costa Fortuna for 7 days and visit the ports of Bari, Katakolon, Dubrovnik, Venice, plus the Greek Islands of Santorini, Mykonos and Rhodes. The trip includes 25 meals! Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Paul Hiatt at 415-454-2240 for information and prices.

**May 31-June 13, 2010**

### Paris-Burgundy-Provence

Five nights in Paris...TGV to Dijon...8-day river cruise through Burgundy and Provence. All outside staterooms on the luxurious Grand River Royale. 6 shore excursions with English speaking guides, complementary wine during dinner, enrichment entertainment and lectures onboard. Prices start at \$5520 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.

**June 6-16, 2010**

### A Trip of a Lifetime!...Oberammergau

This "trip of a lifetime" has just been reduced in price. The cost is now \$4300 PPDO. This passion play was first performed in 1634 and is put on during the last year of every decade. The play involves a cast of over 2,000 and celebrates this village in Bavaria, Germany from being spared the worst of the Black Plague. The trip is Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Phil Manriquez at 650-871-5009 for information and a flyer.



## Happenings at the State Board Meeting Excerpts from the minutes of the November 2009 State Board Meeting

President Reiser called the November State Board Meeting to order.

Vice President Kendrick made a number of comments and mentioned how pleased and surprised he was when President Reiser presented him with an Honorary Life Membership at a Branch luncheon meeting.

Secretary Gruber gave his report concerning some of the activities he has been engaged in and for the record, reported that we have 151 active Branches, two of which are in provisional status.

Treasurer Mannell went over financial matters in some detail and stated that SIRinc is in sound shape and will probably finish the year in good financial condition.

Rules Committee member Gruber, representing Chairman Tom Smith, presented some proposed rule changes. The rules were approved and will be posted on the SIR Website.

Area Governor Training Chairman Stedman delivered a complete summary of the recent AG Training meeting and said that evaluations of the meetings by the attending Area Governors and Regional Directors were generally very favorable.

Information Systems Chairman Sale emphasized the need to begin encouraging the Branches to elect Branch Secretaries and Branch Treasurers who are "computer literate". He suggested that we start by making suggestions and working toward eventually enacting rules to that effect. Sale explained the new Branch Database, to be made available for Branch use. It is intended to capture all kinds of data about individuals in a Branch and the resultant database can suit the needs of the officers and chairmen from that one source. Several Branches have already shown an interest in this program.

State Certificates Chairman Donovan covered the several types of certificates that have been issued so far this year. He highlighted the 66 Honorary Life Membership Awards that were presented during the year and mentioned that there are 154 HLM awards still available to the Branches.

President Reiser suggested several topics that the 2010 Board might want to consider. To stimulate readership of SIR Happenings, some kind of contest embedded in the newsletter might be helpful. He raised the possibility of a contest related to recruiting new members and suggested that the G & M Committee take a look at the idea. He mentioned that earlier in the year we had a presentation on a Public Relations program. We haven't been able to find a member to head up such an endeavor. Dave feels that the function is important to the organization and expressed his hopes that the position will be filled soon. Dave brought up the 30,000 color brochures that were distributed to the Branches. He believes the brochures were well received and the efforts were worthwhile, and suggested that the incoming Board may want to consider doing it again.

2010 President Kendrick presented President Reiser with an Honorary Life Membership certificate. Buck thanked the officers, committeemen and appointees that have agreed to serve next year. He said, as President, he will put forth his best efforts and solicited ideas from the rest of the leaders in the room for a successful year.

President Reiser adjourned the meeting. The next Board meeting will be in January.

## President Dave's Column

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more branches will take a serious look at what we have made available to them.

In order to help recruit new members, the State Board authorized the printing of 30,000 tri-fold brochures which have been distributed to the branches. We also printed and gave copies of SIR Happenings to delegates at the annual meeting so they could be on display at Branch meetings.

I would like to thank the members who helped with the arrangements for the annual meeting and I am very pleased that so many branch officers attended. I would also want to thank the Executive Board for approving the welcome gifts given to those attending. It is the first time in the history of sir that we have recognized our delegates in this manner.

While membership continues to be a problem, we did have a couple of bright spots. For the first time in many years, we had two Branches sponsor new Branches. Branch 171 sponsored provisional Branch 174 and branch 136 sponsored provisional Branch 77. They are off to a good start and we expect to be able to issue their charters soon after they complete the probationary period.

I would like to congratulate the 2010 officers elect. I am confident that we have elected men that will do what is best for our organization. Our founders would be proud of what we have accomplished in the past 51 years. I wish each and every one of you the most precious gift ...good health to you and those dearest to you.

Thanks again for the honor of being your 2009 President.

Sincerely,  
Dave

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