

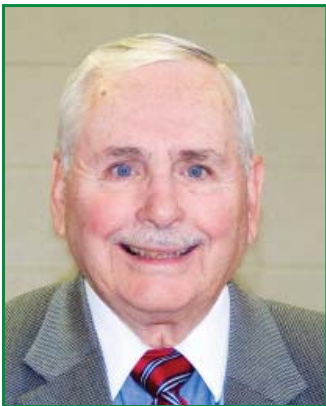


SIR HAPPENINGS

WINTER 2014 VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1

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

President Maynard's Column



I am very honored to represent this great organization, SIRinc. Sons In Retirement has been going through changes with the focus on finances this last year. Thanks to last year's President Dettmer, we were able to make the necessary changes to the finances of our SIR organizational

operations.

This year, the State Board will be emphasizing the need for increased Branch activities. With this increase, we hope to build more active participation within the Branches.

Co-Ed activities are being highly encouraged to promote those Branches that have few activities. Few activities lead to poor attendance. Poor attendance reflects the health of those respective Branches.

Joint Area Branch activities with more participation by Branch members, can lead to growth in membership within the Branch.

The State Board will be looking at the realignments of the Regions and the Areas. We are finding some Regions and Areas that have a large number of Branches, while most have fewer numbers. We need to balance the loads for the Regional Directors and Area Governors that have the larger numbers, relieving them of distance and time taken to travel.

I am looking forward to the challenges that will come to the forefront during the 2014 year.

WAKE UP Sir! – SIR is Dying!

Dean Steichen, Region 6 Director

Nearly 2 out of 3 Branches are failing to attract enough new members to maintain their membership. This is not a new trend. SIR has been losing members statewide at about a 5-7% rate since the 90's. If this continues, SIR will soon be out of business.

Does this disturb you? You may say, "so what?" Well, consider this – What will you do for lunch partners, golf partners, bowling partners, bridge partners, and other social contacts when your Branch folds?

The State Growth and Membership Committee (G&M) did a lot of research trying to identify the reasons for this decline. What they learned is there are a lot of reasons. What they also learned is that some Branches are doing much better than others. The data suggests that the Branches that have developed Activities and Events, which include wives and significant others, are doing much better than those which have not changed. Also, Branches offering several activities are doing better than those who appear to be "luncheon clubs."

Society has changed. If SIR wants to remain viable, it must change also. We must offer an experience that current retiree's desire. They have lots of interests and many alternatives.

State Officers cannot solve the membership crisis. The G&M sub-committee, Area Governors, Regional Directors and State Officers are committed to helping but Branches will have to do it. You will have to do it!

There a lot of ideas for activities and tools to help you on the sirinc.org website in the Members Information web page. You can talk to your Branch Executive Committee, Area Governor and other State Officers. They can, and will help, but you are the only ones who can turn this trend around.

Get involved and grow your Branch!

BRING IN A GUEST - WE NEED NEW MEMBERS

Honorary Life Memberships Awarded in 2013

Lee M. Appel	BR004	Robert W. Keck	BR106
Thomas L. Birley	BR062	Philip J. Manriquez	BR001
Donald G. Carpenter	BR039	Howard E. Nielsen	BR127
Roger L. Deal	BR159	Eugene Parker	BR110
Richard L. Dettmer	PP045	William A. Peterson	BR008
Richard F. DeVoe	BR146	Chuck Phillips	BR093
Donald D. Ellington, Jr.	BR015	Melvin L. Picanco	BR117
Joseph A. Franklin	BR157	Roland R. Rempel	BR153
Robert A. Fricke	BR098	Edgar F. Smith	BR157
George Gianopulos	BR159	Dale Snyder	BR070
James Gibbany	BR149	Dean J. Steichen	SB008
Gary M. Goodenough	BR053	Richard M. Wagner	BR102
Ken W. Hansen	BR079	Robert Welti	BR011
Irwin Herlihy	BR134	Euell D. Winton	BR176
Edward P. Iaconis	BR127		



Dean Steichen, Region 6 Director and INFOSYS Chairman, shown on the left, received a State Honorary Life Membership from President Maynard Rodland. Dean was awarded this honor because of his significant contributions to Sons In Retirement over many years.

In Memoriam — Jim Wyatt

I am very saddened to report that my good friend and mentor, Past President Jim Wyatt, passed away on January 5th at the age of 86. Jim was President in 1999 and served on many SIR committees since that time.

Jim was born in San Francisco and met his wife, Trudy, at City College of San Francisco and they were happily married for 52 years. They began married life in Daly City where they started raising their family and then in 1975, they moved to their current residence in San Mateo. Jim worked in education at Lincoln High School, City College of San Francisco, Canada College, Skyline College and retired as Vice Chancellor of the San Mateo Community College District.

Jim also spent 58 wonderful years working for the San Francisco 49'ers in Game Day Operations. One of his friends told me that Jim would have loved to see the 49ers beat Green Bay in the last seconds of that game but he didn't quite make it.

Dwight Sale, Past President and Publisher of SIR Happenings



Sirs in the News

BLU Yonder Branch 127, Carmichael

Nielson Earns an HLM

Forest Wright, Bulletin Editor

By providing exceptional service to Branch 127 for 19 years, Howard Nielson has been awarded an Honorary Life Membership. Region 3 Director, Jimmie Johnson on the left in the picture, is shown presenting Howard with the HLM.

Howard has been quite an active member of our Branch for many years, serving as a Director for 14 years, Assistant Treasurer for 6 years, Bowling Chairman for 18 years, and has collected the monthly luncheon fees for the past 15 years.

Congratulations, Howard, on your long service to our Branch.



Pathfinder Branch 59, Fremont/Newark

Borghfi receives Senior Award

Area 8 Governor Sir Jim Ferenz (left) is presenting Sir Frank Borghi with his Presidents Senior Award for having reached the age of 90.



Wine Valley Branch 149, Napa

Gibany Honored with an HLM

Russ Barker, Big Sir

President Maynard Rodland, on the left in the picture, is shown presenting an Honorary Life Membership to Jim Gibany.

Jim Gibany has made a big contribution to Branch 149 over the years. Some of his contributions are: Big Sir, Little Sir, Secretary, Treasurer, Director and in addition, he has held some key leadership positions in our RV and Golf activities. Congratulations, Jim, on a well-deserved honor!



Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn

HLM for Ken Hansen

Craig Saunders, Area 33 Governor

John Hansell, Bulletin Editor

Ken Hansen is seen in the picture (on the left) receiving an Honorary Life Membership from then President, Rich Dettmer, during a Branch luncheon meeting.

Ken earned his award by performing outstanding service to Branch 79. Some of his contributions are serving as: Big Sir, Little Sir, Golf Chairman, Bulletin Editor, and a Director. Our hats off to you, Ken!



Sirs in the News

Wine Valley Branch 149, Napa

FORE!! The Love of Golf

Ron Irwin Golf Club Secretary/Treasurer

Bob Beach, Bulletin Editor

Each year we honor our golf champions at a nice awards luncheon at the Vintners Golf Course. The picture shows our handicap chairman with the three 2013 winners. From left to right are:

Bill Wheadon – Branch 149 Golf Club Handicap Chairman, John Anderson – Flight C 2013 Club Champion, Pete Stupey – Flight B 2013 Club Champion and John Walter – Flight A 2013 Club Champion. The flights are based on handicaps, with Flight C being generally over 30, Flight B being 20-30, and Flight A being less than 20.

The Club Champions are chosen based on the six best scores (total strokes) out of the ten monthly rounds held in January – October, with the winning player in each flight having the lowest number.



Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

A Consummate Athlete

Bill Gray, Bulletin Editor

Al Mattson, Assistant Editor and Treasurer

Gary Alenza (shown in the picture) won the Area 33, 2013 Golf Club Championship for the third consecutive year. Gary has been a member of Branch 37 since March of 2008 and has been the Branch Golf Chairman for two years. He won this year's title at the Anvil Hoffman Golf Course. The Area 33 Golf Club includes members from Branches in Auburn, Cool, Lake of the Pines, Grass valley, Alta Sierra, and Penn Valley.

Gary is the consummate athlete and sports fan. His room at home is jammed full of sports memorabilia signed by every sports star you can think of together with the numerous awards Gary has earned for his sports achievements. Gary's really an interesting guy...get an invitation to see his collection and he will talk about sports as long as you want to listen.



News from the Branches

Discovery Bay Branch 161

Golf Champion Don Ramos

Dale Welin, Golf Chairman

Tom Jones, Bulletin Editor

Branch 161's golf program consists of 8 golf tournaments each year for the 40 members we have in our SIR NCGA golf club. We play different venues each month at courses in Contra Costa and San Joaquin counties. Every year, in October, we hold our Championship Tournament to crown the best player.

Dale Welin and Don Ramos re-organized our Branch's Golf Club in 1999 and Don is very involved as the computer link to NCGA and assists each month with running the golf tournaments

For 2013, Don Ramos our Golf Co-Chairman, won the Championship Tournament event that was played at the Poppy Ridge Golf Course. Don ran away with the championship this year by shooting a 95 or a net 65. He won by 5 strokes on a very challenging course.

Dale Welin is the second guy in the picture (on the right) and is shown congratulating Don on his well-deserved award.



Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Kissing the Fanny

Michael Cronk, Bulletin Editor

"Kissing the Fanny" is the punishment for losing a Bocce game without scoring a single point. All players defeated by a shutout, have to kiss the fanny with the winning team serving as witnesses.

In "Joy of Bocce," author Mario Pagnoni writes that legend says the tradition started in France's Savoy Region. Fanny was a waitress at a café around World War I time. A gentle and compassionate soul, she would allow customers who lost Bocce without scoring a single point, to kiss her on the cheek. One day the village mayor who had been "skunked" came to collect his kiss. There was bad blood between the two and, intending to humiliate the mayor, Fanny stepped up onto a chair and lifted her skirt and offered him...her fanny! The mayor was up to it and two loud kisses echoed through the café – the beginning of a longstanding tradition.



In the pictures, Doug Wood and John Pastrone (with the glasses) are shown continuing the "Kissing" tradition.

News from the Branches

Contra Costa Branch 146

Bon Appétit!

Jeff Baily, Bulletin Editor

Our Cooking Group has been around since September 2004, and continues to be a fun way for eight Sirs to spend a few hours eating, drinking wine, and solving the world's problems.

Do the conversations ever slow down due to having solved all the world problems?...sure, but a member will then ask, "What did you guys do in the military?" or someone will start another topic and off we go into another multi-hour gab session.

In ten years, Cooking II group has developed a reputation as one of the best types of activities to be in and there are always requests to join. Eight seems to be an ideal number so when someone asks to join, we always invite them when a regular can't make the luncheon. Culinary skill is not required but inevitably it will improve over time. Everybody understands that.

Each month a different member acts as host and creates the lunch fare. An unwritten rule is that the Sir must create the meal...no fair asking wifey for help – well, maybe.

Many fond memories of our almost 10 years of participating come to mind – too many to list here. Camaraderie and lasting friendships would be at the top of that list.

As time went on, the spouses decided the men were having too much fun all by themselves and now several of the wives meet for lunch-out at one of the local eateries at the same time.

Once a year, we add a wine-bottling activity. We get 25 or so gallons from a local winery, that provides bulk wine and it is then bottled by the group at a very reasonable cost – everyone gets at least a case of wine with personalized SIR labels. The ladies are included in this event.

The Cooking group is shown in the picture at their latest wine bottling event. From left to right are: Bob Yolland, Bill Cammerer, John Demos, Dennis Hallett, Corrie Oranje, Bruce Borgman and Bill Roberts raising their glasses in a toast of "Bon Appetite."

We encourage other Branches that don't have a similar activity to try it out.



Committee Reports

Membership Goals

Dick DeVoe

State Secretary and Survivability Action Team (SAT), Chairman

Good news! In almost 12 months, there have been no Branch closings, which is much different than the past several years. Branch leaders are taking much stronger proactive measures to reduce Branch survival risk than ever before. Also, many more Branches have met the annual 10+% new members' goal over the past 3 years.

Unfortunately, almost half of the Branches that are doing well on the annual 10+% goal, are still losing net membership due to attrition eclipsing the number of new members in. This situation, coupled with the many Branches that are not making the new



members in goal, indicate a lot of work is still needed in attracting new members and retaining existing ones.

The SIR Board of Directors is responsible for the future health of Sons In Retirement. The Board has scheduled a Special Meeting on March 7th to address this issue. At its January Board meeting, it also approved a resolution on

...half of the Branches that are doing well on the annual 10+% goal, are still losing net membership due to attrition eclipsing the number of new members in.

membership and attendance goals which are summarized below and these resolutions can be found in their entirety on the SIR website in the 1/14/14 Board Minutes under the State Communications section:

1. Setting the Branch's 2014 New Member Goal (Form 27, Line 11 Goal)

The goal is at least 10% new members or attrition %, whichever is larger. Attrition % for 2013 and even 2012 should be considered when deliberating on the new member goal.

2. Setting the 2014 Guest Attendance Goal (Form 27, Line 19 Goal)

Without guests, Branches fail. If your new member goal is, say, 20 and your guest conversion rate is fifty percent, you will need at least 40 first time guests to make your new member goal.

3. Setting the 2014 Attendance Percentage Goal (Form 27, Line 18 Goal)

This goal continues to be 70%. If it is below that percentage, the luncheon experience may not be attractive in one or more ways--speakers, facility, sociability, food, parking, or the luncheon program itself.

4. Setting the 2014 Branch Membership Goal (Form 27, Line 15 Goal)

The Branch membership goal must be at least the number of total active members shown in the previous December column of Form 27 (Line 1). Since most Branches need to grow, this number should be higher in those cases.

Survivability Action Team

The Survivability Action Team (SAT) is here to help you. If you want to discuss any of these points, or have concerns about your Branch's survivability, please call or email the Chairman, Dick DeVoe at 925-932-5546 or dicknchristy@comcast.net.

News from the Branches

Orchard Valley Branch 54, San Jose

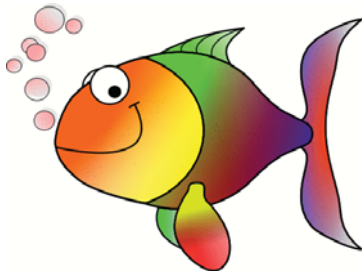
San Francisco Fishing Club

Ken Walling, Fishing Club Secretary

Our club had another great fishing year with warmer than normal weather and calm seas. After a few years without salmon, they are now back and almost all are large fish. The fish caught range from about 8 to 28 pounds with the average of about 15 to 20 pounds. As shown in one of the pictures, on most trips, everyone goes home with fish and some are pretty big, like the Sea Bass in the other picture.

The club was formed by Branch 4 but now also includes members from Branches 16, 19, 54 and 58. Members come from San Jose, Petaluma, Martinez and even Squaw Valley to fish on the Lovely Martha out of Fishermen's Wharf in San Francisco. We normally fish for salmon out of the Golden Gate but when they are not around, we fish for rock fish, halibut, or even sharks.

If you want to know more or even join our group, go to our web site www.branch54.sirinc2.org and look at the "Fish Club" page.



Committee Reports

State Golf

Dave Betts, Treasurer

Rich Seyler, Webmaster

The State Golf Committee continues its efforts to communicate its activities by sending an email blast to all SIR Golfers with NCGA Membership through the SIR Branches. The Committee realizes that those emails do not reach all members and therefore, we will continue to be a participant in providing articles for "SIR Happenings."

Golf is the activity that is driving new member recruiting in many Branches. The State Golf Committee provides a website for our members to answer questions on rules and any other questions that they may have. A copy of the most current changes to the State Golf Manual is on the website as well as information regarding Golf Committee sponsored tournaments throughout the year. To use the website go to <http://www.sirstategolf.com> or use the link provided on the SIR Inc. website.

The tournament calendar this year kicks off with Springtime in Napa Valley on April 21st and 22nd with two days of playing golf at Chardonnay and Eagle Vines Golf Courses. Day 1, at Eagle Vines, will be a low net tournament and day 2, at Chardonnay, will be a four man, two best ball tournament. This tournament is filling up quickly so better hurry!



The second tournament of the year is the Reno Fling, staying at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno and playing three different courses each week. Week one, is Monday thru Friday, June 16th through the 20th. Week two, is Monday through Friday June 23rd through the 27th. The format has changed for week one and this year, we will play a four man, one best ball on day one – four man, two best ball on day 2 – and a scramble on day 3. The week two format stays the same – three days of scramble. The Lady's tournaments will remain scramble format. Flyers will be mailed in February and reservations will open on March 3rd at 8 am.

The Fall Classic Solvang Tournament will be on September 14th through the 18th staying at Santa Ynez Valley Marriott in Buellton and playing golf three days...two days on the River Course at the Alisal and one day at La Purisima. This is the only Golf Committee sponsored tournament where guests may participate. So, bring your prospective new SIR Member. They must have a GHIN Handicap number and verifiable handicap.

The State Team Championship will be held on August 11th at Rancho Solano Golf Course in Fairfield. Contact Branch and Area Golf Chairmen for information on the qualifying tournaments for this event.

The State Individual Championship and Open Play tournament will return to the newly renovated Poppy Hills Golf Course. Seventy players will participate in the Championship and 70 others may participate in the Open Play on October 27th. Open Play for 140 players will also be conducted on October 28th. The renovated course will offer new challenges for all golfers. Applications will be on the website, so check it often because this tournament is expected to fill up fast.

The Golf Committee certainly hopes that the golf events, including weekly Branch events, will continue to be of great interest to all members. For more complete information please use the Golf Committee website <http://www.sirstategolf.com/>.

The State Team Championship will be held on August 11th at Rancho Solano Golf Course in Fairfield.

Committee Reports

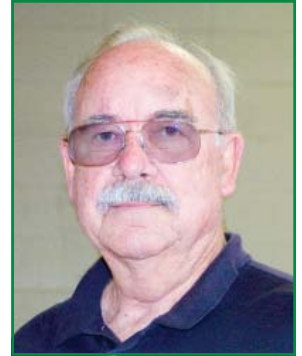
State Bowling

Del Locke, State Bowling Committee Chairman

I attended the SIR State Board meeting in January where I presented the 2014 State Bowling Tournament schedule for approval. The schedule was approved with little discussion. I guess the State Board thinks we know what we are doing. The current 2014 schedule can be found on the Bowling Activity website at <http://sirinc.org/bowling/>.

The bad news is that we lost several tournaments for 2014, but have added a new tournament in Folsom in April thanks to Tournament Manager

Bill Bumbaca. The State Tournament is scheduled for May 19, 20 and 22 in Yuba City at Nu Generation Lanes hosted by Tournament Manager Ray Buttacavoli. The State Bowling Committee will hold its annual meeting



The State Tournament is scheduled for May 19, 20 and 22 in Yuba City at Nu Generation Lanes...

on February 4th in Vallejo to discuss any tournament issues and policy and procedure concerns. If you feel the need to bring up a concern, please feel free to join us and contact me for meeting details.

Attendance at our 2013 tournaments was down about 9% from 2012. Looking at the data, it appears attendance was down across the board at all of the SIR tournaments. We would like to turn this around. We know travel is sometimes not easy and travel expenses never go down but if you can car pool or ride as a group, we would really like to see you at some of the tournaments. Look at the schedule, find some that are close to home and come out and join us ...it's fun and you will see or meet SIR bowlers from all over.

Alta Sierra Branch 124, Grass Valley

A Gentlemen's Pool League

Richard Bergsted, Bulletin Editor

Our Alta Sierra Pool League has about 12 members and we play at "Dusty's Tavern" which is located near downtown Grass Valley in Dusty's beautiful home. We meet at least once a month for Pool, dinner and drinks. The number of those attending may vary because not all of our members can meet on the same day. Our events last about 7 hours so it's a good "get-away" therapy session



and everyone seems to have a good time...see the two pictures

We have very loose rules of play, which keeps the games relaxed...four players per game (2 on each side) compete for bragging rights. No betting but we may come up with something for the losing team to do for the winners like serving them drinks or snacks from the bar. New members are always welcome and skill with a cue is not important to join this group of gentlemen... just a desire to enjoy life. To join us just send an email to: dustystavern@aol.com.



Happenings Travel Bulletin

May 9-17, 2014 **Mississippi River Cruise**

Travel the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Memphis aboard the authentic paddle wheeler, The American Queen. The trip includes a pre-Night stay in New Orleans and a post-cruise tour of Graceland. Prices range from \$4235 to \$7140 for a superior cabin with a private balcony. Offered by Branch 144 Travel. Contact Bill Stires at 209-544-2684.



May 13-29, 2014 **Hidden Gems of the Dalmation Coast & Greece**

This is a 16 day Cruise aboard a privately owned Grand Circle small ship with a maximum of 50 passengers. Ports of Call will include Zagreb, Split, Hvar, Korcula, Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Butrint, Albania, Corfu, Delphi and Athens. Prices range from

approximately \$4595 to \$6170 PPDO, depending on accommodations and airfare. Trip also includes 37 meals, 12 exclusive tours with personal headsets, home hosted dinner, and resident



Grand Circle Program Director. Offered by Branch 146 Travel. Contact Ken Richter at 925-689-6217.

August 18-25, 2014 **Canadian Rockies**

On This 8 day trip you will travel on the Rocky Mountaineer sightseeing train which only travels during the day so you can see the renowned beauty of Vancouver, Jasper, Lake Louise and Banff with stays in deluxe hotels. Prices are from \$5265 to \$5735 which includes 16 meals, gratuities, trip insurance, transfers, baggage handling, tax, park passes and airfare. Offered by Branch 114 Travel. Call Jim Stoner at 408-238-8458 or Larry Martinson at 408-528-0746.

August 24-September 8, 2014 **British Isles**

The British Isles beckon adventurous travelers, with fascinating cultures, awe-inspiring and stunning landscapes. This 12 day cruise on the Ruby Princess includes London, Guernsey, Cork, Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, Orkney, Edinburgh and Paris. The costs range from \$4693 to \$6295 PPDO and includes airfare, transfers, and gratuities. Offered by Branches 45 and 109 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693.

September 5-12, 2014 **Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, & Cape Cod**

Tour the Rhode Island mansions and gardens, visit the Korean War Museum, and enjoy a high speed catamaran ride to Martha's Vineyard and so much more. Cost is \$2676 PPDO. Offered by Branch 125 Travel. Call Dick Kohl at 408-268-0428 or Bill Kurtz at 408-268-8830.

September 19-October 3, 2014 **Grand Norwegian Coastal Voyage**

This 14 night trip begins in Bergen, Norway with a stay at a Superior First Class Hotel before boarding your working Norwegian coastal vessel designed for comfortable cruising. You will visit 34 ports of call, with 12 orientation walking tours with a Program Manager. The cost of this trip is \$4649 PPDO, which includes accommodations, 35 meals, all transfers and baggage handlings. A post trip to Copenhagen, Denmark is also available. Offered by Branch 146 Travel. Call Bob Spellman at 925-934-8428.

September 27-October 12, 2014 **Panama Canal Island Princess Cruise**

This cruise begins in San Francisco with several ports of call in Central America and the Panama Canal, ending in Fort Lauderdale. Costs range from \$2870 to \$3495 PPDO depending on accommodations. Offered by Branch 1 Travel. Call Philip Manriquez at 650-871-5009.

September 28-October 14, 2014 **Istanbul and the Black Sea Cruise**

Trip Includes 3 nights in Istanbul with guided tours of the city, followed by a

cruise on the Celebrity Constellation to Yalta, Sevastopol, and Odessa, Ukraine, Burgas, Bulgaria, Mykonos, Greece and Kusadasi, Turkey. Cost ranges from \$4490 to \$5360 PPDO, including airfare. Offered by Branches 101 and 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.



November 3-17, 2014 **Spain**

Experience the historic and culturally diverse Spain for 13 days. You will travel to Madrid, Segovia, Toledo, Valencia, and Barcelona. The costs range from \$4195 to \$4395 PPDO and includes airfare, accommodations, tours, taxes, gratuities, transfers and many meals. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765 or Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226.



GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

WHERE THE BAY COMES TO PLAY

Golden Gate Fields Presents....

A Spring "Salute to SIR" day at the races!!!

When: Friday March 21, 2014 Where: Golden Gate Fields Turf Club

Time: Please arrive @ 11:15 a.m.

Gates open at 11:00 a.m.

Buffet Hours: 11:30-3:00 p.m.

First race: 12:45 p.m. Cost: \$29.00 per adult

Includes: Valet parking (or parking for a bus), admission & reserved seating, daily racing program, Prime Rib buffet and tax/tip for the food servers. The first 21 groups of 12 or more to book will receive a named race in honor of their Branch!

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE FOR A BIG WIN!!!

For more information please call
Michael Roberts of Golden Gate Fields @ (510) 559-7380
Or email mroberts@goldengatefields.com



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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!

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