



# THE GRAPEVINE

SIR Branch 65

Volume 50 #1

January 2024

SIR is a non-profit activities based organization for senior men devoted to the promotion of independence, health and dignity of senior life. Luncheon meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month 11:30 am at the Napa Elks Lodge. SIR is not affiliated with any religious or political organization and does not do any fund raising.



## BIG SIR MESSAGE

LANCE HOUSER

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As my first official act as Big Sir; I, Big Sir Lance Houser declare there will be **NO increase in annual dues for 2024. Fellow SIRs please remit your 2024 annual dues NOW. Dues remain at \$20.**

Our buffet menu for the January 9th luncheon will be baked salmon with rice pilaf and vegetables. Of course we will have a salad bar selection as well.

We will have a recognition of our different activity groups as well as an open discussion about our Branch expectations for the coming year.

Lastly, and importantly, someone of you needs to step up and fill the Little SIR opportunity. As I have said before, the duties are rounding up a "presenter" for our luncheons and filling the Big SIR position for 2025.



## LITTLE SIR REPORT

**<<<<<< THIS COULD BE YOU!!!!**

**If you like our luncheons, and are one of the members who is there every time ( there are 25-30 of us who come every time)... please consider being the Little Sir!**

**If you've lived in Napa for a long time, know a lot of people and have opinions about interesting topics... please consider being Little Sir.**

**If you have lived here for only a short time, and love living in Paradise, it's a great way to meet new people\*\*\* .... please consider being Little Sir**

**If you think it's a big job, it's not ! ....please consider being Little Sir**

**If you think it takes a lot time, it doesn't! ... .please consider being Little Sir**

**Afraid of speaking in front of a group? Let Lance do it! he loves to talk! ... please consider being Little Sir.**

**Scared of the SIR state forms and requirements? There aren't any! ... please consider being Little Sir.**

**Worried about becoming Big Sir? It's easier than being Little Sir! ... please consider being Little Sir.**

**\*\*\*... Seriously, When I stepped up 5 years ago, I had just moved back and only knew a few friends, I joined a year before I was Little SIR. The speakers I contacted added to my friendships! ... Jerry S.**



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT JEFF RICHARD

Jeff.richard@ATT.net

Membership increased to 80 in January as we welcomed Randy Obranovich into our ranks. Twenty-nine members and 23 guests attended our annual Christmas luncheon and can boast forevermore that they were among the lucky ones who were present for the history-making, public debut of the Sons in Retirement Orchestral Band.

Did you know that you can earn a free lunch for referring a guest who becomes a member?

Share all your great family milestones, births, graduations, weddings, awards, whatever! Let Russ know.

# SUNSHINE REPORT

**RUSS KINDIG..... CHAIR**

REMEMBER.... Staying active and social improves your physical and mental health. SIR is a great way to do both!

In a perfectly "Rose colored glasses world" I would report that no one has died or become disabled or suffered any tragic incidents ending this year of 2023 and going into 2024. But we already know of a few who are in the midst of a struggle. Let us keep good thoughts and prayers for them. I will mention Gene Hoover, Larry Tronstad, Pete Budding and John Cipriano as four of them. They along with their care givers could use all the help we can give them. Please hold them in your thoughts and prayers.

This just in ...**Chuck Morse's** granddaughter Abigail Wagner is in the Gator Bowl !!! She's in the Clemson band that played during halftime! He & Judy are very proud of Abigail in her senior year, majoring in biotech!!!

Please contact me at [ikindigit@aol.com](mailto:ikindigit@aol.com) or call at 707-363-2421 to let me know of those who could use a little help through good thoughts and prayers from our community of SIRs.

## COFFEE TALK

Coffee Talk, 9:30 every Monday at Panera, continues to be a great time to hang out, laugh, tell stories, share memories, solve world problems. It's also a great way to start your day, pastries, bagels, breakfast sandwiches, coffee (unlimited available) and more!

Just before Christmas ten of us gathered in the newly renovated interior. Clockwise starting with Chuck & his cool hat, is Jim, Keith, Chet, Richard, Vic, Russ, Jerry's head, Larry and Margis.

Unlike other coffee places there is room for more!!!

It is also a great place to invite a



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**DUES DUE**

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As our new Big Sir mentioned, dues are still only \$20. Dues contribute to our State Sir support, insurance, corporation fees and minor local branch expenses. We base our membership numbers on dues paying members.

You can pay your dues at the January meeting or by mail to  
Sam Jones 2091 Morlan Drive, Napa, 94558



# BR.65 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

SIR state officer, Dennis Pangburn >>>> inducts our 2024 officers, Branch directors and chair persons.

(standing L-R) ...Dave Ellingson Bowling chair, Dennis, Big Sir Peter Berendsen, 2024 Big Sir Lance Houser, new Secretary Ron Critchley, Treasurer, Sam Jones, Membership, Jeff Richard, Assistant Treasurer, Golf & Poker chair, Marc Longoria, Sunshine Chair, Russ Kindig, Director & special events Chair, Frank Sanchez. not pictured Directors, Gene Young, Keith Knox, John Harrison & Gene Hoover

Yes, it takes a village!



(left) Dennis's official duties weren't finished, he presented the State SIR's highest honor, The Honorary Life Membership (HLM) award to Jerry Stabile. Fellow HLM honoree Big SIR Peter Berendsen hands the certificate and HLM badge noting that it gets you nothing (chuckles in the crowd) except grateful thanks his work to improve the branch and the members of Br.,65.

(right) Jerry donned his State Area Representative hat to award the State SIR's 2nd highest honor the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) to Peter for his great year of service as Big Sir



Our own band, the SIR Orchestral Band, entertained playing rock songs, an original "SIR" inspired song by Margis Malisauskas and sang sing along carols.

**December anniversary winners**  
 Lance & Frances Houser  
 Richard & Linda Bennett  
 Allan & Peah Armstrong



# ON THE LANES..... WITH DAVE ELLINGSON ..... oredave@aol.com



The Monday league is off for two weeks for the Holidays.

Every week friendly games of "No tap" are on Wednesdays at 1 pm. Fridays we play "Red Head" at 10:30. No Tap and Red Head are open to all who want to bowl.

For the last few years we have hosted a **State SIR Tournament** in January. We still have hopes that our tournament, Jan 16-17, will still go on. Before the holiday break we only had 12 applications and we need at least 70.

I hope that more applications will come in. We will let you know if the tournament will be held so you can come down and cheer the Br. 65 members on. If you would like to play please contact me as soon as possible. Happy New Year!



## VINE WALKERS ADVENTURE CLUB ..... Lance Houser, chair

Our small but adventurous group toured a small north-central neighborhood anchored by the Monarch subdivision. Lovely Monarch Park, flat top mid-century homes, even a Napa Sanitation crew working, were some of the highlights of our wanderings.

We now meet for our historically (and sometimes hysterically) leisurely neighborhood strolls the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:00 am each month. We usually walk for an hour and get in some much needed steps. It's a great way to start your day, see the interesting features each neighborhood has, share personal stories while getting to know neighborhoods you may have never driven through.

Our first 2024 beginning adventure has yet to be determined. Look for an email invitation early this week.



**Bocce ... Leagues ...** The spring league starting in March is taking sign ups for teams that want to play next season. Contact Napa Bocce League president Jim Holland for details at [napaboccejim@gmail.com](mailto:napaboccejim@gmail.com) Don't have a team? Contact Jim and he'll try to find a team for you.

**Open play....** If you are itching to play or learn the game, Branch 149 holds weekly casual bocce impromptu games and lessons every **Thursday morning at 10:00 am at the Napa Senior Center on Jefferson.**

Look for Mario Mazzoli (left) or Mike Murrell (right) They will get you started

The Bocce courts are also open to anyone Monday through Friday mornings for public open play!

Ask Jerry Stabile or Bocce Chair Gene Hoover for details.





**GOLF NEWS & VIEWS — Marc Longoria, Chair** [marclongoria@gmail.com](mailto:marclongoria@gmail.com)

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years, and your stockings were filled with great gifts. December started some real cold weather and then the rain came. Some good golf was played, but I did not receive any match results that I could report to you. Many games that were not rained out, were "straight" golf, not competition games.

But we did have one big result from the Eagle Vines event on November 29th. **Mel Taylor of Branch 149 made a Hole-In-One!!!** on the par three second hole! That is the SIRS Branch 65 & 149 first qualifying Hole In One since 2014. So, Mel will drain our HIO fund of the tidy sum of \$380. Great news for Mel, sad news for the rest of us, our fund is now empty. So, if you would like to reenter the Hole-In-One fund (you must pay to win), send your \$5.00 to Jim Keller. Jim is also starting an additional fund for eagles. If you are also interested in competing in this fund, send an additional \$5.00 to Jim. Please note with your submission, into which fund the \$5.00 is directed. You can send your money to Jim by Zelle, Venmo, check, or pay Jim in cash. Thanks Jim for managing these funds for us!



Mel retrieves his Hole In One winning \$380

Reporting the 2024 SIR golfing schedule will be a little easier this year, as all local tournaments have been set up on a weekly, per month rotation. Here is the 2024 SIRS local golfing schedule for Branches 65 & 149, as presented by Mike Murrell and Jim Keller:

- First Monday: at a course within one hour of Napa and hosted by Jim Keller \*\*
- First Wednesday: at Eagle Vines \*
- Second Wednesday: at Napa GC \*
- Third Wednesday: at a course within one hour of Napa and hosted by Jim Keller \*\*
- Fourth Wednesday: at Vintner's GC \*
- Fifth Wednesday: at Vintner's GC (9 holes) \* or at NGC (18 holes) \* (your choice)

Mike Murrell and Jim Keller are your local tournament chairmen. One asterisk contact Mike Murrell at 707-666-5810, and two asterisks contact Jim Keller at 415-827-4904.

Branch 65 SIRS, if you are interested in playing golf with your fellow SIRS, please give me a call, Marc Longoria, at 707-363-4551



November 29th saw the return of our annual golf luncheon. This year we held it at Eagle Vines. Thanks to Jim Keller for organizing the event. Jim and Marc Longoria for procuring prizes paid for by each branch's golf fund. That nasty little pandemic got in the way of the last few years end of the season golf luncheon.



# POKER CORNER MARC LONGORIA



Our SIR Branch 65 & Branch 149 monthly Texas Hold'em poker get-together is going great. We had our best turn out yet, nine players! Because of the turn out, we were able to pay four places. In our first poker session. Marc came in first, followed by Jeff Richard, Jerry Stabile and Bill Parks. Good poker was played by all, but sometimes you need a little luck to make a big score. As you may notice in the picture, I scored the highest hand you can get in Texas Hold'em next to a straight flush, four aces! Fortunately for me, there were a few players in the hand, and it helped me to victory. In the second round, Ken Merritt was going well already and a big pot at the end of the game solidified his first place win. A first for Ken, congrats! Jeff took second again (were going to have to keep an eye on him), Jerry took third again (and him too), and I took fourth by just a

hundred chips or so.

Everyone had a great time, and even with nine players the pace of game was fine. Bill, thanks for hosting and the great spread you put out.

We will be getting together again on Monday, January 8th. If you are interested in playing Texas Hold'em with us and want to have a great time with your fellow SIRS, please give me a call or contact one of our regular players. My number is 707-363-4551, or you can email me at: [icu2yru@sbcglobal.net](mailto:icu2yru@sbcglobal.net).



Ken's first win with our poker group brought a big smile to his face ...and some cool moola for all those chips!!!



Marc's rare four aces lead him to victory in our first round, sure there was another rare 4 of a kind later in the game, lowly fours!

## 2023 IN PICTURES

HERE'S TO A GREAT 2024



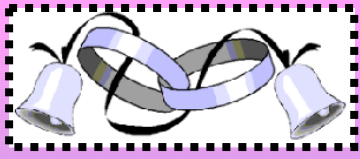




**January BIRTHDAYS**

- Ed Harris 1/9
- Ron Critchley 1/15
- Paul Cain 1/19
- Jack Wiggins 1/21

Ed. Note.. Long time member John Potrebic's birthday was skipped in December's newsletter. We owe him a bottle of wine the next meeting he attends!!!



**January Anniversaries**

- Mark & Donnel Peter 1/1/84
- Kriss & Maureen Kimbrough 1/2/82
- Ken & Marianna Merritt 1/11/03
- Tom & Jackie Gumina 1/13/62\*\*\*

We would love to see all the birthday and anniversary members at the meeting for a chance to win some bubbly or wine!

**Branch Officers**

- Big Sir: Peter Berendsen
- Little Sir: Lance Houser
- Secretary: Dennis Dickey
- Asst. Sec.: (vacant)
- Treasurer: Sam Jones
- Asst. Treas. Marc Longoria

**Directors**

- Keith Knox
- John Harrison
- Lance Houser
- Gene Young
- Gene Hoover
- Frank Sanchez

**Past Big Sir**

- Ed Harris
- RAMP**
- Jerry Stabile

**Committee Chairs**

- House Officers: Gene Hoover  
Frank Sanchez
- Membership & Attendance:  
Jeff Richard
- Golf: Marc Longoria
- Bocce: Gene Hoover
- Bowling: Dave Ellingson
- Vine Walkers: Lance Houser
- Poker: Marc Longoria
- Sunshine Report: Russ Kindig
- Birthday/Anniversary: Jerry Stabile
- Newsletter: Jerry Stabile
- Webmaster: Sam Jones

**An Organization of Senior Men  
Branch 65  
2130 Camenson St.  
Napa, CA 94558**

**DATED MATERIAL January 2024**



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Sons In Retirement, Inc., and its Branches, do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or passengers or their property or any damage whatsoever, in any matter pertaining to stand activities.

## **COMING EVENTS**

**SIR Branch 65  
Luncheon/meeting  
12/9/24 11:30am  
Napa Elks Lodge**

**SIR Branch 65  
Branch Executive Committee (BEC)  
12/9/24 10:15am  
Napa Elks lodge Club Room**