GBiBL

A Non-Profit Organization for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement Our mission is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events while making friends for life



ROOSTER TALES

SIR Luncheon – Thursday, February 6th The Elks Lodge - 200 Marina Blvd, Pittsburg

Big Sir Message

Roger Moselev

. .

To All,

Happy New Year!

Ever thought about how New Year's celebrations came to be?

According to history.com, the earliest recorded festivities in honor of a new year's arrival date back some 4,000 years to ancient Babylon. Throughout antiquity, civilizations around the world developed increasingly sophisticated calendars, typically pinning the first day of the year to an agricultural or astronomical event. In Egypt, for instance, the year began with the annual flooding of the Nile.

in 46 B.C, Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar. As part of his reform, Caesar instituted January 1 as the first day of the year, partly to honor the month's namesake: Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. Romans celebrated by offering sacrifices to Janus, exchanging gifts with one another, decorating their homes with laurel branches, and attending raucous parties.

In many countries, including ours, New Year's celebrations begin on the evening of December 31—New Year's Eve—and continue into the early hours of January 1. Revelers often enjoy meals and snacks thought to bestow good luck for the coming year.

In many parts of the world, traditional New Year's dishes feature legumes, which are thought to resemble coins and herald future financial success; examples include lentils in Italy and black-eyed peas in the southern United States. Because pigs represent progress and prosperity, pork appears on the New Year's Eve table in many countries. Ring-shaped cakes and pastries, a sign that the year has come full circle, round out the feast elsewhere.

Other customs that are common worldwide include watching fireworks and singing songs to welcome the new year, including the ever-popular "Auld Lang Syne" in many English-speaking countries. The practice of making resolutions for the new year is thought to have first caught on among the ancient Babylonians, who made promises to earn the favor of the gods and start the year off on the right foot.

Regardless of how you celebrate the New Year, or what resolutions you make, the new year is a time to look forward. At SIR Branch 19, we are doing just that. The organization will be evaluating and making changes in a variety of ways, all in the hope of sustaining SIR well into the future.

Again, Happy New Year to all.

Thanks,

Roger Moseley (Big Sir)

Volume 57

Lunch Menu

Las Panchitas

Chips, Salsa, Bean Dip Mixed Greens + 2 Dressings Enchiladas – Chicken Tamales – Pork Spanish Rice Refried Beans



February Birthdays

HAPPYBRTHDAY!

Terry	Betts
Bill	Clark
George	Darrow
Ron	Ingersol
Bill	Lehman
Timothy	Patterson
Don	Ruddell

Financial Statement

Treasurer Report December 31st, 2024

Account Balances

Account Da	nances			
Petty Cash	\$250.00			
General Account				
Unencumbered	\$9,584.90			
Excursion Fund	00.00			
Holiday fund	00.00			
Picnic Fund	<u>00.00</u>			
Total General Acct.	\$9,584.90			
Custodial Account				
Bowling	\$596.59			
Golf	<u>\$2,977.92</u>			
Total Custodial	\$3,574.51			
Total Funds	\$13,409.41			
Sir Dennis Barbieri				

New Sir Members (January)



Michael Deback and Ed Strobel

February Anniversaries

First	Last	Joined	YR
Name	Name	Sir	SIR
Michael K.	Hooper	02/05/04	21
Brian	Mulligan	02/07/08	17
Gregg	Moore	02/05/09	16
Doug	Schuster	02/05/09	16
Barry	Silberman	02/06/14	11
Silver	DeTorres	02/04/16	9
Randy	Cazes	02/14/18	7
Vincent	Ciccarello	02/07/19	6
Dave	Rege	02/07/19	6
John	Ackers	02/06/20	5

SIR Calendar

Sir Luncheon – Thursday, February 6th Hiking – No hike in February **\$ums in Retirement** – Wednesday, February 26th Area 2 Fishing Group – Thursday, February 27th Golf, Bocce, Bowling – (See below) Wine Tasting – No Wine Tasting in February Dine Around – Thursday, February 20th

Sir Luncheon Policy

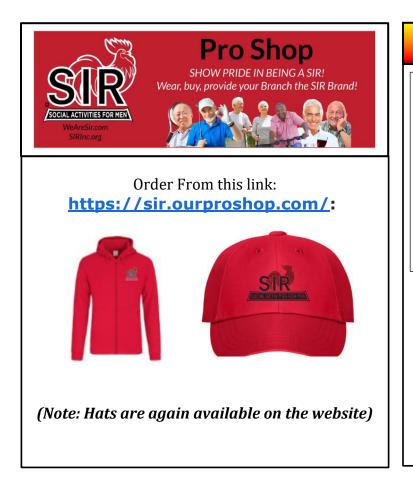
Branch 19 must pay for lunches that are initially reserved and then cancelled. In order to avoid financial loss, the following policy has been enacted by the Branch 19 Branch Executive Committee:

- 1. Luncheon cancellation is required by <u>5pm on the Friday prior to the luncheon</u>.
- 2. If not cancelled the luncheon cost will be invoiced at the next luncheon.

Member attendance at BEC meetings

Anyone is welcome to attend the Branch 19 Executive Meetings These meetings are held typically beginning at 9:30am on the morning of the monthly luncheon

If you would like to voice an issue related to SIR, or just wish to attend a Branch 19 Executive Committee meeting please email **Roger Moseley** (<u>rogermoseley855@gmail.com</u>) to reserve your place in the meeting room.



Bring a Guest

Please feel free to bring a guest to the SIR luncheons

If bringing a guest, please follow the Guest Requirements specified in the monthly SIR luncheon email notification which is sent to all SIR Branch 19 members.



February Speaker – Jerry Whiting



Jerry Whiting

Jerry was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and moved to Pleasant Hill, California (San Francisco Bay Area) when he was in high school. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree at U.C. Santa Barbara and later a Master's degree at John F. Kennedy University. He worked as a counselor for a few years and then began a 25+ year career in law enforcement in the San Francisco Bay Area, working in a variety of assignments including patrol and the detective bureau. He was also a hostage/crisis negotiator during the last 15 years of his career.

In this presentation Jerry discusses a couple of his investigations that began when he was researching stories for his six books. The first case involved the U.S. bombing of Auschwitz by U.S. bombers and a bomber crew that was shot down right over Auschwitz. Some of the crew were killed in the plane, one was killed by an SS soldier on the ground and several parachuted safely. Jerry promised one of the survivors, who shared his story, to attempt to locate the family of an airman who was reported to have been killed after he successfully bailed out of the plane. A U.S. Dept of Defense historian and the Secretary of Defense himself confirmed the airman, who was Jewish, was killed by the SS shortly after landing. The results of his search are beyond amazing. Jerry found the airman alive and well, living in the Berkeley Marina and reunited him with the other airman.

The second story involves a bomber crew shot down over Yugoslavia, where some of the men were killed and others survived, including an airman who was initially captured by German soldiers, who escaped later the same day. Jerry had the airman's story from the airman who was still living, who was rescued by two teenage girls. He had little else. Frustrated with the limited information, he was working on the story when a phone call came, asking for his assistance in identifying a bomber found in the Adriatic Sea. Incredibly enough, Jerry identified the bomber as the one in the story he was writing. His Croatian contact found one of the girls who saved the airman's life, providing a heartwarming end to this story. Jerry went to Croatia to meet her.

There are two messages to be learned from this presentation. One is that researching history always brings unintended and magical information. The other message is that the stories never end.

SIR Branch 19 Awards for 2024

Distinguished Service Award

Awarded to: Sir Jerry Burton

Requirements:

- been a member for a period of 3 years or more.
- clearly earned through exceptional and extraordinary service.
- steps forward whenever the need arises.
- would be recognized by his peers to have earned it

Jerry has been on the BEC for 13 years, and golf chairman for 12 years. He has done a tremendous job of securing weekly tee times, coordinating pairings, updating scores, and organizing match play and annual golf luncheon. Additionally, he has worked to promote Branch 19 at the Clayton Oktoberfest and Art and Wine festivals. He has also chaired the nominating committee; encouraging participation among members in Branch 19 activities, including BEC. He recently initiated the emergency contact list.

SIR of the Year for 2024

Awarded to: Sir Bill Hockenson Martin Fennell





Martin Fennell

Award which recognizes outstanding contributions to Branch 19

<u>Bill Hockenson</u>. As chairman of the membership committee, Bill has ensured that the required SIR documentation is filed monthly and annually, membership rolls are updated, new members are welcomed, and annual dues collected. He has also organized the Golden Year golf activities.

Martin Fennell coordinates the monthly lunches and sends and responds to the email invites. He works with the Elks Lodge personnel to determine the monthly lunch menus. He is a regular golf participant, participates in Hiking, has hosted wine tastings at his home and has organized Dine Around event at La Veranda.

20 years of service recognition

Duane Deonigi: 23 years of actual service as he joined back in September of 2001 <u>Mike McKay</u>: Joined November 2004 <u>Milt Momita</u>: Joined November 2004



Duane Deonigi



Mike McKay



Milt Momita



Jerry Burton

New Branch 19 Shared Activities

Great news for SIR Branch 19 members!

Branch 8 in Walnut Creek is inviting Branch 19 members to selected activities including:

1. <u>Pickleball</u>

Played on Thursday mornings at 8:30 at Willow Pass Community Park in Concord. Ladies are welcome. To sign up, contact Nick Maufe at <u>nickmaufe@gmail.com</u> or go to <u>https://www.sirbr8.com/pickleball/</u> for more information.

2. <u>Pinochle</u>

Meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Rocco's Restaurant in Walnut Creek at Encina Grande Shopping Center. Meet for lunch at noon with cards from 1:00 to 3:00. Ladies are welcome. To participate contact Stan Johnson at <u>stan.johnson88@gmail.com</u>, or visit their website at <u>https://www.sirbr8.com/pinochle/</u>.

3. <u>Science & Astronomy</u>

Consists of a daily email called "Sigma Xi SmartBrief". It contains links to half a dozen science articles from English language scientific journals around the world. It covers a broad selection of topics in science, engineering, medicine, and astronomy. To learn more, contact David Bushnell at <u>dbushn@swbell.net</u> or go to <u>https://www.sirbr8.com/sir-science-online/</u> for more information.

4. <u>Opera/Ballet</u>

The Opera and Ballet activity, consists of sending out advance information and published reviews of live Met Opera performances and Bolshoi Ballet that are transmitted by Fandango in HD to our local Century theaters. To see what's coming, please go to <u>https://www.sirbr8.com/opera/</u> or contact David Bushnell at <u>dbushn@swbell.net</u>.

5. Internet Games

Internet Cribbage is played each month in a tournament format as a two-person game, one on one. *Mexican Train Dominoes* is also played online with all players connected by Zoom. To sign up, contact Don Atwater at <u>datwater@pacbell.net</u> or go to <u>https://www.sirbr8.com/internet-games/</u>.

6. <u>Poker</u>

SIR Branch 146 in Walnut Creek has invited Branch 19 members to join in their Poker Group #4! If you would like to play, please contact Pete Gates at <u>petegates10@gmail.com</u> or call him at 925-937-2035. Games are usually scheduled for 1-4 pm on the 4th Monday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages. Buy-in is \$10 and stakes are nickel, dime, and quarter with a limit of three raises. Dealer antes a nickel per player.

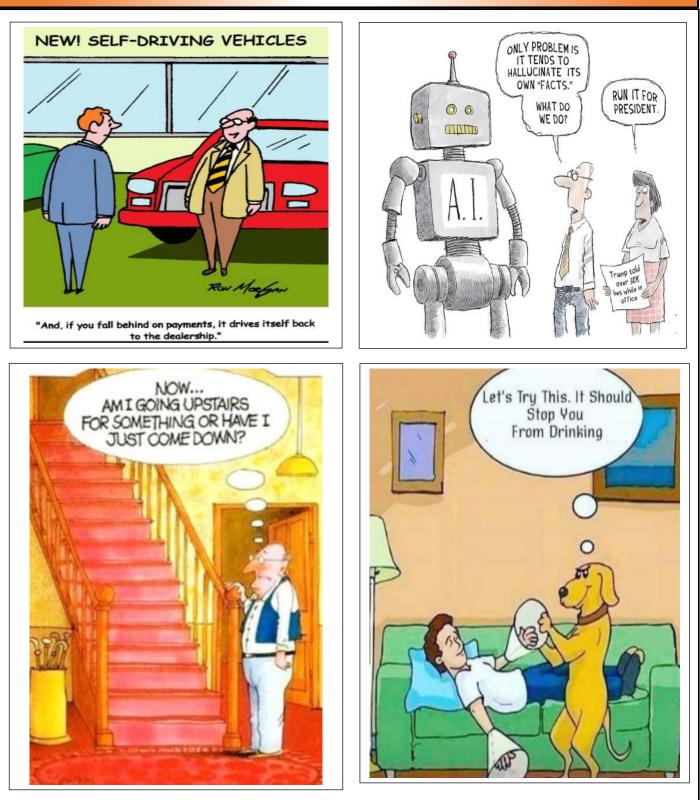
We are excited to offer these new activities to our Branch 19 members and want to thank the Walnut Creek Branch for inviting us to join. If you are interested in joining any of these groups, please contact them directly thru the Activity Chairs mentioned above or thru their respective websites.

When signing up, please provide your **name**, **branch (19)**, and **email address**.

Roger Moseley (Big Sir)

February 2025

COMEDY CORNER



February 2025

Branch 19 Activities

Hiking Group



SIR Don Ruddell



Dear SIR's,

We will resume our Sir hikes in March, 2025. Date TBA in a future newsletter.

Sir Don Ruddell <u>druddelldds@gmail.com</u> (925) 787-7585





SIR Branch 19 Dine Around – Thurs, Feb 20th – 5:00pm

La Pinata Mexican Restaurant



One of the standout features of La Pinata is the diverse menu options available. From antojitos like the La Pinata Platter and Nachos to seafood specialties such as Tostada de Camaron and Caldos de Marisco, there is something to satisfy every craving. The Camarones al Mojo de Ajo and Mole dishes showcase the chef's expertise in creating flavorful seafood and poultry dishes.

Excellent Mexican Food and Drinks

Location: 2301 Willow Pass Rd. Concord, CA 94520 When: Thursday, Feb 20th (Happy Hour 5:00-6:00 pm - Dinner 6:00 pm) Website and Menu: <u>Concord - La Piñata Restaurants</u> (925) 609-9119

Order from the menu - Each couple will receive a separate check



To register, please contact: Chuck and Karen Morones <u>cmorones@pacbell.net</u> or call (925) 858-6388

<u>Please provide number of people attending & (Please RSVP by Friday, Feb 14th)</u> <u>Please ask for the (Sirs Dinner Party) at the restaurant</u>

SIR Branch Dining Out Coordinators



SIR Branch 19

Dine Around Coordinators (2025)



We are looking for people to be Dining Out Coordinators. If you would be interested in volunteering for any vacant future Dining Out Dates (see below), please contact Roger Moseley at <u>rogermoseley855@gmail.com</u>

<u>Dining Out Coordinators are required to</u>:

- 1) Pick a restaurant.
- 2) Verify that the restaurant will honor separate Dinner checks.
- 3) At least four weeks prior to the dinner, notify Rich Balovich at <u>r.balovich@aol.com</u> Regarding the restaurant you've chosen and the dinner date.
- 4) Rich will then create the Dining Out flyer, send it to you to verify the information, once verified please email Rich Balovich @ <u>r.balovich@aol.com</u> and he will email the flyer to the SIR Branch 19 membership. (The deadline for Branch 19 members to respond will be 1 week prior to the event).
- 5) The coordinator will then make the reservation based on the number of membership responses they receive.

<u>Date</u>

January 16, 2025 February 20, 2025 March 20, 2025 April 17, 2025 May 22, 2025 June 19, 2025 July 17, 2025 August 22, 2025 September 26, 2025 October 1 6, November

Coordinator

Barry & Bobbi Silberman Chuck & Karen Morones Don & Ruth Weimann Martin & Lori Fennell Roger & Nancy Moseley Lee & Lisa Boner Rich & Carmen Balovich

Dine Around Venues that Branch 19 has used in the past:

Fiore' Restaurant (925) 969-1887 Spicy Joi Banh Mi X Lao Street Food (925)787-7508 The Old Spaghetti Factory (925) 672-7711 Nepalese and Indian Restaurant (925) 825-3277 La Veranda Café_(925) 524-0011 Sichuan House (925) 933-3278 DeVino's Pizza & Pasta (925) 689-6666 Aung Burma (925) 332-7957 La Veranda (925) 524-0011 Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar (925 849-1221 Jack's Restaurant (925) 849-6195 Guadalajara Grill (925) 672-4430 DJ Bistro (925) 825-3277 Rocco's Pizzeria (925) 947-6105 Lazy Dog (925) 8491221 La Pinata (925) 609-9119

SIR Branch 19 Wine Tasting - Coordinators



SIR Branch 19

Wine Tasting Coordinators (2025)



We are looking for people to be **Wine Tasting Coordinators**. If you would be interested in volunteering for any future Wine Tasting Dates please contact Roger Moseley: <u>rogermoseley855@gmail.com</u>

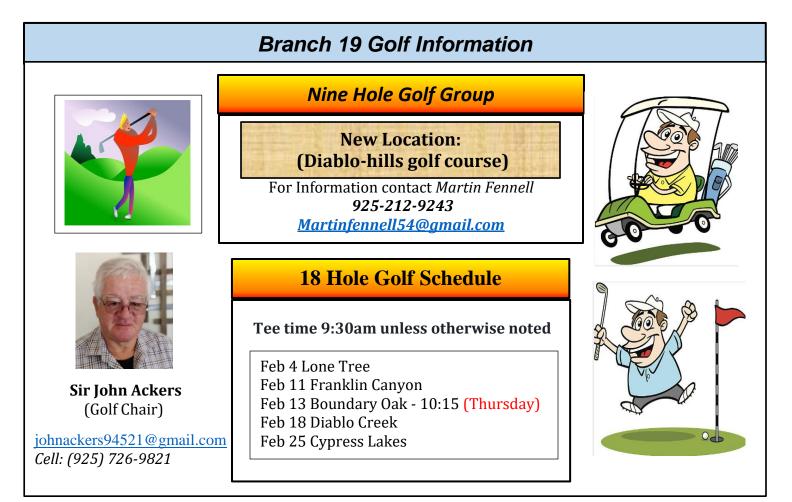
Wine Tasting Coordinators are required to:

- 1) Host a group of Sirs / spouses etc.
- 2) Decide the date & time you want to host from the vacancies in the Coordinator list below.
- 3) Decide that you will host from either your home or someone else's home.
- 4) Decide what wine / beer you want to taste along with a side dish for everyone to bring.
- 5) At least 3 weeks prior to the wine tasting, notify Rich Balovich at <u>r.balovich@aol.com</u> regarding the information in items #2, 3, & 4 above.
- 6) Rich will then create the Wine Tasting Flyer and send it to you for review.
- 7) Once you have reviewed the information on the flyer, email Rich Balovich at <u>r.balovich@aol.com</u> with your comments. Rich will then incorporate any revisions and send the flyer to the SIR Branch 19 membership. (<u>The deadline for Sirs to respond will be 1 day prior to the event</u>).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
January 2025	
February 2025	
March 20245	Ruth & Don Weimann
April 2025	Lee & Lisa Boner
May 2025	Lori & Martin Fennell
June 2025	
July 2025	Neil & Debbie Powell
August 2025	
September 2025	
October 2025	
November 2025	

LUNCHEON INVITATION CARDS

At the September 2024 luncheon we gave out Luncheon Invitation Cards. Have you given them out to any prospective new SIR members? Keep them in your wallet so you have them ready for any new prospects. The best way to get new members is by YOUR personal contact. If you need any more cards, please contact Dennis Wasco (*mailto:dennis.wasco@sbcglobal.net*).



The Bocce Report





The Concord bocce ball season ended September 14th. The Wednesday night team finished fourth, making the playoffs. We won our first match and then were eliminated. the Thursday night team just missed the playoffs. It was a fun season for all. The 2025 season starts next May.

SIR Tom Lathrop lathrop689@aol.com

SIR Branch 19 Bowling News





Our Bowling league season began on September 4th and will end in May 2025. We have 13 teams of 4 bowlers this year, including Sir Lou Gilson who scored a perfect 300!

SIR Mike Kropf <u>mdkropf@astound.net</u> Gary Kaufmann <u>gkaufmann813@gmail.com</u>

Want to Improve your Golf Game?

SIR offers clinics and private lessons at a reasonable rate

Pete Asselin, a certified pro, offers these clinics and private lessons at Diablo Creek Golf Course.

A series of five clinics will be offered in the spring and summer of 2025.

During the fall and winter Pete will offer to SIR Branch 19 members individual lessons for the *reduced rate of \$60/hour lesson*. *This same rate would apply if your wife or another SIR joins you*.

For these individual lessons contact Pete directly at: **(707) 372-2808**, or email at: <u>adub1816@yahoo.com</u> to arrange dates and times.

Any questions, contact Dennis Wasco at: <u>dennis.wasco@sbcglobal.net</u>



Ways to Serve Your Branch

The following is a list of available Branch 19 positions If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions please email Roger Moseley: <u>rogermoseley855@gmail.com</u>

Activities Chair

Ramp Members: Work with the little Sir to help grow our branch

Dining Out / Wine Tasting Coordinators: Volunteers that coordinate one monthly Dining Out or Wine Tasting activity

Activities at Other SIR Branches

Area16 - SIR Branch 128 - Investments / Wealth Management

\$ums Investment Group

Next Meeting (Feb 26th)



As usual we will Zoom with SIR Branch 128 (San Ramon) on the 4th Wednesday at 1:30 PM. Email Dave Sutton to be included or to learn the topic.

Chair - Tom Henry - Branch 174 - <u>tomhenry925@gmail.com</u> Co-chair Dave Sutton - Branch 8 - <u>davesutn@comcast.net</u>

Area 2 - Fishing Group



The Legends Diablo Creek Golf Corse 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, Feb 27th



SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are Phil Scimonelli 661-917-8060 and Carl Moyer 925-685-5243. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, February 27th at 8:30am. Come early.

2025 got off to a slow start. Ocean fishing is closed to almost everything. A very few of us got crab in late December. The ocean was inhospitable for the most part then. Carl Moyer, Dennis Lee, Stan Wong, Zbig Mrozek, and Gordon Linebaugh caught a few small trout at local reservoirs. Tom Kostik continued to catch striped bass. Ken Bellendir celebrated new years in Florida boating some red snappers. Brion Beetz, Paul Dubow, Dave Havlik, and Gordon Linebaugh limited on striped bass in the delta. 2024 was not a good year for we fisherfolk, but we remain optimistic and hopeful for a great year ahead.

Contacts: Phil Scimonelli (661)-917-8060, Carl Moyer (925) 685-5243

State Sir Happenings

Below is a link to "The Happenings" which is produced by the State SIR organization. It contains information from State SIR and contains many of the SIR Newsletters from SIR Branches throughout California. If you have an interest in knowing what's going on with State SIR or other SIR branches, please click on the link below.

Click here to download your personal copy of Happenings

PLEASE Donate to the Concord Food Bank



Food Drive

PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATION TO THE NEXT LUNCHEON

Please bring non-perishable food *in jars, cans, and sealed packets (No Glass please)*. We recommend sauces, soups, beans, vegetables, honey, peanut butter, candy, boxed juices, long-life milk, coconut cream and fish in oil. *(Please do not bring food with expired "use by" dates)*.

Sir Jerry Burton will collect the donated food and take it to the Concord Food Bank.

Thanks for your help, it will make a big difference in someone's life!!!!!

Social Ties Boost Survival by 50 Percent

WHO KNEW? BEING A SIR MEMBER PUTS YOU AHEAD IN THE GAME!

A meta-study covering more than 300,000 participants across all ages reveals that adults get a 50 percent boost in longevity if they have a solid social network

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/relationships-boost-survival/



Sir Multi-Branch Travel Opportunities

Sir Branch 146 is working with other Sir branches to provide vacation trips to interesting parts of The world. *For those interested in these trips, either contact me (Glen Breslin) at (925) 788-6520 /* <u>alennbreslin@amail.com</u> or contact (Overseas Adventure Travel) directly at (800) 955-1925.

1 - Vietnam/Cambodia

10/19/25 to 11/7/25 (\$3495/\$4695 with Air)

- Angor Wat Post-Trip Included available
- LINK HERE
- Use 2025 SIR Group code is G5-30339

2 - Australia/New Zealand

1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295/\$7645 with Air)

- Both Melbourne Pre-Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available
- LINK HERE
- Use 2026 SIR Group code is G6-30339

3 - Japan/Korea

4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495/\$9095 with Air)

- Hiroshima Post-Trip available
- LINK HERE
- Use 2026 SIR Group code is 65-30339

Branch 19 Leadership

Big Sir: Roger Moselev Little Sir: Jim Cala Secretary: Mel Boksenbaum Asst. Secretary: TBD Treasurer: Dennis Barbieri Asst. Treasurer: Joe Gillis Membership Chair: Bill Hockenson Assist. Membership Chair: Miles Nikaido Bulletin Editor: Rich Balovich (Director) Webmaster: Larry Long **Golf Chair:** John Ackers **Exec Nomination Committee** (Chair): Jerry Burton

Audit Committee Chair: Bill Clark Bowling: Gary Kaufmann, Mike Kropf Publicity & Image Chair: Dennis Wasco Bocce Capo: Tom Lathrop Attendance Chair: Martin Fennell Speaker Committee: Jim Cala Chaplin: John Carl Activities Chair: Vacant