

SIR Mission Branch 32 Newsletter

Promoting the Independence and Dignity of Retirement



January 2023 Volume 55 No. 1

Branch 32 Website: <https://sirinc2.org/branch32>

State Sir Website: <http://www.sirinc.org/>

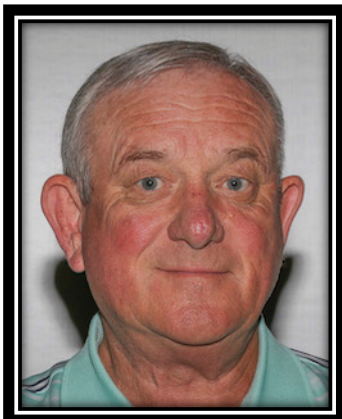
Sir Happenings Newsletter: <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>

January Luncheon is Wednesday 18th at Three Flames.

Social hour begins at 11:00

From Big SIR

Happy New Year!



Fellow SIR: First, I hope everyone had a great Holiday Celebration and that we are all looking forward to a Happy and Successful New Year. Second, I want to give a huge congratulations to Skip Saunders and the rest of the Christmas Luncheon Committee for a fabulous event attended by 126 people! Be sure to see the pictures in this newsletter and on our website.

Next, I want you all to know how much of an honor and privilege it is to serve as your Big SIR. The leadership team for this coming year is outstanding and they are committed to enhancing what is already a strong, vibrant Branch! I am proud of the way we navigated the challenges of the Pandemic and emerged more active and involved than ever. The challenge moving forward is how to use that momentum as a launch pad for further improvement

Each SIR Branch is like our body. Recruitment is our life blood. Leadership and Volunteering is our skeleton, and Activities are the muscle that gives us strength. We must nurture each to grow and survive. Although we have done well, our focus will be on further enhancing each area. We must constantly view community contacts as an opportunity to share our experiences with potential new members. The more activities, the more opportunity for friendship, participation and retention. Our leadership team needs to continue to involve and grow new, younger talent. Together we can excel!

Finally, we need our monthly member outreach efforts to be more productive in establishing contact and resulting in lunch meeting attendance. Although we have had a steady, solid attendance of 70-75 members, we need to push harder for greater member participation. It is a measure of our strength and needs to grow.

If at any time during the year you have a concern, suggestion, or even to complement someone, please feel free to call me at 408-828-5416. I am at your service!

Rick Hausman, Branch 32 Big SIR



Calling all members!

The 2023 ROSTERS ARE HERE !!!!...

The 2023 Branch 32 Rosters are printed and will be distributed at the Luncheon meeting on January 18th.

Be sure and pickup your PERSONAL COPY at the **luncheon check-in table.**

Thanks for helping us continue to have a great Roster.

Bruce Henry / Don Soderman, The Roster Committee



January Luncheon Speaker

Major General Robert B Ostenberg will bring the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Lapel Pins for any member or guest present who served in the military at any location from November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975. If you have deceased members who served and you keep in touch with their widows, there is a special 50th Pin for her.

Ken Roberts, Program Chairman

Major General Robert B. Ostenberg

US Army Retired



A native of Scottsbluff, Neb., Maj. Gen. Ostenberg graduated from Principia College with a BA in economics in 1969 and began his military career as an enlisted soldier and a Combat Engineer. He attended the Infantry Officers Candidate School and was commissioned a second lieutenant in September 1970. He served in Vietnam from 1971 to 1972 as a platoon leader with the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry and with the 1st Regiment, 1st Cavalry of the 23d Infantry Division. Following active duty, Maj. Gen. Ostenberg joined the Army Reserve, where he served in every leadership position from Platoon Leader to Division level command.

In July 2005 thru October 2008, when he retired, Maj. Gen. Ostenberg was the Director, Reserve Forces, with additional duty as one of five Domestic Attack Assessors, at North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Maj. Gen. Ostenberg's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Bronze Star with "V" device (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal (with Silver and Bronze oak Leaf Clusters), the Air Medal (with numeral 2), the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

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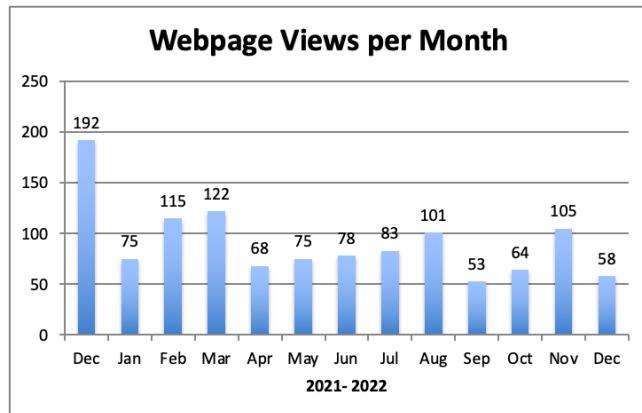


The update of the Br 32 webpage has been completed and is activated, replacing the previous version.

The primary purpose was to utilize the SIR State website template that is based on a WordPress development environment. This change insured that the website

would display accurately and properly on all display screen sizes from mobile phones to desktop computers. The previous HTML based design had not

achieved that objective. Further, the WordPress approach has been considerably simpler to create and maintain the website because of the built-in features that the tool environment provides. Note for example the Event Calendar is now Google based as offers more viewing flexibility. Also adding and organizing photos is considerably easier to achieve.



Please have a look and provide any feedback including suggestions for improvement or additional features that you believe will improve both the membership experience as well as the outreach to the public.

Jim Caratozzolo
SIR BR 32 Web Master
(408) 623-3405 onlinejim@aol.com



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This month sadly we learned of the prior passing of **Bill Allman**, # 69 in February of 2021. Bill was a member since 2011. We also lost **Glen Herrell** #55 this January, he was inducted in February 2022 as a transfer from Br 39.

There were no inductions in December as it was our Ladies Christmas Luncheon. For the year 2022, we inducted a total of 34 new or transferred members while losing 9 to death or voluntarily leaving the branch for a variety of reason. The net

increase in our membership was 25 taking us from 93 to 118 active members. Now in January we are at 117 active members.

There are four applications that were reviewed and approved for membership induction in January 2023

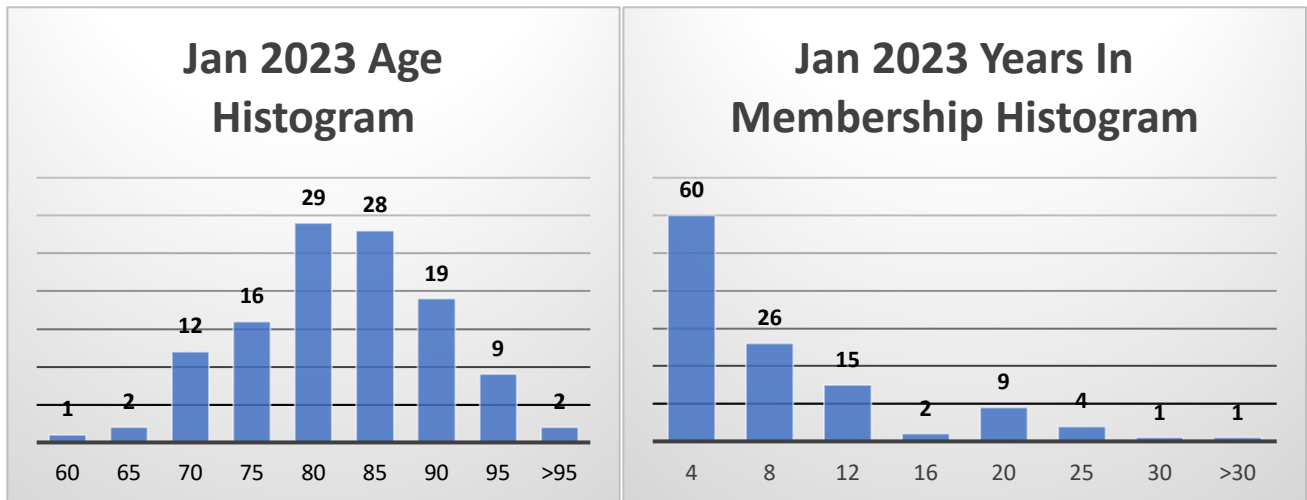
Database Status as of Dec 1, 2022

Members: **117** Inductees: **0** Applicants: 4 Widows: **22** Other: **12** Open Numbers: 31

Total Database Count: 186

Applications Approved at the Dec 2022 BEC: Augie Argabright, Bob Jamello, Chuck Swan, Darrell Gray

Membership Statistics as of year end 2022: Annually it is useful to understand some of the characteristics of our membership. As shown in the following charts, the age distribution of our membership spans quite a range from the low 60's to the mid 90's with an average and median age of 79.6. The longevity chart shows that we have added over half of our current membership in the last 4 years. And the average age has dropped from 81.9 at the end of last year to the current average 79.6. Further the average age of the 60 that joined in the last 4 years is 75.9, and for the last year it was 73.1. So we are on a good trend toward maintaining the vitality of our branch.



Respectfully Submitted: *Jim Caratozzolo*, Membership Chair

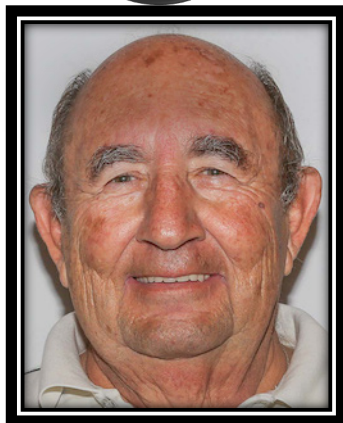
MEMBERSHIP CARE

William W. (Bill) Allman, Branch 32 Member No. 69. has passed away. He passed on February 23, 2021, in San Jose at the age of 92. We only received this information recently and are informing the Branch now.

Bill was our gardening expert and gave detailed instructions related to the planting, pruning, and care for our tomato plants and flowers. Unknow to many of his SIR friends, Bill donated generously to the care and propagation of the Santa Cruz Red Woods.

As an educator and counselor at West Valley College for many years, his work was valued by his colleges. His attendance at our luncheons will be missed by us.

We Also lost Glen Herrell this January. Glen was a recent transfer from Branch 39 in February 2022.



If any Branch 32 member knows of anyone in sickness or distress, please call:

Mort Berlant at (408) 264-5706 or **Skip Saunders** at (860) 961-1311



ANNIVERSARIES

Five couples celebrated anniversaries of 65 years or more in 2022. Three couples were honored at the December luncheon.



Janice and Galen Gipson 1956



Mariam and Don Pedrotti 1954



Lavonne and Nick Marafino 1957

Anniversaries in January

David and Michele Neuhaus	01/20	43
Kevin and Eileen Madej	01/13	43
Michael and Darlene Bishop	01/03	41
Todd and Sylvia White	01/01	32
Ernest A. and Deborah Brookfield	01/16	32
Michael and Lek Sinnott	01/02	24

BIRTHDAYS

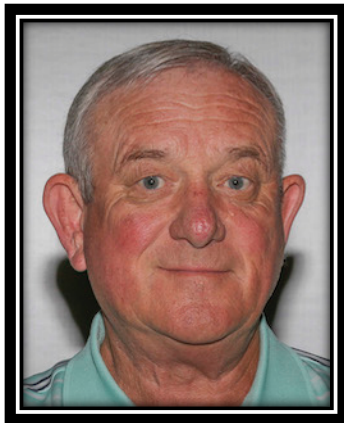
James F. Kilty	01/29
Ed Barrett	01/02
Bob Edwards	01/28
Hans Lingens	01/31

William Olson	01/26
Robert Araldi	01/02
Cheng Ma	01/16
Robert H Gordon	01/28
Mark Fisher	01/09
Kelvin Thomas	01/20

LONGEVITY

Jim Sleigh	23	1999
Dick Priest	21	2001
Mike Price	18	2004
Al Delfino	12	2010
Wesley Howard	8	2014
Al Mau	7	2015
Aare Onton	7	2015
Steve Sabanovich	7	2015
Gary Espinosa	5	2017
Paul Gardner	5	2017
Doug Krause	5	2017
Thomas Collins	2	2020
Gil Mesa	2	2020

GOLF CLUB



The month of December (and it looks like carrying into January) was very wet for golf. In fact, we were only able to get in two weeks of regular golf. Even with that, carts were restricted to the asphalt paths due to saturated grass conditions on the courses!! You essentially have to walk the course which is a challenge for many of us. Drought relief is welcome, but spacing it out to allow for occasional golf would be better!! The start of January looks like more of the same. For those golfers traveling to Mexico in early January, it was 85 degrees and pure sun. More later in the February Newsletter.

	December 13th		December 20th	
Low Gross	Garry Sellers	92	Rick Hausman	88
	Rick Hausman	93	Dan Love (R)	88
	Mike Bishop	93	Bill Schlaefer	92

			Garry Sellers	94
Low Net	Mike Bishop	67	Jim Bowen	64
	Galen Gipson	71	Dan Love	71
	Wes Howard	74	Bob Grandey	72
	Don Soderman	74		
Low Putts	Wes Howard	33	Galen Gipson	29
	Galen Gipson	34	Garry Sellers	32
	Don Soderman	36	Jim Bowen	33

Rick Hausman, Golf Chairman

WINE SOCIETY



The Wine Society event scheduled for January 21 has been postponed. A new date will be provided in the future.

Paul Gardner, Wine Society Chairman

BOCCE CLUB



Due to the wet weather that occurred during the first part of December, we were only able to play on the 12th and 9th. We had 11 and 10 players for the two matches. At this time it appears that January is also going to start out as another wet month.



Our last Bocce match on December 19th was won by the team of Hersch Booth and Ken Roberts. Winning their two games 11 to 3 and 11 to 10.

We play every Monday afternoon starting at 1:00 pm at the Almaden Lake Park located in South San Jose (Winfield Road Side). No reservations are needed, there are no court fees and we never turn players away even if they arrive after the start.

Roger Earle and Hersh Booth, Bocce CoChairmen

POOL CLUB



We have been having 6 to 8 players on Monday nights at Cuetopia Cafe and Billiards, 4700 Almaden expressway, San Jose, Between Branham Lane and Cherry Avenue 5:00PM to 7:00PM come out and join the fun.

Galen Gipson
Fred Rasmussen
Co-Chairmen



COUPLES BRIDGE



December was a busy month for many of our bridge players. Consequently, we were not able to gather enough couples together to play on any Saturdays. For January, we have successfully scheduled 2 tables of bridge for the 14th and 3 tables for the 28th

We currently have 6 couples in our bridge group and play on Saturday afternoons whenever we can gather enough couples. We would like to get at least 2 additional couples so we can play more often. If you like to play bridge and are interested in joining our group please contact me.

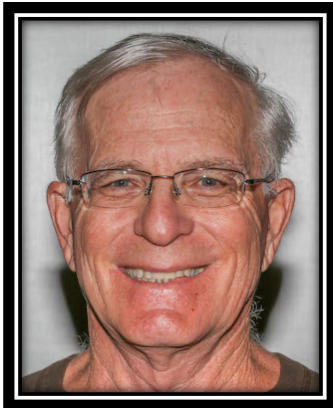
Roger Earle, Couples Bridge Co-Chair

BRIDGE

The Bridge Club has restarted and meets every Thursday morning at 10 AM. We are looking for additional members that love to learn and play Bridge. If you have any interest in Bridge and enjoy a good time, please call Reiad Chikhani (408) 524-3738 for additional information.

HIKING CLUB

SIR HIKE – COYOTE LAKE HARVEY BEAR RANCH



On Thursday, December 8, 2022 4 of us hardy hikers met at Los Gatos to drive out to San Martin to

explore the friendly confines of limitless hills, trails and vistas of Morgan Hill/San Martin south bay area. Our newest member-Don Collins, Bernie Coullahan, Doug Krause and Todd White gathered. The trail started out level and then



became a winding and gradual incline till we got to the top of a 705 -foot elevation gain. The fact that it had rained the day before made the packed dirt trail somewhat wet and muddy but that would not discourage us. We sidetracked the mud, (mostly!) by finding grass to the sides to walk on.

The views were distant green rolling hills and valleys and quite striking. We came across free roaming cows that were very friendly as you can see in the photo. All told, we trekked 4 ½ miles in 2 ½ hours. We enjoyed the fresh air, beautiful environment and conversation while losing a few pounds at the same time.



Afterwards SIR Todd White recommended lunch at Trail Dust Barbeque in Morgan Hill. Here we enjoyed a large assortment of fresh barbeque meats in rolls with chips. There were plenty of beers on tap and after more great conversations and full stomachs we headed back to Los Gatos. Another great outdoor experience with our SIR friends. Next time it could be you too! Usually we have 1 outside trek per month.

Reminder, we meet every Monday at 8:50am to walk 4.2 miles from Vasona Dam to the backside of Old Town Mall on The Los Gatos Creek Trail. We leave at 9am and back by 10:30am. Come out for a good time with your SIR buddies, meet some new people and get some good exercise. Drive to 281 Garden Hill Dr Los Gatos and walk over to the side where you see the dam.

Other outside hikes will be announced by email to those on my list and at the luncheons. Sign up by email back to Doug Krause at diamontub@sbcglobal.net or at the luncheon signup sheet.

Doug Krause, Hiking Club Chairman

FINAL REPORT ON THE 2022 LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

On Wednesday, December 14th, Branch 32 held its annual Christmas function at the Three Flames Restaurant. One hundred twenty-six SIR, spouses, and guests enjoyed a terrific social hour, a fine dinner provided by the restaurant, and entertainment by Kim and Michael.

Hosted by the outgoing Big SIR, Roger Earle, the afternoon was deemed a success by those in attendance. The ladies received a box of See's candies. A wine drawing was held, thanks to the efforts of Bernie Coullahan, with a giveaway of a dozen poinsettias to those sitting in pre-designated seats.





Some guests were unable to attend at the last moment, so their meal selections were boxed up and delivered to them by friends.

A highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of the Noble Sir Award to two members who have gone over and above what would normally be expected of them. Roger Earle presented the awards to Rick Houseman and Jim LeBlanc for their service to our Branch.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who provided assistance for the party: Galen, Janice, Jim, Bernie, Bruce, Jim, Jim, Doug, Roger, Paul, Sue, Fred, Sue, and Gail.

Skip Saunders, Chairman of the Event