



Wine Valley Press

**SONS IN RETIREMENT
WINE VALLEY BRANCH #149**



State President Dale Decker
Area 7 Representative Jerry Stabile

A non-profit organization for retired men
MEETS EVERY FIRST TUESDAY, 11:00 AM
ELKS LODGE NAPA

Volume #36
Decemberr 2024

Website: <http://branch149.sirinc2.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SIR-Branch-149->

DECEMBER 2024 BIG SIR MESSAGE

IT HAS BEEN MY PLEASURE TO BE YOUR BRANCH 149 BIG SIR FOR 2024. I WILL CONTINUE AS BIG SIR FOR 2025 AND THEN HAND THE REINS TO LITTLE SIR, DANIEL HARDER, WHO IS DOING A WONDERFUL JOB LEARNING THE VARIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES TO MAINTAIN BRANCH 149 AMONG THE BEST IN CALIFORNIA.



We are an organization that functions well because of all of the members who volunteer a little of their precious time to make it all seamlessly happen. Without a dedicated core of volunteers, the various monthly activities, interesting speakers, lunches, book club, theater, eating out and establishing new friendships with fellow members would not happen. I want to personally thank all of you that volunteer your time to help no

matter how small or large a volunteer time you have, it all matters and makes Branch 149 so great an organization. In particular, I want to thank the 2024 BEC directors and Activity Chairpersons who took the leadership role in organizing exciting and entertaining activities for all our enjoyment in 2024 and throughout the years. Also, if you invited someone new to join us for lunch and they ended up joining Branch 149, thank you, thank you.

RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS IS A VITAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL OF US TO INSURE THE LONG-TERM GROWTH, HEALTH AND STABILITY OF BRANCH 149.

In the past two years, Branch 149 has added a total of 67 new members; 45 in 2023 and 22 in 2024. That is a great accomplishment but an ongoing task we need to continue to focus on in 2025 and years beyond. Also, in 2025 we are going to need some new volunteers to step up and volunteer to provide relief to long term volunteers in various leadership roles and Activity Chairperson positions that are or will become vacant in the new year. We depend on volunteers to help make Branch 149 smoothly run. Hopefully, some of our new 2023 and 2024 members will be willing to step up and help fill some of these anticipated vacant leadership positions.

Big Sir continued

I look forward to seeing all the members and their family who can attend the 12/3/24 Christmas Dinner at the Elks Lodge. It will be a great way to begin celebrating the holiday spirit, laughing, sharing stories about the year and enjoying a delicious meal together with our Sir brothers. Finally, I look forward to being the 2025 Branch 149 Big Sir and thank you for all your support in 2024 to keep Branch 149 among the best in California. SEE YOU ON JANUARY 7 TH FOR OUR FIRST MEETING OF 2025.

Peter Dreier

Big Sir 2024

1. There is only one cure for gray hair. ...
2. "I'm at an age when my back goes out more than I do." ...
3. "You know you're getting old when you get that one candle on the cake. ...
4. "I've learned that life is like a roll of toilet paper. ...
5. "Age is an issue of mind over matter. ...
"So far, this is the oldest I've been." ...

CHECK OUT PAGE 3 TO WIN A BOTTLE OF WINE.

**Email me the correct answer at
dkwonderful@gmail.com JOKE ON 3**

Little Sir Message for December

Gentlemen,

As always it was great to see such a turnout for our last meeting and luncheon of 2024! Everyone deserves a pat on the back for making Branch 149 such a vigorous branch.

I hope you all enjoyed meeting Jennifer Brusstar from the Tug McGraw Foundation, it was great to see how many of our members knew her previously and those who just met her realize what a dynamic woman she is and a great asset to our community. She told me what a wonderful time she had.



Next year's speakers will offer a wide range of information from traffic safety to staying healthy as we age.

The January speaker will be Jaqueline Weisbein DO from Napa Valley Orthopedic Group. Her practice focuses on pain management and prevention. Dr. Weisbein will share with us new advances in managing chronic pain and improving your ability for a more active and fulfilling lifestyle. Other speakers will be Sergeant Aaron Medina from the Napa Police Department, Aaron will discuss issues facing us as senior drivers and new traffic laws for 2025.

Drene Johnson Executive Director of Community Action Napa Valley will be joining us soon. She will share with us information regarding the Food Bank Facility that recently relocated to Kaiser Road from Industrial Way. Joy Eldridge from The Napa Water Department her presentations are very informative, and she offers a great insight into the City Utilities Department.

If you have someone you would like to hear from, please let me know and I will do my best to have them as a speaker.

As you know The BEC approved an increase in dues, this action was not made without great deliberation. The necessity of this was brought up due to a possible deficit in our branch finances as we enter the new year. We also explored other way to garner income from different sources, we will begin selling ads in our monthly newsletter, I am reaching out to local merchants for support. And have had good feedback. If you know of anyone interested in advertising with us just let know and I can get them set up. If you visit of these businesses let them, you saw their ad in the newsletter!

Have a blessed and magical holiday season

Yours in Service,

Daniel Harder

Little sir

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

Bicycling	Bill Shields	287-1246
Ass't.	Chuck Youngson	225-2814.
Bocce	Mario Mazzoleni	227-8977
Book Exch.	Bill Wheadon	224-3901
Cards	Bob Hairston	252-0252
Clasic Cars	Dan McCabe	224-6835
Ass't.	Dan Silveira	252-2284
Computers	Adrian Fenderson	479-4688
Cribbage	Bob Benning	337-2614
Events	Dan McCabe	224-6835
Fishing	Daniel Harter	
Golf Weekly	Gary Garver	
Monthly	Jim Keller	415 827-4904
Sec./Treas.	Jim Keller	415 827-4904
HNDCP.	Larry Timmer	252-8079
Area 7 Golf	Chairman	
	Jim Keller	415 827-4904
Trips	Dan McCabe	224-6835
Romeo	John Lansingh	254-1056
Travel	Looking for a new chairman	
RV's/Roving Roosters		
Coordinator	David Dennis	392-8837
Theater	Bob Benning	337-2614
	Adrian Fenderson	479-4688
Veteran's Act.	fahlstromdelcare@att.net	
	Del Fahlstrom	
Walkers	Dave Henry	227-7413
Website	Adrian Fenderson	479-4688
Wine Tasting	Chris Bailey	925 8904630

PAST BIG SIRs

1992	Lou Hughes	1993	F. Heid *
1994	W. Barber*	1995	T. Tomlinson*
1996	D. Gibson *	1997	P. Miller
1998	D. Westover *	1999	E. Coyne*
2000	B. Johnson *	2001	D. Newell *
2002	M. Jack *	2003	D. Brooks*
2004	K. Pieper	2005	J. Gibbany*
2006	A. Brambrink	2007	T. Jensen
2008	E. Suden	2009	G. Greco *
2010	C. Harris	2011	J. Chandler
2012	D. Collins	2013	R. Barker
2014	J. Cox	2015	T. Borman
2016	D. Pangburn	2017	Stu Williams*
2018	J. Prudhomme	2019	Carl Hammond
2020	Carl Hammond	2021-22	Tom Dawson
2023	Ron Irwin		

* Deceased

COMFORT REPORT FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Happy Holidays Sirs,

As the Christmas season approaches, we at SIR Branch 149 are filled with excitement and warmth, knowing that this festive time brings us all closer together. The joy of shared experiences and camaraderie is what makes our community truly special. SIR Branch 149 is rolling out the red carpet for a festive annual Christmas Dinner celebration filled with warmth, joy, and camaraderie! So, share the joy and comfort of the season with your fellow retired and semi-retired pals at the dinner and other activities that you enjoy. Remember, the warmth of friendship is the greatest comfort of all during this time of year.

For all our Sirs who are in need of healing and comfort, we will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. We have had a great SIR year under the leadership of Big Sir/President Peter Dreier and our BEC and I'm looking forward to another great SIR year in 2025.

Ron Irwin,

Acting Comfort Chairman

NEW MEMBER DAVE LOOMIS



Where in the World am I?

Last month's answer was the CIA which no one answered correctly





Bicycling with SIRs Bill Shields & Chuck Youngson: SIR bike riders meet every Thursday. For more information contact Bill by email tbsields6@comcast.net or phone/text at 707-287-1246; at chyoungson@yahoo.com or 707-225-2814.



Book Exchange with SIR Bill Wheadon: Bill and colleagues have a wonderful display of books for loan, covering several tables. The Book Exchange Table, invites you donate books! When the supply of books exceeds the SIRS storage area the overflow will be donated to the Napa Library and just about every month we take a large box of books to the library. Thanks for your generous gift of books **Your spouse or significant other may come before the meeting to pick out books.** For more info, contact SIR Bill Wheadon at 707-224-3901.



Cards with SIR Bob Hairston: y. The poker group has changed their meeting day. We now play on Monday at 1PM at the Elks. No more Thursdays. Bob's email is forebleepers@yahoo.com

Classic Cars with SIR Dan McCabe: If the weather permits, bring your classic to our SIRS meeting. For more info., contact me at 707-224-6835 or djmccabe547@comcast.net.



Bocce with SIR Mario Mazzoleni: Thursday is BOCCE Day for SIRS on the Bocce Pavilion at the Napa Senior Center. For more information, please contact SIR Mario Mazzoleni at 1mariomazzoleni@gmail.com or call or text to 227-8977.



Newsletter Editor

I'm still in asking for everyone's help please send me your photos. Contact me at Dkwonderful@gmail.com or text at 925-548- 5714.

November marked the shift of cribbage venues to "Indoor." SIR John Lansingh is now hosting cribbage on the third Monday of each month. November cribbage was attended at John's home at 1288 River Park Blvd. Pete Smith was the big winner, as he continually beat Bill Hogberg. Nothing special there Pete... Bill is used to losing!!

December 16 will be the next cribbage outing at John's. Play is open to all levels, from the curious, to the advanced. We start at 2 pm and usually end around 4 pm.

Come watch some great moves and some rookie mistakes.

SIR Bob Benning and SIR John Lansingh

The Roving Roosters are finishing our great year with our annual Christmas Dinner celebration here in Napa on December 12. During the year we traveled to Lake Siskiyou, Brairdsen/ Grae Eagle, Plymouth and finally Chico as our last outing. Each trip was full of great food, golfing, sightseeing and tours featuring local sights and events.

We try and find new and interesting places to visit every new year.

We are always looking for new members to join, so if you have an RV of any type, let me know and I'll add you to our list of members.

Dave



Musings from the Fairway #3

By Anonymous

Golf is generally fun, but when it is not, it is generally due to slow play by one or more players within your group or slow play is caused by the one or two groups in front of you. Regardless, why it happens doesn't really matter. But, there is a positive to slow play. It allows you to think. Recently I was on the 8th fairway with my buds at Bel Air Country Club in Los Angeles, when we ran into a bottleneck. This blockage never resolved itself and I had plenty of time to think irrelevant thought that I know you have been waiting to hear. Why is a fairway called a fairway? There is nothing fair about a patch of grass I never land in. However, this term came into being in the 1800's after lawnmowers were invented and was originally use as a navigable term for the high seas

How did a birdie come to be called a birdie? In 1899 American slang used the term "bird" to represent something really good, neat or cool vs the FINGER we all get while driving from other drivers. Golfer's used the term to signify a one under par score on a hole by saying that is bird. It eventually morphed into "birdie" and has stuck ever since. I wonder a lot about Why do golfers say these silly things to other golfers:

Take one shot at a time. Really, when was the last time you saw anyone take more than 1 shot at a time? I am really looking forward to seeing this soon. Trust your club, fear your shot. Come on, the club has nothing to do with it. Its YOU, the golfer that made the bad shot due to a bad swing. Get used to it.

Never up, never in. Oh my, this could mean so many things and as we get older it takes on a very special meaning – unfortunately

Well, that's it for this month. Thanks for reading and keep those comments

Statistics

Current membership = 204

Number of Sirs at our September = 82

Number of guests at our August meeting=2

Number of new members 2024 22

Number of new applications = 1

Napa SIRS golf is coordinated by both Jim Keller (jimkellerrealestae@icloud.com) and Gary Garver. gdgsirsgolf@yahoo.com Please contact them to get on their lists to be notified of upcoming events. There are weekly golf outings (both 9 and 18 holes) at a variety of courses generally within one hour of Napa.



Weekly Sirs Coffee (or Coffee with Bob and Mike) and conversation with your fellow Sirs.

Every **Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Brewed Coffee at 865 Factory Store Drive** in the Factory Outlet Center off of Freeway Drive.

Mike Murrell are co-chairing this new activity. This activity is open to members of both Branch 149 and 65. Come for coffee and serious or silly talk and to meet new friends with similar interests. One requirement: leave emotions and weapons at home. Bob and Mike's email addresses are: bobofnapa@gmail.com mikemurrell.1@gmail.com

Wine Tasting with Christopher Bailey

Newsletter Update from Tipplers:

Sirs Wine Tipplers had 18 in attendance for our November Tasting of the groups value wines for Thanksgiving. Members brought 11 bottles of wine and sparkling wine including 3 made by Tipplers. Everyone had a great time rating the wines and learning great values.

We will not have a December tasting due to Sirs Annual Christmas Dinner. Be advised in January we will have a Sparkling Wine tasting (bubbles)!

Chris Bailey; Chair "



SIR BRANCH 149 2025 DUES INCREASE NOTICE

At the November 5, 2024 Branch 149 BEC (Branch Executive Committee) meeting the Board of Directors reviewed the projected Year End 2024 Financial Statement and voted unanimously that it would be necessary to increase our Annual Membership Dues for individual members in order to maintain the financial stability of the Branch for future operating years effective January 2025.

The decision to increase Annual Membership Dues is never easy and the BEC members goal is to maintain it at the lowest possible level while insuring adequate annual revenue for Branch 149 activities and to maintain financial stability for the future.

The Branch 149 BEC voted to increase the Annual Membership Due to \$35 effective January 1, 2025.

Let me explain the reasons behind this increased Annual Due decision. The current Annual Membership Due is \$25 per member. Forty percent of that fee (\$10) is automatically transferred to State Sir to support all the functions that they provide for all the Branches, including Insurance coverage, filing of required State and Federal tax forms, preparation and maintaining consistent Operation Manuals and forms for all Branches and training for Branch officers to insure we are in compliance with our

state charter. We are anticipating that State Sir will be increasing the mandatory State fee to cover the increased cost of insurance coverage throughout the State that we are all experiencing and inflation related increase in other areas. That will leave Branch 149 with less than \$15 per member to support the required activities and requirements at the local level. With a total membership of approximately 200 members, that will generate revenue of \$ 3,000 annually. Historically, we have also held a fundraising raffle at the Ladies Day Picnic that raises another \$1500-\$2,000 a year. So, we end up with an annual local revenue budget of between \$4,500- \$5,000.

How do we allocate these local funds? Of course, we have our annual fixed costs of postage, printing, office supplies and other essential costs which are all going up with inflation. A major portion of our expenses is the subsidy that we allocate to reduce the ticket price for members to attend our two major events of the year-The Ladies Day Picnic and the Christmas Dinner which has ranged from \$7-\$15 per person depending on the event, cost and year. Also, we pay for a free lunch for all new members as a recruiting tool, lunches for all the speakers and entertainment and a free lunch for members recruiting new members.

Bottom line, we are going to finish the 2024 Fiscal year with just over \$2,000 in our reserve fund. The BEC directors have determined this is not a sufficient reserve level for Branch 149 to maintain the financial stability for the future and have approved increasing the Annual Membership Fee to \$35 effective January 1, 2025.

We hope all members understand that this was not an easy decision but definitely a necessary one.

We will begin to collect Annual Dues on January 7, 2025 at our first luncheon meeting of the year at the Elks Lodge. If you will not be at the meeting or prefer to mail it into, please make out a check to Sir 149 for \$35 and mail it to the address

indicated below:

Bill Clark 1635 San Vicente Ave Napa, CA 94558

Wishing all of you a safe and wonderful Holidays season.

Walkers with SIR Dave Henry:



Monday Walkers,

We meet in the East parking lot at Nob Hill Market. At 8:00 AM we will cross Trancas Ave and walk the perimeter of Trancas Crossing Park. Then we will walk the River Walk from Trancas to Lincoln. The course is level and paved. So, there is no mud or strenuous hills to climb. I hope to see many of you there. Any questions please contact me.



Best Dave Henry
I: dhenry91@comcast.net
Mobile: (707) 227 7413

Webpage & Fenderson: We #149 website. button that will new person



Facebook with Adrian are proud of our SIR Note that there is a be linked to a PDF of the application. Please look at our site and suggest any changes you would like to see so that we can make it very user friendly. We encourage all SIRS to keep up with what is happening between newsletters by signing up for Facebook and look at our SIR Branch 149 Facebook page. Also watch the Upcoming Events column and calendar on our website Home Page at www.branch149.sirinc2.org. **Please send any happenings, updates, and photos of SIR events to SIR Adrian at napadentist@sbcglobal.net or contact him at 479-4688.**



LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER JENNIFER BRUSSTAR



CRIBBAGE ANYONE



Sir 149 Bocce games every Thursday at Senior Center.

NEW SIR BRANCH 149 MONTHLY ACTIVITY BEGINNING JANUARY 2025

THE WORLD OF BEER-HISTORY, VARIETIES, HOW IT'S MADE, LOCAL TASTINGS & HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN BREW!!

The Activity Leader for the World of Beer monthly activity will be Gary Toczylowski. If you are interested in participating in this new activity and want to be put on the email list for the Premier opening event in January 2025, contact Gary at gary.honestbrewer@gmail.com or by phone at (510) 507-6870 to join the fun at this new activity. At the beginning, members will meet once per month at one of the breweries or tap rooms in Napa. Meeting participants will learn and discuss

the brewery/beers available, how beer is made, sample a beverage of their choice and discuss the history and types of beer and try to hone in on the type of beer they like most. Gary Toczylowski will lead the discussion but, of course, every ones opinion will be welcomed and encouraged. After 2 or 3 monthly tasting meetings, the group participants will agree on a type of beer to be made. Gary Toczylowski will make the beer and participants can assist in the process HOWEVER MUCH OR LITTLE they want. Beer will be made at Gary's house. Once ready, a monthly meeting will be used to sample the beer and plan the next beer to be made and other locations to visit. Additional activities may include the touring of a production facility, conducting blind tastings of different beer styles from different breweries, or any other activity the group may want to try.

Location for sampling the group beer made will be at a members home, or some other available free space as determined by the group participants. Anyone can participate and consumption of beer is not required to be a member.

The brewing of 2-4 beers a year is the initial plan with meetings at breweries and tap rooms once a month in between.

If interested in the WORLD OF BEER ACTIVITY, contact Gary as indicated above. Gary will coordinate the meetings and send out emails to the interested Sir members. Anyone can come as often or as little as they want. ENJOY!



Celebrate Together at Our Christmas Dinner Christmas Dinner Don't miss out on this festive gathering Don't miss out on this festive gathering Join us for the Annual Christmas Dinner at the Elks Lodge on December 3, 2024!

Experience a delightful evening filled with laughter and joy as we enjoy a scrumptious meal featuring your choice of Prime Rib or Salmon, complemented by festive sides, delectable dessert, and your choice of coffee or tea. The evening will be enhanced by the enchanting music of Vintage Blend, creating the perfect atmosphere for camaraderie and celebration. With wine included, this event promises to be a highlight of the holiday season, so gather your friends and family for an unforgettable night! We will begin selling tickets at the October 1st luncheon at the Elks Lodge. You can also place your names on tables for seating of eight. Tickets can be purchased for \$42/person by cash, check or credit card. Be sure to purchase your tickets as soon as possible to ensure a seat at this festive Be sure to purchase your tickets as soon as possible to ensure a seat at this festive celebration. Your participation is vital in fostering the camaraderie and friendships celebration. Your participation is vital in fostering the camaraderie and friendships that make our Sir Branch 149 truly special. that make our Sir Branch 149 truly special. Let's come together to celebrate the spirit of community and the joy of the holiday season. We can't wait to see you there and strengthen the bonds that make SIR Branch 149 such a wonderful place to belong! Warm regards, Peter Dreier President SIR Branch 149 W Connect with us! Sir branch 149 | P.O. Box 221 2471 Solano Ave. | Napa, CA 94558 U



ROMEO in JANUARY

SIR #149 DINNER INVITATION

Monday, Jan. 13, 2025, 5:30

Stateline Road Smokehouse



672 Vallejo St.
Napa, CA 94559

Open Thursday - Monday
11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Dining Room: [707-699-2793](tel:707-699-2793)

Private Events:
[707-699-2792](tel:707-699-2792)

CHOICE OF ENTREES

½ RACK of PORK RIBS

or

½ BBQ CHICKEN

or

PULLED PORK SANDWICH



CHOICE OF 1 SIDE DISH:

Cole slaw, Yukon Gold Potato salad, Mac and Cheese, Rancho Gordo Beans and Greens

Dessert Included

NO CORKAGE FEE, LOW-COST FINE WINES AND FULL BAR AVAILABLE

Price is \$48 per person Includes soft drink, taxes, and gratuity!

Make out checks to SIR 149 and send to: John Lansingh 1288

Riverpark Blvd., Napa, CA 94559 Phone: 707-254-1056,

E Mail: john@lansingh.com

TO HELP RESTAURANT PLAN PLEASE INDICATE

CHOICE OF ENTRÉES ON YOUR CHECK

Many apologies if we have missed anyone's names!



December Birthdays

Graham	Bryce	1-Dec-40
Mark	Heitz	Dec-49
Russ	Barker	7-Dec-43
Jack	Dennis	16-Dec-50
	McFar-	
Tom	land	16-Dec-42
Karl	Crowe	19-Dec-47
Danny	Grant	24-Dec-42
Mike	Bell	25-Dec-50
Noel	Hayes	25-Dec-37
Jim	Soule Jr.	26-Dec-36
Blake	Todd	28-Dec-34

December Anniversaries

Mark	Diane	Heitz	Dec-79
Leroy	Bernadette	Moore	1-Dec-79
Larry	Patty	Carr	14-Dec-14
Bob	Nancy	Weeks	27-Dec-97

50+ Years of Wedding Bliss

Dan	Beverlee	McFadden	15-Dec-62
Graham	Sharley	Bryce	17-Dec-66
Tom	Bernadette	Cunningham	28-Dec-57



Wine tippers



2024 OFFICERS

Big Sir Peter Dreier 257-3630
Little Sir Daniel Harder 637-3859
Secretary George Clark 812-5385
Asst. Sec Pete Stupey 252-1066
Treasurer Bill Clark 253-2477
Asst. Treasurer Bob Klein 310-5947

Email branch149@sirinc2.org

DIRECTORS

Tom Atkinson 1st Year 224-3392
Neil Barker 2nd Year 235-6645
Byron Petterson 2nd Year 337-1971
Gerry Schneider 2nd Year 253-1596
Bob Weeks 1st Year 255-3482
Ron Irwin Past Big Sir 363-8754

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Attendance Bill Wheadon 224-3901
Membership Byron Petterson 337-1971
Newsletter Don Krieger 925-548-5714
Auditors Rex Williams 707-255-5834
Bill Parks 707-326-9596
Birthdays Steve Smith 326-3914
Greeters (open)
Statistician/Historian
Dennis Pangburn 224-9231
Photos Adrian Fenderson 255-6502
Parliamentarian Ed Suden 226-5310
Nominating Chair Ron Irwin 363-8754

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Paul Miller Al Brambrink
Keith Pieper James Schlatter
Bobbie Hairston Dennis Pangburn
Ed Suden Stuart Williams Past State Pres. HLM
Adrian Fenderson

DESTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Adrian Fenderson Byron Petterson Mike Murrell
Carl Hammond Tim Borman Stu Williams
Peter Dreier Dennis Pangborn Jim Prudhomme
Tom Dawson Ron Irwin Rex Williams



Golf at Rancho Solano

SON'S IN RETIREMENT

WINE VALLEY BRANCH #149

26 RAVENWOOD LANE

NAPA, CA 94558