



S.I.R.

**EL DORADO
Branch 23**

ANNUAL HISTORY

2018

**Prepared by
Bill Sutherland, Branch Historian
February 1, 2019**

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 2018

OFFICERS:

BIG SIR:	Ray Zelinski	LITTLE SIR:	Phil Sittner
SECRETARY:	John Boss	ASSISTANT:	Tam LeFebure
TREASURER:	Jim Coe	ASSISTANT:	Don Landsittel

DIRECTORS:

Gopal Nemana	Greg Hood, PBS	Roger Riley
Rich Singer	Gordon Routsong	David Peterson

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

ATTENDANCE:	Dave Nemzek	Email & phone call reminders	Gordon Callander Mike Pruss
MEMBERSHIP:	Carroll Hamon	Assistant	Vacant
TRAVEL	Vacant		
SUNSHINE	Chris Christopherson		
AWARDS	Ray Barsch	Assistant	Odell Landers
EDITOR	Paul Domyancic		
WEBMASTER	Carroll Hamon	Mid ó year	Gordon Callander
HISTORIAN	Bill Sutherland		
BOWLING	Frank Semans		
GOLF (18 HOLE)	Cass Mastalski	Tournament Director	Gary Bradley
GOLF (9 HOLE)	Steve Ng	Tournament Director	Steve Ng
TOURS AND SPORTS	Greg Hood		
BOCCE BALL	David Peterson		
PICNIC	Rich Singer		
BOOK SWAP	Fred Lythgoe		
LADIES DAY	Gordon Routsong		

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 2018 membership was 140 active members; including two Honorary Life members, one Senior Honorary Life member, and four members with Emeritus status. In addition, there are 19 inactive members. We no longer maintain a membership waiting list. The specific membership changes were as follows:

New members were: (17)

Andre Boutros (Feb)	John Rowland (Feb)	Fred Adge (Feb)
Anthony Tipton (Feb)	Lee Landry (Mar)	Donald Rodriguez (Mar)
Curt Caldwell (Apr)	Richard Epright (Apr)	Gene Reames (Apr)
Ron Shilliday (Apr)	Indru Kriplani (May)	James Miller (Jun)
Philip Phelps (Jun)	Carl Baumgartner (Jul)	Jonathan Kopf (Jul)
Stephen Porter (Oct)	Randal Angeloni (Oct)	

New members transferring from SIR Branch 50 (7)

JD Bamfield (Jan)	Bob Chapman (Jan)	Joe Hannon (Jan)
Bill Kimball (Jan)	Doug Brien (Mar)	Wesley Lum (May)
Joe Dobrowski (May)		

Deceased active or inactive members: (7)

Gus Johnson (12/26/2017)	Jack Rhondeau, PBS, (1/5/2018)
Sam Osver (1/8/2018)	Russ Korhonen (2/19/2018)
Ed Campini, PBS, HLM, (4/8/2018)	Robert Whisenhunt (12/5/2018)
Joe Ryan (12/27/2018)	

Members who resigned or were removed: (18)

Marvin Lauer (Jan)	Bill Lynch (Feb)	Dennis Scharosch (Mar)
Lee Landry (May)	George Dunham (Jul)	Bill Fannin (Aug)
Wayne Andrade (Aug)	Horace Conrad (Sept)	Jim Borden (Oct)
Bonnor Smith (Oct)	Richard Peterson (Nov)	Indru Kriplani (Nov)
Bill Costa (Dec)	Darrell Schneider, PBS, (Dec)	Roger Neighbours (Dec)
Arlis Coy (Dec)	Ken Zacher (Dec)	Chuck Yakabe (Dec)

Members who moved to inactive status: (9)

Paul Joyce (Mar)	Harry Crabb (Apr)	Andre Boutros (Apr)
Tom Bogetich (July)	Jerry Adams (Aug)	Stan Holmes (Aug)
David Bailey (Sept)	John Moist (Oct)	Don Spellman (Nov)

Membership Age History:

Membership Age Summary – SiR Branch 23 – Years					
Date	Jan 1, 2015	Jan 1, 2016	Jan 1, 2017	Jan 1, 2018	Jan 1, 2019
Average Age	79.1	79.4	79.4	79.5	78.5
Median Age	79.4	79.0	79.4	78.8	78.5

TREASURER REPORT: Treasurer Sir Jim Coe reported the end of the year financial status, shown in the following table in comparison to the last 4 years. He also reported that branch members have donated \$540 to the Sir Branches that were victims of the Camp Fire in Paradise. The donation effort will continue into 2019.

Date	Jan 1, 2015	Jan 1, 2016	Jan 1, 2017	Jan 1, 2018	Jan 1, 2019
Checking Account	\$3077.48	\$2867.70	\$3631.57	\$2186.26	\$2905.35
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	\$3477.48	\$3267.70	\$4031.57	\$2586.26	3305.35

AWARDS: SIR Ray Barsch coordinated the following awards during 2018.

Senior Sir Awards ó 90 years of age:

Hal Mattson (April) Jim Heavner (Oct)

Super Senior Sir Award ó 95 years of age:

Len Kovar (Jan) Bob Kenney (April) Gene Marquardt (Oct)
Don Spellman (Nov)

Honorary Life Members: Presented by SIR State President, Derek Southern

Carroll Hamon (Mar) Hal Mattson (Mar)

Certificate of Service: Presented by Area 3 Governor, Giorgio Dina

Ray Zelinski ó 2018 Big Sir, Branch 23

Certificate of Appreciation: Presented by Big Sir Ray Zelinski

Greg Hood: - Two time Big Sir and 6 years of coordinating trips including basketball, baseball, Alcatraz, and many others.

Memorial Golf Plaque at Haggin Oaks Golf Course:

Russ Korhonen ó 9-hole Golf Chairman and Tournament Director, 2009 - 2016

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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Average Attendance	64.7%	62.7%	60.9%	62.8%	67.1%
Most Attendance					
Month	February	February	November	March	March
Attendance	118	101	97	94	111
Percentage	74.4%	69.2%	70.3%	67.7%	73.5%
Least Attendance					
Month	September	November	June	February	February
Attendance	92	80	79	78	87
Percentage	58.6%	54.1%	52.7%	57.3%	59.2%

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 Phil Sittner invited a variety of speakers and performers for the monthly meetings. The speakers and others are as follows:

January	Angela Dixon	Executive Director of Greater Sacramento First Tee Program
February	John Wagner	Historical Account of WWII Battle of Guadalcanal
March	Doug Bonetti	"Little Known Civil War Facts"
April	Gina Swank	Public Affairs Specialist of Roseville FBI
May	Steve Beck	Historian of Sutter's Fort Historical Park
June	Guy Hall	Electric Cars
July	Bonnie Brea	Alzheimer Association of Northern California
August	Dr. Rajshree Gaitonde	Her life from India to becoming the first female doctor at Folsom Prison
September		Lunch cancelled of no chef
October	Joe Neff	Veteran's Golf Program

November	Jim Pierce	President of Fair Oaks Historical Society
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SIR Branch 23 Bowling 2017/ 2018

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 11 bowlers on 6 teams:

Alley Oops:	Carroll Hamon, Ray Zelinski
Dream Team:	Arlis Coy, Roger Neighbors, Bob Nielsen
Groovers:	Frank Semans, Marwan Siagian, Kevin Wall
Strikers:	David Naquin
Hi Five	Tony Tipton
Capital City	Bill Kimball

League awards were presented April 17 2018.

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

Team Awards:

Groovers	High Scratch game in Division 2	781
Strikers:	High Handicap Series in Division 4	1972

Individual Awards:

Frank Semans	most games bowled +40 over average age 73-79
Kevin Wall	+26.89 most improved bowler age 55-72

League Championship – 4th place Hi-Five

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

Name number of 200+

Semans, Frank	13
Siagian, Marwan	5
Kevin Wall	2
Roger Neighbors	2
Bob Nielsen	1
Tony Tipton	1

Number of 600 Series for season:

Semans, Frank

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 2017 season began Tuesday September 12. 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 2017/ 2018

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.

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 21 scheduled tournaments, with two rainouts. The 9-hole awards luncheon was combined with the 18-hole league awards luncheon at the Cattlemen's in Rancho Cordova, on Nov 30. The top ten point winners and the flight winners for each tournament are shown in the following tables. During the year, 51 members participated in the 9-hole golf league in a total of 449 rounds. The participation increased from 2017, where 39 members played 396 rounds.

9 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2018		
TOP TEN POINT WINNERS		
POSITION	NAME	POINTS
1	Steve Ng	51
2	David Salminen	49
T3	Dallas Pennington	42
T3	Phil Sittner	42
T5	Frank Abel	39
T5	Frank Semans	39
7	Marwan Siagian	34
T8	George Hood	32
T8	Birge Clark	32
10	Jim Heavner	31

SIR BRANCH 23 - 9 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2018						
TOURNAMENT FLIGHT WINNERS						
Tourn Nr	Date	Course	1st Flight	2nd Flight	3rd Flight	Number of Players
1	2/23	Bing - Executive	Steve Schmidt	Howard Frank		18
2	3/2	Arcade Creek	Cancelled due to Rainout - not rescheduled			
3	3/15	William Land Park	Cancelled due to Rainout - not rescheduled			
4	3/26	Emerald Lakes	Marwan Siagian	Dallas Pennington	Ray Zelinski	22
5	4/2	Arcade Creek Blue	Frank Semans	Dallas Pennington	Andre Boutros	26
6	4/12	Antelope Greens	Frank Abel	Dallas Pennington	Greg Hood	26
7	4/23	Bing - Executive	Kevin Wall	Chris Christopherson		19
8	5/8	Emerald Lakes	Dallas Pennington	Tam LeFebure	Steve Ng	27
9	5/24	Arcade Creek Blue	Jim Heavner	Phil Sittner		22
10	6/1	Cordova	Steve Schmidt	Kevin Wall	Dave Salminen	19
11	6/12	William Land Park	John Mahoney	Scott Kenney	Steve Ng	23
12	6/22	Emerald Lakes	JD Bamfield	Steve Ng	Fred Lythgoe	22
13	7/2	Arcade Creek Blue	Scott Dutcher	Jim Heavner	Birge Clark	23
14	7/12	Emerald Lakes	Phil Phelps	Kevin Wall	Lowell Suckow	30
15	7/23	William Land Park	Frank Abel	Sam Scarlett	Dave Salminen	25
16	8/7	Arcade Creek Red	Steve Schmidt	Kevin Wall	Lowell Suckow	27
17	8/20	Antelope Greens	Jim Heavner	George Hood	Dave Salminen	23
18	8/31	Arcade Creek Red	Steve Schmidt	Steve Ng	Lowell Suckow	26
19	9/10	Antelope Greens	Dallas Pennington	JD Bamfield	Odell Landers	26
20	9/13	Davis	Phil Phelps	Chris Christopherson		19
21	10/5	Cordova	JD Bamfield	Frank Semans	Odell Landers	26
					Total Players	449
					Average per Event	23.6

18-Hole League: The chairman is Cass Mastalski and the tournament director is Gary Bradley. They were assisted by Scott Kenney, treasurer, Paul Domyancic and Rich Singer, statisticians, John Mahoney, starters, and Bill Sutherland, handicapper. Additionally, Neil Fairhurst, Joe Rodriguez, and Tam LeFebure served as assistant tournament directors. The season included 34 tournaments. Only one event was cancelled due to rain, and it was rescheduled. The events at Del Paso, Granite Bay, and Sierra View were not included in the point competition. The 18-holers awards luncheon was held at the Cattlemen's Restaurant in Rancho Cordova, on Nov 30. The top ten point winners, championship results, and the flight winners for each tournament are shown in the following tables. During the year, 88 members participated in the 18-hole golf league in a total of 1475 rounds. The participation increased from 2017, where 76 members played 1159 rounds.

Top Ten Point Winners		
Position	Name	Points
1	Frank Abel	127
T2	Cass Mastalski	97
T2	Phil Sittner	97
4	Dallas Pennington	95
T5	Neil Fairhurst	91
T5	John Rowland	91
7	Rich Battistessa	85
8	Don Landsittel	84
T9	John Boss	79
T9	Curt Caldwell	79
T9	Steve Ng	79

League Championship Flight Winners		
Flights	Name	Aggregate Score (best 3 of 5)
First	Ron Shilliday	-18
	Rich Battistessa	-9
	Don Landsittel	-7
Second	Marwan Siagian	-9
	Paul Elkins	-8
	Steve Schmidt	-8
Third	General Davie	-16
	Curt Caldwell	-14
	Bill Sutherland	-14
Fourth	Gopal Nemana	-16
	Odell Landers	-12
	Jerry Westerman	-11

Big Sir Championship Flight Winners		
Flights	Name	Aggregate Score (best 2 of 3)
First	Marwan Siagian	-12
Second	Steve Buss	-22

SIR BRANCH 23 - 18 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2018								
TOURNAMENT FLIGHT WINNERS								
Tourn. Nr	Date	Course	1st Flight	2nd Flight	3rd Flight	4th Flight	5th Flight	Number of Players
1	2/7	Bartley Cavanaugh (Big Sir 1)	Neil Fairhurst	Marwan Siagian	David Leatherby	Howard Frank		55
2	2/21	MacKenzie (Big Sir 2)	Bill Espinosa	Kevin Wall	Steve Buss	Sam Scarlett		50
3	2/28	Bing Maloney (Big Sir 3)	Rich Battistessa	Paul Askelson	Jim Heavner	Sam Scarlett		46
4	3/7	Wildhawk	Fred Adge	Joe Rodriguez	George Zarzana	Cass Mastalski		56
5	3/21	Davis	Rained Out - Rescheduled to may 10					
6	3/28	Diamond Oaks (Champ 1)	Rich Battistessa	Tony Tipton	Bill Sutherland	Curt Caldwell		58
7	4/4	Mather	Fred Adge	John Rowland	Roger Riley	Odell Landers		57
8	4/18	Teal Bend	Jim Monteverde	Paul Askelson	Curt Caldwell	David Leatherby		42
9	4/25	MacKenzie	Mark Jones	Scott Kenney	Curt Caldwell	David Leatherby	(DeLong Hole in one)	48
10	5/2	Ancil Hoffman	John Rowland	Kevin Wall	Cass Mastalski	General Davie		53
5A	5/10	Davis	Don Landsittel	Scott Kenney	Frank Abel	Paul Lenny		36
11	5/16	Timber Creek	John Rowland	Tam LeFebure	Curt Caldwell	General Davie		34
12	5/23	Wild Wings	Don Landsittel	Steve Ng	Cass Mastalski	Bob Stakolich	(Boss Hole in one)	32
13	5/30	Wildhawk (Champ 2)	Bill Espinosa	Scott Dutcher	Mike Pruss	Bob Stakolich		49
14	6/6	Cherry Island	John Rowland	Dan Findley	Jim Heavner	Jerry Westerman		42
15	6/20	Mather	Jim Miller	George Zarzana	Curt Caldwell	John Boss		52
16	6/27	Bartley Cavanaugh	Scott Dutcher	Dan Findley	George Zarzana	Phil Sittner		44
17	7/5	River Oaks	Neil Fairhurst	Bill McGuire	Roger Riley	Steve Brush		38
Add 1	7/10	Del Paso	John Rowland	Frank Abel	David Anderson		(Plus 19 quests)	28
18	7/18	Bing Maloney	Don Landsittel	Paul Askelson	Tam LeFebure	Odell Landers		39
19	7/25	Morgan Creek - Shamble	Frank Semans / JD Bamfield / Blind Partner / Gene Reames					38
20	8/1	Teal Bend	Bill Espinosa	Tom Novi	Frank Abel	Dallas Pennington		44
21	8/15	Diamond Oaks	Curt Caldwell	Steve Buss	Phil Phelps	Phil Sittner		57
22	8/22	Davis	John Mahoney	Steve Schmidt	Jim Heavner	Howard Frank		35
23	8/29	Wildhawk - Best Ball	Bill Lindsey / Kevin Wall		Frank Abel / Steve Ng			43
24	9/5	Ancil Hoffman (Champ 3)	Ron Shilliday	Tom Novi	Jim Heavner	Gopal Nemana		46
25	9/19	Empire Ranch	Rich Battistessa	Steve Porter	Phil Sittner	Steve Ng		45
26	9/26	Mather	Jim Monteverde	Paul Lenny	Frank Abel	Sam Scarlett		37
27	10/3	Lincoln Hills	Gary Bradley	Frank Semans	Dallas Pennington	Jerry Westerman		35
28	10/17	Turkey Creek	Neil Fairhurst	Paul Elkins	Cass Mastalski	Steve Ng		38
29	10/24	MacKenzie (Champ 4)	Ron Shilliday	Paul Elkins	Bill Sutherland	Jim Siegfried		56
Add 2	10/29	Sierra View	David Biesanz	Roger Riley	Jim Siegfried		(Plus 5 quests)	30
30	10/31	Bing Maloney	Don Rodriguez	Tom Novi	Paul Elkins	Cass Mastalski	Howard Frank	42
31	11/5	Granite Bay	Gary Bradley	Paul Lenny	Dallas Pennington		(Plus 17 quests)	20
32	11/7	Bartley Cavanaugh (Champ 5)	Neil Fairhurst	Roger Riley	Kevin Wall	Dallas Pennington	General Davie	50
							Average = 43.4)	1475

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Special Events:

Oakland A's Game: Greg Hood coordinated a trip to the Oakland A's / Houston Astros game on June 14. This is the sixth year that Greg has coordinated a major league trip, the first five being to Giants Games, and all the tickets were sold. There were 30 people on the trip, including members, spouses, and friends. The cost was \$75 per person, including the game ticket and the bus. As in the past, the trip was very enjoyable, hampered only by the difficulty of returning to Sacramento after the game.

Rivercats Game: Greg Hood coordinated a trip to a Sacramento Rivercats / El Paso Chihuahuas game on August 9. He purchased the minimum of 20 advance tickets, but was only able to sell 14. This is the 2nd time we have tried to schedule a Rivercats Game. In 2015, all 20 tickets were sold, but it was difficult.

Devil's Slide Walking Tour: Greg Hood coordinated a walking tour of the Devil's Slide area on Highway 1 near Pacifica on September 20. Five people attended, with the only expense being the personal car. Although it was low turnout, the trip was very enjoyable and well presented by the tour guide.

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 Dante Club events that are available to the public. These included a wine tasting in June and a golf tournament in August.

Ladies Day Lunch: For the 3rd year, the Ladies Day Lunch was again held at the Red Hawk Casino in Shingle Springs. The chairman was Gordon Routsong. It was held on December 10, with a total of 81 people attending. At a cost of \$25 per person, the total cost of \$2011.35 was covered by an income of \$2025.00. However, one couple was not able to attend, and will be refunded their fee. The event received very favorable remarks and it is likely to be rescheduled for 2019.

Annual Picnic: The picnic at Carmichael Park was held on May 15 for the seventh year, attended by 68 members, spouses and guests. The picnic was catered this year by Kentucky Fried Chicken with baked beans provided by Jim Monteverde and brownies by Gary Bradley. Rich Singer was the picnic Chairman, Gary Bradley conducted a golf chipping contest, and Tom Novi ran a spirited bingo game. The price was \$10 per person, the income was \$680, and the cost was \$741.31.

Photo Contest: There was no photo contest in 2018.

Book Exchange:

Managed by Fred Lythgoe, this program is continuing in its sixth year, and is very popular. Despite having lost storage capability at the Elks Club, Fred developed a book cart for book transport from home in his car, and with the help of several members was able to keep the book exchange active. By selling our unused books to the Book Worm, our account there increased to over \$900 that members can use to buy books at half price. At the end of the year,

Fred resigned from this activity, and Jerry Westerman has volunteered to take it over. There is an indication that the Elks Club may restore our storage capability in 2019. The branch is indebted to Fred for his outstanding effort to make this program available to our members. The year of 2018 imposed significant hardship on him to physically handle the large volume of books, and without his effort the program would have most likely terminated entirely.

Horseshoes: Our horseshoe competitions have been discontinued due to a lack of participation. However, the branch is still looking for a volunteer to get it restarted.

Bocce Ball: David Peterson continued in his effort to create an active Bocce Ball competition after lunch using the Elks Club court. By March, it was decided to not continue the effort at the Elks Club, and to look at other sites, including Dante Club and Carmichael Park. We were given access to the Dante Club in the summer, and the first kickoff event was held on October 16, with about 20 members attending. Plans are to start league competition in 2019 twice per month after a period of learning the game and seeking increased participation.

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. Also, the travel chairman in SIR Branch 143 in Turlock routinely invites us to participate in travel cruises and baseball related trips.

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.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: The following discussion highlights some of the significant events in 2018 for SIR Branch 23.

Membership and Recruiting.

Recruiting Chairman, Tom Novi, has routinely encouraged the membership to bring in new members, and the branch provides tangible benefits to the sponsors of new members. In 2018 we added 24 new members, which included seven members transferring from SIR Branch 50 which has closed. The last two years have been very good years for recruiting new members as 45 new members were added to our active roles. Those results are about double the annual results for the six years from 2011 thru 2016 where the average new member count was 11.5 per year, for a total of 69 new members.

However, these positive results for the last two years illustrate the difficulty we face in maintaining our membership. Our total membership in those two years has only increased by two members. In comparison to our sister branches we are actually doing well. Of the original 18 branches in Sacramento County, 12 are still active, but only five branches have more than 100 members. Only one of those branches has appreciably more members than Branch 23. Five of the six closed branches in Sacramento closed since 2010. For comparison, in Placer

County three of the original eight branches in the areas of Roseville and Auburn have closed, but the remaining five are doing well with only one having less than 150 members. (These statistics are taken from review of the branch data sheets on the state SIR website in November 2018.)

It has certainly been no secret for years that the SIR organization is having a very difficult time recruiting and retaining members. The above statistics are added to this history to help illustrate that problem as it relates to us and our recruiting area. By any measure, our recruiting program is very successful and positive, but it is not hard to conclude that without our very successful activities programs we would be losing more members than we do. Comparison to other branches is evidence of that.

Lunch Issues at the Elks Club: In 2017, we had a problem with the Elks Club not providing enough table space to accommodate our members. Based on our estimated attendance, Elks Club would set up enough tables plus a small overage with the assumption that our members would move around to empty spaces. We did make individual moves, but the table decision by the Elks Club made it difficult for many members to have lunch with their closest friends. The problem continued into 2018. It further led to price increases and potential penalties for unused meals and place settings in the 2018 lunch contract with Elks Club. These will be discussed separately.

Price Increase: In March the basic price for lunch was increased from \$14.81 to \$15.50. Since 2011, we had been charging our members \$15 for lunch. In addition to some changes in the ancillary fees that Elks has traditionally charged, they also added potential penalty fees for unused table settings and for unused meals if our actual meal count was less than our estimate. From analysis of our estimated costs, Big Sir Ray Zelinski and Treasurer Jim Coe proposed to increase our lunch fee for the members to \$17. In general, it was estimated that \$16 would cover the expected normal lunch costs, and the extra \$1 would cover the potential penalties. Starting in April, we charged the members \$17 for lunch.

Table Issue: The potential penalty costs in 2018 exacerbated the table issue. Big Sir Ray Zelinski was now faced with the difficult issue of estimating attendance high enough to ensure enough food and space for everyone without imposing severe penalties for unused meals and table settings. Early in the year we experienced both extremes. In February, our attendance was much lower than the estimate, and in March and April, considerably more people attended than were estimated. Both of the latter two months resulted in the shortage of food for all the members. The primary issue was the attendance estimate. A committee was formed to study the issue and make recommendations for improvement. Notification by the members of their intent to attend is a key issue, but in the past we only required members to notify if they would not be attending. Also, we have never imposed a financial liability for non-notification or non-attendance. The committee made substantial recommendations for changes to our notification process, but the final decision was that any changes should impose minimal impact on our volunteer resources. It was also decided not to impose financial penalties on the members for non-attendance or non-notification. Accordingly, at the request of the executive committee, Gordon Callander volunteered to send an email monthly to all members to remind them to notify the attendance chairman if they could not attend, and Mike Pruss volunteered to likewise notify the members who did not have email. Further, Big Sir Ray Zelinski, in making the monthly estimate, put priority on having sufficient food and space so that all our members could be accommodated. He negotiated that the Elks Club would set up 13 tables with 10 place settings each, for a total of 136 spaces including the head table.

Final Cost Result: There was concern all year on whether our fee increase would cover the eventual costs for the year. In the final analysis, the total lunch cost for the year

was \$17,455.89, and our total income from lunch fees was \$16,580. This implies that we lost \$876 on our lunch program. However, we traditionally provide free lunches for new members and sponsors as recruitment incentives, and those costs are included as a lunch expense. To evaluate the 2018 results, it is noted the branch treasury ended the year with \$3305.35 cash, against a starting value in January of \$2586.26. Therefore, for the year, despite the apparent loss on the lunch program, our branch income exceeded our expenses by about \$720. At the time of this writing, Elks Club has set the 2019 lunch cost at \$17.50, a two dollar increase, allegedly to cover increased minimum wage and food costs. At the January, 2019 Executive Board meeting it was decided to pass the increase directly to the members, and the lunch fee starting in Feb 2019 will be \$19.

Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards:

The SIR organization allows each branch to award Honorary Lifetime Membership (HLM) awards to members that provide exceptional and extraordinary service to the branch. Each branch is allowed to have up to 2% of its active members so awarded at any one time. The branch began 2018 with two HLMs, plus one Senior HLM who does not count against the 2% limit. Further, one of the HLMs, Ed Campini, was converted to Emeritus status in January, a status which also does not count against the 2% limit.

With our January membership at 140, we were then able to add one HLM with the potential of adding another if we reached 150. The BEC therefore formed a committee, consisting of long time members, Birge Clark, PBS, and Sam Scarlett, to review a list of eligible HLM candidates, and make recommendations for two candidates that could be nominated for the award. Subsequently the limit of 150 was reached, and nominations for two candidates, Hal Mattson and Carroll Hamon, were approved by the State Sir. The awards were presented to Hal and Carroll by State Sir President, Derek Southern at the March luncheon.

Russ Korhonen Memorial Plaque at Haggin Oaks: In February, long time member and avid golfer, Russ Korhonen, passed away after several years of combating cancer. Russ had belonged to the branch for over 15 years, and had been the chairman and tournament director of the 9-hole golf league for eight years. To commemorate his service, Dallas Pennington organized an effort to obtain a memorial plaque to be put on display at Haggin Oaks Golf Course. The total cost was \$275, which was more than covered by donations for branch golfers. Excess funds were donated to the 9-hole golf league prize fund. The plaque was mounted on one of the picnic tables in front of the scoring area at MacKenzie Golf Course, and was presented to the members and Russø family on August 7.

Bill Sutherland
SIR Branch 23 Historian