

Sons in Retirement



Volume 24 Issue 12

Web site <http://www.sir5.org>

December, 2011

Big SIR sez:

It is with sadness that I report that Branch 5 has lost three long-time members, Bob Downs, Al Gardner, and Ray Odell. Al was Big SIR in 1986, a Senior Honorary Life Member, and Branch Parliamentarian. Ray was Big SIR in 1995, an Honorary Life Member, and Attendance Chair. They will be missed. Our sincere condolences go out to their families and friends.

Dr. Robert Burmeister, our November speaker, inspired many of us to seriously consider LED lighting for our homes. With incandescent bulbs following the buggy whip into oblivion, LEDs provide a viable alternative to CFLs for home lighting. The 2012 slate of officers were sworn in at the November luncheon. Included in the group was Ed Schwabecher, a Branch 5 member for less than a year, who will serve as a Director on the Branch Executive Committee (BEC). New members, like Ed, stepping up to serve the Branch will keep the organization viable. Thanks, Ed! My best wishes to Al Stratz, our new Big SIR.

This month marks the completion of my term of office

as Big SIR. I was privileged to serve for two years and enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you for this opportunity to serve. I am very grateful for the support that everyone in the Branch provided to me. I am especially grateful for the dedicated service of Little SIRs John Geibel in 2010, and Al Stratz in 2011, and all of the BEC members who have served during the past two years. I believe that the

membership roster is healthier now with participating members. Let's all support Big SIR Al Stratz in 2012 and invite friends to become members.

Enjoy the upcoming Holidays. Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanza will soon be here! See you at the Holiday Party on December 14.

Howard Trudeau
Big SIR

State News:

The Fall edition of SIR Happenings has just been posted on the SIR website:

<http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>

President Mannell's front page article reviews 2011 accomplishments. The increase in Branch Activities was very positive as was the reduction in the rate of losing members. He pointed out that we have done many of the difficult things necessary for our future and that the next one or two years will show true growth in membership.

The SIR website has borrowed the travel page from "SIR Happenings" and you may click here to see the new link, http://sirinc.org/new_site/travel.html and then click on "Click to see a sample of SIR trips being planned"

I hope you enjoy reading our latest edition.

Don MacGregor

Lunch, December 14th

(Advance registrations)

HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 14

MENU:

CHOICE OF:

**ROAST BEEF, ENGLISH CUT
AU JUS or
BREAST OF CHICKEN,
FLORENTINE or
BROILED SALMON or
SPINACH AND CHEESE
TORTELLI, AL PESTO**

**MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
RAFFLE**

\$25 PER PERSON

**SIGN-UP AND ENTRÉE
SELECTION AT NOVEMBER
LUNCHEON**

**LAST DAY TO SIGN-UP IS
DECEMBER 1**

luncheons these past two years have been enjoyable. The food has been good and the speakers, thanks to John and Al, have been interesting and entertaining. The

Editor, SIR Happenings

SPEAKER

No speaker this month

Attendance Report

The attendance at the November meeting was: 45 members plus the speaker.

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**Membership**

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

November 30, 2011

**Membership Changes:**

New: None

Resigned: Donald Miller #14

Alvin Soderquist #145

Deceased: Bob Down #361

Al Gardner #97

Ray Odell #177

**Membership Status:**

Active: 71

Inactive: 1

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Roster Changes

Email address change for John J.

Geibel to: jjgeibel@gmail.com

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**December Birthdays**

Bernard M. Meseth 12/06

Charles T. Minor 12/07

Robert S. Carter 12/11

Jere J. Austin 12/14

John B. Raymond 12/23

Robert G. Hertz 12/28

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Board

SIR BRANCH 5

November 16, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum of 7 committee members was present. Attending were: Al Stratz-Little Sir, Fred Van Kirk-Director, Art Kraemer-Assistant Treasurer, Ken Liddicoat-Director, Wayne Richter-Assistant Secretary, Howard Trudeau-Big Sir, Don Harryman-Treasurer, Art Schmid-Secretary and visitor Ed Schwabecher. Later arrivals were Paul Butler-Membership and John Geibel-Assistant Secretary-Elect.

2. The minutes of the last meeting were approved after correcting one sentence to read, "The attendance of wives at events has provided increased networking."

3. Big Sir Report-Howard Trudeau:

a. It was reported with regret that HLMs Ray Odell and Al Gardner and member Bob Downs had passed away in November. Art Kraemer will send condolences to their families.

b. The 2012 meeting dates were presented and a copy is on file.

c. Invited guest, Ed Schwabecher, was introduced. He has expressed interest in serving as a Director on the BEC. It was moved and seconded that Ed's nomination to be a Director is accepted. The motion was carried. Ed will be sworn in with the 2012 slate of officers at the Luncheon.

d. Our Holiday Party will be held on December 14, with a cutoff sign-up date of December 1. The party cost per member or guest is \$25.00. A group will

provide music for the occasion, and they will be treated to dinner.

e. It was proposed that we provide a monetary gift to our servers for their monthly help. It was moved, seconded and carried that this be done. The specific amount was not discussed.

f. The Fall edition of "SIR Happenings" is now on SIR-INC.ORG. There is a message from State SIR President, Bob Mannell who suggested that to grow, we should "Be a Friend and Bring a Friend." The state has inducted 1627 new members for the year but by cleaning up club rosters and removing inactive members (as we have done) the state had a net loss of 576 members. However, the present memberships are much more representative of reality. Total State membership is about 14,000.

g. On November 1 we had 76 members. We lost 3 this month, all of whom passed away, so our present membership is 73. Further details can be found on Form 27, the MONTHLY BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT, which is on file.

h. Ken Liddicoat has a badge insert prepared to recognize Senior SIRs of ages 90 and up. Big SIR committed to submit the names of potential Senior SIR recipients before he leaves office. Ken has been nominated to be our one Honorary Life member (HLM). The Branch has another allocated HLM position open. The BEC was urged to take this up in 2012.

4. Little SIR- Al Stratz:

a. We have a good speaker

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today, Dr. Robert Burmeister, who will speak on Light Emitting Diodes, which he helped develop along with their applications.

b. Ken Christy will be Little SIR for next year and will be responsible for arranging speakers.

c. The speaker for January will speak on America's Cup or Bernie Madoff.

5. Treasurers Report- Don Harryman:

a. Our annual contribution of \$25.00 will be payable soon.

b. Our month's Beginning Cash Balance was \$4960.09. Our Current Cash Balance is \$4937.34.

A detailed report is on file.

6. Membership Report-Paul Butler: As reported earlier, we lost three members, who passed away. We now have 73 Active, and one Inactive member. The full report is on file.

7. Golf-Stan Kazul: The golf group continues to have good participation. At their Christmas lunch they plan to give out baseball caps with the SIR logo.

There being no further business, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Schmid
Secretary

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**GOLF**

**Sunnyvale Golf Nov. 3 2011**

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Art Kraemer   | 87 net 67 |
| Jiries Nazzal | 97 net 71 |
| Adel Nazzal   | 93 net 72 |

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Howard Trudeau | 100 net 68 |
| Azmi Habib     | 111 net 75 |
| Wayne Richter  | 113 net 77 |

**CTTP**

**Santa Clara Golf Nov. 10 2011**

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Jim Stevens | 94 net 68 |
| Jim Swanson | 96 net 72 |
| Adel Nazzal | 95 net 74 |

**CTTP**

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Kamel Totah | 107 net 72 |
| Jere Austin | 107 net 76 |

**CTTP**

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Azmi Habib | 115 net 78 |
|------------|------------|

**Shoreline Golf Nov. 17 2011**

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Jim Stevens | 94 net 68  |
| Azmi Habib  | 105 net 68 |
| Jim Swanson | 95 net 71  |
| Jere Austin | 103 net 71 |

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CompuSIR

Chairman,

Jim Dinkey, Branch 35

The CompuSIR group meets the second Wednesday of each month at noon for a brown bag lunch at the **Palo Alto Elks—4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto.**

The following speaker(s) are currently scheduled: **No meeting in December.**

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**TRAVEL NEWS**

**FOR AREA 16, BRANCHES 5, 35, & 51**

Still looking for a travel chairman. See BIG SIR. You can read the State SIR newsletter called SIR HAPPENINGS at the state website [www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/](http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/), which includes twenty or so travel news from other branches such as: **March 1, 2012** - The Wonders of Costa Rica. Experience the lush forests, magnificent waterfalls, rumbling volcanoes, endless

coastlines and diverse ecosystems in a place that preserves its delicate ecology for all to enjoy along with some of the most spectacular scenery you will ever experience. This SIR trip includes: Round trip Air, 18 meals, Motor Coach, Hotels, Professional Naturalist Tour Director, all Admissions per itinerary, and all tips. The cost is \$2579 double occupancy or \$3179 single. A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure reservations with an optional cancellations insurance also available at \$200 per person payable with the deposit. For more details contact escorts Mike Console (408-246-1080) or John Pletsch (408-274-2992).

**April 11-16, 2012** - National Cherry Blossom Festival. Celebrate the beauty of spring in Washington DC as the nation celebrates the festival's 100th anniversary. This SIR trip includes reserved seating at the Cherry Blossom parade, Tram tour of Arlington National Cemetery, many National Memorials, visit to the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian Institution's , Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center displaying over 335 aircraft including the Space Shuttle Enterprise and the Enola Gay, Mt. Vernon, the Newseum and a Potomac River Cruise. Included are home pick-up, round-trip airfare, 6 nights first class accommodations, 8 meals, professional tour manager, deluxe airconditioned motor coach and all taxes and gratuities. The price is \$2170 per person double occupancy (single \$2470). For more details contact escorts, John Pletsch (408-274-2992) or Mike Console (408-246-1080).

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Bowling
BRANCHES 5, 35, & 51

EVERY TUESDAY,
HOMESTEAD LANES,
HOMESTEAD AND
STELLING,
SUNNYVALE.

No data this month

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**Biking**

**Jerry Butler – (650)494-8078**  
gxb366(at)aol.com

DECEMBER – No ride scheduled

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RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All activities arranged for or by, or sponsored by, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Son In Retirement, Incorporated and its Branches do not assume responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters.

-2011-

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SONS IN RETIREMENT
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Al Stratz, Little Sir
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE
