

	<p style="text-align: center;">SIR Branch 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Foghorn</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 2024</p>	
<p>Big SIR-Stuart Ruth Secretary-Bob Calhoun Asst. Secretary-Jack Major</p>	<p>God Bless our USA Foghorn Editor John McGlothlin</p>	<p>Little SIR-Bill Gipe Treasurer-Bob Golton Asst. Treasurer-George Fenech</p>

September 2024 Lunch. SIR Branch 4 will hold its next luncheon meeting on Wednesday, September 4th, at the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco. We hope to see you there.

Lunch will be served at 12 noon. The bar will be available at 11:30AM. Menu choices are:

1. Salmon
2. Chicken Cordon Bleu
3. Steak Haché
4. Penne Pasta -- Sausage
5. Penne Pasta -- Vegetarian

Cost will again be \$30.00. **Please respond if you will be attending no later than Tuesday, August 27th, so we can make plans with the restaurant (late responses will still be accepted, but not preferred).** We need to know if you plan on attending AND your choice of entrée.

You can respond to Paul Nocero at SIRpaul@nocero.com, or by phone to 415-254-8175. Please include your name with your e-mail response so Paul can record your request correctly.

Note: New Roster Booklet is available. Pick your copy up at the Badge Table!

Paul Nocero

September's' Speaker (Contact Alfred Herpe 650-992-3344) —Our Speaker is SIR Forrest Holleman. Subject—**Aging, *What YOU Can Do To Remain Independent.*** Alfred always appreciates speaker suggestions!

Announcements and Information, Bill Gipe

SIR Birthdays. Branch 4 remembers the September birthdays of Stu Etzler, George Fenech, Bill Gipe, Bob Golton and John Griffin.

Sunshine List. Jerry Blumenthal, Bob Fox, Bill Gipe, and Dan Machado.

Membership & Attendance. 85 total members. 34 attended the August lunch. Welcome back to Sandor Halasz.

SIR Holiday Lunch. Planning has begun for Branch 4's Holiday Lunch. Look for an announcement at September's lunch. Mark your calendar **for December. 4th. at Oyster Point.**

As Dave Sees It..., by Dave Nigel. We had an enjoyable luncheon August 7th at the BCC with 34 attending. Big Sir Stu called us to order as we began with David Nigel's invocation, followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance," and "God Bless America."

Dave welcomed Sandor "Sandy" Halasz returning from a long illness and announced Little Sir Bill was ill. Stu called on activities chairs for updates starting with Golf Chair, Jack Major. In the absence of Bocce Co-Chairs, Dave Nigel described Bocce gatherings. On behalf of Little Sir Bill Gipe, Dave reported the Pinball Museum tour is postponed. Tad Bogdan promoted participation for the Food distribution with San Francisco-Marine Food Bank, thanked all working on distributions and invited SIRs to join our community service.

SIRs Rolf and Tony called numbers resulting in Richard Soward and Dennis Meixner winning prizes. August Birthday boys were introduced by George Fenech and honorees stated their birth year. Jack Major received the Free Lunch ticket. Next was the drawing for "Geritol" (Merry Pranksters Cabernet); winner was Charlie Hoenisch. Flor Mendoza was the free lunch winner. Six entrees were enjoyed followed by Entenmann's Brownie Chocolate Chip cakes.

SIR John Cooney introduced our engaging speaker, Phil Gioia. Phil discussed his Vietnam experience leading three Airborne units and experiencing the bitter fighting of the 1968 TET offensive. Phil was wounded and returned to Vietnam rising to the rank of Captain and Company Commander. Phil's Army journey started at VMI, one of two private Military Colleges with a storied history. His qualifications included both Airborne and Ranger training. His book, "Danger Close" (strongly recommended, *Editor*) described growing up an Army Brat, choosing VMI, Army experiences and the soldiers he admires greatly.

Big Sir Stu concluded our meeting wishing everyone a wonderful August. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 4th, at the BCC.

Awards and Recognition

SIRs Tad Bogdan and Paul Nocero received Distinguished Service Awards (DSA). Tad was recognized for his initiative in planning and implementing our Community Outreach Activity. Paul was recognized for his initiative in providing tech support for our transition to the BCC and designing applications to assist us all in planning meetings and events.

DSA awards consider only contributions to SIR and must be approved by the BEC.

ACTIVITIES



Local SIR Tours, Bill Gipe (650-878-5746). Our local tour to Alameda's Pacific Pinball Museum in August was postponed because of illness. Please look for a September tour date at the lunch signup sheet. Thanks.



Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and Bill McGee 415-806-4608. Sept 2024. A summary of the **local SIR golf rules** has been published and is now available. Check the web site: <http://branch4.sirinc2.org/golf.html>.

The **2024 Sharp Park Tournaments** are scheduled for the **second Tuesday** of the month, starting at 0930. Check the website for the current schedules and past results. Signups and results will be emailed.

Results of the August 13^h Sharp Park match. – We were delayed to Wednesday August 14th due to a tournament conflict, but the staff didn't record the change, so it was already booked. Then following week had green aeration, so we passed this month.

Next Sharp Park Tournament: Tuesday, September 10th - first tee-off is 0930. SIR members and their guests are invited. **Check in a half-**

hour before your tee time inside the club house. Sharp Park fees are **\$35 - \$26 greens**, and \$9 prize fund. Add a cart for \$20 for \$50. Breakfasts are available per Kevin.

The **2024 Poplar Creek Tournaments** are Tuesdays 8/27, 10/22, and 12/17. These start at 1000 with a 24-player max. This year's contract is pay the green fee \$38, pro shop merchandise voucher fees (\$7), and optional cart fees (\$17.50 each and split a cart, \$25 singles), to the SIRs coordinator. Prize fund vouchers are for pro shop merchandise only. Check in 30 minutes prior to first tee time.

Next Poplar Creek Tournament: Tuesday August 27th.



Walk for Health, George Suter 415-314-6768. Stay tuned for information and George's usual thorough instructions.



Bocce. Charley Leach 415-333-7277, Roger Kelly 650-346-9668: We meet at Doelger Center Wednesdays 1-3PM. Doelger Center is about 1/4 Mile North of Westlake Joe's. We don't meet first Wednesday of each month (SIRs Luncheon). Show up and get a game or two or maybe even 3. Beginners are (always) welcome!

Bocce Report, August 9th by David Nigel.

Branch 4 SIR Bocce Ball enthusiasts enjoy continuing gatherings and exciting competition Wednesday afternoons each month meeting the second, third, and fourth Wednesdays for exciting and skilled competition. Players meet at 1:00 p.m and Co-Chairs Charley Leach and Roger Kelly organize teams including "regulars" Pat Long, Jere Driscoll, Bill Gipe, Richard Soward, Stu Etzler, Tim Hazen, and David Nigel. Player's friendships and camaraderie are fostered from these games.

We hope more SIRs members join Bocce Ball and Co-Chairs Charley and Roger invite all interested to join in the fun. Ask about the results at our Luncheon.

Branch 4's Community Service Volunteers. Tad Bogdan

(tadbogdan@gmail.com, 650 863 8866) and Bill McGee (wcmcgee@pacbell.net, 415-806-4608).

Community Service Event - SF/Marin FoodBank. We had a great outing at our last event on Tuesday, August 20 where we helped 357 people receive food to feed their families. Eight of us helped serve the families, including Bob Richter, Paul Nocero, Jack Major, Dave Barnett, Dave's friend JC, Bill McGee, Bill's wife Pamela Barnett, and Tad Bogdan. Afterwards, seven of us met for a delicious lunch at *The Old Clam House*, founded in 1861 — which makes it older than any of our Branch 4 SIRs.

Upcoming event: The Cesar Chavez location was popular with the team, so we voted to go there again in September.

September Date and Time: Tuesday, September 24, 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Shift:** Cesar Chavez - 1450 San Bruno Ave, San Francisco, CA 94110

Please contact Tad Bogdan tadbogdan@gmail.com 650 863 8866 or Bill McGee wcmcgee@gmail.com 415-806-4608 if you can join us.

September's Speaker, SIR Forrest Holleman, "Ageing, What YOU Can Do to Remain Independent". Forrest is a key member of Global Eyes LLC and works with businesses and individual entrepreneurs on business development and change management.

SIR Email and Internet Security. Bill Gipe, Anthony Ramirez and your Editor attended the SIRInc Zoom presentation on Computer and Cell Phone Security on August 16th along with over 200 other SIRs. This 90-minute presentation included questions and answers and was moderated by SIR Alan Baker. Alan also works with AARP to design and share internet and smartphone threats and precautions. The information below was distilled from the very thorough presentations and Q and A's.

I want to concentrate on specific schemes actually experienced by SIRs rather than defining categories. AARP does a very good job of defining. Go to their Website for a thorough glossary:

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2023/glossary-of-scam-terminology.html#listTitleFive>

Specific examples discussed include:

1. A message supposedly from someone you know asking for some sort of help (cutting a check, buying gift cards, etc).
2. A similar message asking you to respond to let them know you are available to talk.
3. A call from "Microsoft" saying your computer has a problem they can fix it if you give them information.
4. A message with an "invoice" attached for something you didn't order (i.e. a subscription to Norton) with a "button" to press to challenge. And, a button to click to protest.
5. You do have a computer problem and don't have GeekSquad's phone number. You "Google" GeekSquad and a web page comes up with a number (another company but worded like the real site).
6. You are called about missing jury duty, taxes, a ticket, etc. The caller offers to help.

All the above are dangerous. At the very least, responding verifies your email address (addresses are bought and sold). At the worst, you may be tricked into turning over your control of computer or turning over money. ***You can do things to protect yourself:***

1. Go to the real company website and verify contact numbers.
2. With some email apps you can cursor over the "from" address and compare with your records (i.e. the Branch Roster). Same with "buttons" you are asked to click on.
3. Hang up, don't engage in banter.
4. Check directly with the County, IRS, City IF you think you MAY have a liability.
5. Get out your Roster and phone the person who supposedly emailed you.
6. Be careful sending group emails. Use the BCC, or Blind Copies, feature.

The presentation covered other important areas including Passwords and Two-Factor identification and I'll report next month on them.

Geritol for September. September's's "Geritol" hails from Paso Robles. A VERY hearty Zinfandel from Opolo. Passo Robles has a long wine history and many old vineyards. Ridge started their tradition of seeking out notable vineyards with the Dusi Vineyard from the area. Turley (a very high-end Napa winery) was so enamored with the area they purchased Pesenti Winery and Vineyards (a long-time favorite with Cal Poly students for great cheap wines) to assure access to their vineyards. Enjoy with a big steak!

“Exceptional SIR Members” by Dave Nigel

John Cooney joined our Branch in December 2018 having been a member of Branch 91 and their 2017 Big Sir. Branch 91 will always be remembered as a driving force behind great joint picnics. John has shared his Branch 91 experience finding speakers with speaker coordinator Alfred Herpe.

John was born in New York City in 1941 when his father was stationed there as an FBI agent during World War II. He grew up in Detroit, where his father was an attorney for Ford Motor Company. John attended the Jesuit high school in Detroit and the University of Notre Dame, where he graduated in 1963. His family relocated to the West Coast, and John attended UCLA Law School, graduating at the height of the draft for the Vietnam War. He entered the Army, wallowing in mud in the Infantry until the Army decided he would be better utilized as a legal officer in the JAG Corps. After four years and seven months (but who's counting?), including 13 months in Southeast Asia, John left the Army and accepted an appointment as an Assistant US Attorney (a federal prosecutor) in San Francisco. After several fulfilling years there, he left government service and worked for the remainder of his career as a trial lawyer representing Bank of America retiring in 2004.

John has two children, and two grandchildren. His daughter lives in Austin, Texas, and his son in Salt Lake City. His first wife and mother of his children, died in 1995 (the greatest sorrow of his life). Later, John was fortunate to meet and, after several years, marry Marilyn, who is well known to our members as she shares her voice and piano at many venues, including at our annual Holiday party.

John's wannabe hobbies include photography and flying (he has a private pilot's license), although the retirement bugaboos of eyesight gone dim and wallet growing thin preclude continuing with either. John is very busy these days socializing with his friends and playing in the San Francisco Banjo Band that performs at Molloy's Tavern in South San Francisco the first Saturday of each month. John is also dedicated to the best interests of Millbrae and actively participates in civic discussions on important issues. He often notes that it is his friendships that keep him going, including, especially, the friends he has made with SIR. We are so proud and fortunate to have John as an active member of our Branch.

Want to Recognize a SIR, talk to Dave Nigel

*See you at October's Luncheon **October 2nd** at the Basque Cultural Center*