



SIR HAPPENINGS

SPRING 2011 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

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

President Bob's Column

This is my first President's column in SIR Happenings and I want to briefly share with you some of the recent successes we have enjoyed, some of the serious problems that still exist in our great organization, and how I think we can solve some of those problems and enjoy this year with even more success.



I have considered a number of slogans for 2011 that would exemplify the pride, direction, and purpose of SIR.

As we have concentrated so heavily on the critical issue of membership loss in the past years, we have sometimes overlooked the original purpose of SIR. That purpose was and is to be an organization that promotes the independence and dignity of retired men by providing an environment of camaraderie and enjoyable activities. So, in 2011, I'm asking you to **"BE A FRIEND, BRING A FRIEND."** Share that camaraderie and those activities that only SIR has to offer with your friends and at the same time, help regain positive growth in membership so we may continue doing the great things that SIR has done for retired men for the past 53 years.

One of our most promising successes in 2010 was significant slowing of membership loss in many branches. Form 27 became a required part of the monthly reporting on January 1, 2011. While I certainly have heard from a few Big Sirs that this is not their favorite monthly activity, it has proven to be a very valuable tool that provides critical membership information that was never captured and used in most branches. Extensive membership information and history is available on the SIR website where you can track our success and, in some branches, our lack of success. We have slowed, but not yet stopped, our overall membership losses. We must continue

New Member Recruitment Success Jim Stedman, Vice President

At its January 2011 meeting the state board of directors learned that new member recruiting efforts have reduced membership losses from nearly 5% in previous years to about 2.5% in 2010.

Branch leaders in 2010 were challenged to recruit new members at the rate of 10% of branch membership. The leaders in 88 branches responded. They exceeded the challenge and recruited at the rate of 13.2%. These branch leaders inducted 1,587 new members.

These Branch leaders report that they have attractive branches with activities and events of interest to their members. They report that modern retirees are joiners once they see opportunities for participating in these activities and events and for socializing with other retired men.

In 2011 we expect all branch leaders to respond to the challenge. Let's keep this positive trend going.

BRING A FRIEND TO LUNCH, SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER

to emphasize the recruiting of new members in all Branches at a pace greater than our average annual attrition rate of 10 to 14% in order to insure long term viability.

One of the continuing problems that SIR faces is the lack of volunteers for leadership positions in SIR. The problem exists at the Branch, Area, Regional, and State levels. I will talk about this in more detail in a future column, but in the interim, please volunteer to use the skills and experience you have gained in your work career to help lead this great organization.

I look forward to 2011 as a year of positive membership trends, greater member participation in leadership roles, more activities available to more members, and a resurgence of Sons In Retirement as "THE" organization for retired men. None of these objectives will be easy, but with everyone contributing we can make 2011 a growth year for SIR.

BE A FRIEND, BRING A FRIEND

Sirs in the News

John Muir Branch 19, Concord

Hole-In-One

Bill Stephenson, Bulletin Editor

Duane Deonigi is shown receiving his hole-in-one award from Big Sir Ed DiBetta (L) and Marvin Terrell (R). Duane not only had a hole-in-one at the SIR State Golf Tournament, but he also won his flight. Certainly, he had quite a day of golf considering he was an alternate from our Branch 19 golf club. I'm not sure how much his bar bill was at Poppy Hills, but I heard he got out of Monterey very fast and early!



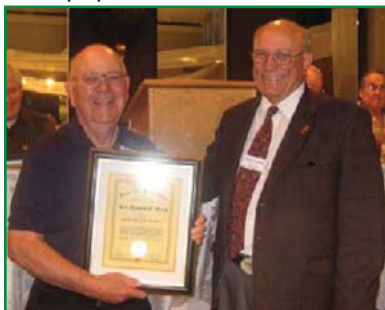
Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Don Reed Honored with an HLM

Don Eaton, Big Sir

In the photograph, State President Buck Kendrick is shown presenting Don Reed with a well deserved Honorary Life Membership.

Don Reed retired in 1997 after 45 years in the printing trade. The last 38 years were with *The Modesto Bee*, where he was a computer graphics artist, after starting there as a Linotype operator during the hot metal years at the newspaper.



Don became a member of Branch 103 back in 1997, and right away became quite active in the Branch, serving as Program Chairman in his first year. His next office was on the BEC for a number of years. He then became assistant secretary

and about six years ago became the Branch Newsletter Editor. During his time as Bulletin Editor, Don has taken the newsletter into the electronic age, using e-mail to send out almost 200 monthly editions, which has cut the monthly cost by more than half. Another job he took on was the publication of the Branch Membership Directory.

Don is a long time member of the Area 22 Bowling League and the Area 22 Golf Club and has represented Branch 103 at the SIR Golf Championships at Poppy Hills several times. He also likes to take SIR sponsored trips.

Orchard Valley Branch 54, San Jose

Bob Rohrig Honored with an HLM

Bill DeMatteis, Bulletin Editor

President Buck Kendrick is shown in the picture presenting an Honorary Life Membership to Bob Rohrig. Bob and his wife, Gloria, have been married for 61 years and she was also there to honor her husband for his outstanding service to the Branch.

Bob has been a very active member of Branch 54 since 1988. He was Little Sir in 2010 and has been a director for the past 6 years. He has been the chairman of our Ladies Day functions for many years, has been the attendance chair since 2008, has been a greeter, has sponsored 11 new members and is currently in charge of selling tickets for Casino Day and the July prize drawings.

The Branch has been very fortunate to have enjoyed the benefits of his membership and leadership.



Santa Cruz Branch 20

King for a Day

Ken Jenkins, Bulletin Editor

Branch 20 honored the birthday of its oldest member, Colonel Henry Settle, naming him "King for a Day." Settle



donned a crown (see picture) and velvet cape and held a gold scepter during the January luncheon. President Bob Mannell, Regional Director Richard Kabanek and Area Governor Richard Dean presented Settle with the Presidents Century Certificate and a congratulatory certificate signed by all the Branch members.

After blowing out the ten candles on his birthday cake – one for each decade – Colonel Settle cut it with a ceremonial military sword. He has been a Sir for more than 30 years and retired from the U.S. Army after 39 years having served during World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Settle was given a standing ovation at the end of the program.

Sirs in the News

Mace Meadow Branch 15, Pioneer

Most Senior Member

Jim Steenson, Big Sir

Up Country, Mace Meadow Branch 15 celebrated a significant birthday at our March luncheon for our – by far – most senior member, Bill Hoffman. Bill will be celebrating his 103rd birthday on the 26th of March. In addition to our normal meeting, we had a surprise and impromptu celebration for Bill, including a birthday cake. Rather than cover his cake with 103 candles we had one large candle with “100 Years Young” printed on the side and 3 smaller candles showing his 103 years with us.

In the picture, Bill is in the blue shirt and is surrounded by seven of the Branch charter members from left to right: Ken Wolchow, Pat Ellis, Bill Hoffman (our Birthday boy), George McFetridge, Don Ellington, Ed Reno, Ben Arntz (founding Big Sir), and Bob Burger who formed this branch in 2000 as an offshoot of the Jackson Branch 96 back when Bill was a mere pup of only 93 years of age. Our meeting happened to fall on St. Patrick’s Day which explains some of the members Green/Irish attire.

Bill is amazingly alert at almost 103 and still drives to our meetings although we offered to drive him for this historic birthday celebration. Bill’s age certainly supports our Branch contention that...”no one is too old to be a Sir.”



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

HLM’s Awarded in 2010

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>
Herman Barthule	BR054
Frank Basuino	BR141
James E Bible	BR099
Don Bollerud	BR084
James O. Boord	BR053
John Boyer	BR045
John R. Brewer	BR170
D. Keith Caldwell	BR137
David W. Calfee	BR037
Ernest Cervantes	BR107
George B. Christman	BR069
William F. Cross	BR159
David D. Dixon	BR121
LeRoy C. Flagor	BR109
Judson E. Goodrich	BR053
Fenwicke W. Holmes	BR090
Loren J. Hov	BR003
Udo Huefner	BR045
Gale E. Jeffers	BR040
Carl LaMothe	BR020
Jack Leonard	BR159
Albert E. Lewis	BR009
William A. Lewis	BR123
Wayne B. Logan	BR160
Robert W. Murphy	BR091
Roger Pease	BR047
Donald E. Reed	BR103
Charles A. Roberts	BR125
Jack A. Roberts	BR020
John Roebuck	BR019
Robert Rohrig	BR054
Gerald L. Schiefferly	BR105
Eckart Sellinger	BR151
Donald I. Severance	BR150
Dwayne Sheets	BR119
Robert W. Smith	BR142
Donald R. Stacks	BR074
Norman D. Whitsed	BR077
Colin K. Wilson	BR133
Roland J. Worster	BR133

News from the Branches

Mount Diablo Branch 8, Concord

Writing Your Life Stories

Roger Sperling, Chairman Writing Your Life Stories Activity

Why do we write stories in our Sons In Retirement writing group? Why do we call this Branch 8 activity “Writing Your Life Stories” and not “...Your Life Story”. Simply because we use a proven method to greatly speed up the daunting process of writing our personal histories to share with our families. We call this, “Writing our biographies...one story at a time.”

Anyone who has tried to sit down to write his life story knows that it is difficult—and getting started is the hardest part of all. Even though we may have the urge to put into writing our personal history we don’t quite know where to start. We might assume we should start at the beginning and put on paper (or a computer screen) a chronological recitation of the facts and dates, the persons and events of our life so far. While some skilled writers may be able to follow that path the rest of us can greatly benefit from another approach. By writing a series of short stories -- over a period of time -- we will accumulate enough recorded memories to tell the story of our life’s journey.

Writing privately may be the loneliest occupation there is. Even professional authors admit to having “blank page fever” when it comes to getting their thoughts written down. Others explain how they need to have a discipline: writing so many



words or pages every day to get the job done. What are we as amateurs to do with this seemingly impossible task? Most importantly we choose to be part of a small group of like-minded men who meet regularly (monthly or more often) to have our memories stimulated about past events in our lives that allow us to write small pieces of our history.

Our concept is simple: by writing short stories—usually one or two pages in 20 or 30 minutes time—we capture a singular event, or describe a person’s effect on our lives, or explain a decision that determined how we arrived at this point in our lives. We use the

experience of trained facilitators to guide us, through the use of examples of good writing by other authors, as well as lists of questions—we call them “triggers”—to stimulate us to remember a key event in our life experience (say in our childhood marriage) or a critical aspect of our personhood (say about our career or health).

One author has suggested that we focus on very small topics to sharpen our writing. She tells that on her desk is a tiny picture frame—only one inch on a side—to remind her daily to frame her stories in the smallest possible way. When we follow that advice we can more succinctly write from memory a meaningful part of our life that we want to tell our family. It is like a patchwork quilt: our short stories are like the small squares of a quilt that get stitched together to present a much bigger picture. Our stories when gathered (“stitched”) together will tell our life story—who we are and how we got to where we are today.

It has been our experience over the last several years that part of the “magic” of the “Writing Your Life Stories” activity derives from small group dynamics. When we meet to write and read aloud our individual stories—those written in the class session and others written at home—we find it mutually supportive. Sharing personal stories (always voluntary) encourages us to bond together as we learn interesting details about other life journeys. And working together as a group and hearing other’s stories, invariably “triggers” new thoughts about something each of us may some day write about.

We are not professional writers but it is a certainty, that when members of our families (spouse, child or friend) are able to read some day what we wrote about ourselves, they will be forever grateful.

Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Golf Champions

Dave Grant, Bulletin Editor

Last December Branch 125 honored its 2010 golf Champions. The club champion was Bob Fraka (see picture). In the other picture Roger Danielson (far right) is shown presenting the awards for the 2010 “Scratch Golf” Club Championship to (L to R), Pat Brennan, Jerry Sanders, Ray Gilcrest, Ken Rose, Henry Melin (runner-up), Bob Fraka (winner), and Lou Bottini. Congratulations to all for a fine performance!



News from the Branches

Gold Nugget Branch 107, Sacramento

A Golfing Branch

Al Williams, Bulletin Editor

Branch 107 is one of the strong golfing branches in Sacramento, with over 80% of the 175 members participating at least occasionally. A typical tournament draws over 50 members on the course...a few have had 65-70 in attendance.

Golfers who participate in at least 10 tournaments during the year qualify for a free dinner at the Christmas Party/Ladies Day/Golf Awards luncheon in December and over 60 members qualified this past year. The Club Champions for 2010 are shown at the luncheon (L to R) Gerald Parrish, flight 1, Jess Hernandez, flight 2, and Jess Herrera, Flight 3.



Branch 107 was also honored to have Gordon Blakeman win first place in Flight 3 at Poppy Hills last October and he is shown receiving his jacket from Don Andrews, a member of the State Golf Committee.



Discovery Bay Branch 161

Patriots Jet Team

Tom Jones, Bulletin Editor

We hear them! We see them! We look to the sky in amazement and see the jets practicing maneuvers over Discovery Bay and the California Delta.

Branch 161 members recently had an opportunity to meet pilots of the Patriots Jet Team who are living their dream. Founder Randy Howell, who is President of Red Star Air Shows and a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, and Dean "Wilbur" Wright, the Patriot's lead pilot, thrilled attendees with a video and stories of their flying experiences.

This is a labor of love and a passion for the volunteer members of the team. It all started when Randy Howell – a United Airlines pilot for 27 years – acquired a Russian MIG fighter plane. Randy connected with Colonel Wright and later acquired a second MIG. Although the MIGs are still around, the team migrated to Czech L-39 fighter planes.

They fly a 4-ship formation and in 2011 will expand to be the only civilian 6-ship formation in the USA. New additions to the flying team are required to fly second seat for a year, to ensure they are fully conversant and comfortable with the nuances of the other pilots. In "training" during 2010, was a member of the Blue Angels.

Following the presentation, Branch 161 members were invited to visit the hangars (see picture) at the nearby Byron airport, where they were able to see the planes first hand and interact with other team members. A visit to the maintenance hangar revealed the extensive work done behind the scenes to prepare newly-acquired planes and maintain the entire fleet.

It was quite a day for our Branch! For those that are interested in learning more about the team, their website can be found at www.patriotsjetteam.com.



Committee Reports

RV Committee Moves Forward

Don Cummings Co-Chairman



The RV Committee continues to increase its membership and is working to better define how it can best serve the interests of the SIR RV community. We are still looking for more members for our committee, especially individuals that currently belong to a SIR sponsored RV club. These people can provide the ideas and advice that the RV Committee needs based on their

personal experiences. If you are interested in helping, let me know at sirstaterv@gmail.com.

We have established some objectives that the committee would like to accomplish. Some of these will take years to finish, while others can be achieved quickly. For example, we would like to assist in creating SIR RV Clubs in Branches, Areas and Regions where there is RV interest, but where no RV clubs now exist. We could provide them with guidelines, support, and suggestions to help them to establish their local RV club.

Another idea that was floated was to have some "Group" RV travel. This could be accomplished in several ways. One way might be to have Pre-programmed SIR RV trips. For example, we might have a 21 day trip that includes time in locations such as Desert areas, Las Vegas, etc. Another might be a 14 day RV trip that starts in La Vegas and visits the National Parks of Zion, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, etc. These SIR Pre-programmed RV trips would be organized by the Committee and each trip would be limited to a small number of rigs. We would have volunteer Trail Bosses to lead each trip. Another way would be to have RV trips arranged for SIR RV by commercial RV travel companies like Tracks to Alaska. This is what the RV committee wants from our SIR members...**ideas!!!**

The State RV Committee will reactivate its Web Page on the SIR State Web Site www.sirinc.org. It is designed so that a current SIR member or a prospective SIR member can obtain information about SIR RV clubs and activities. A user could come to the RV web page and click on "RV Clubs". He would then get a page that will display all of the SIR RV clubs and their locations. He would then click on the RV club he was interested in and he would get an information page describing that RV club. The web site will also have links to RV Parks used by SIR RV clubs and a link to RV parts and repair facilities used by SIR RV members. A link will also be included to our RV Bulletin (Newsletter) that will feature a different SIR RV club in each edition.

The SIR State RV Committee has some very ambitious plans that are intended to promote RV activities in the SIR organization and to assist in promoting SIR membership. To this end we need the help of many people. To those that have already helped, I offer my sincere thanks. To those that can provide help my sincere plea.

Don

Publicity & Tools Committee

Legacy of One

Walt Schick, Chairman



All Branches should look for ways to sustain and grow their membership levels. One way is the Legacy of One.

The Legacy of One encourages each member to bring a guest -- friend, neighbor, new contact, etc. -- with the eventual goal of the individual's membership in a SIR Branch.

"...We have been given a legacy of immeasurable value. As we have accepted the benefits offered via our membership in SIR, now let us accept the responsibilities we owe for this unique opportunity to give something back to the organization that has given us enormous pleasure in our retirement years. Of critical importance is the continuity of this wonderful organization by membership sustainability of our SIR and its BRANCHES.

One of the best ways we can sustain membership is for each of us to sponsor one or more new members as our replacement(s) if, or when, we have to leave SIR. We must accept this legacy..."

Joe Futch of Branch 103 in Modesto says his branch has asked all members to think of this legacy and sponsor a member. Last year they gained 13 new members. Branch 8 in Concord has had a consistent growth pattern and is discussing the legacy with new members at their six-month round table discussion.

Learn more about "The Legacy of One" on the State Website on the Membership & Recruiting Information page.

Walt

JAZZ

Looking for some toe-tapping fun over the Memorial Day Weekend?

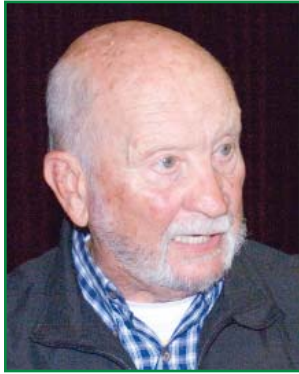
*The 38th Annual
Sacramento Jazz Jubilee
is the place to be!*

The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee swings over the Memorial Day weekend from Friday, May 27th through Monday, May 30th. The event is a fun party, with some of the best jazz you will ever hear, plus lots of good food and drink.

A variety of discounted tickets are again available to Sirs. For information and tickets, call Jim Fusaro at (916) 428-5719 or email him at jim4jazz@comcast.net. Jim will be glad to send tickets to any Branch on consignment.

Growth & Management Committee

Harry Hubinger, Committee Chairman



One of the G&M Committee's goals for this year is to move the SIR organization into the twenty-first century. How?... by getting onto the "Social Network" space that has become so popular with the generation following ours. While only about one out of ten current Sirs use this social network, within eight to ten years the numbers will reverse. So let's get aboard and start preparing. We have a small sub-committee devoted to this endeavor.

So, what is this "Social Network?" Well, probably the simplest is Wikipedia. It basically is an encyclopedia, and if you search Wikipedia for Sons in Retirement, you will get a brief description and a link to the SIR website. The governors of Wikipedia are restrictive of the material they will accept, but they did allow us a fair amount.

The most useful internet "social network" is Facebook. Let me try to get you there:

Step #1: You need to be a member of Facebook. Not a major problem, as even I could do it. You need to give them your email address and set up a password.

Step #2: Click on "Log In," and it will ask for your password. Enter it, and then click on Log In.

Step #3: A strange collection of people's faces will appear. The people in this group have wanted you as a friend. Use it if you like, but what you really need to do is click on Search and enter Sons in Retirement. Voila! Your rooster symbol will appear. Click on it.

Step #4: You will see that you have four choices.

- Wall: This is a place where anyone can post items of interest and others can respond.
- Info: Can contain information about SIRs.
- Photos: Obvious.
- Discussions: This section lists comments posted by Sirs. It displays the topic only. If you click on the topic you'll get what's being discussed, and you can reply in the "reply" box.

Now back to the home page for a minute. In the lower left corner are two links. One is to our Wikipedia entry. The other will soon be to our web site.

I don't expect a major run on these sites, but I encourage you techies out there to begin using them.

Over the next few years we will begin to test methods of recruiting by using these tools. Believe me, there is a generation out there waiting to climb aboard!

Discovery Bay Branch 161

Pickleball

Bob Lyman, Branch Member

A game of angles and strategies...of position and speed... pickleball is enjoying a huge increase in popularity with seniors and is being played by some Branch 161 members and their spouses.

Pickleball is a fun court sport, played on a badminton-sized court -- less than 1/3rd the size of a tennis court -- with the net lowered to 34 inches at the center. It is played with a perforated plastic ball similar to a whiffle ball and wood or composite paddles about twice the size of ping-pong paddles. It is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. In addition to being fun, the game has developed a reputation for its friendly and social nature.

Play by our Branch is done on an underutilized public tennis court with permanent pickleball lines on the court. Many areas utilize tennis courts with chalk drawn or taped lines.

Along with their own play, our Big Sir Vince Vargas and BEC member Gary Hess, have helped with a clinic at Heritage High School in Brentwood, Calif.

The game was invented 40 years ago in the backyard of former U. S. Representative Joel Pritchard, from Seattle. The Prichard family improvised a game on a badminton court using sawed off rackets and a lightweight perforated plastic ball to replace their damaged badminton equipment... Pritchard's dog, "Pickles," liked to run off with the ball, because it was his and hence, inspired a name for the new game.

During the week of April 11th, the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) will be holding events throughout the



United States to celebrate the sport and introduce it to new players to support International Pickleball Week, Bob Lyman will join with over 300

regional and local USAPA Ambassadors in holding clinics and tournaments to celebrate pickleball at the local level.

The USAPA was created in 2005 to promote the sport. It maintains the official rules, sanctions tournaments, provides player rankings and produces the annual National Pickleball Tournament. It is run by a volunteer board of directors and supported by thousands of dues paying members.

Sir "Pickle Bob" Lyman, – ralyman@mac.com – can be contacted for information on getting A pickleball activity started in your Branch and more information about the USAPA can be found in the media center at www.USAPA.org.

Be a Friend, Bring a Friend

Happenings at the State Board Meeting

Excerpts from the minutes of the January 2011 State Board Meeting

President Bob Mannell in his opening comments indicated there will be continued emphasis on membership, recruitment, and retention this year and on the use of the Monthly Branch Membership Report (Form 27) and the Big SIR Quarterly Membership written report. He also wants to encourage more Branch and Area wide activities to make SIR more attractive to current and new members. Bob said management of SIR is a team effort and not up to just one person, indicating all 16 Board Members have the combined leadership responsibility. He said he encourages and will listen to any ideas the Board members have to offer.

Vice President Jim Stedman indicated his priorities for this year are to support President Bob Mannell, to continue his work as Chairman of the Training Committee, and to continue his effort on recruitment and retention of members.

Secretary Eckart Sellinger asked the Regional Directors to remind their Branches the 2011 Branch Rosters are to be to him by the end of February and have to be paper based – no electronic versions.

Treasurer Gus Lopez commented on the quarterly pro-rata process and requested Branches not seal their payment envelopes so tightly as it makes it very difficult when opening 150 plus taped envelopes each quarter.

Past Treasurer (2010) Mike Berry provided a recap of 2010 referring to the handouts he prepared for the meeting. In summary, he indicated the financial data at the State level shows a continuing decline in Revenue due to fewer members, the recession causing Bank Interest to be lower and fewer members traveling overseas, reducing the Foreign Travel fee income. The loss in revenue is offset by reductions in Insurance expense due to a lower membership.

Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden said he needs the Branch Audit reports by the end of February. He discussed the Form 28 process and the need for Branches to submit them to him by the 10th of the following month.

Area Governor Gary Pelton provided a comprehensive status report on the Area 21 probation indicating success in a very difficult situation.

Nominating Committee Chairman Buck

Kendrick recapped his progress on finding candidates for 2012 State positions. He said it is all of our responsibility to help identify worthy candidates for State jobs and to let him know who to consider.

Information Systems Chairman Dwight Sale said he needs more help with different aspects of the SIR data base and asked for volunteers to contact him. One major objective this year is to finish updating the SIR Database Manual. He also commented on the effort to use the Data Base to help file the Form 100's. He encouraged the Branches to hold elections for 2012 on time and to make sure the Form 20 is filed out as soon as possible.

Rules Committee Chairman Gary Pelton referred to his handout documenting last weeks Rules Committee meeting and proposed rule changes.

Growth & Membership Chairman Harry Hubinger said the committee is focusing on current "Social Networking" Web sites for information and recruiting such as Wikipedia, U-Tube, Face Book, etc.

Publicity & Tools Chairman Walter Schick is in need of an additional member for his committee who has a professional background in "publicity". During his presentation he talked about their continued effort enhancing their SIR website section with proven ways of good practices for Branches to use.

Insurance Chairman John Thomason indicated he will be meeting next month with our broker to renew our insurance effective on March 1st.

Certificates Chairman Jim Donovan recapped 2010 certificate activity as follows: 327 Senior/Super Senior/Century certificates issued...38 Honorary Lifetime Members... and 264 Certificates of Appreciation. He also noted that at this time there are 18 Branches that have no HLM's and there are 36 Branches that have no Senior/Super Senior/Century awards. He emphasized how important member recognition is to our success.

Training/Membership Training Chairman Jim Stedman pointed out that the decline in membership dropped significantly last year due to efforts started in 2008 to lift Branch maximum member limits and introduction of basic leadership methods of setting and measuring goals. The introduction of Form 27 and quarterly Big SIR reporting on membership was also introduced last year. He indicated 88 Branches are reporting using Form 27 and his goal for this year is to get 100% of the Branches reporting on Form 27.

Travel Chairman Larry Garvin said they have finished updating the Travel Agency documents and sent their Travel Newsletter to Branch Travel Chairmen. They intend to post approved travel agencies on the SIR Website soon.

Golf Chairman Gene Drennan presented the 2011 Statewide Golf Schedule for Board approval.

President Bob Mannell presented the 2011 State Bowling Tournament schedule for Board approval. He indicated the Committee is still looking for a tournament location and sponsor for the May 16-18 Annual State Tournament.

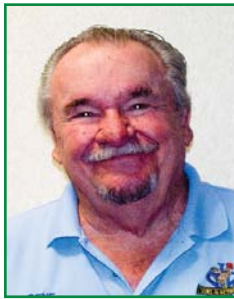
Regional Directors Reports: Each of the Regional Directors gave a report to the Board on the progress they are making in their Regions and also covered some of the challenges and problems they are facing.

President Bob Mannell said in closing the meeting that he is very pleased with the consistency of goals in the Regions such as the 10% Membership goal. He asked we keep in mind that we should do what we do in our jobs for the overall benefit of SIR at all times. He wants to keep the 10% Membership goal for this year and not raise it even though reality is 13%. He thanked everyone for attending and their continued support.

State Golf

For the Love of the Game"

Gene Drennan, State Golf Committee Chairman



Golf, as we know it is not a live or die proposition -- heck NO -- it's much more important than that!!!

Having had the privilege of participating in this wonderful sport for the better part of 52 years, I have come to realize what this game means to me, now more than ever. I realize that I can't get as far off the tee as I used to, can't quite see the ball as clear as I did over a 100 or so yards, can't

quite see the "line" on those putts that used to be so clear, but damn, I still love it just as much.

When playing with your fellow man, or the group in front or behind you, doesn't move quite as fast as they used to, but they still want to play with the same burning desire, the same competitiveness, the same love of the game...give them a little extra room in your heart, because in just a few years, you will be saying, and doing the same thing.

We older folks still want to pay our dues, both in cash and in effort that we always did in the past, but now we need to hear some words of encouragement from the younger generation. Maybe it does take me a little longer to walk to the ball, a little longer to figure out in which direction we would like the little white sphere to go and at what distance the club will take it because it seems that over the years they are just making those darn holes a little farther away. That par four that I used to reach easily with a driver and a 5 Iron, now seems to take the driver, a 3 wood and a short chip to get on, but don't worry...I'll get it there.

We still love the great outdoors, the sunshine, the smell of newly mown grass, and the comradeship...oh yes, the comradeship...how great it is. We now realize the best years of our golf are behind us, but we still look forward to being out there every week, trying to make that "career" drive or putt.



We don't ask for much, just to have it realized that we are still important, that the game still means as much to us now as it ever did in the past -- probably more -- because we realize that the number of rounds that we have left in us is no longer infinite, that the day is going to come that I will have to give it up, get ready for the garage sale...but, please don't rush me any more than you have to, because just like you I'm here for only one reason and one reason only and it's just: *"For the Love of the Game" !!!*

State Bowling

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Committee Chairman

Well, bowlers I have been traveling quite a bit this year instead of bowling and in fact, I'm still traveling. I have noticed some good scores from the tournaments already held and I hope your traveling has been easier than mine. Congratulations to all that have participated!

At our January tournament at Pacific Bowl in Stockton, the A Division was won by Ray Soto with a score of 788...Wayne Cartwright won the B Division with 808...the A division doubles winners were Jan and Alan Close with 1297...and the B Division was won by Barbara and Gene Morles with a score of 1333. The All Events was won by Bill Yray with a combined score of 1470.

Our State Tournament will be held at Harvest Park in Brentwood on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday -- May 17, 18, and 19. Good luck, and thank you, Harvest Park Bowl for hosting our Tournament.

SIR Bowlers...I wish you good luck and great bowling!

State Baseball

SIR Day at the Sacramento River Cats

River Cats vs. Colorado Springs Sky Sox

Monday, May 9th, 2011 at 12:05 PM



All SIR Day at the San Francisco Giants

San Francisco Giants vs Pittsburgh Pirates

Wednesday, August 10th, 2011 at 12:45 PM



For more information see the flyer at

<http://sirinc.org/siractivities/SIR-sports.htm>

Happenings Travel Bulletin

June 9-19, 2011

Alaska Cruise

Embark on a 10-night inside passage cruise on board the Princess Cruise Lines' SEA PRINCESS sailing r/t from San Francisco. Ports of call include: Juneau, Glacier Bay, Haines, Ketchikan, and Victoria B.C. Prices range from \$2578 to \$2655 PPDO. Offered by Branch 8 Travel. Call Jim Lund at 925-551-3329.

June 11-23, 2011

Russian Waterways

An upscale, all-inclusive, 11 night luxury cruise from St. Petersburg to Moscow on the newest, best equipped riverboat in Russia...AMA's MS Amakatarina. The boat features extra large staterooms, balconies, modern bathrooms and an elevator. This cruise is the best available and includes wine with dinner, gourmet meals, exemplary service and great excursions. Prices range from \$5895 to \$7695 for a suite PPDO. Offered by Areas 5 & 20 Travel. Contact Jim Stoner at 408-238-8458 or Larry Martinson 408-528-0746.

June 13-20, 2011

Trains Across Colorado

An 8 day motor coach tour from Denver, featuring the Durango & Silverton, Cumbres & Toltec, Rio Grande and Pikes Peak scenic railroads. The trip also includes visits to Vail, Mesa Verde National Park, Royal Gorge, U.S. Air Force Academy, and Garden of the Gods. Cost is \$2390 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.



July 11-23, 2011

Denali Explorer Cruise

Fly from San Jose to Anchorage. The trip includes five land nights, with stays in Anchorage, Mt. McKinley Princess Lodge, and Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge. A full day guided natural history tour of the Denali Wilderness is included. Travel from Mt McKinley to Denali and to Whittier is by rail on the Midnight Sun Express, with ultradome windows. Then a seven night cruise on the Diamond Princess from Whittier to Vancouver, featuring unsurpassed views of glaciers and scenic coastlines and one day stops in Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan. Costs range from \$3793 to \$4695 PPDO. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421.

August 1-12, 2011

Grand Scotland & Ireland Tour

This is a 12 day trip with a professional driver and guide. To name just a few of the many interesting things we'll see and do: a ferry from Scotland to Ireland, a scenic cruise on Loch Ness, whiskey tasting and a tour of the Blair Athol Distillery, reserved seats for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, tours of Edinburgh and Belfast and a visit to the Edinburgh Castle and much, much more. Cost is \$3995 PPDO. Offered by Areas 5 & 20 Travel. Call Neil Jameson at 831-336-2476 or Wayne Dawson at 408-972-1054.

September 12-20, 2011

A Journey down Virginia's Crooked Road

Virginia's Crooked Road is a trail through Southwest Virginia and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Here you will find the roots of American Music that run deep and wide. The region is home to the World's Capital of Old Time Mountain Music. There are eight major music venues: the Blueridge Institute; the Floyd Country Store and County Records; the Rex Theatre and Old Fiddlers Convention; the Blue Ridge Music Center; Carter Family Fold and others. The Crooked Road is rich with talent. Come join us in this exclusive trip. Bring your harmonica and spoons and join in the fun! \$3084 PPDO, includes r/t air, all tours, 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 4 dinners. The trip is limited to 10 couples. Offered by Branch 34 Travel. Call Richard Small at 925-462-1204.

October 9-22, 2011

Quebec City to Ft Lauderdale

See Canada and New England strut their fall colors. Relax while on board Holland America's MS Eurodam. This is a ship repositioning cruise which are always a good value and the cruise should fill up fast. Prices range from \$3095 PPDO for this 14 day cruise. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Wayne Chapman at 530-343-8086.



November 5-12, 2011

Mexican Riviera Cruise

A short, inexpensive, 8 day cruise and relaxing before the holidays. This cruise is round trip out of San Diego with stops in Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas. PPDO prices range from \$1389 (interior), \$1529 (outside window), and \$1619 to \$1799 (balcony). All meals and transportation are included. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765 or Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421.

November 5-18, 2011

Mediterranean Cruise

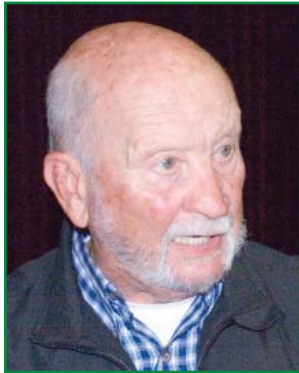
This could be a once-in-a-lifetime vacation. Visit places you've only read about or seen in movies...such as:



The Coliseum or the Vatican in Rome, the Parthenon in Athens, the city and sights of Jerusalem, the Pyramids of ancient Egypt. This 12 day cruise takes you to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Israel, and Egypt on board the Costa Pacifica as you enjoy the Mediterranean waters and all the great food on board. Prices start at \$2739 PPDO. Offered by Branch 45 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693.

California Sons In Retirement (SIR) Part 2

By Harry Hubinger



Editors Note: Harry Hubinger, the Chairman of the Growth & Management Committee, has written a four part series for "Alive" magazine, an East Bay publication. This interesting series tells how Rob, a fictional retiree, joins Sons In Retirement. We thought the series would be of interest to our readers and so we have decided to publish the four part series. The following is the second episode in the four-part series.

Rob, our fictional hero, becomes bored after six months of retirement and begins to hunt around for stimulation. He meets a Sons In Retirement group on the golf course and is invited to their next meeting.

Even when he awoke that morning, Rob wasn't sure if he would attend the SIR meeting he had been invited to. Certainly after meeting a few Sirs on the putting green at the golf course and hearing about the organization, he felt like going with the flow. But now, as the time neared he wasn't so sure. He'd looked at the SIR website and couldn't find a reason not to go. He had selected a branch website near to where he lived and liked the list of activities they had available for members. But, even so, he wasn't a joiner and hated to go to meetings where he didn't know anyone.

"Are you going to that thing you talked to me about?" his wife asked.

"Maybe, maybe not. I'm not sure." he replied.

"Well if you don't go you'll need to find something around here for lunch. This is my card day and I won't be around."

That settled it. Another homemade tuna lunch all alone was not what he had in mind.

"Guess I'll go."

When he walked into the big hall and saw over a hundred guys milling around, he hesitated. But before he could turn and run he was grabbed by a couple of guys with "Greeter" badges on. Before he knew it he was part of the melee.

Actually things went quite well for Rob. He didn't mind the opening with the pledge of allegiance, as he had always been a patriotic guy – or the brief prayer. The short business meeting really consisted of a litany of all the activities these guys were involved in. He heard golf which was one of his favorites...poker which he loved, but didn't do anymore... bridge which he would participate in...morning walks... eating out...trips, both local and international...and on and on. Frankly he was floored by the variety and found himself caught up in the possibilities.

The lunch was acceptable and reasonably priced, and the people he sat with seemed likeable. The after-lunch speaker was humorous and short and did educate him on a little bit of local politics.

Someone handed him an application and made a low-key pitch on joining. He was in and out in a couple of hours, and overall it wasn't that bad. Later that afternoon his wife quizzed him on the lunch.

He found himself caught up in the prospects of joining the golf group which played a different local course each week.

"Why not?" he thought. This looked like the ideal situation for him. There was "no pressure," and it had all the activities he loved plus a lot more. He could go to a couple of meetings, see how they golf and other activities went, and then either keep going or quit. Better yet, there was no fee for joining. The only requirement was that he attend at least four or five meetings per year and pay for his lunch.

Rob filled out the application and sent it along.

(In the next edition - Part Three: Rob gets involved and boredom goes out the window.)

SIR Day at the Races

Golden Gate Fields hosted another successful spring Salute to SIR Day at the races on Friday, March 18th and a great time was had by all. In attendance were 8 Branches and 213 Sons in Retirement members and guests. Each SIR Branch attendee enjoyed valet parking, Turf Club admission and reserved seating, a daily racing program, a prime rib buffet luncheon and a race named in honor of their branch.

During the named race, up to 6 guests from each Branch were invited into the winners circle for a photo opportunity with the winning jockey of that race. In addition, Golden Gate Fields held a raffle with the grand prize being a pair of San Francisco Giants tickets going to Judy Hammond (guest of Branch 19) – 2nd prize was a Turf Club party for two going to Patti Faulkner (guest of Branch 106) and the 3rd prize, a Golden Gate Fields ball cap and long sleeved Golden Gate Fields shirt, going to James Ward (member of Branch 106).

Golden Gate Fields will hold another Salute to SIR Day in the fall and we will release the date by mid-June. Thank you to all who came out to join us for our latest Salute to SIR Day.



SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

Dwight Sale,
Chairman/Publisher
Email: dwight.sale@comcast.net

Send news and questions to:
Don MacGregor,
Executive Editor
Email: donmac95@comcast.net

John Skarpelos,
Editor and Production Manager
Email: john@mediaart.com