

# SIR

## Branch #51

Website: [www.sirinc2.org/branch51](http://www.sirinc2.org/branch51)

No. 594



January 2026

A Non-Profit Organization

Enrich Your Life

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

### **Branch 51 News**

As we enter the new year it is appropriate to recognize the contributions of several of our esteemed Board members and to welcome several others into new positions.

Gerry Shebar has been our Big Sir/President three times for a total of six years. Many thanks to him for his steady leadership as he retires from that position but remains a board member!

Sam Meredith is retiring from the board after participating for many years and serving in the past as Big Sir. Many thanks to Sam!

In January our golfers join the golf group managed by SIR 16 obviating the need for Jim Cummings to manage our weekly playlist. For countless years Jim has been tireless in herding us cats every week. Many thanks to Jim! The good news is that for those of us who also play with the Monday Seniors group at the Palo Alto Baylands Jim will continue to ably manage that group.

Our new leader, Pete Sorenson will take the reins as President on January 1, 2026. He has been Secretary for the past two years and is well positioned to take on this new role. Congratulations, Pete!

Gary Wada has taken over as Secretary. And finally, Mike McMahon has taken over Treasurer from Kevin Wheaton who will remain on call as Assistant Treasurer.

**Many thanks to those who are moving on and best wishes for those stepping into new roles!**

**SIR 51 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Our next SIR General Membership meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, January 7, starting at 11:30 AM for social half-hour, then at noon for lunch. Please encourage your fellow members to come to the luncheon and speaker presentation.

**MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER**

Please try to arrive before 12:00 noon. Our collection team needs to close their operations desk to enjoy the meeting. If you absolutely must arrive late, find either Mike McMahan or Kevin Wheaton to pay up and register. Don't just wander in. It screws up our records.

## SIR 51 BOARD MEETINGS

The next Board meeting will occur in-person Wednesday, January 7, at 11:00 a.m.

For more details, please contact President, Pete Sorenson at email address: [petersorenson@comcast.net](mailto:petersorenson@comcast.net)

## JANUARY SPEAKER

Get ready to fulfill your New Years resolutions and learn about how seniors can stay fit in the new year. Our guest speaker, Candi Cabrera, comes to us from Cañada College where she is the Group Fitness Team Lead, Certified Personal Trainer, and Reiki Master at their new state-of-the-art Athletic Center. Cañada offers all sorts of activities for seniors seeking to improve their health and wellness through their hundreds of classes that are offered, either as a group or on a one-on-one basis for more personalized attention. Candi has specifically focused on what seniors can do to stay healthy and will share her knowledge and experience with us. Join us at the January luncheon for what should be a fun and informative presentation!



## FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Jim Wall, President of the Museum of American Heritage in Palo Alto will be our speaker in February.

The museum was co-founded by the father of Marc Iglar. The Museum of American Heritage, nestled in the heart of Palo Alto, is Silicon Valley's only museum dedicated to celebrating the mechanical marvels and electrical oddities of the 18th to 20th centuries. The lifeblood of the MOAH, however, is in its extensive warehouse located in San Carlos. The over 10,000 artifacts stored there provide a detailed map of the history of technological innovation. However, these relics are not intended to be locked away. The MOAH staff is motivated to ensure that the contents of its warehouse are seen and studied, whether that be through collaborations with other museums and local groups or by opening its doors to the surrounding residents. Join us February 4 for what promises to be a very interesting presentation about the museum and its contents!

## FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SPEAKERS PLEASE CONTACT:

**Steve Tremulis**  
(650) 598-9790

## Craig's Current Contributions: January 2026

*Courtesy of former Big SIR, Craig Carpenter*

*Former Big SIR - VERY important guy. All in on the 49er bandwagon. McCaffrey, Kittle, Purdy - love 'em all. Beat the Seahawks!!!*

### THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

*Someone asked me what the 9th letter of the alphabet is. It was a complete guess, but I was right.*

*Brontosaurus chasing kids..."Let's eat kids" (no bueno); "Let's eat, kids". Punctuation saves lives.*

*Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail.*

*Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?*

### GOOD READS FOR GUYS:

*"1929" by Andrew Ross Sorkin. This is not just a story about money. 1929 is a tale about power, psychology and the seductive illusion that this time it's different. It's about disregarded alarm bells, financiers who fell from grace, and skeptics who saw the crash coming - only to be dismissed until it was too late.*



*"The Spy & The Traitor - the greatest espionage story of the cold war" by Ben Macintyre. The book brings readers deep into a world of treachery & betrayal, where the lines bleed between*

*the personal & the professional & where one man's hatred of communism had the power to change the future of nations.*

### STUFF TO WATCH:

*"Homeland" on Netflix. 96 episodes featuring Claire Danes as CIA Agent Carrie Mathison. We just finished season 1 so 7 more seasons to go. Really good!*

*All 49er games...GO NINERS!!!*

*"Unicorn Town" on Amazon & Apple TV+. A very small town team in southern Germany takes on the vaunted New Yorkers in the German Football League Championship game in Berlin. Really well done & the executive producer is Christian McCaffrey.*

*A personal aside - our grandson recently signed with the Hildesheim Invaders of the German Football League and will be heading to Germany after Christmas.*

*"Ripple" on Netflix. Eight episodes. The show follows four strangers in NYC whose lives unexpectedly intertwine due to small decisions, dealing with themes of loss, love, & resilience.*

*Well, I guess that's it. See you next month*

## ACTIVITIES

### GOLF

If any of you are interested in playing golf as individuals, you might want to check with the courses as to tee time availability.

For helpful information on State SIR and various Branch golf activities, contact Mark Stuart, 2023 State Golf Chair at 916 218-2287 or [mss95678@hotmail.com](mailto:mss95678@hotmail.com)

Beginning in January 2026 we will be joining SIR Branches 16 and 5 at some old and some new golf courses.

As for SIR Branch 51's golf information, see the SIR 51 2025 golf schedule which is available via Excel or .pdf file copies either electronically sent to you or at the SIR 51 website. Below are the dates, times, and locations for the next two months.

01/08.	Thurs.	Monarch Bay	09:00 AM
01/15	Thurs.	Sunnyvale	09:00 AM
01/22.	Thurs.	San Ramon	08:59 AM
01/29	Thurs.	Los Lagos	09:00 AM
02/05	Thurs.	Canyon Lakes	09:00 AM
02/12.	Thurs.	Shoreline	09:00 AM
02/19	Thurs.	Sunnyvale	09:00 AM
02/26	Thurs.	San Ramon.	08:59 AM

All participants must be at the course at least one hour before tee time.

*Courtesy of Golf Chairman:*

**KAI JOHANSEN**  
(650) 380-9493

Also, contact Jim Cummings, as a mutual supporter for golf news.

**JIM CUMMINGS**  
home: (650) 328-2168  
cell: (650) 207-3609

Information on other SIR golfing events can be found on the SIR State Golf website at [www.sirgolf.org](http://www.sirgolf.org).

Ben Gikis, 2025 SIR State Golf Committee Chair

State SIR Golf Newsletter: [www.sirgolf.org](http://www.sirgolf.org)

## **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. We meet on **Tuesdays at Homestead Lanes: Homestead and Stelling in Cupertino 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 (Bob Taggart) 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 bowling skill that comes back after a long lay-off. Many have not bowled since they were youngsters. For more information, contact:

**BOB TAGGART** (Br 35)  
(650) 321-2654

## **BOCCE BALL:**

Lawn Bowling is available every Friday from 10 AM to noon at the Senior Center in Los Altos. Contact Richard Oehlberg. [rntheo1@icloud.com](mailto:rntheo1@icloud.com).  
(first two letters are r and n)

**BOB TAGGART** (Br 35)  
(650) 321-2654



Steve Tremulis	995-3231
Jim Cummings	328-2168
Gerry Shebar	868-6124

**ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRMEN**

Speakers: Steve Tremulis	995-3231
Audit: Sam Meredith	325-4152
Membership: Joe Urbassik	714-9610
Website: Gerry Shebar	868-6124
Asst. Website: Joe Urbassik	714-9610
Greeter: Open	
Newsletter: Art Roberts	279-5560
Special Events: Ray Klinke	924-0734
Nominating Comm.: Richard Jamison	868-3723
Good Samaritan: Bob Guffey	593-3496
Member Orientation: Bob Guffey	593-3496

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

All changes in address, telephone number, and e-mail address should be reported to the SIR  
Membership Chairman Joe Urbassik 714-9610