



SIR 101

Bulletin

January, 2024

Volume 43, Number 1

SONS IN
RETIREMENT 101
LIVERMORE, CA

FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
ABOUT OUR
BRANCH, PLEASE
VISIT OUR
WEBSITE

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The Big Sir Message from Dwight Lang

Happy New Year fellow SIRs! I hope you enjoyed the SIR 101 Christmas luncheon and had good holidays as well. As we look forward to this new year I want to say thanks to John Didlake and the whole Branch Executive Council—they have done a great job in putting us on a path of economic stability. Moving our luncheons from the Elks hall to the Asbury Methodist Church Fellowship Hall has reduced our luncheon costs.

Of course, there is also a thank-you due to all of you members for paying your yearly dues, which are providing the funds that we need to cover our costs. Just a reminder, that the yearly dues for 2024 of \$30/year (works out to be \$2.50/month) are now mandatory, due as of January 18, and payable by February 15. Please pay them by the February luncheon, February 15.

At the January luncheon we will have Chris Carter, the Executive Director of Livermore Valley Arts. LVA is the organization that runs the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Art Center. Chris will present an overview of the organization and a look ahead to all of the exciting upcoming performances, classes, and more. Please plan to attend.

We have a new president of the State SIR organization, Dale Decker. In his introductory letter, he reminds us that the sole goal of SIR is to Have FUN with FRIENDS. He also reminds us of the simple expectations SIRs has of its members: 1) be friendly to all, 2) actively participate in mental and/or physical activities, 3) eagerly volunteer and lead



when asked, and 4) keep us vital by introducing SIR to your community and invite guests to our activities.

I look forward to seeing you in our activities, and at the January 18 luncheon. I am always open to ideas as to how to improve SIR, whether changing our luncheons, adding new activities or changing existing ones. If you have an idea, please let me or any other member of the Branch Executive Council know, and we will consider them.



January Speaker

Chris Carter
Executive Director, Livermore Valley Arts

January 18, 2024
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Ave, Livermore, CA



Before being appointed as the Executive Director, Chris Carter served as the Director for Development and Communications for the Livermore Valley Arts. In his role, Carter was responsible for all the fundraising and marketing efforts for LVA. Since joining LVA, he has helped to raise more than \$15 million for the arts in Livermore.

He joined the LVA staff in 2014 after working more than eleven years at Saint Mary's College of California, where he spent the last eight as a leader in the College's development department. His last position held was Director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving.

In 2023, Chris was a recipient of the Alameda County Arts Leadership Award. Chris is a member of the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, APAP (Association of Performing Arts Professionals), The California Presenters Association, and WAA (Western Arts Alliance).

Chris was also a founding board member of the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance. He currently serves as the Chair of the Saint Mary's College School of Science Advisory Board, and also serves on the board of directors for Visit Tri-Valley and Livermore Jazz Society. He is an advisory board member for Three Valleys Community Foundation and the Las Positas College Commercial Music Advisory Board.

An avid guitarist, Chris has performed steadily in the community for the last 25 years with his bandmate, Mike Lickiss, as a member of the LK Project. Together, they have written and recorded 4 studio albums and continue to share their love of music with anyone who will listen.

Chris lives with his wife and three children in Pleasanton, and has been a volunteer for the Boy Scouts in several capacities over the last 12 years.

From the Editor's Desk

Contact: Steve Skedzielewski, 925-455-5579
SIR101Editor@googlegroups.com



This month I've tried adding a small indentation to each paragraph. Could you let me know whether I should or should not continue? I hope

to make the Bulletin as pleasant to read as possible.

Thanks!

Check out our **SIR Branch 101 web site**.

Click SirInc2.org/Branch101 to see the latest edition. Click on this link to email Dennis Gately, SIR101Web@googlegroups.com or call 925-443-1953 for the member id and password.

Do you need a member phone # or email address? It's in our web site's 'Members Only' section, which has a Member Roster, Member Photo Gallery, Speaker Videos, Member Videos, and BEC Meeting Minutes.

Financial

Contact: Roger Grimm, Treasurer, 925-290-5891
SIR101Treasurer@googlegroups.com



Monthly Cash Report for December, 2023
See our web site for the complete Form 28.

Beginning Cash Balance (Total Cash)..Line 1: Month: \$10,085.48 YTD: \$4,032.72
Ending Cash Balance (Total Cash).....Line 8: Month: \$8,337.78 YTD: \$8,337.78

Membership and Attendance

Contact: Larry Wiley, Chairman, 925-443-7979
SIR101Membership@googlegroups.com



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, VISITORS and GUESTS:

New Members: 1—Kim Grandfield

- ◆ **Visitors:** 0.
- ◆ **Guests:** 0

MEMBER CARE GIVERS:

- ◆ Care Givers: 0.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

- ◆ **Deleted:** 1—David Morgan
- ◆ **Passed:** 0

MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

- ◆ The ACTIVE Membership of SIR 101 as of January 9, 2024 is **126** members
- ◆

MEETING ATTENDANCE— All lunch meetings are planned to be In person. BEC meetings follow in-person lunch meetings.

- ◆ December: no meeting.

The complete SIR Form 27 Monthly Branch Membership Report for December, 2023 is available on our website.

Future Speakers

Our Planned Speakers :

February 15th – Werner Schlapfer, the former Livermore SIRs Travel organizer, has extensive knowledge about hiking in Switzerland, being born there, and has led many trips traveling and hiking in Switzerland. He will be giving a new presentation on hiking in Switzerland.

Speakers are a great attraction for getting poten-

tial new **members to come to our SIR meetings**. Click [SIR 101 Meeting Speakers-Public](#) to see available information about each presentation.

Do you have ideas for speakers? Let Bob Johnson, SIR101LittleSIR@googlegroups.com, know.

From Bill Leach : My wife says I'm gaining weight. In my defense, I've had a lot on my plate lately.

Bocce

When: 2nd and 4th Thursdays 9-10:30
Next: January 25, 2024, February 8,22, 2024

Where: Bothwell Park, 8th and H St

Contact: Chuck Molenkamp, Chairman, 925-413-1414
SIR101Bocce@googlegroups.com



December turned out to be a great month for bocce. Because of the rainout risk, we decided to schedule bocce on all the available Thursdays: December 7, 21 and 28. In all cases it rained on Tuesday or Wednesday, but not on Thursdays, so we could play on all three dates (the bocce courts drain very well). On December 7 there were 7 players, on December 21 there were 8 players, and on December 28 there were six players. We always have good competitive games and a wonderful social time.

We happily welcome any new players

In January we return to our normal schedule of playing bocce on the second and fourth Thursday mornings of the month which will be January 25, February 8 and 22, and March 14 and 28. If you are interested in playing bocce with us and would like a reminder email a couple days before each game, ask Chuck Molenkamp (cmole44@gmail.com) to add you to the bocce reminder email list.



December 7, 2023: Dom Saccullo, Werner Schlapfer, Raul Pomares, Chuck Molenkamp, Bob Johnson, Steve Skedzielewski (kneeling). The photographer was Harry Levin.



December 21, 2023: Werner Schlapfer, Bruce Henry, Bob Johnson, Raul Pomares, Steve Skedzielewski, Chuck Molenkamp, and Dom Saccullo. The photographer was Harry Levin.



December 28, 2023: Roger Everett, Werner Schlapfer, Harry Levin, Coleman Johnson, and Steve Skedzielewski (kneeling). The photographer was Chuck Molenkamp.



December 28, 2023: Roger Everett, Werner Schlapfer, Coleman Johnson, Chuck Molenkamp, and Steve Skedzielewski (kneeling). The photographer was Harry Levin.

NEAL'S ROMEOs (Retired "O" Men Eating Out)

When: First Tuesdays

Next: February 6, 2024

Where: TBD

Contact: Vic Wheatman, Chairman
SIR101Romeos@googlegroups.com



For the first ROMEO outing of the New Year, a group of seven gathered at the "historic" Emil Villa's, located in a sad shopping center near Livermore city hall. Never mind that. For all of our attendees it was the first time at Villa's in a very long time, now under new management. The menu is long and varied with a nicely priced set of luncheon specials. I had ribs; others had Salads, Meatloaf, Half-a-Sandwich, whatever. It was good.

The conversation went from a recent SIRS trip that three diners took to Croatia where Marcos swam in the Adriatic, to kayaking choices, Scouting, various ways, some dangerous, of smoking meat properly, choosing a cell phone (consensus: last year's model is perfectly fine), parasailing over a Bay of Sharks, and a camping story about spreading corn flakes on the drunken, now sleeping, partiers next door to our intrepid campers, and finding geese on a breakfast attack on the hardy partiers come sunrise. .



From the left, Rick Rollo, Vic Wheatman, Chuck Molenkamp, Rick Knowles, Jim Hermerding and Marcos Contreras .

Hiking and Walking

When: Wednesdays, 8:30 am
Where: South L St. and Railroad Ave.

Contact

Art Hull, Chairman, 925-443-5479, Dave Lunn, Asst. Chairman, 925-784-2624
SIR101Hiking@googlegroups.com



We meet every Wednesday at the southeast corner of South L St. and Railroad Ave. and leave at 8:30 am for our hiking destination.

Spouses, friends and family are welcome.

Over the last few weeks of winter weather we managed to dodge most of the wet weather, although everyone has been prepared for whatever is thrown our way. The muddy trails are always a challenge but we seem to have good attendance.

Hey you Amblers, we would like to see more of you! Socializing while exercising is the only way to go!

We form three groups of various hiking levels (Amblers, Ramblers, and Scramblers). Bring plenty of water. The Amblers do a level hike usu-

ally at a park such as Sycamore Grove, Shadow Cliffs, or Holdener. The Ramblers do a moderate hike and the Scramblers do a more strenuous hike at one of the many surrounding regional parks such as Del Valle, Sunol, Morgan Territory, Pleasanton Ridge, Vargas Plateau, Garin/Dry Creek, Coyote Hills, Brushy Peak or Lake Chabot.

Hiking is good for your heart, good for your brain, and good for making friends. I guarantee we have a group for you. Try it, you might like it!

Our Motto: Remember, there's no such thing as bad hiking weather, just inappropriate clothing.



Everyone is welcome!



More hiking photos p. 15

SIR 101 Kayaking

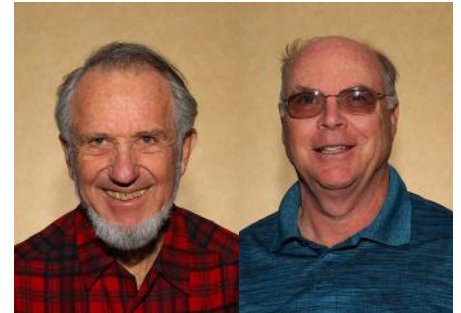
When: Usually First Tuesdays

Next: February, 2024

Where: TBD

Contact: Dick Ryon, 925-447-8907, Doug Mansur, 925-640-523

SIR101Kayaking@googlegroups.com



Our January outing was postponed until after the Bulletin deadline, so it will appear next month..

Our next outing location, normally scheduled for the first Tuesday in February, has not yet been decided, but will likely be closer to Liver-

more. If you don't (yet) have a kayak, some of us have extras that you can borrow. Just let me know, and it likely can be arranged. We tend to do easy trips, so little or even no experience is necessary! Try it – you will like it!

Paddle and live long!

Dining Out

When: Usually 2nd Tuesdays at 5:00pm

Next: February 13th, 2024

Where: Terra Mia Ristorante

Contact: Doug Mansur, Chairman, 925-640-5233

SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com



We skipped December and January, so our first destination in 2024 will be Terra Mia Ristorante in Livermore.

If you wish to be added to our email list, please send your contact information to Doug (info above). Hope to see you then!

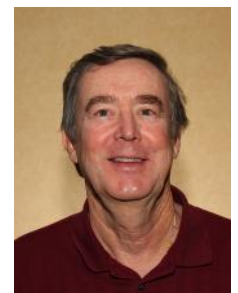
Golf

When: 7:30 Monday and/or 8:30 Thursday Mornings

How: Through the Livermore Valley Golf Club

Where: Las Positas golf course

Contact: Dwight Lang 925-784-1389



Many new SIR 101 members have expressed an interest in playing golf with a group. We currently do not have organized golf activity in Branch 101, as we do not have over 20 member golfers needed to form a SIR golf activity.

Many SIR 101 members now play with the Livermore Valley Golf Club, as I do, and the organizers of that club are welcoming SIR 101 members to join their club. They play on Monday and Thursday mornings at Las Positas golf course. Information about how to join this group is available from Dwight Lang.

Wine Tasting

When: A Friday (TBD) in February, 2024
Where: TBD
Contact: Bill Bish, Chairman, 925-447-1266
SIR101Wine@googlegroups.com



We won't meet in January, but will start up again next month. Please check the February Bulletin for our plans. Join us and bring a friend.

You don't need to be a oenophile to enjoy the company and conversations!

SIR 101 Travel

"The world is a great place. You should see it!"
Contact: Bill Britton, Chairman, 925-443-9913,
SIR101Travel@googlegroups.com



2024 SIR 101 Trips

As I mentioned last month, I've canceled plans for back-to-back trips next fall to Egypt and Lebanon combined with Greece. Conditions in the Middle East have convinced me to postpone this until another time. I'm working on some ideas for next year but I'm not ready to commit yet. However our SIR State Travel Chair has sent me an opportunity that you might be interested in and I'm including it here.

Bill Britton
 101 Travel Chair

SIR River Cruise for all Branches.
 SIR Grand Circle River Trip Prague to Budapest 2024 special price.

Here is information about a river trip Prague to Budapest 11/6-11/20 2024. Pre- and post- trips are available, see below.

If you have any questions call or email Milt Smith State Travel Chair. Branch 146, 925-285-2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com

Take a look let us know what you think. We can give you chapter and verse on shipboard life, cabins, weather, air etc. We also have excellent prices for solo travelers.

Cheers, Milt Smith, State Travel Chair, Branch 146.

Dates: 11/06-20/2024

Pre-trip to Dresden and Berlin and pre-trip to Warsaw and Krakow depart US 11/01/2024
 Post-trip to Budapest return date: 11/23/2024

- Serenade A: \$3995
- Serenade B: \$3895
- Sonata C: \$3795
- Sonata D: \$3695
- Cantata E: \$3595
- Cantata F: \$3495
- Prelude G: \$3395
- Prelude H: \$3195

Air from SFO: \$1100

- Dresden and Berlin: \$995
- Warsaw and Krakow: \$1095
- Budapest: \$745

The group code for the trip is G4-23630. It is fully linked to the cruises date - all set for registrations to come through at 1-800-221-2610 once travelers are ready.

Sunshine

Contact: Art Molvik, 925-373-8437
SIR101Sunshine@googlegroups.com.



We have good news: Lynn Shaeffer's hearing has improved from recent surgery. Further improvement is expected.

If you hear of someone needing a word of encouragement from all of us, or hear good news

of someone's recovery, please let Art know. He will spread the news and get a card out to them.

Holiday Party



I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

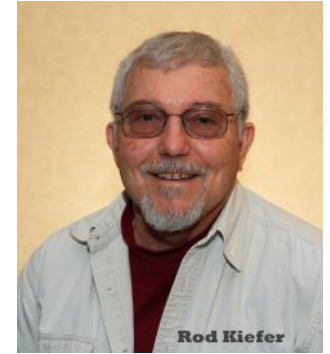


Investments

When: The first Friday of the month from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Where: Zoom meeting

Contact: Rod Kiefer, Chairman, 925-447-4173,
SIR101Investments@googlegroups.com



The goal of our activity is to share investment experiences, strategies, market research tools, and other investment topics the group may be interested in discussing. If you're interested in joining the investment group, please contact Rod Kiefer.

Activities

Contact: Ron Saltgaver, Chairman, 925-443-0693,
SIR101Activities@googlegroups.com



What: Do you want to start something new? Describe it in your own words.

Where: Please, suggest location based on your ideas with current restrictions considered.

When: How often and what duration would you think would be best to keep up interest?

Contact: Do you want to be the Chairman for this?

Please contact Activities chair Ron Saltgaver for more information.

The following activities are on hiatus.

BackPacking: **Contact:** Dave Lunn, Chairman, 925-784-2624, SIR101Backpacking@googlegroups.com

Game Day: **Contact:** Ron Saltgaver, Chairman, 925-443-0693, SIR101GameDay@googlegroups.com

If you are interested in the following activities we would welcome volunteers to chair them!

- Chess
- Domestic Travel
- Golf
- Fishing



A man approached a very beautiful woman in the large supermarket and asked: "I've lost my wife here in the supermarket. Can you talk to me for a couple of minutes?" "Huh, why?" "Because every time I talk to a beautiful woman my wife appears out of nowhere."



Membership Rules: A member will be notified in writing of the pending termination of his membership should he be responsible for any of the following: (a) missing three (3) consecutive regular luncheon meetings without having been excused by contacting Werner Schlapfer, SIR101Attendance@googlegroups.com not later than the Thursday before the meeting day; (b) not attending a minimum of five (5) of the regular luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period. Excused absences are not included in achieving the five (5) luncheon meeting minimum. Certification of attendance at another Branch Meeting or State SIR meeting will be considered as a credit to the attendance record.

Non-responsibility clause: All activities arranged for or by, or sponsored by, Sons in Retirement, Inc., and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons in Retirement, Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matter pertaining to said activities. Travel events of four (4) or more nights and all air and sea travel must be arranged and booked through a travel agency. Members and guests shall make their checks payable to the travel agency involved. Tour and travel events of three (3) or fewer nights shall require participating members and guests to make their checks payable to the appropriate Branch of Sons in Retirement, Inc., whether or not a travel agency has booked the event.

SIR 101 web information:

SIR 101: Sirlnc2.org/Branch101. Our site has a 'Members Only' section. SIR 101 members may contact our Webmaster for the User Name and Password. See the Member Roster, Member Photo Gallery, Speaker Videos, Member Videos, Form 27, Form 28 and BEC Meeting Minutes.

Is your Photo Gallery photo missing? Send a digital photo similar to the Photo Gallery pictures to Webmaster Dennis Gately and to Bulletin Editor Steve Skedzielewski. No photo? Contact the Bulletin Editor.

State SIR information: SIR Inc.: sirinc.org, SIR Sports: State SIR Sports Chair W. Lee Moy, HealthStudio@gmail.com (559) 709-9851. The SIR newsletter [SIR Happenings](#) features news about SIR and all the things that are still going on in our Branches.



Another from Bill:
If you are sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"



What is the Green Dot Program? (Editor's note: the [Green Dot](#) program continues to recognize recent new members Each member is assigned an identification number that appears on his lapel badge which is filed in numerical order near the Luncheon Meeting entrance. He will wear his badge at all meetings and must leave it when he departs the meeting. For about the first six months after he joins SIR 101, his badge will have a [Green Dot](#) on it which signifies he is a new member and entitles members who share his dining table. [early access to the buffet line.](#) The main purpose is to encourage members to introduce themselves to the new members and help them feel comfortable and learn what SIR is all about. The badges also provide a means of noting meeting attendance. [Current Green Dot members](#)

[Paul Bauman, Robert Buckley, Charles Caulfield, Bob Cowgill, Bob Dashner, Jim Doggett Jr., Christopher Holland, Bob Horton, Ken Nuger, Scott Peters, Walter Schindler, Philip Simon, Everitt White.](#)

Birthday Boys*

December Birthday Boys (will be drawn in January)

Brent Dixon
Dave Dunlap
Lloyd Garbutt
Rick Knowles

Dwight Lang
Bruce Langdon
Bill Moran
Nile Runge

January Birthday Boys

Leo Bennis
Roger Brown
D. Robert Buckley
Gordon Bull
Bob Cowgill
Ray Culy
Jim Doggett

Patrick Epperson
Ralph Moir
Mark Palajac
Steve Skedzielewski
Scott Smith
Max Tabak

Lunch Prepayment Instructions / Yearly Member Donation Reminder

Prepay your \$32 lunch or make your Annual Dues payment of \$30.

You can best support our branch with your yearly \$30 dues. SIR promotes entertaining and enriching our lives through many activities as well as branch meetups, like in-person luncheons, restarting now after the Covid hiatus with the new policies mentioned in the Big SIR's message. If you have not already paid for the year, please consider doing so!

Pay online or on your cell phone or computer with Zelle ([preferred](#))!

Check with your bank to see if it provides the Zelle service. If it does, you can use their app or web site to send money *at no cost* by just adding the SIR101Treasurer@gmail.com as a payee.

If not on your computer go to the zellepay.com website.

Avoid the long lunch line: RSVP the meeting invitation online, pre-pay your lunch via Zelle and arrive early to visit at the lunch.

PayPal We currently can't accept PayPal payments.

Mail checks to: Roger Grimm at 3034 Chateau Way, Livermore 94550

Questions or more Information? Contact Treasurer: Roger Grimm, SIR101Treasurer@googlegroups.com.

* **What is the Birthday Boys Program?** It is a program that offers each member, who is celebrating a birthday in the current month, to have a chance to receive a free luncheon credit, if that member's name is chosen in a drawing and is in attendance at the monthly meeting. Currently, two names are called each month.

More Hiking Photos

