



Wine Valley Press

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



State President Rich Carlson
Area 7 Representative Jerry Stabile

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

Volume #37
January 2025

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SIR-Branch-149-1403748883208712/>

MESSAGE FROM THE BIG SIR

Well, it is official. I will again be your Big Sir for Branch 149 for 2025.

THEN THAT'S IT! I WILL GLADLY TURN OVER THE GAVEL TO OUR LITTLE SIR, DANIEL HARDER WHO IS DOING A TREMENDOUS JOB.



I want to thank all the members of the 2024 Branch Executive Committee(BEC) and Activity Chairpersons for your volunteering, hard work and commitment to making Branch 149 among the best and most active Sir branches in California.

Moving forward in 2025 my goals for Branch 149 are: 1. Continue to implement an effective outreach and recruitment program to identify and encourage new members for Branch 149.
2. Continue streamlining our lunch program and Agenda to keep meetings interesting, lively and concluding on time.

3. Finding interesting and relevant lunch speakers for our monthly meetings.

4. Maintaining and expanding the variety of activities for the enjoyment of our members.

5. Encouraging and recruiting members to volunteer to fill leadership roles in Branch 149 SIR, including Activity Chairpersons, BEC Board members and the Little Sir and Big Sir positions.

In order to achieve these goals, we will need the ongoing assistance of our membership by being willing to volunteer to help us with these tasks. Thank you for your willingness to help.

It was great to see over 170 of you and your wives and signifi-

cant others at the Holiday Dinner enjoying yourselves. I wish you a wonderful and enjoyable holiday season with your family and friends and good health now and into the future for all of us.

Hope to see lots of you on January 7 nd at the Elks Lodge for our first luncheon of 2025. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER IS...

Our scheduled speaker for the January 7 th luncheon will be Jaqueline Weisbein, DO from Napa Valley Orthopedic Group. Her practice focuses on pain management and prevention, which I am sure we can all appreciate.

Dr. Weisbein will share with us new advances in managing chronic pain and improving your ability for a more active and fulfilling lifestyle.

DON'T MISS HEARING DR. WEISBEIN'S INCREDIBLE PRESENTATION. HOPE TO SEE YOU JANUARY 7 TH .

LUNCH MENU

BAKED SALMON WITH RICE PILAF & VEGETABLES
\$28

CHECK OUT PAGE 3 TO WIN A BOTTLE OF WINE.

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

MESSAGE FROM YOUR LITTLE SIR

Gentlemen,

I have been a member of SIR for a less than a year, but I find myself amid a wonderful group of people. I cannot tell you how much I enjoy meeting members who I have not had a chance to speak with at our luncheons and equally meeting your lovely spouses.



The Christmas Party was a great success this year and thank you to all who joined us and a big thank you as well to the members and their wives who worked so hard to put all it together, it was a very special evening. The warmth shared that night was a fantastic way to kick off the holiday seasons.

I would like to personally wish you and your families the warmest wishes for the holidays and a most prosperous new year.

As we start off 2025 our speaker for January will be Jaqueline Weisbein, DO from the Napa Valley Orthopedic Group, she will speak to us about advances in pain management and insights to increase the quality of our lifestyles.

An important goal for the new year will be increasing our membership rolls, to reduce further membership dues increases and raising prices for our annual events we will need to grow our organization. Reach out to your friends, neighbors, and other associates of groups you may be affiliated with. If you have somebody in mind, please feel free to share my contact information and I would be more than happy to further discuss what we offer as a member of SIR.

In closing let's show our appreciation to Peter for taking on the monumental task of Big Sir for the new year and I look forward to serving you as Little Sir for the next year and thank you to the BEC for all your hard work and dedication!

Happy Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Yours in service and loyalty,

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 | 637-3859 |
| 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 |
| World of Beer | Gary Toczykowski | 510-507-6870 |

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 JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Happy Holidays Sirs,

Branch 149's annual Christmas Dinner was a festive evening for all who attended. We enjoyed Christmas Carols, a great meal, the installation of officers for 2025, and awards presented to two very worthy Sir recipients. Adrian Fenderson was awarded the Joe Catania award for his exemplary service to the Branch. And Tom Dawson was awarded the Honorary Life Member (HLM) award, which is the highest State Sir award, for his exemplary service. The BEC also selected another very worthy Sir for a Joe Catania award, but he was not present at the dinner, so you will have to attend the January luncheon to find out who that is.

I hope you all enjoy a happy, festive, and healthy holiday season. Share the joy and comfort of the season with your family and friends. Remember, the warmth of family and friendship is the greatest comfort of all during this time of year.

I look forward to a great Sir year in 2025. Happy New Year to all.

Sir Ron Irwin,

Acting Comfort Chairman



Where in the World am I?

Last month's answer WAS THE London Tower which was answered correctly by Larry Timmer

Statistics

Current membership = 205

Number of Sirs December 2024 = 83

Number of guests at our December party meeting=89

Number of new members 2024 22

Number of new applications = 1

ACTIVITIES

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; or At chyoungson@yahoo.com or 707-225-2814.



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.



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 of significant other may come before the meeting to pick out books.** For more info, contact SIR Bill Wheadon at 707-224-3901.



CRIBBAGE WITH BOB BENNING

The last cribbage meeting of the year was Monday December 16 at John Lansigh's home. We will continue to meet there his address is 1288 River Park Blvd. Starting time is 2 pm and will go for about two hours. All skill levels, from none to advanced, are welcome. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know our fellow SIR. An interesting side note can be a discussion about the cribbage boards that are brought to the game. Many have personal stories that have put sentimental value on a plank of wood with holes drilled in a pattern, accompanying a deck of cards. Come and share, the additional laughter occasionally generated by the "jokes" delivered by Adrian Fender-son.



Cards with SIR Bob Hairston

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



ROVING ROOSTERS

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, Brairden/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 Dennis 392-8837



NEWSLETTER



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.

CARDS WITH BOB HAIRISTON



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

GOLF

Napa SIRS golf is coordinated by both Jim Keller (jimkellerrealestae@icloud.com) and Gary Garver. gdsirsgolf@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.



COFFEE WITH MIKE AND BOB

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 TIPPLERS WITH CHRIS BAILEY

Wine Tipplers did not meet in December but will be hosting sparkling wine (aka champagner) at our usual 3rd Wednesday blind tasting in January. Please RSVP

Chris Bailey; Chair 925 8904630



Walkers WITH 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 | dhenry91@comcast.net
Mobile: (707) 227 7413



WEB PAGE AND FACEBOOK

We are proud website. Note that will be new person look at our



of our SIR #149 that there is a button linked to a PDF of the application. Please 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.

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.

Regards,

Peter Dreier

Big Sir 2025

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 Toczykowski. 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 Toczykowski 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 Toczykowski 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!

Jokes of the Month


1. ***"They say with age comes wisdom. So, when does the wisdom kick in?"***
2. ***"I asked my grandpa how he dealt with stress when he was younger. He chuckled and said, 'I don't remember, but I'm pretty sure it involved a lot of whiskey.'"***
3. ***"You know you're getting old when your back goes out more than you do."***
4. ***"I don't have a bucket list; I have a 'f*** it' list. It's much more achievable."***
5. ***"I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure."***
6. ***"Growing old is like being fined for something you didn't even do."***
7. ***"My doctor told me to watch my drinking, so now I drink in front of a mirror."***
8. ***"Remember when the candles cost more than the cake? Ah, those were the days!"***
9. ***"At my age, 'getting lucky' means finding my car in the parking lot."***
10. ***"You're not old until the candles cost more than the cake... and your insurance premiums double."***
11. ***"I'm not old; I'm just chronologically gifted."***
12. ***Age is a matter of feeling, not of years. Although, my knees seem to disagree."***
13. ***"When you get older, three things happen: The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two."***
14. ***"I used to jog, but now I'm older, and I prefer to 'log' my food intake."***
15. ***"I'm at an age where my back goes out more than I do."***
16. ***"You know you're old when someone compliments you on your alligator shoes, and you're not wearing any."***
17. ***"My grandkids call me 'old,' but in my day, we had to walk to the TV to change the channel."***
18. ***"I'm not aging; I'm ripening to perfection."***

It is with great sadness that I am informing you that Richard "Shorty" Eagleston passed away yesterday, 11/25/2024. Shorty was a long-time member of Sirs Branch 149 joining in September 1997. He regularly attended our luncheons until he was unable to do so due to his battle with cancer. Shorty was born on February 29, 1940, which made him 21 years old in leap-year age. He will be sorely missed by all who know him.





ROMEO in JANUARY
SIR #149 DINNER INVITATION
 Monday, Jan. 13, 2025, 5:30
 Stateline Road Smokehouse



**STATE
LINE
ROAD
SMOKE
HOUSE**

872 Vallejo St.
Napa, CA 94559

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

Dining Room: 707-899-2793

Private Events:
707-899-2792

CHOICE OF ENTREES



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



Adrian Fenderson receiving the Joe Catania Award at ur Holiday Party

Many apologies if we have missed anyone's names!



January Birthdays

| | | |
|-------|------------|-----------|
| Bob | Austin | 23-Jan-43 |
| Jim | Cherniss | 21-Jan-42 |
| Ed | Fell | 10-Jan-43 |
| Dave | Hobaugh | 25-Jan-39 |
| John | Iding | 16-Jan-47 |
| Bob | Klein | 14-Jan-48 |
| | Mar- | |
| John | chesini | 15-Jan-52 |
| Webb | Parker Jr. | 7-Jan-43 |
| Craig | Ruess | 20-Jan-52 |
| Jim | Saylor | 24-Jan-49 |
| Jim | Slater | 9-Jan-33 |
| Gene | Sullivan | 17-Jan-41 |
| Eric | Wallace | 18-Jan-48 |
| Rex | Williams | 23-Jan-44 |
| Lloyd | Zuehlke | 5-Jan-33 |

January Anniversaries

| | | | |
|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| | Rhonda | | |
| Jay | Simon | Blitstein | 1-Jan-82 |
| Bruce | Sandra | Clymer | 19-Jan-80 |
| Dave | Barbara | Larson | 20-Jan-02 |

50+ Years of Wedding Bliss

| | | | |
|------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Dave | Nancy | Helzer | 6-Jan-68 |
| Noel | Mary | Hayes | 11-Jan-57 |

2024 OFFICERS

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Big Sir | Peter Dreier | 257-3630 |
| Little Sir | Daniel Harder | 637-3859 |
| Secretary | George Clark | 812-5385 |
| Asst. Sec | Byron Peterson | 337-1971 |
| 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 |
| Rex Williams | 1st year | 707-255-5834 |
| Bob Weeks | 1st Year | 255-3482 |
| John Lansingh | 1st year | 254-1056 |
| 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 | Tom Dawson |

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 |



**Big Sir Peter Dreier receiving his award at the
Holiday Party**



Our new and old Directors

SON'S IN RETIREMENT

WINE VALLEY BRANCH #149

26 RAVENWOOD LANE

NAPA, CA 94558

PHOTOS FROM SIRS 149 2024 HOLIDAY PARTY







Tom Dawson receiving from Jerry Stabile the Honorary Life Member Award