



SIR HAPPENINGS

SPRING 2012 VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

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

President Jim's Column



Many of the focus statements of professional sports teams apply to SIR Branches: Practice the fundamentals and execute, execute, execute. Don't rest on your laurels, redouble our efforts. Keep bringing in new players to maintain a balance of new and experienced players. Keep your eye on the ball. The objective is to be the best

we can be. The goal is to win the championship.

The fundamentals for Branch leaders include providing interesting and entertaining luncheons with good food and speakers in settings that are attractive to members and potential members, providing activities of interest to members that promote camaraderie and providing new member recruitment programs that result in ongoing supplies of new members. Branch leaders need to keep their eyes on these fundamentals and execute, execute, execute. This is a process that must be pursued relentlessly. The championships are won when branches are healthy, with good balances of newer and experienced members and capable of sustaining themselves for the long term.

Branch leaders have gotten off to a great start in the first quarter of 2012. It is clear that all Branch leaders are attempting to make their branches the best they can be.

In the first quarter of 2012, over half of SIR Branches met or exceeded the goal of inducting new members at the annual rate of 10% of Branch membership. 79 branches inducted 546 new members, an annual rate of about 20%. This means that the leaders in these Branches are executing very well. The proportions of newer members in these Branches are increasing dramatically. These leaders cannot rest on their laurels. They need to redouble their efforts to maintain these gains.

There is another example of good execution and significant progress. In 2011, only 40 branches achieved the goal of 70% luncheon attendance. In the first quarter of 2012, 63 Branches achieved the 70% goal. This progress was the result of Branch leaders improving all aspects of their Branches, especially luncheons, and removing nonparticipants from their rosters.

I am happy to report this good progress. Branch leaders are keeping their eyes on the ball. We can expect continued improvement.

Stanislaus Branch 103

Legacy of One

**Joe Futch, Branch Public Relations Chairman
Member Growth & Membership Committee**

We have been given a legacy of immeasurable value. As we have accepted the benefits we've enjoyed in Sons In Retirement... now let us accept the responsibilities we have inherited.

Defining a legacy is easy enough. It is something of great value passed from ancestors to descendants, on to the next generation. Explaining the legacy we've been given in SIR is a bit different. It is not a program to be implemented, not an activity to be scheduled... it is a SIR life style!

When Damien Reynolds and friends declared we should retire with dignity and independence, they began building a legacy of friendships, life experiences to share, and privileges to be enjoyed. The core values of this legacy have stood the test of time.

The *Legacy of One* is now being used in Area 22 with good results. It is an essential part of our Member Relations function and New Member Orientation meetings. It has been printed in our Branch 103 Newsletter and it is posted on the Area 22 website as well as under Member Information on the State website.

The intent of the *Legacy* document is clear: Sponsor your replacement before you have to leave SIR... don't leave an empty chair! The content of the program is equally clear. The growth and continuity of the SIR organization is of critical importance. We must have confidence that leadership, vision and aggressive recruiting programs will prove to the present generation that a SIR life style can and will meet their expectations for retirement with dignity, pride, cultural refinement, civility and enjoyment of the many activities SIR offers.

The *Legacy of One* is a start. Now let us move forward with resolve and unity to build a better, stronger *Legacy* for future generations.

**BRING IN A GUEST
WE NEED NEW MEMBERS**

Sirs in the News

Wine Valley Branch 149, Napa

Six Senior Certificates Awarded

David Collins, Big Sir

Senior Certificates were awarded to six Senior Sirs at the March luncheon meeting in Napa at the Elks Lodge. Left to right in the picture are: Charlie Rowell, Reverend Bolly Bollinger, Roland Ceriani, Bob Cramer, Chuck Chinberg, and Ed Clerici. The awards were presented by Area 17 Governor Robert Aiello.



Pathfinder Branch 59, Newark/Fremont

Lord receives Senior HLM

John Skarpelos, Bulletin Editor

Branch 59 Big Sir Jim Ferez (on the left) presented Nat Lord with a Senior HLM during the April luncheon meeting.

Nat is presently a Director and has been Big Sir, Little Sir, Assistant Treasurer and Membership Chairman.



Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Loudermilk Awarded an HLM

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

State President Jim Stedman is shown presenting Lon Loudermilk with an Honorary Life Membership certificate at a Branch luncheon in January.

Lon is a 20 year member and has served in numerous offices and committees for the Branch, including: Assistant Program Chairman, Little Sir, Big Sir, Membership Chairman, and a Director. He also continues to be a very active member of the Area 22 Golf and Bowling groups, Congratulations, Ron!



Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Golden Fraternity

Ron Bianco, Branch Member

Branch 94 has what we call the *Golden Fraternity*, which honors those couples that have been married for 50 years or more.

During the May Ladies Day Luncheon we honored our Golden Fraternity couples. Standing in the picture from left to right are George & Phyllis Faxon, who reached 50 years of marriage this year, Andre & Susan Ashley, who have also been married for 50 years and our Big Sir Roger Prow. One couple, Ray & Margie Edinger, have been married for 73 years and we call them our "King & Queen."



State Baseball

All SIR Day at the San Francisco Giants

San Francisco Giants vs New York Mets

Thursday, August 2nd, 2012 at 12:45 PM



Prospectors Branch 137, Placerville

A Unique Hobby

Ron McCall, Bulletin Editor

Honorary Life Member Lyle Davis gave the Branch an interesting presentation at the March luncheon meeting on his long-time hobby.

On a trip through British Columbia and Southwestern Alaska back in 1975, Lyle became fascinated with the native art in the Pacific Northwest... more specifically, native totem poles. Each pole has a story, generally based on family history, and so he decided to carve his family's pole. He found a fallen power pole and carved the pole based on the native mythology, history, and culture. It took two long years and a lot of study about totem pole and native history before he finally finished it. That led to carving poles for other families.

At his wife's urging, Lyle decided to downsize his poles so that they were easier to carry and set up. His wife was a well-known artist in El Dorado County and



helped Lyle learn the art of painting the poles after he had completed each carving. After his dear wife passed away, Lyle continued to perfect his art and subsequently has shown his work in galleries around the state.

As you can see in the two pictures, Lyle's finished work is magnificent.



Spotlight on Al Williams

Would You Believe it...

this Sir is the Editor of Eight (that's 8!) Branch Newsletters

Gary Voet, Branch 33 member

Hey, it happens every day, doesn't it? After a 40-year career as an expert automatic transmission repairman/tire & lube mechanic for a big trucking firm, Al Williams decided to put out a newsletter.

But wait, there's more. Williams, who has been a Sir since 1996 and has held all the positions including Big Sir, just doesn't do his Branch's newsletter (Branch 3), but is responsible in whole or in part for eight Branch Newsletters... plus, he does the rosters for nine branches.



Huh? Trucking repairman to El Print King? Where's the link?

Obviously, Williams has no problem volunteering. Just one year after joining SIR, he became Little Sir, but that lasted only a of couple months. "They had been looking for a Bulletin Editor and an Editor is harder to find than a Little Sir," Williams said. "I told them if they could find a Little Sir, I would do the Bulletin." That happened and Williams started his new career as an Editor-In-Chief.

"One of my favorite things is discovering what words mean and how to say things," Williams said. "It has been a learning process (graphics, layout, etc.)... But it's fun! like a hobby and I don't want to sound like this is bragging – because it isn't – but I like SIR and doing this is a service to the organization."

Williams estimates that it takes about 6-8 hours per newsletter even with editing help from his wife, Karlene. "I try to keep each one a little different with the mastheads having different designs and maybe a little different layout," said Williams. "I don't want them all to look like they came from the same cookie cutter."

So... is there a possibility for newsletter No. 9 in the future? Williams' response is immediate, though in the third person: "I think Al's doing as many as he is going to do."---The editor-in-chief has spoken!

News from the Branches

Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22, Fairfax

Dag Nab It – Bag Tag It

Walt Torrens, Bulletin Editor

There you are standing at the carousel watching the luggage from your flight going round and round. “Dag Nab It!” you think, “Why does everybody buy the same black suitcase? What the hell happened to that piece of red wool my wife tied on so we could spot ours? Oh, there they are. No, wait a minute. There must be ten black bags with red wool tied on them... Dag Nab It!!”

Well, you now have an easy way to get rid of those Dag Nab It blues... you can Bag Tag It! Attach one of the new three and a half inch round white Bag Tags developed by Branch 22 to all your luggage and spot your bags from the other side of the terminal, while proudly displaying the SIR logo to the world. Each tag comes with a stick on label for you to personalize and a sturdy little strap. So the only possible potential problem that might occur is returning from SIR cruise when all the Sirs will have done the Bag Tag It trick... but here’s a good idea! When you go on a SIR trip, tie a piece of red wool on your luggage as well as the Bag Tag!



The cost for the tags is \$3.00 each and they can be ordered from Sandy Grieve by emailing him at agrievs1@comcast.net. In the picture displaying their SIR Bag Tags are Past Big Sir Sandy Grieve, Area 6 Governor Jim Filippo, Past Big Sir Bill Wilhelm, Past Big Sir Walt Torrens, and current Big Sir Wally Holmes. Inset above is a photo of the tag.



Yosemite Branch 179, Fresno

Spring has Sprung for Walking

Joe Bigham, Bulletin Editor

Branch 179 has long concentrated on two main activities for members... golf and travel, plus a tasty brunch at Christmas and of course, monthly luncheons with speakers from throughout the community. But this year’s Big Sir Manny Contino felt new members would be attracted and current members rejuvenated by adding some activities. So, he organized a Walking Activity open to Sirs and their spouses which meets twice a month at a regional park.



Branch Secretary George Lane and past Big Sir Cliff Hawkins, then began a twice-monthly Pool/Billiards activity which meets at a restaurant for breakfast before heading to Lane’s home to play the games. Photography and fishing activities are also currently being organized.



Unsettled weather has not put a damper on our new Walking Activity. Even though wind and rain have threatened us, it has turned out to be terrific for walking. Shown from left to right after a walk are: Big Sir Manny Contino and wife Maxine, Steve Smith, Kit Yaker, Skip and Evelyn Howard, and Ron Johnson.



News from the Branches

Orangevale Branch 150, Rancho Cordova

Jolly Hookers

Bob Bonner, Fishing Chairman

The Jolly Hookers is a Fishing Club that was started back in 1979 by 18 members of Branch 49 and has grown to about 112 members and now draws members from 10 different Branches. Breakfast meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the Rancho Cordova Elks Lodge. Typically, members start arriving about 7:00 am and they like to share fishing stories until breakfast is served.

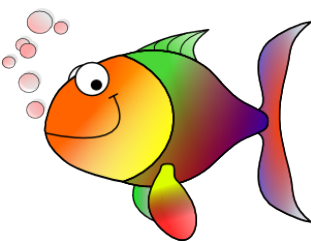
Derbies are held once each month. Non-Derby Outings are also held once each month at one of 8 to 10 different lakes, the Delta, the Sacramento River and generally an ocean trip or two. The schedule is set for the year but sometimes changes are needed to find the fish. Lloyd Willoughby found good fishing at Lake Almanor where he caught this nice string of Rainbow and Brown Trout.



Here is an example of what might be called a typical outing: We fished Lake Berryessa in March. The weather forecast left some in doubt but 17 fishermen trolled primarily for salmon until the 1:30 pm

weigh-in. Twenty three (23) fish were kept but many more were released. The best fishing was early in the morning but slowed after 9:00. Then after picking the winning Salmon, a very nice luncheon was served by three of our members.

All and all, a typical great outing... with good fishing... good friends... and of course, good food!!



Petaluma Little Hills Branch 147

A Computer Club with Outreach

Hal Hildebrant and Bill Hammerman

Computer Club Leaders

Our Computer Club had its start about 15 years ago when Charley Severson hosted the first few meetings of what was then known as the Branch 147 Computer "SIG"...or Special Interest Group. After several moves the Group now meets at the Petaluma Senior Center and is also the computer club for the Senior Center. Many of our Branch members had volunteered to help set up the computer lab when the Center opened back in 1997.

Each monthly meeting starts with introductions, followed by a presentation related to a computer application or a new piece of equipment, followed by an open "HELP & Q&A Session." Some of the topics covered in these sessions are: Keyboard Shortcuts, Defragmentation, Digital Cameras, Scanners, Geographic Information System (GIS), Search Engines, Photoshop, Blogging, Income Tax Software, Virus Protection, Genealogy-Family Tree Maker, How to Burn a CD, Spyware & Ad-aware, and sharing "My Favorite Web Site."

The original "SIG" name was eventually changed to "Club" and participation was opened to any and all Senior Citizens who took advantage of the many program offerings at the Senior Center. No fees are charged for the Computer Club, and its programs are coordinated and managed by Branch volunteers such as Bill Hammerman (see picture), Hal Hildebrant and Herb Mitschan. The meetings are held from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month. In addition to the monthly Branch Bulletin, club members receive program announcements via a Yahoo conference board, edited by Bill Hammerman.



Committee Reports

Training Committee

Big Sir Survey

Derek Southern, Member Training Committee

When you want to know what's happening, ask the members doing the work!

"Comment is free," wrote the editor CP Scott of the respected UK Guardian national newspaper in 1921, "but facts are sacred."

In preparation for the 2013 Big Sir Training Meeting in October the Training Committee asked the basic question, "What do Big Sirs most need to know to help them in their year of office?" There were several differing opinions, so the committee decided to obtain information from the Big Sirs of 2011. I created an internet survey to determine both successes and problems. The good news was that 60% of the branches reported meeting the 10% induction rate target while more than half reported at least 70% attendance at luncheons, so a lot of branches are doing good things.

In terms of identified problems, "Getting Volunteers" and "Complacency of Members," were identified by almost half the respondents as their main problems. Three problems tied with 10% response rates as the next most important and they were: "Getting potential new members to attend a luncheon" – "Completing State forms 27 & 28" – and – "Generating new activities."

But are those two main problems related to the health of the branch?...85% of the Branches reporting neither problem, met the 10% new member induction goal, but only 42% of branches reporting either or both problems, met this goal. There was also a big difference between branches with and without problems in the rate of meeting a goal to create two or more new activities. The luncheon attendance goal was met equally by Branches with or without the problems. This data is presented graphically in the chart at the end of this article.

What can the State organization do to help Branches reporting problems of complacency, or apathy, and members who don't volunteer? The Big Sir and Executive Committee (BEC) of each branch are actually the people who have to solve these problems. The State can offer advice, but each branch is responsible for

recognizing and correcting its own problems. The task for the Training Committee will be to emphasize proven routes to success, and to give ideas to Big Sirs who need some help overcoming problems of volunteerism and complacency.

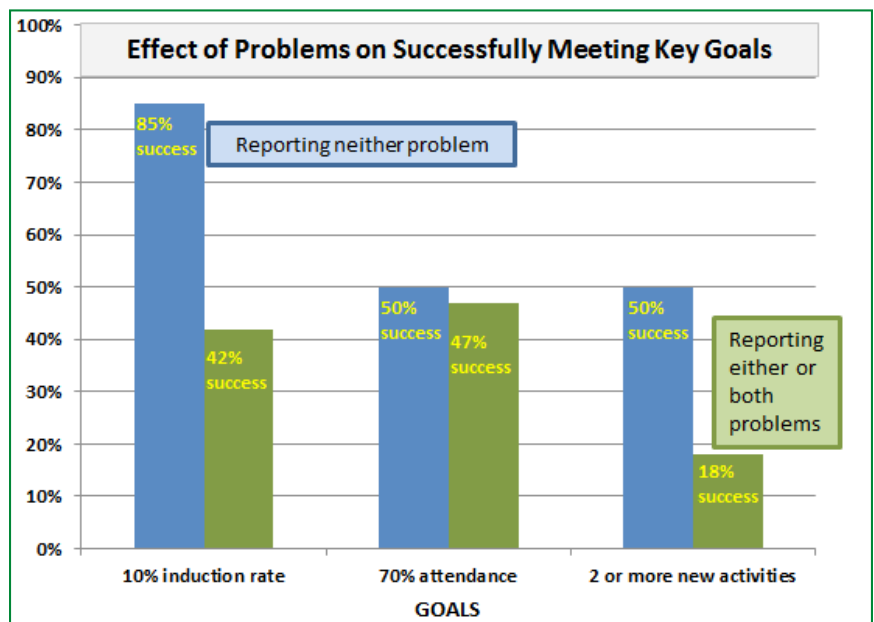
The formula for success seems quite simple: If individual Sirs – YOU and I – decide that Sons In Retirement is an organization that we want to succeed, then WE need to put some effort into making it a success.

Over the years there have been a number of hard working members whose efforts have created what we enjoy today. Today, with membership still on the decline – but at a much lower rate – we must focus our energy to maintain the objective of "Men Enjoying Active Retirement." Give your ideas to your Big Sir, to a BEC member, or to your Area Governor... then follow up and ask what is being done! Some Branches have no problems finding volunteers, and these are the most successful branches, but even they should not become complacent.

The sooner we, the members, understand that the future of SIR lies in our own hands, the more likely SIR is to survive. A minority of members currently does the majority of the work, so let's volunteer to help.

Get involved. Make our SIR organization THE place to enjoy an active retirement!

Comments about this article, and your ideas for improving the SIR experience, are welcomed. A Google group has been set up to encourage communication across the SIR organization. You can send your messages via email to: SIRfeedback@googlegroups.com where they will be published.



Ignacio Branch 22, Fairfax

The Rolling Roamers

Don Cummings, Wagon Master

The Rolling Roamers RV Club is organized under the auspices of Branch 22 and draws members from almost every Branch in Marin County and some from Sonoma and other nearby areas. The Club was started in 1975 with the goal of providing Sirs that have recreational vehicles an opportunity to enjoy organized group RV outings. We reached a high of 27 rigs at one time but currently have 19.

The club organization consists of a Chairman, Wagon Master, Treasurer, and Scribe. We also have Trail Bosses who organize each outing. Every outing generally includes a potluck, fizz breakfast, daily happy hour, various games, dinner, and tours of local attractions. Outings are held every month from March through October. In addition, we have monthly luncheons, a picnic, and a Christmas party.

Food is one of the things with a very high priority on the fun list for club members...see pictures. We are convinced that we have the greatest cooks in the RV community.



The group likes to play a wide variety of games

including Bingo, Thirty-one, Mexican Train, and Spite & Malice. Many of our members are active golfers and golf outings are part of most trips. We also take advantage of what the RV parks have to offer such as Bocce and paddle boating as shown in the pictures. Incidentally, we are quite fortunate to have an

“almost” professional bocce baller in our group who arranges the tournaments, officiates, keeps



the score, and no one dares to question his calls.

Our Trail Bosses scout out activities and tours that are available near the site of the RV outing. Over the years we have enjoyed many interesting tours and of course we always include shopping. The women like to shop, shop and shop...whether its outlet stores, antique shops, malls or thrift stores...they just like to shop.

A tradition of the Rolling Roamers is to have a Fizz Breakfast on Wednesday morning. The club has its own recipe that is used to make these famous fizzes. The breakfast menu is always up to the Trail Boss, but we happen to have one of the greatest cooks anywhere and asking him nicely and providing with fizzes will generally get him to cook up his famous pancakes and sausage.

The Rolling Roamers wrap up the year with a Christmas party where we install the officers for the next year and after that, we begin planning for another fun year of RVing.

Gold Country Branch 37, Auburn

Come fly with us

Don Walker, Club Chairman

Every Thursday morning (weather permitting) there is an air show in an Auburn park, courtesy of Branch 37. Early last year Big Sir Charles Kinnison decided that a model airplane club would be beneficial to our Branch. Our first meeting at the field contained a surprise as the members of Branch 37 attending did not know that other members were also interested in model airplanes, particularly radio controlled ones.

Interestingly, after the local press did a story on the air show, we began to attract other modelers in the community who were not SIR members, including a spectator or two. We even began to attract unknown helicopter flyers at the Thursday meetings.

Some of the members are old time flyers having followed the hobby from the days of free flight to the sophisticated radio control which is almost universal today. Included in our group is Jim Maneggie, who has enjoyed the hobby for 75 years. We also have a retired jet fighter pilot who has found that flying radio control is quite different from flying a jet fighter (*that's your Happenings Editor*). Four regulars are shown L/R in the picture with their models: Chairman Don Walker, Jim Maneggie, Frank Hampton, and Duane Howard.



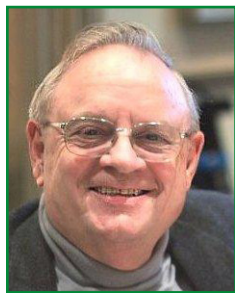
Some members build their planes from “scratch,” which means buying the material and then constructing the model from plans. Others prefer to buy “ARF’S,” which means buying the complete “Aircraft Ready to Fly.” There are crashes from time to time. Duane Howard expresses the attitude of many of the members when he said “when they crash, you just glue them back together again... it’s such a joy to fly that you are willing to take the risks to extend your experience and ability.”

We all have a good time on Thursdays while enjoying an outdoor sport together and looking for prospective new SIR members from the audience.

Committee Reports

Growth & Membership Committee

Walter Schick, Chairman



I would like to share with all of our members a message that I recently sent to all the Big Sirs regarding SIR merchandise and apparel:

We order and stock large quantities of SIR Caps, SIR Bucket Caps, and SIR Pens at very good prices and you can order these on

Form 21 along with rooster pins, etc.

Many branches have asked for Jackets, Polo Shirts, and other SIR logo apparel. Because of all the different sizes and colors, we do not qualify for large discounts, but now you can order high quality SIR logo apparel from Embroidme-Livermore.

You can order for yourself and your lady, or take orders for your Branch or activity. One Branch asked us to add golf towels and they will be up on the SIR apparel site shortly. If you want additional products, let us know.

There is a button link on the www.SIRinc.org Membership Information page (see image). Go to this and click on the SIR Logo Apparel button and you will



see the current offerings, and can place an on-line order. If you want additional products, let us know.

On the left below is a special combination offer of polo shirt and jacket — just choose your size and colors. This offer is in the Men's sport shirts section.

Also listed is matching men's and ladies' sport shirts that look great for the 19th hole or casual dining.



All of the apparel includes a high thread count SIR logo. You can add your city and Branch and/or your name for an additional charge.

Branches can get discounts if they order six or twelve of an item. Ask for a quotation for more than that. If the fit isn't right, return it for a replacement or credit.

Please consider ordering one set to show to your members.

If you or any Sirs have questions please call me, Walter Schick, at 925-708-1830.

Walt

State Bowling Committee

Del Locke, Chairman



Here we are one third of the way through 2012 and the attendance at our SIR bowling tournaments appears to be up a tick from last year. The really good news is the reinstatement of two tournaments and the addition of a new event on our 2012 schedule. I just attended the Pollock Pines tournament, held

at the reconstructed Knotty Pines Bowl. The building was severely damaged by record snowfall last winter, but the ownership did a great job with the repairs and it's better than ever. The Bowling Committee wants to thank Tournament Manager, Ray DiBasilio and his group, for sticking-it-out and waiting for the bowl to re-open and putting on a really great event for SIR.

Secondly the Bowling Committee wants to thank Tournament Manager Sir Abreo, in Sonora, for assuming the role of Tournament Manager for the Black Oak Casino Tournament scheduled for August. It's good to have both of these tournaments on our 2012 schedule.

New to our schedule this year is the Lake Tahoe Tournament hosted by Tournament Manager, Al Atkins scheduled for mid-September. The weather should be great and the kids are all back in school. It's a great time to visit the South Shore and do a little bowling while you're there.

By the time this newsletter goes to press, we will have held the State Tournament in Pinole. I will thank, in advance, Co-Tournament Managers Ben Takesh'ta and Sir Roy Rodrigues. Hosting the State Tournament is no small task, so with the help of many Sirs working behind the scenes, it looks like it's coming together very well. I'm looking forward to participating in this event.

The Bowling Committee has a new process for selecting the State Tournament site so next year's tournament location will be made at our August committee meeting. If you would like to bowl in any of our hosted tournaments the schedule is posted on the Sir Bowling Activity web page. Take a look at the schedule, fill out an entry form also found on our web page, and come join your fellow Sirs for a little bowling action. See you on the lanes!



Del

INFOSYS Committee Report



**Dean Steichen,
INFOSYS Chairman**

In my first Column, in the winter edition, I introduced you to the SIR INFOSYS Committee members and gave you a brief description of what we do. In this column, I would like to tell you about the overall concept of the SIR website and the regular changes made to it every month.

The main webpage (www.sirinc.org) has two main

functions. The first is to introduce visitors to SIR. It has a new image banner showing men our age, having fun, doing activities they enjoy, with text



down the middle explaining the basics about SIR and providing contact information. There are buttons down the left side providing access to additional, more detailed information on SIR and button icons on the right illustrating and detailing some of the more popular activities provided by SIR. Much of this information may be of interest to our new or existing members as many do not know much about SIR outside their own Branch.

The second main function is to provide a link (i.e. a portal) to **Member Information**. This section of our website is protected from automated search programs, frequently referred to as “bots”, which can search websites for names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and other information to be used by individuals or companies for legitimate or illegitimate uses. Our website prevents these “bots” from searching our web pages by asking you to enter the User name (safety) and Password (first) provided on the screen. Generally, “bots” cannot read the screen so are unable to gain access.

The Member Information webpage is loaded with links to information relevant, primarily to Branch Leaders, but to regular members as well. It has buttons to access the SIR Leaders Guide, SIR Manual, Forms, SIR Logo Apparel, *SIR Happenings*, and State Activities. It contains links to Key Documents (e.g. Schedule of Operations), State Communications,

Organizational Information, Membership and Recruiting Information, Training Information, Travel Information, some “How To’s,” Computer User Information and other materials.

Many of these links are updated monthly. The rest are updated when something has changed or new information is available. A “NEW” date is posted to the link when the underlying document has been updated. A brief look at the Member Information web page shows that 15 links have been updated in the past 6 months.

Even links to older documents are important as the underlying materials are probably “new” to newly elected Branch Leadership. As you know, most Branches have many new leaders each year. Branch Officers (e.g. Big SIR, Little SIR, Secretary, and Treasurer), BEC members, Committee Chairman and even regular members should become familiar with the contents of the Member Information web page. You will find answers to almost any SIR question on this web page.

Branch Officers, as well as Area Governors and Region Directors, wishing to learn more about their duties, or how to perform them, can find many informative documents in the **Training Information** section. Ideas and tools for new member recruitment are located in the **Membership & Recruiting** section while other great sources of information can be found in the **SIR Leaders Guide, SIR Manual, Organization Information** and other links on the web page.

The SIR INFOSYS Committee works hard to keep the look and content of the SIR website current and relevant. Most of the content comes from the Forms (e.g. Form 28, Form 27, Form 20, Certificate Requests, etc.) produced by the Branches and sent to INFOSYS for processing. This data is reviewed and entered into the SIR Database to produce the reports available through the links on the Member Information web page. Other State Committees produce documents which form the remainder of the content on the SIR website (e.g. Travel, Training, Recruiting, Organization Information, etc.). All this is available to SIR Leaders and members at the touch of a button. Make use of it!

If you are interested in assisting any of these interesting INFOSYS functions, contact Dean Steichen at, djsteich@comcast.net.

Dean

Happenings Travel Bulletin

June 6-12, 2012

Canyon Country Experience

Spend seven days exploring the best National Parks of the Southwest and immersed in Native American Culture. Tour highlights include: Las Vegas, Grand Canyon National Park, Navajo Culture Monument, Valley Arches National Park, Colorado River jet boat ride, Dead Horse Point State Park, Capital Reef National Park, Scenic Highway 12, Bryce Canyon National Park, and Zion National Park. All inclusive trip is priced at \$2040 PPDO. Offered by Branch 73 Travel. Contact Paul Peters at 510-724-8345.

June 7-20, 2012

European Cruise

Cruise aboard the Avalon Tranquility. Visit such places as: Prague, Budapest, Vienna, and Nuremburg. All meals and nightly entertainment, including shore tours. Round trip air from SFO. All inclusive cost is \$5150 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Contact Harry Redlick at 650-583-3961.

June 15-23, 2012

Harbor-Hopping in New England

Spend two nights in Boston followed by a six night harbor-hopping cruise on the American Star. Ports of call include Providence, New Port, Bristol, New Bedford, Fall River and the storied islands of Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and Block Island. Prices range from \$4408 to \$5268 PPDO, including r/t air. Offered by Branch 153 Travel. Contact Ralph Hunt at 650-967-8467 or Alan Patmore at 408-867-4197.

September 1-14, 2012

Paris, Rhone River, and Provence

Fly from San Francisco to Marseille. Cruise the Rhone River for eight days on the luxurious (5 Star rated) ship, the River Royale. Take the TGV (Bullet Train) to Paris and stay in a luxury hotel near the Eiffel Tower for five nights and enjoy guided tours of Paris and Versailles. Prices range from \$6995 to \$7915 PPDO, including r/t air. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Contact Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421 or Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765.



September 28-October 7, 2012

Western Mediterranean Cruise

An all inclusive luxury cruise of a lifetime. This is a 9-day western Mediterranean cruise from Barcelona to Monte Carlo. Some of the ports of call include: Marseille, Cannes, Florence, and Rome. Accommodations are all suites with ocean views & balconies. Prices range from \$5299 to \$6300 PPDO and include everything!! Special bonuses are available if you sign up early. Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Henry Puccinelli at 415-457-3990.

September 28-October 13, 2012

Panama Canal

This is a 15 night luxury cruise from San Francisco to Ft Lauderdale aboard the Island Princess. Ports of call include: Cabo San Lucas, Puntarena, Fuerte Amador, Cartagena, Aruba, and Fort Lauderdale. Prices range from \$2695 to \$3100 PPDO. Offered by Branch 73 Travel. Call Paul Peters at 510-724-8345.

September 23-October 2, 2012

New England for the Fall Colors

This is a 10 day trip to New England for the fall colors. We'll fly to Boston and then tour several states in the area, using buses and trains. We'll also have 2 days at the end of the trip in Boston at a very centrally located hotel, with time on your own for sightseeing. Price is \$3280 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call David Abrahams at 925-447-9386.



October 6-21, 2012

Hawaii Cruise

Cruise to Hawaii from San Francisco aboard the Star Princess with stops in Honolulu and the Neighbor Islands. The ship will also stop in Ensenada. Prices range from \$2100 to \$3590. Offered by Branch 19 Travel. Contact Harry Reiter at 925-709-2820.



October 11-23, 2012

Spain's Costa del Sol & the Portuguese Riviera

Thirteen day escorted tour of Spain's Costa del Sol and Portugal's Riviera. Some of the interesting highlights include: Madrid, Prado Museum, High Speed Train, Cordoba, Costa del Sol, Granada, Seville, Lisbon, Estoril, and Fatima. Cost is \$4244 PPDO and includes R/T air from SFO. Offered by Branch 38 Travel. Call Bill Rodman at 408-274-4521 or Nick Lickwar at 408-532-6992.

October 13-18, 2012

Bob Hope USO Show Tour

A 5 night trip to Washington D.C., with sightseeing in the Williamsburg area, and three live musical shows including tributes to Frankie Valli, Frank Sinatra and a live USO show with Bob Hope, the Andrew Sisters and the Glenn Miller AAF Band. Coast is \$1750 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Phil Manriquez at 650-871-5009.

From Branch 93 Bulletin

Golf Ethics

Here is a golf ethics question for you:

What if you were playing in the club championship tournament finals and the match was halved at the end of 17 holes. You had the honor and hit your ball a modest two hundred fifty yards to the middle of the fairway, leaving a simple six iron to the pin. Your opponent then hits his ball, lofting it deep into the woods to the right of the fairway. Being the golfing gentleman that you are, you help your opponent look for his ball. Just before the permitted five minute search period ends, your opponent says "Go ahead and hit your second shot and if I don't find it in time, I'll concede the match." You hit your ball, landing it on the green, stopping about ten feet from the pin. About the time your ball comes to rest, you hear your opponent exclaim from deep in the woods "I found it!" The second sound you hear is a click, the sound of a club striking a ball and the ball comes sailing out of the woods and lands on the green, stopping no more than six inches from the hole.

Now here is the ethical dilemma:

Do you pull the cheating bastard's ball out of your pocket and confront him with it or do you keep your mouth shut?



Dear Editor

Thanks for the "refresher course" on the proper use of SIR, Sir, etc. Occasionally, a member will ask me about proper usage. But mostly, as I'm doing the monthly branch bulletin, I question myself as to whether I'm using SIR/Sir properly. Your article in the Winter Edition of SIR Happenings was most helpful. I'll keep it around and handy as I'm putting together my next and all the following bulletins.

Jerry Long,
Bulletin Editor, Branch 175, Fresno.

Editor: Thanks, Jerry. I hope others will follow your example.

all that JAZZ

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

The 39th Annual Sacramento Jazz Festival is the place to be!

The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee swings over the Memorial Day weekend from Friday, May 25th through Monday, May 28th. 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.

Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

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