# Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement Branch #51

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch51

No. 533 A Non-Profit Organization For Retired Men



December 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,  $2^{nd}$  of December 2020 will be via Zoom with a meeting time of:

# 12:30 PM (Start logging in at12:15 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, three occurrences.

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.

# **Big SIR Notes:**

From the computer of Jim Cummings

Fellow SIRS,

Our normal Wednesday ZOOM meeting has General H. R. McMaster as our speaker. Please google, or click the following link, to catch up on H. R. McMaster, our former National Security Advisor. There is a lot of information there which should help you be prepared for his talk which will mainly address his latest book "BATTLEGROUNDS".

You all should pay special attention to H. R. McMaster's *Battlegrounds* and read the PREFACE to get an understanding of what the new book is about.

Most of our members are able to handle Zoom, but if you are having problems, please let me know.

As most of you know the state leadership does not want any group in-person meetings or events, so until the vaccine gets released and distributed, we will have to meet via ZOOM. We are now at the mercy of the CDC and FDA to approve release of the vaccine. The distribution methods are in place and we can only hope all will go well.

On the first Wednesday in January, we will have a social hour starting at 12:30 with a 1 PM start to our meeting. Hopefully, this will give us all a chance to touch bases with our fellow SIRS. All depends on my ability to manage the new normal regarding computer meetings and procedures.

Have a wonderful holiday season and may 2021 return us soon to normal.

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

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## **Monthly Presentation for Members**

## **December 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker Topic**:

Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World

# **Topic Description:**

Discussion of H.R. McMaster's new book on the topic of *Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World* 

# **Speaker Biography:**

H.R. McMaster, retired U.S. Army 3-Star Lt. General, former National Security Advisor to President Donald Trump, Hoover Fellow, author of two books. For a complete and detailed biographical background, click the link below. You will be surprised how accomplished he is. <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H. R. McMaster</u> *Courtesy of wikipedia.org* 

Latest book is:

Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World For one review of this book, click the link below. https://www.npr.org/2020/09/21/913856903/latesttell-all-by-former-national-security-advisormcmaster-is-not-all-about-tr Courtesy of npr org website

Courtesy of npr.org website.

## Prior book is:

Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam



26th <u>United States National Security Advisor</u> February 20, 2017 – April 9, 2018



H. R. McMaster in 2018

Courtesy of wikipedia.org

# **Future speakers for the coming months:**

January 6, 2021 – To Be Determined

FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SPEAKERS

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

# **General Interest**

# SIR 51 Board Meetings

Next virtual Board meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of December, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 almost complete. This December SIR 51 Board meeting will be discussing recommendations for remaining Executive Committee Officers, as well as Administrative and Activities Chairmen to be selected. Current Big SIR, Jim Cummings, and two prior Big SIRs, Steve Tremulis, and Craig Carpenter, are reviewing selections and will announce for approval by the General Membership via our Zoom meeting soon.

November's board meeting had 14 attendees.

Three general members who expressed interest in board positions were invited to attended the November's board meeting. They are Jeff Gardiner, Ray Klinke, and Mike McMahon.

This past year, SIR 51 has been in existence for 46 years. We are now about to enter our  $47^{\text{th}}$  year.

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 develop a speaker database that can be shared with other branches. Foster Kinney, our Area 13 Governor, is working with Kevin and the state SIR organization to create, alternatively, a contact list of speakers and their topics with presentation feedback. This avoids significant digital storage requirements and management costs. It is hoped that this effort can be done and that it will benefit all SIR branches.

## **Important Alert for All SIR 51 Members**

Starting last month, this newsletter did not include individual e-mail addresses for all members who are referenced within it. 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.

# 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 December 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 <u>ZOOM.us</u>

Last month's November General Membership Zoom meeting was attended by 18 members. Try to join our December 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 at (650) 868-6124 or Art Lewis at (650) 964-3223.

www.sirinc2.org/branch51

## State SIR Website

GOLF

See State SIR website: www.sirinc.org

# **ACTIVITIES**



With the state and county re-imposing COVID-19 restrictions, uncertainty now exists as to when and where we will be able to play golf.

For reference, the following text was the news from last month's Golf section.

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 four of nine contracts are complete. More news to come. Stay tuned.

> Golf course coordinator: KAI JOHANSEN (650) 853-2493

## Check if the <u>following activities</u> are going to occur while under 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 <u>S</u>tanford – <u>Palo Alto Users G</u>roup). 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 <u>www.spaug.net</u>.

## 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



LAWN CO

## **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

BOWLING 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.

#### CYCLING:

#### SIRS ON BIKES:



The SIR bicycle group is not riding in December. State SIR has given the order that all outdoor activities are to be suspended. We take this to mean that protocols have to be resubmitted at the appropriate time. So, as for now, there are no SIR bicycle rides for December and January. We have complete trust in our protocols and hope to be back riding again. We have made it this far, so keep safe and enjoy the holidays and live to tell your grandchildren about the year 2020

If you 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

#### 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

BILL KAMIN (650) 322-4300

## **Newsletter Editor:**

Richard Jamison (650) 868-3723

#### To all, have a happy Thanksgiving, a merry Christmas, an enjoyable Hanukkah, and a happy New Year.

## **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  $15^{\text{th}}$  and  $20^{\text{th}}$  of the month prior to the next newsletter.

## 2020 SIR BRANCH #51 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### **ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN**

Big SIR: Jim Cummings	328-2168	Indoor Bowling; Bob Taggart (Br 35) 321-2654	
Little SIR: (Open)		Lawn Bowling: Don Hughes	323-9916
Secretary: Gerry Shebar	868-6124	Cycling: Jim Lunt (Br. 35)	(408) 252-6804
Asst. Secretary: Richard Jamison	868-3723	Tennis: Bill Kamin	322-4300
Treasurer: Kingsley Wood	799-8420	Golf: Kai Johansen	853-2493
Asst. Treasurer: Kevin Wheaton	485-2276	Jim Cummings	328-2168
		Travel: State SIR Travel:	www.sirinc.org
DIRECTORS		Compusir: Stanford-PA Users Grou	p <u>www.spaug.net</u>
		Macintosh Users: Skip Ross	(541) 857-6224
Director: Joe Grippo	948-2130	Historian: (Open)	
Director: Sam Meredith	325-4152		
Director: Craig Carpenter	325-4152		

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRMEN**

Attendance: Kingsley Wood Audit: Sam Meredith	799-8420 325-4152	Luncheon Programs: Walt McCullough Acting Membership: Gerry Shebar	303-8194 868-6124
Russ Porter	234-1212	Membership Assistant: (Open)	000 0121
Website: Gerry Shebar	868-6124	Greeter: Al Runge	592-1345
Art Lewis	964-3223	Special Events: (Open)	
Newsletter: Richard Jamison	868-3723	Nominating Committee: Jim Cummings	328-2168
Good Samaritan: Bob Guffey	593-3496	Steve Tremulis	598-9790
Member Orientation: Bob Guffey	593-3496	Craig Carpente	er325-4152

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

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	400 2270	Travel: State SIR Travel:	www.sirinc.org
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Director: Joe Grippo	948-2130	Historian: (Open)	
Director: Sam Meredith	325-4152		
Director: Craig Carpenter	325-4152	Potential New Board Members	
<b>C</b> .		Jeff Gardiner	561-9661
		Ray Klinke	924-0734
		Mike McMahon	493-7392

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRMEN**

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