

# SIR

## Branch #51

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

No. 595



February 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

State SIR is now allowing each branch leader to pick his title between the traditional Big SIR or President. I am preferring President for a change and will be interested to see what other branches do.

Welcome to the New Year and another chance to actually execute your new resolutions.

SIR's new slogan is Make Friends for Life and your SIR 51 Committee will be working to help that happen. Towards that goal we are exploring how to provide more activities, both social and physical. If you have some thoughts on that please tell our membership chairman Joe Urbassik or any chairperson or officer.

We are also working to increase our membership, so if you know of someone who is interested in any of our activities we will be glad to have him check us out.

Pete Sorenson, new on the job and learning the ropes.

#### SIR 51 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our next SIR General Membership meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, February 4, 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, February 4, at 11:00 a.m.

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

## FEBRUARY SPEAKER

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

Jim was a computer hardware engineer who specialized in working at start up companies in the Silicon Valley from the mid 1970's through the early 2000's. He was one of the significant computer design engineers in the early business computer era including UNIX based systems, multi-user business machines and fault tolerant computer systems.

Jim started volunteering at the Museum of American Heritage in 2003. Originally working in the print shop and teaching science classes. He is currently the President of the museum Board of Directors and spends most of his museum volunteer time in the warehouse processing new donations along with the restoration and repair of artifacts already in the museum.

The Museum of American Heritage (MOAH) showcases technological innovations that transformed the United States from the “manifest destiny” era through the computer era. By collecting, preserving, and exhibiting tools and technologies of the 19th and 20th centuries, they educate Bay Area communities about the influential inventions of the past that

brought America into the future and create engaging communal experiences for locals and visitors to enjoy.

Their collection warehouse is the 3rd largest collection of mechanical and electrical artifacts in the United States and is the Bay Area’s only museum exclusively dedicated to the history of technology in the period before the digital era. They are situated in the historic Tudor Revival style home of Dr. Thomas Marion Williams and Dora Moody Williams and use the property as a valued artifact in imbuing humanity and meaning back into the surviving technological objects of the past.



**FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING  
SPEAKERS PLEASE CONTACT:**

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

**Craig's Current  
Contributions:  
February 2026**

*Courtesy of former Big SIR, Craig  
Carpenter*



**THOUGHTS TO PONDER:**

*I run every day for 20 minutes. If I miss a day I add 20 minutes to the next day. This has truly been a game changer. Tomorrow I'm supposed to run for four months.*

*A man asked a fairy to make him irresistible to all women. She turned him into a credit card.*

*Dog: You are my life. I will do anything for you.  
Human: Drop the ball.  
Dog: Nope.*

*My psych professor asked if we'd heard of Pavlov. I said "it rings a bell". No one laughed, I'm too witty for this class.*

**GOOD READS FOR GUYS:**

*"Breakneck - China's quest to engineer the future"  
by Dan Wang*

*"Twenty Years Later by Charlie Donlea. A riveting new thriller.*

**STUFF TO WATCH:**

*The Super Bowl on February 8th. Sorry, but I dislike Seattle immensely so go Patriots.*

*The Winter Olympics start on February 6th.*

*"His & Hers" - a psychological mystery on Netflix.*

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

*P.S. Please ask a friend to come to one of our lunches. New potential members are very welcome.*

**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 2026 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.

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
03/05	Thurs.	San Jose Muni	09:00 AM
03/12	Thurs.	Lake Chabot	09:00 AM
03/19	Thurs.	MetropolitanGC	09:00 AM
03/26	Thurs.	Canyon Lakes.	09:00 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

**CYCLING:** (SIR Branches 35, 51, others)

Information on the February ride will be provided in a later email. If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordon Tong at 408-242-0557 or [gordy6850@gmail.com](mailto:gordy6850@gmail.com).

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**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

Art Roberts  
[alroberts4202@gmail.com](mailto:alroberts4202@gmail.com)

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  
Gerry Shebar 868-6124  
Steve Tremulis 995-3231

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

## **2025 SIR BRANCH #51 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN**

President: :Pete Sorenson 868-6804  
Vice Pres.: Steve Tremulis 995-3231  
Secretary: Gary Wada 325-7228  
Treasurer: Mike McMahon 380-0983  
Asst. Treasurer: Kevin Wheaton 353-0686  
Golf Chairman: Kai Johansen 380-9493  
Golf Assistant: Jim Cummings 328-2168  
Bowling: Bob Taggart (Br 35) 321-2654  
Bocce Ball: Richard Oehlberg  
Cycling: Gordon Tong (Br 35) (408) 242-0557  
Historian: (open)  
State SIR Travel: [www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org)

### **DIRECTORS**

Steve Tremulis 995-3231  
Jim Cummings 328-2168  
Gerry Shebar 868-6124  
Richard Jamison. 868-3723

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRMEN**

Speakers: Steve Tremulis 995-3231  
Audit: Sam Meredith 325-4152  
Membership: Joe Urbassik 714-9610  
Website: Gerry Shebar 868-6124