

SIR

Branch #51

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch51



No. 597

April 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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT PETE SORENSON

I'm pleased to say that a new SIR 51 special event has been set up by Ray Klinke and Joe Urbassik: tickets to the San Francisco Giants/Arizona Diamondbacks ballgame May 27th with good seating at a special discounted price of \$26. We currently have 26 folks who plan to go to the game - 12 members and 14 guests.

BTW, my email was hacked and I apologize to those who received the result. It seems that hacking/scamming has become a lot more realistic so you cannot tell if you will be sending a donation to a reputable cause or a scammer. Take care!

Pete

SIR 51 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our next SIR General Membership meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, April 1, (Yes it's April Fools Day but we are meeting anyway!) 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, April 1, at 11:00 a.m. For more details, please contact President, Pete Sorenson at email address:

petersorenson@comcast.net

APRIL SPEAKER

Our April speak will be Ken Becker, presenting the fascinating history of San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel:

Ken Becker is a retired businessman who spends much of his time working without pay on his favorite causes, from a medical charity that helps children overseas to a local organization that offers free walking tours of historic San Francisco.



"I am a tour guide for City Guides, and I specialize in Nob Hill tours. And I do this tour anywhere from one to four times a month," Becker says.

The neighborhood of Nob Hill sits high atop one of San Francisco's many hills. Becker points out its sites, including the Fairmont Hotel, where delegates from 50 countries

wrote the United Nations charter in 1945. The San Francisco story goes back much earlier, of course, to Native Americans and Spanish colonial settlers, to Gold Rush millionaires and the wealthy railway barons who built mansions on Nob Hill in the 19th century

I am a Third Generation Bay Area Native. I have been a story teller since the fourth grade when my favorite event was Show and Tell. My dad loved San Francisco and its history. I followed in his footsteps. I learned about San Francisco City Guides in 2005 and applied to be a volunteer guide. I was accepted and begin giving my Nob Hill Tour



in 2006. In 2010 we were given permission to give a tour of the Fairmont Hotel. I have been giving this tour since 2010. I have given 586 tours during my time as a guide. Welcome to the Fairmont (The Grande Dame). Oh, the stories this landmark has to tell. Built by the Fair Sisters, traded yes traded for two high rise office building before the hotel opens its doors. Rose from the 1906 Quake. Rebuilt by a Woman. Home of the Plunge an indoor swimming pool. Have anyone of you been swimming in the Plunge? The Penthouse described in one five syllable word UNBELIEVABLE! The finest

Supper Club in San Francisco the Venetian Room where Tony Bennett sings, I left my Heart in San Francisco for the first time December 27th 1961. The Crown Room with views beyond all adjectives. Oh, don't let me forget about the Merry Go Round Bar! This is just a glimpse of my Fairmont story...

FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SPEAKERS PLEASE CONTACT:

Steve Tremulis
(650) 598-9790

Craig's Current Contributions: April 2026

Former Big SIR...a really big deal. Now, not so much.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

People use "ASAP" because they can't spell "imijeatly"

Man in hospital bed speaking to nurse - "How did I get here"? Nurse - "Your wife asked you what was on TV and you replied "DUST"

The secret of Pie...hold that word up to a mirror and see what the mirror says.

Bench seats were made for good dogs and cute girls, and the engineer who got rid of them clearly had neither.

My boss told me to have a nice day...so I went home.

"Going to war without France is like hunting without an accordion."

Norman Schwartzkopf

GOODREADS FOR GUYS:

"James" by Percival Everett...Pulitzer Prize winner.

"Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi

STUFF TO WATCH:

"Virgin River" on Netflix. Cheesy but quite good. A new season.

YOUR San Francisco Giants...Go to the SIR outing at the ballpark.

"Nuremberg" - a movie on Netflix starring Russell Crowe & Tom Hanks' son, Colin.

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

This year we are 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.

03/26	Thurs.	Canyon Lakes.	09:00 AM
04/02	Thurs.	Los Lagos	09:00 AM
04/09	Thurs	San Jose	09:00 AM
04/16	Thurs.	Spring Valley	10:00 AM
04/23	Thurs.	Sunnyvale	09:00 AM
04/30	Thurs.	Monarch Bay	09:00 AM
05/07	Thurs.	Open	
07/14	Thurs.	Las Posits	09:00 AM
07/21	Thurs.	Shoreline	09:00AM
07/28	Thurs.	Bay View	09:00 AM

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.

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.

Ben Gikis, 2025 SIR State Golf Committee Chair

State SIR Golf Newsletter: www.sirgolf.org

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.
(first two letters are r and n)

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

Historian: (open)
State SIR Travel: www.sirinc.org

CYCLING: (SIR Branches 35, 51, others)

The SIR Br 35 bike ride for April will be communicated in a later email. If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordon Tong at 408-242-0557 or 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

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 868-7356
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

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: Gerry Shebar 868-6124
Joe Urbassik 714-9610
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
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