



S.I.R.

**EL DORADO
Branch 23**

ANNUAL HISTORY

2017

**Prepared by
Bill Sutherland, Branch Historian
January 19, 2018**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Branch meetings are held at Carmichael Elks Lodge, 5631 Cypress Avenue in Carmichael, California. Branch 23 meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The Executive Committee meets at 10:30AM and the general meeting begins at noon. At the monthly meetings, members sign up for golf tournaments to be held in the following weeks and for travel to sporting events, stage presentations and other recreational destinations. Most meetings also include a guest speaker, with their presentations covering a variety of subjects of interest to the members.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2017

OFFICERS:

BIG SIR:	Paul Joyce / Greg Hood	LITTLE SIR:	Ray Zelinski
SECRETARY:	Odell Landers	ASSISTANT:	Richard Harr
TREASURER:	Jim Coe	ASSISTANT:	Don Landsittel

DIRECTORS:

Paul Elkins	Greg Hood, PBS	Ray Barsch, PBS
Scott Kenney	Gordon Routsong	Paul Domyancic

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

ATTENDANCE:	Dave Nemzek	Acting	
MEMBERSHIP:	Carroll Hamon	Assistant	Vacant
TRAVEL	Vacant		
SUNSHINE	Chris Christopherson		
AWARDS	Ray Barsch	Assistant	Odell Landers
EDITOR	Paul Domyancic		
WEBMASTER	Carroll Hamon		
HISTORIAN	Bill Sutherland		
BOWLING	Frank Semans		
GOLF (18 HOLE)	Cass Mastalski	Tournament Director	Gary Bradley
GOLF (9 HOLE)	Steve Ng	Tournament Director	Steve Ng
HORSESHOES	Bob Nielsen		
BOCCE BALL	David Peterson		

MONTHLY PUBLICATION: Our monthly publication, "The Nugget", is edited by SIR Paul Domyancic. It informs the members of news concerning: officers, meeting information, Big

SIR report, Little SIR scheduled speakers or program notes, membership status, bowling and golf information, sunshine report, and financial figures

MEMBERSHIP: Chairman Sir Carroll Hamon reported that the ending 2017 membership was 144 active members; including one Honorary Life member, one Senior Honorary Life member, one Emeritus Honorary Life member, and five members with Emeritus status. In addition, there are 14 inactive members. We no longer maintain a membership waiting list. The specific membership changes were as follows:

New members were: (14)

Greg Bullock (Feb)	Jerry Adams (Feb)	Ron Retterer (Mar)
Brian Mancarti (Apr)	Wayne Andrade (Apr)	Gil Sanguinetti (Apr)
Bill Abalona (May)	Mike Pruss (May)	Brian Benner (July)
Gopal Nemana (July)	Marc Mitchell (Aug)	Paul Lenny (Sept)
Steve Buss (Sept)	Jesse Salto (Nov)	

New members transferring from other SIR Branches: (7)

Jim Borden (Br 50)	Garrett Corrigan (Br 50)	Peter Donjanin (Br 50)
Gerald Laumer (Br 50)	Pete Peterson (Br 50)	Gordon Callander (Br 102)
Ron Hollis (Br 50)		

Member who moved to active status from inactive (1)

David Salminen (Oct)

Deceased active or inactive members: (10)

Warren Fleckenstein (1/15/17)	Ken Mork (2/22/17)	Fritz Walgenbach (4/17/17)
Nick DiMuccio (4/3/17)	Bob Kershaw (6/5/17)	Dick LeBeau (6/18/17)
Rene Burghgrave (8/13/17)	Todd Gibson (8/12/17)	Jim Woodstrom (10/20/17)
Bob Mellberg (11/17)		

Deceased members who previously resigned: (2)

Jim Blawat (7/10/17)	Jack Carter (10/21/17)
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Members who resigned or were removed: (9)

Myron Jacobs (Aug)	Mike Riley (Aug)	Joe Davis (Sept)
Bob Belancik (Oct)	Billy Barnes (Oct)	Buzz Gooch (Oct)
Gene Olsen (Oct)	Richard Dillon (Oct)	Bobby Chiles (Oct)

Members who moved to inactive status: (3)

David Cattnach (Oct)	Steve Vahle (Oct)	Robert Welsh (Oct)
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Membership Age History:

Membership Age Summary – SiR Branch 23 – Years					
Date	Aug, 2013	Jan 1, 2015	Jan 1, 2016	Jan 1, 2017	Jan 1, 2018
Average Age	80.6	79.1	79.4	79.4	79.5
Median Age	81.4	79.4	79.0	79.4	78.8

TREASURER REPORT: Treasurer Sir Jim Coe reported the following:

Date	Jan 1, 2014	Jan 1, 2015	Jan 1, 2016	Jan 1, 2017	Jan 1, 2018
Checking Account	\$3647.36	\$3077.48	\$2867.70	\$3631.57	\$2186.26
Savings Account	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Petty Cash Account	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Funds Available	\$4047.36	\$3477.48	\$3267.70	\$4031.57	\$2586.26

AWARDS: SIR Ray Barsch coordinated the following awards during 2017.

Certificate of Meritorious Work:

Greg Hood (Jan), for service as Big Sir, 2016

Senior Sir Awards ó 90 years of age:

Sam Scarlett (Mar) Dr. Bob Mellberg (Apr) Chris Christopherson (July)
Ken Zacher (Nov)

Super Senior Sir Award ó 95 years of age:

David Bailey (June)

Century SIR President's Award – 100 years of age:

Robert (Whiz) Whisenhunt (Oct)

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Sir Dave Nemzek reported the attendance information at the monthly BEC meetings, which shows the significant statistics in comparison to the data for the previous four years:

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Average Attendance	57.3%	64.7%	62.7%	60.9%	62.8
Most Attendance					
Month	March	February	February	November	March
Attendance	111	118	101	97	94
Percentage	68.1%	74.4%	69.2%	70.3%	67.7
Least Attendance					
Month	May	September	November	June	February
Attendance	92	92	80	79	78
Percentage	56.8%	58.6%	54.1%	52.7%	57.3%

SUNSHINE: The Sunshine chairman, Sir Chris Christopherson, reported receiving numerous contacts regarding illnesses, hospitalizations, and the deaths of current and past members.

Monthly reports were made in the "Nugget" and announced at monthly meetings. "GET WELL" cards were mailed to those that were ill and sympathy cards were mailed to the families of deceased members.

SPEAKERS: Little Sir Ray Zelinski invited a variety of speakers and performers for the monthly meetings. The speakers and others are as follows:

January	Brian Moore	California Certified Wine Judge
February	Randall Rosa	President, Rosa Law Office on Elder Law Issues
March	Kevin Thompson	California High Speed Rail Project
April	Jay Heckinlively Alan Hersch	LDK Ventures, LLC & Sacramento Railyard Development
May	Dr. Amy Rogers	Salmon and Steelhead Spawning Runs in Local River Systems
June	Michael Kane	Sacramento County Deputy District Attorney on Identity Theft
July	Tom Burchell	Marathon runner. Participated in the 2013 Boston Marathon
August	Elaine Rock	Blood Source & Plasma and Marrow Account Manager
September	Doug Maas	Sacramento County Traffic Operations Center
October	Officer James Hart	Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputy on Video Surveillance Systems
November	Joyce Bilyeu	Sacramento County Family Justice Center, Director of Client Services

SIR Branch 23 Bowling 2016/ 2017

The SIR Bowling League had 26 teams divided into 4 Divisions with 4 men on each team for a total of 104 bowlers.

Branch 23 had 10 bowlers on 4 teams:

Alley Oops:	Carroll Hamon, Ray Zelinski
Dream Team:	Arlis Coy, Roger Neighbors, Bob Nielsen
Groovers:	Joe Rodriguez, Frank Semans, Marwan Siagian, Fritz Walgenbach
Strikers:	David Naquin

League awards were presented March 30, 2017.

Branch 23 team and individual awards were won by the following:

Team Awards:

Groovers	High Scratch Series in Division 2	2227	1 st place
Groovers	High Handicap Game in Division 2	1008	3 rd place
Groovers	High Handicap Series in Division 2	2848	2 nd place
Dream Team	High Scratch Series in Division 3	2092	3 rd place
Strikers:	High Handicap Series in Division 4	981	2 nd place

Individual Awards:

Frank Semans	High Scratch Series	653	3 rd place
Frank Semans	High Handicap Series	824	2 nd place

The following Branch 23 members bowled 200+ games over the 30 week season:

Name **number of 200+**

Semans, Frank	9
Siagian, Marwan	5
Bob Nielsen	5
Rodriguez, Joe	3

Number of 600 Series for season:

Semans, Frank	1
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Bowler of the Month - October Semans 2nd

The SIR Bowling League is open to all SIR members 55 or older and is always looking for new bowlers. We bowl once a week at Country Club Lanes from September to April.

The 2016 season began Tuesday August 30 . If any SIR Branch 23 Member is interested in bowling contact Frank Semans (944-2313) or the League Secretary, Joe Dahilig (369-1933).

Frank Semans ó Chairman 2016/ 2017

GOLF:

General: Our branch participates with two separate groups; an 18-hole and a 9-hole group. All members are allowed to play in either or both groups. Tournaments are scheduled so as to reduce conflict of tournament dates. The tournaments at Davis were combined for both leagues.

9-Hole League: The chairman is Steve Ng. Steve was also the tournament director and statistician. The 9-hole league is made possible by the assistance of Wayne Hippenstiel, treasurer, George Hood, assistant tournament director and scheduler, and Bill Sutherland,

handicapper. Also, Gary Bradley assisted Steve Ng by publishing the 9-hole information on the 18-hole league website. There were 19 scheduled tournaments, with two rainouts. The 9-holer's awards luncheon was combined with the 18-hole league's luncheon at the Cattlemen's in Rancho Cordova, on Dec 1, 2017. The top ten point winners and the flight winners for each tournament are shown in the following tables. During the year, 39 members participated in the 9-hole golf league, with a total of 396 rounds played.

9 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2017		
TOP TEN POINT WINNERS		
POSITION	NAME	POINTS
1	Jim Heavner	66
T2	Frank Abel	43
T2	Steve Ng	43
4	Howard Frank	42
5	Mike Catino	41
T6	Chris Christopherson	39
T6	Bill Sutherland	39
T8	John Mahoney	37
T8	Dallas Pennington	37
10	Cass Mastalski	36

SIR BRANCH 23 - 9 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2017						
TOURNAMENT FLIGHT WINNERS						
Tourn Nr	Date	Course	1st Flight	2nd Flight	3rd Flight	Number of Players
1	2/17	Arcade Creek - Red	Cancelled due to Rain			
2	2/27	William Land Park	Cancelled due to Rain			
3	3/6	Emerald Lakes	Jim Heavner	Ray Zelinski		9
4	3/20	Arcade Creek - Blue	Jim Heavner	Richard Harr	Lowell Suckow	24
5	3/31	Antelope Greens	Frank Abel	Dallas Pennington	Howard Frank	23
6	4/11	Davis	Jim Heavner	Birge Clark	Steve Ng	23
7	4/24	Emerald Lakes - Best Ball	Bill Sutherland / Jim Heavner	Lowell Suckow / Wayne Hippenstiel		30
8	5/9	Arcade Creek - Blue	Frank Abel	Scott Kenney	Russ Korhonen	23
9	5/26	Cordova	Frank Abel	Kevin Wall	Bob Kenney	22
10	6/5	William Land Park	Marwan Siagian	Phil Sittner	Carroll Hamon	25
11	6/13	Emerald Lakes	Scott Dutcher	Kevin Wall	Russ Korhonen	25
12	6/26	Arcade Creek - Red	Bill Sutherland	David Leatherby	Carroll Hamon	22
13	7/11	Emerald Lakes	Jim Heavner	Cass Mastalski	Chris Christopherson	27
14	7/28	William Land Park	John Mahoney	Marwan Siagian	Fred Lythgoe	27
15	8/10	Davis	Jim Heavner	David Leatherby	Howard Frank	21
16	8/25	Arcade Creek - Blue	John Mahoney	Kevin Wall	Birge Clark	23
17	9/14	Antelope Greens	Bill Sutherland	Frank Semans	Lowell Suckow	25
18	9/25	Arcade Creek - Red - Best Ball	Scott Dutcher / Gail Murrell	Gopal Nemana / Ray Zelinski		27
19	10/12	Cordova	Marwan Siagian	Fred Lythgoe		20
					(Average = 23.3)	396

18-Hole League: The chairman is Cass Mastalski and the tournament director is Gary Bradley. They were assisted by Scott Kenney, treasurer, Paul Domyancic, statistician, Scott Kenney and John Mahoney, starters, and Bill Sutherland, handicapper. Additionally, Neil Fairhurst, Joe Rodriguez, and Tam LeFebure served as assistant tournament chairman, and Stan Holmes provided backup for the handicapping. The season included 35 tournaments. Four events were cancelled due to rain, and three were rescheduled. The events at Del Paso and Granite Bay were not included in the point competition. The 18-holers awards luncheon was held at the Cattlemen's Restaurant in Rancho Cordova, on Dec 1, 2017. The top ten point winners and the flight winners for each tournament are shown in the following tables. During the year, 76 members participated in the 18-hole golf league, with a total of 1159 rounds played.

Top Ten Point Winners		
Position	Name	Points
1	Tom Novi	103
2	Jim Heavner	97
3	Bill McGuire	94
4	John Boss	89
5	Steve Ng	88
T6	Mike Catino	86
T6	Dan Findley	86
8	Bill Abalona	85
9	Don Landsittel	80
10	Bill Espinosa	79

Club Championship Flight Winners		
Flights	Name	Aggregate Score (best 3 of 5)
First	Bob Ahders	-8
	Neil Fairhurst	-7
	Gary Bradley	-6
Second	Bill Lindsey	-6
	Bill McGuire Marwan Siagian	-5 -1
Third	Jim Heavner	-12
	Tom Novi Cass Mastalski	-11 -9
Fourth	Steve Ng	-18
	George Hood David Nemzek	-12 -5

Big Sir Championship Flight Winners		
Flights	Name	Aggregate Score (best 2 of 3)
First	Don Landsittel	-9
Second	General Davie	-18

SIR BRANCH 23 - 18 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2017								
TOURNAMENT FLIGHT WINNERS								
Tourn. Nr	Date	Course	1st Flight	2nd Flight	3rd Flight	4th Flight	Number of Players	
1	2/15	Bartley Cavanaugh (Big Sir 1)	Mark Jones	Richard Harr	Scott Dutcher	Jerry Westerman	41	
2	2/22	Alastair MacKenzie (Big Sir 2)	Cancelled due to rain - Rescheduled April 13 (Big Sir 2 added to June 28 event)					
3	3/1	Bing Maloney (dual tees)	Cancelled due to rain - Rescheduled May 18					
4	3/15	Diamond Oaks (Champ 1)	Bill Sutherland	Mike Catino	Howard Frank		42	
5	3/22	Wildhawk (Big Sir 3)	Cancelled due to rain - Rescheduled June 15					
6	3/29	Teal Bend (dual tees)	Dan Findley	Mike Catino	George Hood		43	
7	4/5	Mather (dual tees)	Dan Findley	Scott Dutcher	Jim Siegfried		41	
8	4/11	Davis (Combined 9 & 18)	General Davie	Mike Catino	Jim Siegfried		30	
2A	4/13	Alastair MacKenzie (dual tees)	Roger Riley	Scott Dutcher	Gail Murrell	John Boss	11	
9	4/19	River Oaks (dual tees)	Cancelled due to rain - Rescheduled May 11, then cancelled as the course had closed					
10	4/26	Ancil Hoffman (dual tees)	Roger Riley	Jerry Westerman	Frank Abel	John Boss	42	
11	5/3	Timber Creek (dual tees)	Bill Espinosa	Bill McGuire	Mike Catino	Jerry Westerman	40	
12	5/16	Wild Wings (dual tees)	Mark Jones	Frank Abel	John Boss		25	
3A	5/18	Bing Maloney (dual tees)	Scott Kenney	Tom Novi	Bob Stakolich		27	
13	5/24	Wildhawk (Champ 2)	Bob Ahders	Don Landsittel	Paul Askelson	Bob Stakolich	44	
14	5/31	Cherry Island (dual tees)	Gary Bradley	Joe Rodriguez	George Zarzana	John Boss	41	
15	6/7	Mather (dual tees)	Bill Abalona	Tam LeFebure	David Leatherby	Howard Frank	37	
5A	6/15	Wildhawk (Big Sir 3)	John Mahoney	Frank Semans	Tam LeFebure	General Davie	35	
16	6/21	Bartley Cavanaugh (dual tees)	Bill Abalona	Joe Rodriguez	Phil Sittner	General Davie	28	
17	6/28	Alastair MacKenzie (Big Sir 2)	Don Landsittel	Joe Rodriguez	Jim Heavner	Gail Murrell	46	
18	7/5	Bing Maloney (dual tees)	Bill Abalona	Jim Heavner	Sam Scarlett		30	
add	7/14	Alastair MacKenzie (dual tees)	Bill Espinosa	Dan Findley	Rich Battistessa	Marvin Del Torchio	37	
19	7/19	Morgan Creek (Shamble)	Bill Espinosa / Jim Heavner / General Davie / Howard Frank					36
20	7/26	Teal Bend (dual tees)	Don Landsittel	Paul Elkins	David Nemzek		32	
21	8/2	Diamond Oaks (dual tees)	Neil Fairhurst	Paul Elkins	David Leatherby	Dallas Pennington	36	
22	8/10	Davis (Combined 9 & 18)	Dan Findley	Jim Heavner	David Leatherby	David Nemzek	28	
23	8/16	Wildhawk (two man best ball)	Gail Murrell / Scott Dutcher		Steve Schmidt / Howard Frank		40	
24	8/23	Ancil Hoffman (Champ 3)	Jim Monteverde	Kevin Wall	Tom Novi	David Nemzek	41	
25	8/30	Empire Ranch (dual tees)	Tam LeFebure	George Dunham	Rich Singer	John Boss	30	
26	9/6	Turkey Creek (dual tees)	John Mahoney	Steve Schmidt	George Zarzana	John Boss	31	
27	9/20	Mather (dual tees)	Bill Abalona	Frank Semans	Frank Abel	Gopal Nemana	39	
28	9/28	Lincoln Hills (dual tees)	Bill Abalona	Frank Semans	Tom Novi	Jerry Westerman	41	
29	10/4	Alastair MacKenzie (Champ 4)	Steve Schmidt	George Yamamoto	Jim Heavner	John Bloomer	42	
30	10/18	Bing Maloney (dual tees)	Steve Schmidt	Paul Askelson	Roger Riley	David Peterson	40	
31	10/25	Bartley Cavanaugh (Champ 5)	Neil Fairhurst	Tam LeFebure	Scott Dutcher	Steve Ng	42	
32	11/6	Granite Bay (dual tees)	Bill Abalona	Rich Singer		(Plus 18 guests)	25	
add	11/14	Del Paso (dual tees)	John Mahoney	Steve Buss		(Plus 11 guests)	16	
						(Average = 35.1)	1159	

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Special Events:

Giants Game: Greg Hood coordinated a trip to the Giants / Dodger game on May 17. This is the fifth year that we have had this opportunity, and all the tickets were sold. There were 48 people on the trip, including members, spouses, and friends. The price per ticket was \$90, including the bus, the ticket for the game, and a \$12 food credit.

Alcatraz Tour: Greg Hood organized a trip on April 28 to tour Alcatraz Island. As a docent at Alcatraz, Greg was able to arrange for our tour to visit some locations within the prison and the island not normally available to public tours. The cost was \$33.75 per person, and 36 people attended.

Dante Club Events: Primarily through Branch 23 member, Rich Battistessa, a member of the Dante Club board, and in coordination with Tom Novi, we were given an opportunity to attend three Dante Club events that are available to the public. These included a cioppino dinner in April, a wine tasting in May, and a golf tournament and a River Cats game in August.

Ladies Day Lunch: For the 2nd year, the Ladies Day Lunch was again held at the Red Hawk Casino in Shingle Springs. It was held on December 13, with a total of 77 people attending. At a cost of \$20 per person, the event almost broke even, with a total income of \$1520, against expenses of \$1638. The event received very favorable remarks and it is likely to be rescheduled for 2018.

Annual Picnic: The picnic at Carmichael Park was held on May 23 for the sixth year, attended by 64 members, spouses and guests. The picnic was catered this year by Kentucky Fried Chicken with baked beans provided by Jim Monteverde. Gary Bradley conducted a golf chipping contest, and Tom Novi ran a spirited bingo game. The price was \$10 per person, which didn't quite cover the total cost of \$775 against an income of \$624.

Photo Contest: Past Big Sir Dick Crippen, for the third year, has coordinated a branch photo contest; open to all branch members and their significant others. The contest included three categories: Portrait, Architecture, and Nature. Prizes were awarded to the top three in each category, based on a vote count of members at the August lunch. First place winners were Joe Sandhu, Rich Singer, and Paul Joyce. Others who won prizes included Paul Domyancic (3), Gopal Nemana, Greg Hood, and Maggie Suckow. The total cost for the event was \$210.

Book Exchange:

Managed by Fred Lythgoe, this program is continuing in its fifth year, and is very popular. As we tend to receive more books than are being taken out, Fred deals with the excess books by giving some to the Bookworm, a used book store in Carmichael. This effort has resulted in our branch having an account with the Bookworm that allows any of our members to buy books at half price, with the other half taken from our account. By the end of the year, the account had a balance of approximately \$600. In addition, Fred coordinated a program with the Bookworm to allow the branch to purchase gift certificates at half price, with the other half taken from the account when the certificate is redeemed. The branch bought ten certificates to use as

door prizes in 2016, but the Bookworm decided to discontinue the gift card program in 2017, but will honor the gift cards that were previously issued.

At the end of the year, Fred experienced a problem with the Elks club that may affect the future of the book exchange program. They are likely not going to provide space in the hall for us to store our book inventory. It will be very disappointing to lose this popular program, but it will impractical to continue if the inventory cannot be stored on-site.

Horseshoes: Our horseshoe competitions have been discontinued due to a lack of participation.

Bocce Ball: David Peterson continued in his effort to create an active Bocce Ball competition after lunch using the Elks Club court. A work party did refurbish the court in 2016 and play was conducted at the end of that year, but the heavy rains in 2017 and lack of participation prevented any organized activity this year. It is still hoped that as more members learn about the sport and get involved, with additional work on the Elks court and a playing schedule set up after lunch in 2018. There are also discussions underway to possibly be able to use new courts that are planned to be constructed at the Dante Club.

Inter-Branch Activities: There are other activities that are conducted in coordination with other branches or opportunities that are made available through the state or individual branches. Some of these include:

Travel: We no longer maintain an active travel program in the branch. Travel opportunities are published in the Nugget each month and the state publication, "Sir Happenings" advertises for commercial tours and cruises, some of which are targeted specifically for SiR. In 2017 we were invited by SIR Branch 143 in Turlock to participate in a March trip to baseball spring training in Arizona. Also, we were invited to participate with other Sir branches in a June trip to the Canadian Rockies and a cruise of the British Isles in August.

Bridge: Several of the branch members participate in bridge groups that are combined with other local branches, and periodically will notify the membership through the Nugget when groups are expanding or need new members.

Fishing: Our participation in SiR fishing activities is available through two local inter-branch groups, "Jolly Hookers" in Rancho Cordova, and "Wheels and Reels", in Citrus Heights.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: The following discussion highlights some of the significant events in 2017 for SIR Branch 23.

Membership and Recruiting. Recruiting Chairman, Tom Novi, has routinely encouraged the members to bring in new members. For 2017 we added 21 new members, which included seven members transferring from SIR Branch 50 which has closed. Even without the benefit of the Branch 50 members, 2017 has been a good year regarding our membership status. Our total membership increased in 2017 despite the number of men who left or were deceased. Also, a decision was made in 2017 for the branch to provide funding to give a bottle of wine to the sponsor of each new member.

Illness of Big Sir Paul Joyce. Big Sir Paul Joyce experienced a severe shoulder infection in late spring which prevented him from attending the lunch meetings until he had surgery later in the year. Last year's Big Sir, Greg Hood immediately assisted Paul by taking

over the BEC meetings for the rest of the year, and performing the required duties of the Big Sir. This is the second year in a row that a main leader of the branch has had to step away from his duties due to illness. We all very much appreciate Greg Hood for taking over in Paul's absence, and are also very pleased that Paul is well on his way to recovery.

Table Difficulties at the Elks Club: This paragraph is included simply to document this issue. We have had a problem during most of 2017 with having enough tables set up to accommodate our members. Based on our estimated attendance, they set up enough tables plus a small overage with the assumption that our members will move around to empty places. We do, in fact, do the individual moving, but the table decision by the Elks Club has made it difficult for many of our members to have lunch with their closest friends, particularly as some tables are having notable success with recruiting new members of old friends and colleagues. Having lunch with old friends is a traditional characteristic of SIR, and this problem could have a detrimental affect on our continuing issue of member recruitment and retention. The solution is illusive, other than hoping to get more cooperation with the Elks Club on their table setup decision. The attitude of the new catering manager at the November did provide some hope in that regard.

Bill Sutherland
SIR Branch 23 Historian