

Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement Branch #51

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch51

No. 532
A Non-Profit Organization
For Retired Men



November 2020
Devoted to the Promotion of
Independence and Dignity of Retirement

LUNCHEON: 12 PM – FIRST WEDNESDAY – FREMONT HILLS CC, 12889 VISCAINO PL., LOS ALTOS, CA

Please Note:

Next SIR General Meeting for Wednesday, 4th of November 2020 will be via Zoom with a **meeting time** of:

12:30 PM.

(Start logging in at 12:15 PM)

The General Membership (all members) Meeting times for the rest of the 2020 year and the beginning of 2021 year are the following dates and times: every month on the first Wednesday, until Feb 3, 2021, four occurrences.

Nov 4, 2020 12:30 PM
Dec 2, 2020 12:30 PM
Jan 6, 2021 12:30 PM
Feb 3, 2021 12:30 PM

For more information on our Zoom video conference meetings, check within this newsletter for details.

Also, please **Remember to Vote** in time to get your ballot counted. Remember, general election is this coming Tuesday, November 3rd. Let's all participate in this election.

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Big SIR Notes:

From the computer of Jim Cummings

As you know the county is making progress in combating the pandemic. The powers that be are being more conservative than the state requires and that may or not be a good thing.

I don't think there are any members that are ready to enjoy lunches together and the club is not ready for us either. We are having successful meetings via ZOOM but we miss the members who have not joined us.

ZOOM works very well, but if any of you are having trouble joining a meeting, please contact another member for lessons. Or the following instructions should help get you started.

Here is a brief update on meeting methods. I will, or another officer, will send you an email with a rather long URL which only requires you to click on it and ZOOM will start the process. If clicking does not work, download [ZOOM.US](https://zoom.us) and then use the meeting ID and password as requested.

You can start joining the meeting 15 minutes before the scheduled time for preliminary conversation. You can use a computer or tablet or newer mobile phone as long as the devices have a camera.

Jim C.
cell: 650-207-3609
home: 650-328-2168

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Monthly Presentation for Members

November 4th Speaker Topic:

Affordable Housing in Silicon Valley Through Alto Housing, a Community-Based, Non-Profit Organization

Topic Description:

Alto Housing, Palo Alto, CA

Homes that people can afford—pretty simple right? Affordable housing is housing rented or sold at a lower than market rate. We work through federal, state, and local programs to make sure that communities in Silicon Valley don't miss out on the true richness of people because of the high cost of housing. We believe governments, non-profits, and advocates must work together to keep our communities affordable! It sounds like something we all want. We agree—it is! But we're specifically talking about the people whose income level makes them eligible to live in these properties. They're people we meet every day who live and work in our community. From caregivers to servers, they're families whose children will be the next generation of Bay Area talent. They're neighbors who may fall on a wide spectrum of income, but one thing is clear: they deserve to thrive in their own communities.

Courtesy of Alto Housing Website
<https://altahousing.org/>

Speaker Biography:



Randy Tsuda, President and CEO of Alto Housing

Randy Tsuda joined Palo Alto Housing in 2018 after serving as the Mountain View Community Development Director for over 10 years. His career includes experience in the non-profit, private, and public sectors, and spans real estate, city planning, affordable housing, and economic development. He has worked on projects that received awards from the American Planning Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, and in May 2018 his department received the “Bringing It Home” award from SV@Home, a policy and advocacy organization focused on increasing affordable housing. Randy was also a lecturer for seven years in the Urban and Regional Planning Program at San Jose State University.

Courtesy of mtc.ca.gov Website
https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/Randy_Tsuda.pdf

Future speakers for the coming months:

December 2 – **H.R. McMaster**, retired U.S. Army 3-Star Lt. General, former National Security Advisor to President Donald Trump, Hoover Fellow, author of new book, *Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World*

January 6, 2021– To Be Determined

FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SPEAKERS

**PLEASE CONTACT:
Walt McCullough
(650)-303-8194**

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General Interest

SIR 51 Board Meetings

Next virtual **Board meeting** will be held on the first Wednesday of **November the 4th**, at **11:00 AM**. Please start logging into the virtual meeting at 10:45 AM. For more details, please contact either Big SIR, Jim Cummings (cell:650/207-3609), or Secretary, Gerry Shebar (650/868-6124).

Selection of 2021 Board members is under way. This November SIR 51 Board meeting will be discussing recommendations for Executive Committee Officers, as well as Administrative and Activities Chairmen. Current Big SIR, Jim Cummings, and two prior Big SIRs, Steve Tremulis, and Craig Carpenter, will review and announce for approval by the General Membership via our Zoom meeting soon.

October's board meeting had 11 attendees.

Kevin Wheaton has been examining how our branch can video record our guest speakers' presentations at the Zoom, or in-person (whenever that becomes possible) general membership meetings and share them with other branches for use throughout the state SIR branches – an ability to contribute resources for interesting speakers and topics. Foster Kinney, our Area 13 Governor, is working with Kevin and the state SIR organization to capture, store video presentations, and allow access to these presentations by various SIR branches. It is hoped that other branches will do the same effort to help promote a variety of presentations for view with other groups. Kevin, Foster, keep up the good effort toward this goal.

Important Alert for All SIR 51 Members

Starting this month, the newsletter will not be including individual e-mail addresses for all members. Only a member's telephone number will be listed. Recent experience by some members have **found phishing e-mails** sent to our members by a "fellow" member that actually is not a true SIR member who is asking for financial support via gift cards for the benefit of a fake "veterans' charity". Please beware of this suspicious activity and do not open or respond to these phishing attempts.

From the computer of State SIR Trainer, AG Lee Moy, there will be a **State SIR Leadership Summit** conducted daily from 16th – 20th of November 2020, Monday through Friday, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM via Zoom. Please see the attachment to this newsletter for the Zoom link, meeting ID, and pass code information.



SIR 51 General Membership Meeting

Many of you may have used ZOOM video conferencing application to communicate with family and friends. If you are not familiar with ZOOM app, not to worry, it is fairly easy to use. The State SIR group has provided training information for you to review to help you become more proficient with this video application. The link to this training material is:

<https://sirinc.org/Zoom/LearningZoom.pdf>

An "invitation" will be sent for the November meeting for you to click a link to join the scheduled

meeting. You can use your computer, or a tablet, or a cell phone with their built-in cameras for use with the on-line meeting. Get app at [ZOOM.us](https://zoom.us)

Last month's October General Membership Zoom meeting was attended by 21 members. Try to join our November General Membership Zoom meeting to see and talk with your fellow members. It is fun and interesting for all. **Please remember to avoid making background noise or, easier, just mute your sound while in the meeting to help the video meeting be more enjoyable for all.**

Please note, starting in January 2021, the SIR Branch 51 **Membership Roster** will be published only in electronic form. A file copy can be sent to all members via e-mail, and the roster file will be archived on our branch website.

SIR 51 Website

SIR Branch 51 website provides helpful information on our activities and archives our news. Should you have inputs for our website, please contact our website masters, Gerry Shebar or Art Lewis.

www.sirinc2.org/branch51

gshebar@yahoo.com

alewis.mvca@comcast.net

State SIR Website

See State SIR website: www.sirinc.org

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ACTIVITIES



GOLF

Again, little new news this month

Golf is being restarted informally. Each course has its own methods of dealing with the "China" virus, but we have been able to get some play. There has been approximately 16 – 20 golfers now enjoying golf.

Each course has to be dealt with individually. We are currently following the schedule developed for this current year, and hopefully, we will be able to play weekly. If you have lost the schedule, please check our website shown on page one of the golf newsletter and watch your emails for updates.

At this point it is not practical for us to post your scores or to have competitions so our games are mostly just for fun and exercise. If you have not downloaded the NCGA app please do so. It is fairly easy to use, and you can easily post your scores and gather other info regarding your index and course handicaps.

Keep it in the short grass!

Courtesy of Jim Cummings, Big SIR

Watch your e-mails to determine when our county bosses will let us play again and have lunch together. We will be "paroled" eventually from jail.

All of the golf courses we play require a player count 7-14 days prior to play date.

If your play or no-play commitment changes, please call:

JIM CUMMINGS

home: (650) 328-2168

cell: (650) 207-3609

Kai Johansen, golf course coordinator, has reported that the 2020-2021 golf schedule is in place and three of nine contracts are in place as well. More news to come. Stay tuned.

Golf course coordinator:

KAI JOHANSEN

(650) 853-2493

Check if the following activities are going to occur while under reduced or removed COVID-19 state, county, or municipality restrictions.



COMPUSIR is a self-help Computer discussion group. Meets monthly at the PALO ALTO ELKS LODGE 4249 EL CAMINO REAL, PALO ALTO. For entry, use the announce button on the pedestal to the left of the Front door. **COMPUSIR** is now part of SPAUG (the Stanford – Palo Alto Users Group). SPAUG Meetings are still held the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of each month at 7:00 pm. at PA Elks Lodge (address above). The meeting is upstairs (elevator available past the stairway). More information at www.spaug.net.

MACINTOSH USERS

Contact Skip Ross to join this e-mail group where SIR members in all branches can exchange MAC-related news, get answers to questions and share experiences.

SKIP ROSS (541) 857-6224



INDOOR BOWLING: (BRANCHES 5, 35 & 51) We bowl on a handicap system, so all have an equal chance. Each season teams are revised and always have a mix of players by ability. **Tuesdays at Homestead Lanes: Homestead and Stelling in Sunnyvale from 1-3 PM.** Be there by **12.45 PM**. New bowlers are always welcome at any level of experience. If you're new, it's easier if you call me in advance so we will be prepared. Spouses, women friends are welcome – there are now 10 co-ed teams.

YOU CAN JOIN ANYTIME

A ball and shoes are available at the bowling lanes. Looking for some exercise that does not rely on good weather? Indoor 10-pin bowling is a fun low-impact activity. Most SIR bowlers are surprised at how fast bowling skills come back to them after a long lay-off. Many have not bowled since they were youngsters. For more information, contact:

BOB TAGGART (650) 321-2654, Br 35



LAWN BOWLING: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 9:30 AM at Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club, 474 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Players need to be 15 minutes early to be entered into the draw for teams. Free coaching is available for new players. Contact:

DON HUGHES (650) 323-9916



TENNIS: Our tennis group meets Mondays and Thursdays at Rinconada Park in Palo Alto. Please be there by 8:30 AM when doubles teams will be formed. Late arrivals will play as sets are completed. We play an open spin-in doubles format. Play level is about 2.5. We welcome non-SIRS, so bring a friend.

BILL KAMIN (650) 322-4300

CYCLING:

SIRS ON BIKES:



SIR Area #16 bike rides regularly start at 11:00 AM, the 2nd Thursday of the month. Wives and guests are welcome. We follow SIR COVID protocol for our gatherings. Bring bike, helmet, mask and a jacket if it is windy. Rain cancels.

The SIR Branch 35 monthly bicycling is a combined activity with all SIR Branches in Area 16. The objectives of the monthly rides are to continue to promote fellowship, share experiences, get some exercise and above all, have FUN! Planned SIR rides are announced in each SIR Monthly Newsletter and by email to all interested members.

There are 10 standard SIR bike trails - all very scenic from South San Jose to South San Francisco and from Half Moon Bay to Fremont all between 15 to 20 miles round trip on paved, level bicycle trails. Some trails will have optional 4-5 mile extensions. The riding pace is moderate between 9 to 13 mph depending on oncoming headwinds. Riding on streets is kept to a minimum. Planned rides will have short restroom/water breaks and lunch is at a known restaurant at the halfway point of the ride.

If you plan to ride or have questions please contact Jim Lunt or Gordon Tong as per below.

JAMES LUNT (408) 252-6804, Cell: (408) 921-5085
GORDON TONG (408) 242-0557

See the required protocols listed below.

These are the eight points that state SIR approved to re-open the bicycle activities. See protocols below:

1. For the safety of all of our riders, ride only if one is feeling 100% healthy.
2. We will designate a lead rider at the front of the group and a designated sweeper behind the last rider. All riders will stay between the designated lead and sweeper.
3. Riders must wear a biking helmet and some type of face mask. Riders are encouraged to bring a hand sanitizer because public restrooms may not always be open.
4. We will stagger riders in groups of 2-3 with the first group departing, followed by the next group of riders 2-3 minutes later and continue with this staggered process until all riders have departed.
5. Riders will ride single file and maintain a minimum 50' distance from the rider immediately in front. Riders can pass each other as long as there is a safe margin to pass.
6. When the lead rider stops for a group water or restroom break, all riders will stop and maintain a minimum 6' distance from each other.
7. Riders are encouraged to bring their lunch or order takeout food. The designated lead rider will find a suitable area to eat lunch and ensure proper social distancing.
8. Ride back to our designated ride starting point in the same manner.

2nd Thursday, November 12th at 11:00 AM

Location: Los Gatos Creek Trail

Ride: We will ride the rolling Los Gatos Creek Trail for about 7.5 miles from Blackford School to the town of Los Gatos for lunch. Then, ride back for a total of 15 miles.

Directions: Go South on I-280 (past Highway 17) to Meridian (South); turn right. Go to Willow

Street (the third stoplight); turn right. Take Willow Street until it dead-ends at Blackford Elementary School. Parking is available in the school parking lot and on neighborhood streets. For address for maps and GPS, Blackford Elementary School is at 1970 Willow St, San Jose.

Also Lat. 27.369612, Long.-103.352529, I have not used Lat., and Long., So, I can not swear by it. Normally this is the ride that has been ridden for many years. This time, if a few riders want to go up to the foot of the top of Lexington Reservoir, we will continue up a trail to it. It is packed dirt and one very hard uphill small section. Good mountain bike people love it, but road bike people turn their bicycle into walking sticks. With the COVID-19 Protocols, if you do not ride up to Lexington reservoir, there is either the food that you have with you, or you get some food at an outlet in Los Gatos. Those that go to Lexington might have a snack with them for respite near the top.

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Jim Lunt or Gordon Tong as listed above.

The next ride for SIRS on Bikes

November: Los Gatos Creek Trail

Cycling Schedule for 2020

~~January, Stevens Creek/Shoreline Park (M.V.)~~

~~February, Coyote Creek (So. San Jose)~~

~~March, Coyote Hills-Alameda Creek
(Fremont/Niles)~~

~~April, Foster City Bay Trail~~

~~May, Brisbane Bayshore Trail~~

~~June, Guadalupe Trail (Alviso to San Jose)~~

~~July, Sawyer Camp Trail/ San Andreas trail
(new ride)~~

~~August, San Lorenzo-Alameda Ride~~

~~September, Mt. View to Alviso~~

~~October, Half Moon Bay~~

November, Los Gatos Creek Trail

December, no ride (members may call for a ride)

NON-RESPOSIBILITY DECLARATION:

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

STATE SIR TRAVEL INFORMATION



For information on State SIR travel, go to the State SIR website listed below, and click on “Region and Area Info”, click on “Resources”, click on “More Information”, then look for “Travel Management Information” section which has sub-links to travel agencies, bus companies, and a travel handbook. Also, one can use “Search Here” box at the base of the page using the word “travel”.

STATE SIR WEBSITE

www.sirinc.org

SIR BRANCH 51 NEWSLETTER

If you have any inputs, suggestions or feedback to add or improve the newsletter, please let me know.

Also, if you wish to add material to the newsletter, inputs for the next newsletter should be submitted between the 15th and 20th of the month prior to the next newsletter.

Newsletter Editor:

Richard Jamison
(650) 868-3723

2020 SIR BRANCH #51 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Big SIR: Jim Cummings 328-2168
Little SIR: (Open)
Secretary: Gerry Shebar 868-6124
Asst. Secretary: Richard Jamison 868-3723
Treasurer: Kingsley Wood 799-8420
Asst. Treasurer: Kevin Wheaton 485-2276

DIRECTORS

Director: Joe Grippo 948-2130
Director: Sam Meredith 325-4152
Director: Craig Carpenter 325-4152

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

Indoor Bowling: Bob Taggart (Br 35) 321-2654
Lawn Bowling: Don Hughes 323-9916
Cycling: Jim Lunt (Br. 35) (408) 252-6804
Tennis: Bill Kamin 322-4300
Golf: Kai Johansen 853-2493
Jim Cummings 328-2168
Travel: State SIR Travel: www.sirinc.org
Compusir: Stanford-PA Users Group www.spaug.net
Macintosh Users: Skip Ross (541) 857-6224
Historian: (Open)

ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRMEN

Attendance: Kingsley Wood 799-8420
Audit: Sam Meredith 325-4152
Russ Porter 234-1212
Website: Gerry Shebar 868-6124
Art Lewis 964-3223
Newsletter: Richard Jamison 868-3723
Good Samaritan: Bob Guffey 593-3496
Member Orientation: Bob Guffey 593-3496
Luncheon Programs: Walt McCullough 303-8194
Acting Membership: Gerry Shebar 868-6124
Membership Assistant: (Open)
Greeter: Al Runge 592-1345
Special Events: (Open)
Nominating Committee: Jim Cummings 328-2168
Steve Tremulis 598-9790
Craig Carpenter 325-4152

All telephone numbers are in the 650 area code, except where noted differently.

All changes in address, telephone number, and e-mail address needs to be reported to the SIR Branch 51,
Acting Membership Committee Chairman:

Gerry Shebar,
3345 Stockton PL.,
Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 868-6124

“All the news that fits we print”

Anonymous