



SIR Monterey News

December, 2025

2025 SIR Leadership

SIR, Inc. President

Rich Carlston

SIR Monterey Bay Area 14 Rep

John Hetz

SIR Monterey Branch 28

Chartered 1972

Branch Executive Committee (BEC)

John Hetz, *President*

Gary Parker, *Vice President*

Don Battles, *Treasurer &*

Webmaster

John Hetz, *Acting Secretary*

Mike Carbaugh, *Director*

Al Williams, *Membership*

Director

Curt Parker, *Member Relations*

Director

Mike Hartter, *Activities &*

Recruitment Director

Rob Dunne, *Assistant Treasurer*

Membership Applications address:

Al Williams

25636 Creekview Circle

Salinas, CA 93908

SIRMontereyinfo@gmail.com

Luncheon & Dues payment address:

Don Battles

25513 Hacienda Place

Carmel, CA 93923

donbatt@msn.com

SIR, Inc. website:

<https://sirinc.org>

SIR Monterey website:

<https://sirinc2.org/branch/28>

President's Message



Hi SIRs,

Well, this will be my final message after three challenging, fun, educational and rewarding years as President/Big SIR. The very capable and younger **Gary Parker**, who has served and learned about SIR and Branch 28 this past year as Vice President will take the reins of leadership on January 1st. Please give him your support and a hand when he needs help.

Our year end luncheon meeting on the 11th will feature a very interesting and fun program. We have invited **Howard Burnham** to give us his characterization of Charles Dickens, the man who supposedly "invented Christmas". Howard was born and raised in England, but moved to the U.S. in 1998 and Pacific Grove in 2013. He has worked with PacRep in Carmel and the Monterey County Theater Alliance. I have attended some of his portrayals of famous historical characters and it should be fun! *Spouses and partners* are encouraged to join us, as we have traditionally invited them for our December luncheon meeting. So, get your reservations in early so we'll know how many attendees will be there.

Finally, thanks to all of you for your support and help in keeping our branch going forward these past few years, and those who are our newest members that I hope will continue our tradition of providing fun activities and events for senior men and their spouses, partners and friends. And Happy Holidays!

Prez John



December Guest Speaker

Charles Dickens



My notable works are *The Pickwick Papers*, *Oliver Twist*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *A Christmas Carol*, *David Copperfield*, *Bleak House*, *Little Dorrit*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *Great Expectations*. I was born in Portsmouth, England in 1812 and visited the U.S. twice in 1842-3 and 1867. Enjoyed New York City!

November Guest Speaker



John Scherer, Colonel USAF (ret.) talking about *Operation Tidal Wave*, the 1943 WWII B-24 raid on the Ploesti petroleum production facilities in Romania. And its impact on the war in Europe. Very interesting and informative, including the numerous pilots who went on to become high ranking famous military leaders. Thanks again John!

Holiday Food Basket



There will be a SIR Monterey member door prize drawing at our December 11th luncheon meeting for a free donated holiday food basket. So, attend and possibly be a winner!

Calendar of Activities, Events & Meetings

12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29 SIR Golf Club

Various Monterey Bay Courses

Contact: John Ecklund

jecklund@sbcglobal.net

12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30 Geezer/SIR Golf

Tee times beginning 9:00am

Monterey Pines Golf Club

1250 Garden Road, Monterey

Contact: Jack Orchard

jojoorchard@gmail.com

12/3, 12/10, 12/17 SIR Bocce Ball

10am followed by optional lunch

Monterey Custom House Plaza

Contact: Mike Hartter

mhartter@gmail.com

12/9 SIR BEC Meeting

9:30am – 11:00am

Black Bear Diner

2450 N. Fremont Street, Monterey

Contact: John Hetz

hetz.john@yahoo.com

12/11 SIR Luncheon Meeting

Check in begins – 11:30am

Monterey Elks Lodge

150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey

Contact: Don Battles

donbatt@msn.com

12/15 SIR Food Bank Volunteering

1:00 – 4:00pm

Food Bank of Monterey County

353 W Rossi St, Salinas

Contact: Mike Hartter

mhartter@gmail.com

12/19 SIR Bowling

2:00 – 4:00pm

Monterey Lanes

2161 No. Fremont St, Monterey

Contact: Mike Hartter

mhartter@gmail.com

12/29 SIR Indoor Games

1:00 – 3:00pm

Asilomar Conference Center

800 Asilomar Blvd, Pacific Grove

Contact: Scott Van Tyle

gonzo7hunter@gmail.com

SIR Volunteering Opportunity



Food Bank for Monterey County

353 W Rossi Street, Salinas

Monday, December 15th

1:00 – 4:00pm

Look for a sign directing you to volunteer parking. Meet inside the front office at **1:00pm** where a Food Bank Volunteer Coordinator will guide our SIR Monterey group to the warehouse. All activities take place indoors, so for safety reasons they have a dress code that includes: **no** sandals, or open toed shoes, **no** shorts above the knee, and **no** tank tops. Typical volunteer tasks include packing Emergency Food Assistance Program bags that contain seven pantry staples, packing produce bags, sorting bread and preparing medially tailored meal kits, and packing holiday kits.

I'll be answering any questions or concerns you might have regarding this volunteer event to help feed the local community and end hunger at our December 11th luncheon meeting. We have 20 sign ups so far, but more are welcome! Thanks.

Director of Activities & Recruitment

Mike Hartter



SIR Activities Report

Our Activities and Recruitment Director **Mike Hartter** reports that there will be no *Wine Tasting* event in December, and the group will next convene in January for breakfast at The Butter House in Seaside. In addition to enjoying the great breakfasts there, the group will discuss their next wine tasting event(s). More details including date and time will follow soon.

Mike also reports there is a member survey in the works of what new activities and events in 2026 members would like. It will be emailed to all members soon. The results will then be discussed at our January 8th luncheon meeting and plans made for each new activity and event this coming year.

Activities Golf



Mondays

SIR Golf Club of Monterey Bay

Tuesdays 9am

Monterey Pines GC

Bocce



Wednesdays 10am

Custom House Plaza Courts

Optional lunch after at local restaurants

Bowling



Friday, December 19th

2:00 – 4:00pm

Open bowling at Monterey Lanes

Indoor Games

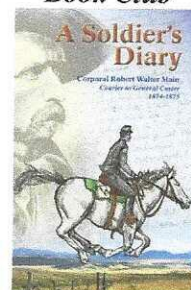


Monday, December 29th

1:00 – 3:00pm

Asilomar Conference Center

Book Club



Book of the Month

January

(No book or meeting in December)



Monterey Branch 28
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, December 11th at 11:30am
Spouses & Partners Welcome

Program: **Charles Dickens**
"The Man Who Invented Christmas"

Monterey Elks Lodge
150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey
Chef Josh's Buffet



Luncheon Reservation

If paying by check:

Make check payable to: **SIR Branch 28**
Mail form and check(s) for \$30 per attendee to:
Don Battles, Treasurer
25513 Hacienda Place, Carmel CA 93923
(612)590-1096 or donbatt@msn.com

Member Name _____
Email or Phone # _____

Guest Name _____
Email or Phone # _____

No. ____ @ \$30 each = ____ Total enclosed ____

If paying by credit card:

Click [Here](#) on the cover email to use a
credit card for payment.

*Reservation(s) must be received by the date
below so we can notify the Elks Lodge of our
luncheon headcount:*

Monday, December 8th