THE HISTORY

OF SONS IN RETIREMENT

BRANCH #45

PEACH BOWL



BILL CROCKER

HISTORIAN

This is the history of Sons in Retirement Peach Bowl Branch #45. This project

was conceived by 2013 and 2014 Big

Sir Dennis Dempsey and written

by Historian Sir Bill Crocker.

Sir Crocker gathered information from old records provided by Branch Secretary Sir

Bob Engen and branch bulletins. It is

anticipated this history project will

be an ongoing honest endeavor

for many years to come.

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The Founding of Sons in Retirement

The year was 1958. The United States was suffering a recession and over seven percent unemployment. The average yearly wage was under $4,000. American cars were getting bigger and little Japanese cars were finding their way to the California shore. Sputnik 1 had flown and crashed. Tupperware was all the rage with women. Tupperware parties were a part of the American scene and retired guys, sitting around in their skivvies, their favorite adult beverages firmly held, watching Beat the Clock on afternoon TV were being told to get dressed and vacate the premises.

Whether or not Tupperware parties resulted in the old guys getting involved in outside activities is lost in the shadows of time. But it was in September of 1958 that Damian L. Reynolds, Claus J. Hink, and Lorenz Hansen were in San Francisco attending a luncheon meeting of the Royal Order of Jesters, an auxiliary of the Islam Temple of the Shrine. Mr. Reynolds was retired from an executive position with Columbia Steel; Mr. Hink was soon to retire from Standard Oil of California; and Mr. Hansen had years of experience in banking and finance. Mr. Reynolds suggested there should be an organization for retired men and asked Mr. Hink and Mr. Hansen join him. They agreed.

The three men decided this proposed organization would involve regular meetings with luncheon programs for the purpose of maintaining old friendships, making new acquaintances, and promoting general companionship.

By the middle of June, Mr. Reynolds had worked out the initial staffing pattern for this organization. He asked Mr. Hink to serve as his immediate assistant and Mr. Hansen was designated treasurer because of his extensive financial experience.

Mr. Reynolds discussed the proposal with Wallace C. Plummer who had been secretary, recorder, and trustee of the Peninsula Consistory Scottish Rite. Mr. Plummer assured Mr. Reynolds he was interested and would cooperate fully.

Mr. Reynolds called a meeting of the four men at the end of June. They met at his home in Hillsborough and discussed the proposed assignment of duties of each officer and the designation of their group as the Founders Executive Committee.

The first luncheon meeting of the four founders was held at the Clairmar Restaurant in San Mateo on June 22, 1958. The officer assignments and other previously discussed matters were reviewed and steps were taken to prepare working rules and regulations, such as the formulation of the by-laws.

The founders scheduled a luncheon to be held at the Clairmar on July 23 and six additional men were invited of which five attended. These nine men were designated charter members. They were:

Damian L. Reynolds Conrad Lange

Claus J. Hink L. E. Carmill

Lorenz Hansen Clarence E. Johnson

George Rogers William Torello

The four founders met on August 12, 1958, to select a suitable name for the organization. Mr. Hansen suggested the name Sons In Retirement be considered. It was pointed out that the acronym, SIR, would indicate maturity and respect. Mr. Hansen moved, seconded by Mr. Plummer, that the name be proposed and adopted at the next luncheon. It was also decided that the president of the organization would be known as Big Sir and the second in command, Little Sir.

The rooster was adopted as the official emblem of the organization. During the discussion about this choice, Big Sir Reynolds stated that one of the principal areas about which Sons in Retirement would be concerned was the well-being, youth, and happiness of the retired man. Of all the creatures on earth, none expressed independence and dignity with more sureness and aplomb than the rooster. The majesty of his presence overshadowed all other barnyard creatures. When he crowed, he could be heard for miles with a loud voice that called attention to his majestic being.

With the advice of an attorney, Big Sir Reynolds and Little Sir Hink completed all of the preliminary and legal requirements for the Articles of Incorporation and forwarded the application for incorporation, with properly sworn statements attached, to the California secretary of state on February 3, 1959. The application was approved and endorsed on February 11.

The basic guidelines of Sons In Retirement were set forth in Rules and Procedures, drawn up at the time of incorporation in February 1959. The slogan “Promoting the Independence and Dignity of Retirement” was adopted.

1. Sons In Retirement is a luncheon club composed of men retired from gainful occupation.
2. There are no dues, initiation fees, or assessments other than nominal voluntary contributions at each luncheon to cover expenses.
3. No political party, religion, or sect of any kind will be promoted.
4. Eligible men will be invited to join after attending at least one luncheon meeting and being introduced by a member sponsor.
5. Luncheon meetings will occur monthly at the member’s expense and a suitable program will be presented.

The History of Sons in Retirement Peach Bowl Branch #45

NINETEEN SEVENTY-THREE

Members of Sons In Retirement Fort Sutter Branch 14 of Sacramento met with interested men of the Marysville/Yuba City area on June 21, 1973, and invited them to organize a new branch of SIR. These men accepted the invitation and a second meeting was scheduled and held in the Marysville Bike Club at which time Branch 14 agreed to assume responsibility for the new group during the probationary period. The presiding officer of this meeting was Al Duryea, Branch 14 Big Sir. Peach Bowl was chosen as a name for the new branch and the following officers were appointed for the duration of the probationary period:

Blair Geddes Big Sir

Al Aabert Little Sir

Glen Nichols Treasurer

John McClurg Assistant Treasurer

Board of Directors

Harry Rhud

Eric Nelson

Clarence McCrank

After the appointment of these officers, the application for charter was filed.

The following committee chairmen were appointed at the August 1973 meeting:

Steward Potter Chaplain

Muller Chapman Attendance

Eric Nelson Greeter

Harry Rhud House

At the December meeting, it was decided to hold a luncheon meeting on the first Monday of each month. This day was approved to avoid conflicts with other active groups within the area. Muller Chapman introduced the idea of identification badges, and plans were made to distribute the badges at the next meeting. Bowling was suggested as the first branch activity. The branch then had approximately forty-five members and the treasury has accumulated $140.00.

NINETEEN SEVENTY-FOUR

The primary drive through the early spring of 1974 was to meet the 100-membership requirement to quality as a branch charter. This goal was met and in April, Big Sir Geddes and Little Sir Clarence Hamma presented the required roster for action to the state board in Sacramento.

Big Sir Geddes introduced the concept of a branch bulletin at the May meeting. Al Johnson was to serve as editor and plans to produce the first edition were planned for August. June 4 was proclaimed charter day and Clyde Long was appointed the event’s general chairman. Little Sir Hamma began the practice of recognizing birthdays at the July meeting.

The officers for 1975 were elected at the November meeting. They were:

Clarence Hamma Big Sir

Harry Stephenson Little Sir

T. C. Limper Secretary

Romney Pearce Assistant Secretary

Glenn Nichols Treasurer

Fred Zerull Assistance Treasurer

Board of Directors

Muller Chapman

O. B. Cochrane

John McClurg

Eric Nelson

Harold Yorton

The year of 1974, the first under the charter, ended with the first Ladies’ Night that December. The Yuba City High School Choir, directed by Dean Estabrook, presented a well-received program. Area governor, John Sorenson, swore in the officers for 1975.

NINETEEN SEVENTY-FIVE

The first meeting of 1975, chaired by Big Sir Hamma, was devoted to the organization of chairman committees for the various branch interests. The recommendation to order identification badges was made. A committee was organized to develop a telephone tree, a system that would allow efficient contact between branch members. Bob Caplan began planning tours and trips for Sirs and their wives. Photography became active under Bill Cowden. Golf started to shape up under Bill Dipple. Bowling interest grew under Harold Yorton.

Big Sir Hamma was in charge of the January 1975 meeting, which was devoted to the organization of chairman committees for all fields of branch interest. Identification badges were introduced and approved for purchase. A telephone tree committee was organized to enhance communication and attendance records. Tours and trips for Sirs and their wives became a reality under the direction of Bob Caplan as chairman. Bill Cowden became golf chairman, and Harold Yorton became bowling chairman.

 It was announced at the February meeting that donations and other sources of income had resulted in a $200.00 treasury. State president, Lee Perryman, and Area governor, John Sorenson, visited the branch in March. Big Sir Hamma announced the American Radio Club had invited Sirs to attend a meeting in Berkeley. Membership numbered about 125 members in July. In October, the first Area 11 bowling tournament was held, hosted by Branch #45. (At this time, Branch #45 was so new that it had not been assigned to an Area. It joined Area 11 in 1977.) One hundred twelve Sirs participated, including members from the Auburn, Grass Valley, and Nevada City branches.

Past Big Sir Geddes installed the 1976 officers and directors in December. They were:

Harry Stephenson Big Sir

Robert Caplan Little Sir

T. C. Limper Secretary

Romney Pearce Assistant Secretary

Fred Zerull Treasurer

Harold Yorton Assistant Treasurer

Board of Directors

John W. Brown

Muller Chapman

O. B. Cochrane

John McClurg

Clarence McCrank

Eric Nelson

NINETEEN SEVENTY-SIX

Branch #45’s meeting place was moved to Les’s House of Prime Rib during February of 1976. Yet, with the steady growth of membership, the new place quickly became cramped. The branch returned to the Marysville Elks Club in May and was visited by the state president who announced that state membership had risen to 14,000 members.

By June, Branch #45’s membership totaled 124. One hundred twelve members and guests attended the June Ladies’ Day meeting. A discussion concerning the poor attendance at Ladies’ Day was held during the August meeting. It was decided to hold the affair during the evening to encourage better attendance.

Officers for 1977 were elected during the October meeting. They were later installed by Area 11 Governor, Ken Casper. The new officers were:

Robert Caplan Big Sir

Romney Pearce Little Sir

John Brown Secretary

Charles Smith Assistant Secretary

Fred Zerull Treasurer

Clark Simons Assistant Treasurer

Muller Chapman Director

Harold Yorton Director

Eric Nelson Director

Lester Eldredge Director

Frank Wilkinson Director

Alan Kammerer Director

NINETEEN SEVENTY-SEVEN

Branch #45 was transferred to Area 11 under Governor Ken Casper by 1977. By this time, membership was 142 and all activities were doing well. During this year, the branch moved its meeting place to the Veterans Building in Marysville, providing additional space to accommodate the increased membership. The branch had a balance of more than $600 and planned to host a successful party in December.

Officers for 1978 were elected. They were later installed by Area 11 Governor, Ken Casper. The new officers were:

Romney Pearce Big Sir

Frank Wilkinson Little Sir

Alan Kammerer Secretary

John Brown Assistant Secretary

Wayne Dahling Treasurer

Fred Zerull Assistant Treasurer

Sherman Ingles Director

Hugh Staggs Director

Cliff Morehouse Director

Melvin Cummins Director

Harold Yorton Director

Eric Nelson Director

NINETEEN SEVENTY-EIGHT

The branch moved again in 1978, this time twice because of housing difficulties The first move was to Piper’s Opera House in Yuba City while the Hillcrest Hangar was being completed. The second move was made to the Hillcrest Hangar in June at 210 Julie Drive.

Several interesting trips were arranged by the travel committee. They were:

Bus trip to Riverside Club in Reno

River Boat Cruise from Sacramento to San Francisco

Baseball trip to Candlestick Park

Bus trip to the Eldorado Club in Reno

Bus trip to the new MGM complex for an overnight stay in Reno

The Area 11 picnic was held in Grass Valley, California under the direction of Governor Casper. Approximately fifty Branch #45 members attended. Branch #45 had the honor of the company of Ray Millard, first vice president, and a message from the state organization.

Program chairman, Cliff Morehouse, arranged a tour of the new Sunsweet plant in Yuba City following the regular luncheon meeting on September 11. Those who attended left with a greater understanding of a large plant operation.

Big Sir Bob Caplan was scheduled to represent the branch at the 1978 annual state board meeting in San Anselmo. He was unable to attend, so Big Sir elect Romney Pearce and Little Sir elect Frank Wilkinson attended.

Big Sir Romney Pearce appointed a nominating committee composed of past Big Sirs Clarence Hamma, Harry Stephenson, and Robert Caplan. The following officers for 1979 were presented and elected. They were installed at the Christmas party by Area 11 governor, Ken Caspar.

Frank Wilkinson Big Sir

John McClurg Little Sir

Alan Kammerer Secretary

Eric Nelson Assistant Secretary

Melvin Cummins Treasurer

Wayne Dahling Assistant Treasurer

John Brown Director

John Heinecke Director

Eric Nelson Director

Duane Lueth Director

Muller Chapman Director

Cliff Morehouse Director

Ben Palmer Director

Although there may have been men in charge of various activities in past years, the 1979 election records are the first to list these men as committeemen.

Art Worledge Attendance

Ed Wilgus Assistant. Attendance

Muller Chapman Badge Custodian

Rudy Jacenich Assistant Badge

James Black Bowling

Alex Golino Assistant Bowling

David Rhoades Chaplain

Tom Nichols Assistant Chaplain Romney Pearce Historian

Fred Zerull Assistant Historian

Hugh Staggs Program

Howard Mallory Assistant Program

Sherman Ingles Bulletin

Rueben Seagren Assistant Bulletin

Clifford Morehouse Publicity

Ruelon Williams Assistant Publicity

David Rhoads Sunshine

Tom Nichols Assistant Sunshine

John Brown Travel

Ben Palmer Assistant Travel

NINETEEN SEVENTY-NINE

This year of 1979 was the year of in that an acceptable agenda for meetings was established. It included appropriate program subjects in which members were interested. As a result, as the year progressed, the branch experienced a moderate growth in membership and meeting attendance. Hugh Staggs, program chairman, was recognized for his efforts.

John Brown, travel chairman, and Ben Palmer, assistant travel chairman, arranged several trips throughout this year.

March 11 Reno

May 23, 24 Reno

June 20 San Francisco Giants game

September 15 Tahoe, South Shore

November 6, 7 Reno

Branch #45 celebrated its charter’s fifth anniversary in June with a special dinner and special guest, Area 11 Governor Ken Casper, and his wife, Evelyn. The program was well received and included a performance by the Marysville Barbershop Quartet Singers.

Members of Branch #45 made their first trip to Candlestick Park on June 20, 1979, to watch the San Francisco Giants play the Pittsburg Pirates on SIR day. Approximately 3,000 Sirs from throughout northern California were in attendance.

Big Sir Frank Wilkinson, Little Sir John McClurg, and Little Sir-elect John Brown attended the state meeting at the Blue Dolphin Restaurant in San Leandro. The meeting was interesting and well attended.

The Christmas party, which included the semiannual Ladies’ Night was a great success. Little Sir-elect John McClurg and his wife, Loretta, were in charge of the decorations. Poinsettias were a part of the table decorations and made the Hillcrest Hangar a very festive place. The name of Poinsettia Party was adopted by the branch board.

The December state board meeting was attended by Big Sir Romney Pearce, Little Sir Frank Wilkinson, and Little Sir elect John McClurg.

Big Sir Romney Pearse appointed an audit committee to check the treasurer’s report for the year. He appointed Sirs Harold Paxton, Jim Hall, and Jim Black. The committee completed the audit, which was approved.

Bud Bailey of Auburn Branch 37 was elected governor of Area 11 for 1980, replacing Ken Casper.

Past Big Sir Clarence Hamma chaired the nominating committee and presented the Officers for 1980. They were:

John McClug Big Sir

John Brown Little Sir

Monte Estabrook Secretary

Alan Kammerer Assistant Secretary

Bill Lynch Treasurer

Mel Cummins Assistant Treasurer

Muller Chapman Director

Howard Mallory Director

John Heinecke Director

Ben Palmer Director

Sherman Ingles Director

Ed Wilgus Director

NINETEEN EIGHTY

By May of 1980, membership had risen to 170, including inactive members. June’s Ladies’ Night was well attended with fine entertainment and food. The Yuba City High School Choir provided entertainment for a well-attended December Ladies’ Night Poinsettia Party. The branch was honored with the present of Vice President Ken Casper and Governor Bud Bailey.

The officers for 1981 were approved and elected. They were:

John Brown Big Sir

Hugh Staggs Little Sir

Monte Estabrook Secretary

Eric Nelson Assistant Secretary

Art Ulmer Treasurer

Bill Lynch Assistant Treasurer

Dan Dillon Director

Muller Chapman Director

Alex Golino Director

Ben Palmer Director

Sherman Ingles Director

John Heinecke Director

NINETEEN EIGHTY-ONE

Branch #45 hosted the state meeting during January 1981 at the Hillcrest Hangar. The executive board changed its time and meeting place to 9:00 a.m. at the Sutter House. The regular branch meeting date was unchanged and remained the third Thursday of the month.

It was reported at the May meeting that Branch 45’s membership had reached 223. It was also reported that the finances were stable and monthly meeting attendance was good.

Big Sir John Brown was hospitalized in July and passed away in August. Little Sir Hugh Staggs assumed the office for the remainder of the year.

Ken Casper, past Area 11 governor was elected state president during the December meeting in San Leandro. Branch #45’s Christmas Poinsettia Party was a success. Area 11 Governor Bud Bailey and President Ken Casper were in attendance. The evening was highlighted by a five-piece orchestra that played tunes from the Big Band Era.

NINETEEN EIGHTY-TWO

Branch #45 remained in good shape financially and attendance in 1982. Membership was now 234 and it was apparent that another branch was necessary. The membership voted and approved the sponsorship of a new branch. Clarence Hamma was appointed chairman of a organizing committee. The executive board met in December and chose Arthur Morressey as Big Sir of the probationary Branch. Nub Freelove became Little Sir and George Bosk, secretary.

The annual Poinsettia Party was held at Christmas and was a huge success. The 1983 leaders were installed at the party. They were:

Arthur Worledge Big Sir

Bill Lynch Little Sir

Monte Estabrook Secretary

Harold Tollefson Assistant Secretary

Arthur Ulmer Treasurer

Ed Wilgus Assistant Treasurer

NINETEEN EIGHTY-THREE

By 1983, the branch’s membership had grown to 287. The membership limit was 300, so discussions continued about the formation of a new branch, resulting in the creation of Branch #109 in Marysville. Several transfers from Branch #45 were approved.

The first Ladies’ Night of the year was actually a luncheon. It proved to be a huge success, and it was decided that this mid-year party would be celebrated as a luncheon in the future.

The annual Poinsettia Party was held in December. Area 11 Governor Ron Young installed the officers for 1984. They were:

William Lynch Big Sir

Sherman Ingles Little Sir

Monte Estabrook Secretary

Alan Kammerer Assistant Secretary

Ed Wilgus Treasurer

Arthur Ulmer Assistant Treasurer

Mark Bear Director

Howard Mallory Director

Melvin Cummings Director

Lincoln Moffit Director

Clarence Hamma Director

Hugh Staggs Director

NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

The branch continued it’s successful run. The activities in which members were involved were slowing growing. Golf was added to the bowling and travel in May of 1984.

Floyd Haskell resigned on June 21 as badge chairman. He was replaced by Olen Hughes.

The new Branch #109 in Marysville received its charter in September.

Big Sir William Lynch and Little Sir Sherman Ingles attended the SIR state meeting in San Anselmo on December 3.

The annual “Christmasettia” Party was held on December 4. The creator of the clever play on words of Christmas and poinsettia is unknown. Possibly Secretary Estabrook in a comedic moment was the culprit. Whoever deserves the credit, this name for the Christmas party did not survive. It is only mentioned in the 1984 notes.

The 1984 party was well attended by 227 members, wives and guests. In addition, three state officers were present: President George Olson and his wife, Martha; Secretary John A. Church and his wife, Mae; and Past President Ken Casper and his wife, Evelyn. Mr. Casper installed the Branch #45 officers that were to serve in 1985. They were:

Sherman Ingles Big Sir

Monte Estabrook Little Sir

Joe Pelzel Secretary

Elmer Reed Assistant Secretary

Ed Wilgus Treasurer

Alex Golino Assistant Treasurer

John Fields Director

Victor Prarat Director

Joe Leach Director

Ben Palmer Director

Olvie Gingrich Director

Hugh Staggs Director

NINETEEN EIGHTY-FIVE

The branch’s success continued into 1985 with Sherman Ingles as Big Sir. The Poinsettia Party was held at Christmas with the 1986 slate of officers elected. They were:

Monte Estabrook Big Sir

Dan Dillon Little Sir

Joe Pelzel Secretary

Elmer Reed Assistant Secretary

Ed Wirgus Treasurer

Alex Golino Assistant Treasurer

Don Brookman Director

Sherm Ingles Director

Olvie Gingrich Director

Ben Palmer Director

John Heineke Director

Burwell Ullrey Director

NINETEEN EIGHTY-SIX

The travel, golf, and bowling activities continues to be very successful into 1986 thanks to chairmen Vic Prarat, Bob Einhouse, and John Fields, respectively.

Branch #45 lost its bulletin assistant chairman to the new Marysville Branch #109 early this year. John Heineke, a consistant contributor to our branch’s organization and a current director, took his place.

The program chairman resigned early this year and was not replaced. Big Sir Estabrook, with the help of the executive board, created programs for the remainder of the year.

The number of members has been maintained at its limit with new members replacing departing members.

John Fields was chairman for the June Ladies’ Day Luncheon. Don Terbush and his wife catered a picnic held at the fairgrounds in Yuba City. It was well attended, the food excellent, and was considered a success.

Past Big Sirs Blair Geddes and John McClurg passed away this year. Blair was the very first Big Sir of the newly formed Branch #45 in 1973. John served as Big Sir during 1980. Their counsel will be missed.

Bob Einhouse chaired the annual Poinsettia Party in December and served as master of ceremonies. A live dance band played to the lively and well-attended event. State President Warren Hilliard and the 1987 president elect, Chet Carlisle, were honored guests.

Arthur Worledge, a member of Branch #45, serving as Area 11 governor, installed the officers for 1987. They were:

Dan Dillon Big Sir

Glenn Zeller Little Sir

Joe Palzel Secretary

Elmer Reed Assistant Secretary

Ed Wilgus Treasurer

Al Golino Assistant Treasurer

Don Brockman Director

John Heinecke Director

Monte Estabrook Director

Elmer Reed Director

Olvie Gringrich Director

Burwell Ullrey Director

NINETEEN EIGHTY SEVEN

By 1987, the list of special activities and organization offices available to Branch #45 members had grown substantially. The following is a list of the chairmen:

Alan Kammerer Attendance

Bob Einhouse Golf

Dick Phillips Assistant Golf

Olen Hughes Badges

John Fields Bowling

John Lalim Assistant Bowling

Monte Estabrook Historian

Clyde Underwood Program

Edward Sukosky Assist. Program

Mel Cummins Bulletin

John Heinecke Assistant Bulletin

Victor Prarat Travel

Edgar Nelson Chaplain

Charles Bendel Wine

Travel chairman, Victor Prarat and his assistant, Sherman Ingles arranged several buss trips that included Reno, Oakland, San Francisco, Vallejo, and even the East Coast where we enjoyed the fall colors. Probably much to the disappointment of some bingo enthusiasts, it was decided that bingo would not be allowed on the busses.

The bowling team participated in a round Robin and in a Branch #45 tournament.

The 1987 programs were many and varied. The following is a list of the subjects:

Dogs in Law Enforcement

Movies of Australia and New Zealand

Modern Techniques of Logging

California Trees

Conservation of Energy

Growing of Roses

A new screen was purchased to be used in viewing slides.

It was proposed and approved that the minutes of the executive board meetings be read at the monthly luncheons and a search initiated for a more efficient way to reduce the monthly luncheon check in procedure. To promote the examination of the luncheon check in procedure, a free luncheon was awarded to the member who could find his badge number in the monthly bulletin.

The midyear Ladies’ Day Luncheon was held on May 4. John Fields did an excellent job with the organization.

An average of 194 members attended the monthly luncheons in 1987, and twenty-seven new members were inducted.

The officers, directors, and activity chairmen for 1988 were:

Glenn Zeller Big Sir

Elmer Reed Little Sir

Chester Ash Secretary

Carvin Gekler Assistant Secretary

Arwed Holmberg Treasurer

Ed Wilgus Assistant Treasurer

Don Brookman Director

Dan Dillon Director

Olvie Gingrich Director

Burwell Ullrey Director

Jim Davis Director

Monte Estabrook Director

Harold Silcott Director

Everett Fleharty Attendance

William O’Keefe Assistant Attendance

Dan Dillon Historian

Robert Einhouse Golf

Loris Titus Assistant Golf

Clyde Underwood Program

Edward Sukosky Assist. Program

John Lalim Bulletin

Charles Engstrom Assistant Bulletin

Olen Hughes Badge Custodian

John Fields Bowling

Sherman Ingles Assistant Travel

Monte Estabrook Sunshine

Edgar Nelson Chaplain

Charles Bendel Wine

NINETEEN EIGHTY-EIGHT

A new activity was initiated at the beginning of 1988. Pinochle became very popular as the year progressed including as many as eight tables of players.

Travel chairman, Victor Praret, and his assistant were very busy with planned trips that included Reno, Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas, Australia, New Zealand to name a few.

The weekly bowling matches were very successful as were the monthly tournaments with other Area 11 branches. Many of the Branch #45 bowlers participated in the California State tournament in Fresno.

Golfers played a heavy schedule on all of the local courses and traveled to Reno to play there as well as the Nevada State tournament in Las Vegas where Chester Ash took the Nevada State title. It was recalled that Arthur Davis won this title in 1987.

The 1988 luncheon program was very interesting and informative. It included a PG&E representative, a Department of Fish and Game spokesman, a slide show of a SIR trip across Canada to New York, and a presentation of woodworking.

A quarterly seminar was started with the purpose of educating new members about SIR history.

A program of passing donation baskets through the tables during the monthly luncheon meetings to meet expenses and the cost of prizes was begun. In addition, table number three was designated as a non-smoking table.

April proved to be a difficult month. Secretary Chester Ash was unable to continue in this office for personal reasons and Assistant Secretary Carvin Gekler replaced him. He carried out the responsibilities of the office for the remainder of the year in an excellent manner. Dan Dillon, present historian and 1987 Big Sir, passed away after a knee operation.

Branch #45’s membership remained between 290 and 300 men for most of the year. Thirty-five new members were inducted. However, as the year closed, several men were dropped from membership for lack of attendance. By December, the membership was 284 men.

This was a very successful year with Glenn Zeller at the helm. He served in World War II as a navigator on a B17 bomber. Fortunately (or unfortunately), he was transferred to Lincoln, Nebraska, and came down with pneumonia. Since the war was ending, the program he was in was canceled and he never saw action overseas. After the war, he flew transports to various South Pacific islands and parts of Japan.

Glenn went on to further serve the SIR organization as Area 11 governor and Region 2 director.

The Christmas party was a huge success with 200 men and women in attendance. Prime rib, wine, and dessert were served. There was dancing, a nice bar, and fifteen nice gifts were presented. A church bell ringer group performed. Charlies Engstrom was the party chairman and did a superb job. The officers for 1989 were installed by the State president-elect, Russ Agnew. They were:

Elmer Reed Big Sir

Arwed Holmberg Little Sir

Ray Jacobs Secretary

Ira Dockery Treasurer

Glenn Zeller Director

Jim David Director

Don Brookman Director

Leroy Gingrich Director

Burwell Ullrey Director

Dale Nieber Director

Irvin Harcourt Director

Everett Fleharty Attendance

William O’Keefe Assistant Attendance

Bob Einhouse Golf

Glenn Zeller Historian

Olen Hughes Badge Custodian

Elton Burns Pinochle

John Fields Bowling

John Lalim Assistant Bowling

Clyde Underwood Program

Vic Prarat Travel

Charles Engstrom Bulletin

Monte Estabrook Sunshine

Edgar Nelson Chaplain

 NINETEEN EIGHTY-NINE through NINETY-ONE

The branch membership reached 300, which was the building limit, early in 1989 with an average of ten men waiting to join.

The June Ladies’ Day luncheon was a great success with John Fields, again, serving as chairman. The luncheon was held at the Hillcrest Hangar.

Past Big Sir Frank Wilkinson passed away in April. He served as Little Sir in 1978 and Big Sir in 1979. He was an active member throughout his affiliation, including membership on the 1977 board of directors.

Past Big Sir Hugh Staggs also passed away in April. He served as Little Sir in 1981. Big Sir John Brown passed way in August of that year, and Hugh became Big Sir and remained in that office for the rest of the year. He was very active in various other offices and positions of responsibility.

Big Sir Elmer Reed and Little Sir Arwed Holmberg attended the 1989 State meeting in San Leandro in November. Glenn Zeller, 1988 Branch #45 Big Sir, was elected governor of Area 11 for 1990.

The annual Christmas party was held on December 5 at the Hillcrest Hangar with Chuck Engstrom acting as chairman. The 1990 officers were installed at this event. The Area 11 governor, Walt Upperman presided over the installment. However, the names of these officers were not recorded.

No records exist for the branch’s activities during 1990.

Emmett George was installed as the 1991 Big Sir. The 1992 officers were installed in December. They were:

Charles Engstrom Big Sir

John Raetz Little Sir

T. C. Limper Secretary

Thomas Walton Assistant Secretary

Dane King Treasurer

Ed Wilgus Assistant Treasurer

Don Brookman Director

Elmer Reed Director

James Davis Director

Burwell Ullrey Director

Alex Golino Director

Charles West Director

NINETEEN NINETY-TWO

Nearly 170 members met for lunch at the Hillcrest Hangar in January 1992. Ladies’ Day was discussed. It was decided that the June luncheon and the Christmas party in December would be separate from the regular meetings. Region 2 Director Glenn Zeller was present at this meeting and reported on the January 10 area meeting in Auburn. The new area governor is Al Pedroni.

The February luncheon meeting was attended by 170 members and three guests. It was noted that the membership now numbers 286. It was decided that the June Ladies’ Day luncheon and the Christmas party would be held on the second Tuesday following the regular Monday meetings. It was also decided that any SIR widow who requested a bulletin should receive one.

State President Tom Burke was unhappy that the SIR Ball scheduled for San Jose in the fall was canceled due to the lack of reservations. The state officers believe Sir should promote and support charitable programs. It is the consensus of Branch #45 Executive Committee that the membership should not enter such a program.

Attendance at the April 6 meeting was 177 and ten guests. The problem of members leaving before the end of the luncheon was discussed. It was noted that this is discourteous and disrespectful. The problem of refunds on “no shows” for trips was also discussed. It was decided that refunds would be given to only those who notified the appropriate authority twenty-four hours in advance.

The June meeting was well attended with 198 members and three guests. Big Sir Engstrom was not happy with the plan for the Ladies’ Day party. He suggested that next year, a picnic be considered. Membership applications were discussed with the decision to include an information sheet that describes who the Sirs are, what they do, some of the basic rules, etc.

The officers for 1993 were elected at the October meeting. They were:

John Raetz Big Sir

Charles West Little Sir

Tillman Limper Secretary

Thomas Walton Assistant Secretary

Dane King Treasurer

Arthur Ulmer Assistant Treasurer

Don Brookman Director Ed Wilgus Director

Alex Golino Director Burwell Ullrey Director

Robert Hill Director Elmer Reed Director

As of October 16, the branch membership was 278. The Christmas party was set for December 15. The cost was: $12.50 for Prime Rib and $10.50 for Chicken Cordon Bleu. Sign up must be prior to December 7. If less than 100 reservations are received, the party will be canceled.

The suggestion was made at the December meeting to combine Branch #45 and Branch #109 for the Christmas party. The minutes of this meeting do not include the decision on this suggestion.

The 1993 Big Sir John Raetz got his first taste of leadership early. He presided at the December Luncheon, the last one of 1992, to allow Big Sir Charles Engstrom to attend the annual state meeting.

NINETEEN NINETY-THREE

Big Sir John Raetz changed the luncheon meeting agenda at the first meeting in January 1993. It was decided that the guest speaker would speak after everyone was finished eating. In addition, no one was allowed to leave the room during the speaker’s presentation.

In February, the attendance chairman, Emmit George, reviewed the membership, removed those who had not attended the required number of luncheons, sent them notices, and dropped from membership those who were no longer interested.

The 1993 annual state meeting was held in Vallejo at the Elks Club. Big Sir John Raetz and Monte Estabrook attended.

Red Murphy, along with travel chairmen from other branches and Golden Gates Tours arranged the largest travel package ever. It was a tour through the Panama Canal. Three thousand Sirs and guest made the trip.

The officers for 1994 were installed. They were:

Walter Balflour Big Sir

Leroy Gingrich Little Sir

Charles Engstrom Secretary

Tillman Limper Asstant Secretary

Dane King Treasurer

Arthur Ulmer Assistant Treasurer

Don Brookman Director Elmer Reed Director

Alex Golino Director Ed Wilgum Director

Robert Hill Director Burwell Ullrey Director

NINETEEN NINETY-FOUR

In 1994, Branch #45 moved from Area 11 to Area 23. Attendance, finances, and membership were in good condition with the December meeting attendance at 207 and membership at 284. Area 23 regional director, Ken Jones, and his wife attended the Christmas party along with 159 other members and guests.

The officers for 1995 were installed. They were:

Leroy Gingrich Big Sir

Vinton Spencer Little Sir

Wilbur Wright Secretary

Robert Cloer Assistant Secretary

Dane King Treasurer

Arthur Ulmer Assistant Treasurer

Ira Dockrey Director Elmer Reed Director

Alex Golino Director Burwell Ullrey Director

Robert Hill Director Ed Wilgus Director

NINETEEN NINETY-FIVE

Branch #45 continued to meet on the first Monday of the month at the Hillcrest Hangar for lunch at 12:00. The board of directors meets the third Thursday of each month at Moose Lodge at 205 South Walton Avenue at 8:30 a.m.

The branch became a part of Region 1 and completed the move from Area 11 to Area 23.

The year began with 284 members and $1,444.19 in the treasury. By March, the maximum membership allowed had reached 300. Five bus loads of Sirs made a six hour round trip to Reno in March. In addition, the card committee reported that seven to ten tables are now playing each Friday at the Yuba City Senior Center.

A three-day golfing scramble was held on May 9, 10, and 11 at Southridge Golf Club in Sutter. Many Sirs from several branches participated. It is hoped this will be an annual event.

The midyear Ladies’ Day luncheon was held from 11:00 to 1:00 on July 25 at the Hillcrest Hangar, with card playing from 1:00 to 4:00. Both were well attended.

The annual Carson City Golf Tournament was held on August 8, 9, and 10 with seventy-one golfers participating.

Notices of non-attendance were sent during the early fall that reduced the branch’s membership to 271 in October. The luncheon price was raised to $8.00 because of the costs of insurance, postage, and printing. Sirs attending the meetings but not eating were asked to contribute $2.00 to cover expenses.

Monte Estabrook was presented with an honorary life membership by the state organization. Sherman Ingles was presented with same award by Branch #45.

The branch travelers participated in eleven short trips and two extended ones to Colorado and The British Isles.

The branch sportsmen played in twenty golfing tournaments and twenty-four bowling tournaments.

The annual Christmas party was held on December 12 at the Hillcrest Hangar. Dinner and dancing was enjoyed by 163 members and guests.

Past area governor and region director, Glenn Zeller, installed the 1996 officers and board of directors members. They were:

Vinton Spencer Big Sir

Dane King Little Sir

Wilbur Wright Secretary

Robert Cloer Assistant Secretary

Charles Wiles Treasurer

Arthur Ulmer Assistant Treasurer

Leroy Gingrich Director Elmer Reed Director

Bob Hill Director Burwell Ullrey Director

Ed Kammerer Director Ed Wilgus Director

NINETEEN NINETY-SIX

Branch #45 continued to meet at the Hillcrest Hangar in 1996 with lunch served at 12:00 noon. The board of directors met the third Thursday each month at the Moose Lodge at 8:30 a.m.

The year began with 269 members and ended with 256 members. While the number dropped a bit, the luncheon attendance remained steady and slightly increased during some of the months.

Although the year began $649.20 in arrears, it ended with all bills paid and $1,190.00 in the bank.

Golfing was very successful with fifteen tournaments played on local courses and seven with other SIR branches.

Twelve bowling tournaments were played: six in Yuba City and six in Auburn.

Card players played a couple of days a week at the Yuba City Senior Center.

Several trips were made during the year. There was a one-day trip to Virginia City, Nevada; five overnight trips; two six-day trips to Laughlin, Nevada, and the Rose parade. There were also two long trips: a twelve-day trip to Eastern Canada and a fourteen-day trip to the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea.

This was about this time the fishing club was created. Larry Rider approached the Big Sir to receive his permission. He was directed to the state organization. Larry contacted the appropriate state officer, received approval and started the club with seven fellow Sirs. Since Larry was the organizer, he was elected the club’s first president. He led the organization for about five years, and the club grew to about forty members that included members from the Marysville Branch #109. The club used to have an annual fishing derby for the kids and grandkids of members at Ellis Lake. Everybody got a prize.

Past area governor Glenn Zeller installed the officers and directors for 1997. They were:

Robert Cloer Big Sir

Dane King Little Sir

Wilbur C. Wright Secretary

Henry Anderson Assistant Secretary

Chuck Wiles Treasurer

Art Ulmer Assistant Treasurer

Vint Spencer Director Ed Kammerer Director

Burwell Ullrey Director Elmer Reed Director

Bob Hill Director Ed Wilgus Director

Raymond Kern Attendance

George Riley Assistant Attendance

Vinton Spencer Door Prizes

Robert Hill Badge Custodian

Leroy Pritchard Golf

Donald Andrews Assistant Golf

Lloyd Decker Golf Treasurer

John Fields Bowling

George Riley Assistant Bowling

Henry Anderson Historian

Edwin Norvell Bulletin

Dick Arrowsmith Assistant Bulletin

Elton Burns Pinochle

Reg Streeter Program

Sherman Ingles Assistant Program

Milton Thorpe Cashier-Ticket Sales

Art Ulmer Cashier-Item Sales

Glenn Zeller Roster

Edgar Nelson Chaplain

Monte Estabrook Assistant Chaplain

Monte Estabrook Sunshine

L. W. Murphy Travel

The last activity of the year was the December 10 Christmas dinner and dance at the Hillcrest Hangar. Each woman was given a poinsettia to take home.

NINETEEN NINETY-SEVEN

The year of 1997 began with the luncheon meetings being held in The Plaza Room at Hillcrest Catering, located at 210 Julie Drive, Yuba City. Although it appeared as if the branch had moved, actually, only the name was changed. The Plaza Room is the former Hillcrest Hanger. The board of directors continued to meet on the third Thursday at 8:30 each month in the Yuba City Moose Lodge at 205 South Walton Avenue, Yuba City.

The branch began its year with 251 members and ended with 255. Thirty-four applications for membership were approved. One request for inactive status was approved. The luncheon attendance averaged 170 members. A policy to provide a free lunch for prospective members was initiated in September. A policy to provide a door prize of $20.00 to encourage participation at the luncheon meetings began in October. The winner of the door prize was required to be present for the presentation. Unclaimed prizes were rolled over to the next luncheon. Successive drawings were conducted in December until a winner was found.

The treasurer’s report showed a balance of $1,020.58 at the beginning of the year and a balance of $1,310.00 at the end.

The travel audit showed $17,257.18 in receipts and disbursements of $16,983.55. Members participated in the following trips: Pasadena Rose Parade, six days; John Ascuaga’s Nugget in Sparks, Nevada, three trips of two days each; Amtrak to Reno, two days; Cruising aboard the American Queen on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, ten days; Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition in San Jose, one day; Route of the Norsemen Cruise, fifteen days; El Dorado Hotel and Casino in Reno, two days; Tropicana Laughlin Express Hotel and Casino, six days; and the Annual Christmas Show at the Reno Hilton, two Days.

Golfers participated in thirty-six tournaments with an average number of participants of forty-three.

Bowlers participated in twenty tournaments and fifty-two Wednesday bowling sessions. The branch had fifty bowling members and twenty participating in the tournaments.

Twelve programs were featured throughout the year. They were:

Richard Doescher, Yuba City police chief, flood activities

SIR Jim Kitchens presented recorded excerpts from old radio programs.

Jim Stuller, division of forestry battalion chief, flood activities

Past Big Sirs spoke about the SIR organization.

Steve Nettleton, Chico “Heat” Western League professional baseball

Dr. Steve Epler, Yuba Community College superintendent

Tim Sailsberry, Deluxe Packages controller, Yuba City

R. C. Owens, San Francisco 49ers executive assistant

Bob Harlan, Harlan Communications general manager (local radio stations)

Dr. Chas. Browning, Sutter North chief of neurology, new imaging equipment

BGEN Charles Simpson, commander 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale AFB

Charlene Wardlow, Calpine Corp. environmental manager, geothermal fields

The year of 1997 was very successful, thanks in part to the leadership of Big Sir Bob Cloer. Bob has an interesting history as a World War II pilot. He was attached to the 34th Squadron, 315th Troop Carrier Group in 1944. This group was a C-47 Skytrain transport unit assigned to Ninth Air Force in Western Europe. It was highly decorated for its combat parachute infantry drops during the invasion of France (Operation Overlord), the airborne invasion of the Netherlands (Operation Market-Garden), and the airborne crossing of the Rhine River, (Operation Varsity). He participated in Operation Market-Garden that took place in September 1944. Although the operation was largely unsuccessful, it was the largest airborne operation up to that time. Paratroopers were dropped into the Netherlands and were to force an entry into Germany and over the Rhine River. The Allies failed to cross the Rhine in sufficient force and the river remained a barrier to their advancement.

The 1998 installed officers were:

Dane King Big Sir

Jim Beeler Little Sir

Wilbur Wright Secretary

Henry Anderson Assistant Secretary

Chuck Wiles Treasurer

Vinton Spencer Assistant Treasurer

Ray Kern Director Ed Kammerer Director

Ed Wilgus Director Robert Hill Director

Burwell Ullrey Director Bob Cloer Director

Raymond Kern Attendance

George Riley Assistant Attendance

Donald Andrews Golf

Lloyd Decker Golf Treasurer

Robert Hill Badge Custodian

Henry Anderson Historian

John Fields Bowling

George Riley Assistant Bowling

Glenn Zeller Membership

Elton Burns Pinochle

Edwin Norvell Bulletin

Reg Streeter Program

Sherman Ingles Assistant Program

Milton Thorpe Cashier, Ticket Sales

Henry Anderson Cashier, Item Sales

Glenn Zeller Sunshine

Edgar Nelson Chaplain

Monte Estabrook Travel

L.W. (Red) Murphy Assistant Travel

Monte Estabrook Assistant Chaplain

Vinton Spencer Door Prizes

The year of 1997 was closed with the annual Christmas dinner and dance. One hundred and thirty-five members and guests attended. Each lady was given a poinsettia to take home.

NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT

Branch #45 continued in 1998 to hold their monthly luncheon meetings on the first Monday at The Plaza Room, and the board of directors and branch officers met on the third Thursday of each month as before.

As the year began, 255 members were on the books. During the year, forty-two applications for membership, for reinstatements, five applications for inactive status and one transfer of membership were approved. The year ended with 268 members listed. The branch began the year with $3,398.73 in available funds and ended the year with $3,756.26.

The selling of raffle tickets for Lottery Scratchers prizes began in January. This helped increase membership as the year progressed. In fact, free lunches for prospective new members, door prizes, and the Scratchers added interest and enjoyment to the luncheons. The sale of Lottery tickets has been particularly beneficial. The income from these sales put the branch well into the black and allowed the membership to be treated to one free lunch this year. The free lunch was unannounced in the hopes of providing further incentive to attend.

The travel audit indicated receipts of $10,117.00 and disbursements of $9,999.05. Members participated in the following trips:

Amtrak Snow Train to Reno, February 6 to 7

Al Roach Variety Show at John Ascuaga’s Nugget Sparks, May 24 to 25

Post Mother’s Day overnighter at the Reno Hilton, May 11 to 12

Carl Hurley Comedy Showtime at the Nugget in Sparks, June 30 to July 1

A dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe, overnight at the Ormsby House in Carson City, September 9 to 10

Black Hills of South Dakota Buffalo Roundup, September 30 to October 7

A trip to Laughlin, Nevada, November 15 to 20

Holiday Memories, Christmas with the Gaylords, Reno Hilton, December 7 to 8.

Golfers participated in twenty-four tournaments. The turnout averaged thirty-five members.

Bowlers participated in six tournaments and fifty-two Wednesday night bowling sessions. There are sixty bowlers and an average thirty percent of them participated in the tournaments.

The following were the luncheon speakers for 1998:

January: Brian Bernardils, Yuba City police officer and Jezebel, a narcotics sniffer

February: Jim Kennedy, Yuba County treasurer/tax collector. Distribution of taxes

March: Cindi Lee, Director, Midvalley Recovery Facilities, Inc. healthy lifestyles

April: Shira Sklott, Director of public affairs, consul general of Israel. Israel’s fifty years

May: Enita Elphick President, United Forest Products, Vice Chair of Defense Counsel. William Cohen’s Quality of Life Subcommittee, opportunities for women

June: Mary Knapp and Linda Plummer, Yuba/Sutter health fair

July: Paul Violetti, Chief forester for Soper Wheeler Co. Forest products production

August: Dennis Cook, Planning director, city of Yuba City, the redevelopment plan

September: Dr. William L. Wong Superintendent, Yuba City Unified School District plans for meeting school space requirements

October: Michael Wolff, Head of cultural and consular, department of the German

Consulate in San Francisco

November: Trin Campos, CALTRANS, Yuba/Sutter area project manager, widening of state roads 70 and 99 and proposed 3rd Street bridge over the Feather River

December: Russell J. Henderson, MR2 USN, The need for qualified service personnel

It was announced in April Sir Glenn Zeller had been awarded an honorary life membership in Sons in Retirement, Inc.

The 1999 officers and directors installed were:

Jim Beeler Big Sir

Henry Anderson Little Sir

Wilbur Wright Secretary

Jake Buttacavoli Assistant Secretary

Charles Wiles Treasurer

Vinton Spencer Assistant Treasurer

Dane King Director

Raymond Kern Director

Ed Kammerer Director

Robert Hill Director

Bursell Ullrey Director

Donald Knipping Director

Ray Kern Attendance

Robert Hill Custodian

George Riley Bowling

Edwin Norvell Bulletin

Milton Thorpe Cashier

Edgar Nelson Chaplain

Donald Andrews Golf

Glenn Zeller Membership

Reg Streeter Programs

Red Murphy Travel

Four members passed away this year: three active members and one inactive member:

Joe Heller

Kenneth Lowman

Robert Sanger

Charles Engstrom (inactive)

Branch #45 closed the year with the annual Christmas dinner and dance. One hundred and eighty-eight persons attended. Each lady was given a Poinsettia plant to take home. The dinner was held in The Plaza Room with Art Kunkel providing the very danceable music.

NINETEEN NINETY-NINE

Reg Streeter, program chairman, brought interesting speakers to the 1999 luncheon meetings. They were as follows:

January: Mike Levine, Owner Wholesale Paint Co., Yuba City

February: Bill Hampton, General Manager Levee District #1

March: Bruce Portner, Sacramento Baseball Club

April: Jim Wyatt SIR State President

May: Bob Barkhouse, Yuba City mayor

June: Gretchen Langdon, Administrator Butchie’s Pool

July: Jim Denney, Sutter County Sheriff

August: Olaf Frandsen, Publisher Appeal Democrat

September: Dave Bender, KOVR Channel 13, Sacramento

October: Carlos Giralt, Consul General Mexico

November: Don Logue, Chairman, Yuba-Sutter Veterans Memorial

December: Fred Steisburg, Commander California Highway patrol, Yuba City

SIR state and area officials recognized Travel Chairman Red Murphy as an outstanding travel guide for the branch. Many of our members were quick to agree. The following trips were made in 1999:

March 16–17: Overnight to the Peppermill in Reno (2 busloads)

July 28: San Francisco Giants baseball game

September: 15–28, Alaska inside passage cruise

November 14–19: Annual Laughlin, Nevada, trips

November 30–December 1: Holiday Harmonies at the Hilton in Reno

This year saw the return of combined golfing tournaments with Branch #109 of Marysville. The scheduled included twenty local tournaments and six state tournaments. An average of seventy-five to eighty players participated from both branches for the local events. Each branch chaired ten local events. The annual golfers breakfast for both branches will be held on January 6, 2000 at the Elks Temple in Marysville.

Membership and roster chairman, Glenn Zeller, and attendance chairman, Ray Kern, kept a close tabs on our members for 1999. The membership increased by three from 277 to 280.

The branch’s treasury had $3,666.86 at the beginning of the year and ended up with $1,604.77 at the end of the year with all bills paid. The raffle ticket sales continued to supplement the treasury for a healthy balance, allowing for two free lunches for the membership during the year. Chuck Wiles commitment to his job is commendable.

The annual Christmas party, held December 14, was one of the highlights for 1999 with 168 members and guests attending. They danced to the live orchestra of the Beltones and dined on prime rib and cordon bleu chicken.

The officers for 2000 are as follows:

Hank Anderson Big Sir

Eddie Norvell Little Sir

Wilbur Wright Secretary

Art Brandwood Assistant Secretary

Chuck Wiles Treasurer

Vin Spencer Assistant Treasurer

Jimmy Beeler Director Burwell Ullery Director

Ray Kyono Director Ed Kammerer Director

Terry Austin Director Don Knipping Director

TWO THOUSAND

The year of 2000 began with a new slate of officers that were elected, as usual, at the December 1999 Christmas party. The activities chairmen for this year are:

Monte Estabrooke Sunshine

Robert Hill Badge

George Riley Bowling

Ray Kern Attendance

Don Andrews Golf

Reg Streeter Programs

Glen Zeller Membership

Bob Cloer Membership

Edgar Nelson Chaplain

Branch luncheons continue to be held on the first Monday of the month at The Plaza, 210 Julie Drive, Yuba City.

Program Chairman Reg Street continues to bring in top-flight speakers who are of interest to the entire membership. This is part of the reason why this branch experiences excellent participation. The programs for the year were as follows:

January: Charlene Wardlow, Environmental Officer, Cal-Pine Corporation

February: Rob Ryan, US Navy retired, Persian Gulf War experience

March: Joe Cates, General Manager Feather River Mudcats

April: Kevin Chilton, Brigadier General, Commander 9th Reconnaissance Wing

May: Hagar Islambouli, Counsul General, Arab Republic of Egypt, West. States

June: Virginia Black, Sheriff of Yuba County, First female sheriff in California

July: Clint West, President and General Manager, Yuba City Steel Products, Inc.

August: Don Schroder, Chairman, Board of Directors, Yuba County Water Agency

Sept.: Jerry Reynolds, General Manager, Sac. Monarchs Women’s Basketball Team

October: Allan Chapman, General Manager, Motorplex of Yuba County

November: Catherine Gregory, RN, PNP, Burn Surgery

Dec.: John Hendrickson, Photographer and Director of Woodleaf Outdoor School

TWO THOUSAND ONE

The year of 2001 began with a new slate of officers. They were as follows:

Eddie Norvel Big Sir

Ray Kern Little Sir

Wilbur Wright Secretary

Art Brandwood Assistant Secretary

Toney Bevacqua Treasurer

Fancher Johnson Assistant Treasurer

Robert Hall Director

Ray Kyono Director

Alfred Hinrichs Director

Manny Cardoza Director

Edwin Betschart Director

Henry Anderson Director

The activities chairman for the year were:

Monte Estabrooke Sunshine

Don Andrews Golf

Robert Hill Custodian

Reg Streeter Programs

George Riley Bowling

Red Murphy Travel

Ray Kern Attendance

Glen Zeller Membership

Bob Cloer Membership

Reg Streeter, again, lined up a great list of speakers. They were:

January: Jerry Crippen, Mayor of Marysville

February: Patricia Pillpott, Paralegal, Yuba Sutter Legal Center

March: Marc Boomgaarden, Fire Chief, Yuba City

April: Edward Worley, National Rifle Association Sacramento

May: Bob Hechtman, Director/producer, Little Theatre in Brownsville

June: Frank Gaither, California Highway Patrol

July: Stephanie Zack, Assoc. Director, AARP California, Sacramento

August: Larry Combs, Administrator of Sutter County

September: Jackie Sillman, Recycle Coordinator, Yuba/Sutter Disposal

October: Steve Feener, General Manager, Sac. Valley Amphitheatre

November: Bob Singh, East Indian Culture

December: Jim Kitchen: SIR Branch #45 member at large.

The September branch meeting was held on September 10, on day before our national tragedy. A special prayer and remembrance was conducted at the November meeting for those who lost their lives on September 11. A statement was made that condemned those terrorists who committed those cowardly acts of violence against the people of these United States. We shall overcome. God bless America!

TWO THOUSAND TWO

The year 2002 began with the following slate of officers:

Chuck Wiles Big Sir

Reg Streeter Little Sir

Terry Austin Secretary

Tony Bevacqua Treasurer

The activity chairman were:

Chuck Owens Sunshine

Orland Tuttle Travel

Buster Foster Attendance

Robert Hall Badges

Ed Goodman Bulletin

Don Andrews Golf

Reg Streeter Program

George Riley Bowling

Robert Cloer Membership

The monthly luncheon meetings continued at the usual place with outstanding speakers provided by Reg Streeter. The board of directors meetings were changed from the usual third Thursday of the month to the second Thursday. However the meetings continued to be held at the Moose Lodge at 8:30 a.m.

Robert Hall and Wilbur Wright were recognized as life members this year.

The annual Christmas dinner dance was held and featured live entertainment. The officers for 2003 were elected. They were:

Reg Streeter Big Sir

Al Hinrichs Little Sir

Terry Austin Secretary

Tony Bevacqua Treasurer

TWO THOUSAND THREE

The 2003 began with the new officers elected at the December 2002 Christmas dinner. The branch activities were expanded to include fishing for the first time. Larry Rider, fishing ace, started the fishing club (expand).

Fred Okimoto Director

Bob Kunde Director

Ray Kern Director

Edward Kammerer Director

Manuel Cardosa Director

Henry Anderson Director

The activity chairmen were:

Chuck Owen Sunshine

Buster Foster Attendance

Ed Goodman Bulletin

Al Hinrichs Program

Orland Tuttle Travel

Robert Hall Badges

Don Andrews Golf

George Riley Bowling

Larry Rider Fishing

Robert Cloer Membership

The annual Christmas dinner was held on December 9 and the 2004 group of officers were elected:

Al Hinrichs Big Sir

Orland Tuttle Little SIR

Tony Bevacqua Treasurer

Bill Smith Secretary

TWO THOUSAND FOUR

A period of nine years passed without a recorded history. The information for the years of 2004 through 2011 was gleaned from branch executive committee (BEC) meeting minutes. There are no records of any kind for 2012. Bill Crocker joined SIR Branch #45 in March 2013. The yearly recording of the branch’s history continued at that time.

There were several services provided in 2003 by those outside of the membership for which payment was approved in January of this year.

Manny Cordoza presented a banner at the February 12 luncheon that will be on display at branch functions. This is a wonderful addition and the board approved a reimbursement of $47.63 to Sir Cordoza.

Big Sir Al Hinrichs reported at the March 11 luncheon that Governor Sir Tom Ross asked if files, rules, and regulation books had been passed from the previous administration to new officers. Sir Riss was assured that this had been accomplished in December 2003. In addition, it was noted that the 2004 Branch #45 roster had been mailed to the governor’s office during the change of administration at the beginning of the year.

Sacramento Jazz Jubilee offered local Sirs extended discount tickets for $20.00 for May 28. Branch #45 accepted the offer.

It was proposed to publish the names of members in the monthly bulletin who had missed two meetings in a row. It was hoped that this warning would encourage members to not miss meetings.

Area Governor Tom Ross attended the June BEC meeting. He authorized participation in Branch #45 trips by members of neighboring branches. He promised to work on liberalizing travel rules.

It was announced at the July luncheon that the branch membership was at the 300-member limit, therefore, a limit on additional new members was proposed. Fortunately, three members were dropped and one member requested to be placed on the inactive list, resolving the membership limit situation.

TWO THOUSAND FIVE

There was some discussion in December of 2004 as to what the Christmas party should be officially called. It was decided in January that it should be called Christmas Party.

Orland Tuttle suggested at the February Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meeting that an overview of the branch rules be given to new members prior to the luncheon. He also suggested that the new members’ badges have a marking for two months so members could introduce themselves.

On a motion in March by Udo Huefner and a second by Robert Kunde, the BEC voted to eliminate saving of seats after 11:45 a.m. An announcement will be made at the April luncheon and be effective with the May luncheon.

The BEC approved opening the Fishing Club to Branch #109.

Region 1 Director Tom Ross attended the March luncheon and presented a video on recruitment.

It was announced at the June luncheon that Branch #45 would hold its first annual picnic on July 22 at Sam Brannon Park. Fifty-nine Sirs from Branch #45 and forty from Branch #109 signed up to attend.

In November, the BEC approved sending a letter to SIR headquarters requesting the monthly financial report be submitted after the board meeting and approval.

It was approved in December to hold BEC meetings on the Thursday following the regular luncheon.

TWO THOUSAND SIX

The total branch membership, again, reached 300 in January. Two members who had been assigned temporary numbers were given permanent status and five names were placed on the waiting list. The BEC voted to discontinue the use of temporary numbers. Those on the waiting list would be able to attend luncheons as paying guests. The names of inactive members were to be listed in the February bulletin to determine if there were any that were no longer interested in the organization.

Treasurer Brock Smith offered a motion in March that was approved to place inactive members and widows on a subscription list of $12.00 per year to cover the cost of the printing and postage of the monthly newsletter. This was to take effect after the April newsletter was received.

The BEC voted in April to drop members after three consecutive unexcused missed luncheons. It also voted to require members to remove their hats during luncheons.

It was decided in June that the Christmas Party, now called the Holiday Party (reason for the change unrecorded) would be held on December 13.

The cost of the luncheon meal was increased to $11.00, effective in July.

The branch membership limit was raised to 320 in July. It was determined that the luncheon hall could seat 240, and attendance was usually between 65% and 70% of the active membership.

TWO THOUSAND SEVEN

The 2007 Christmas Party was discussed in March and the date of December 10 chosen.

The BEC approved in April a proposal that the past Big Sir would be appointed to a one-year term on the BEC, beginning in 2008.

It was determined that trip approvals were being delayed because the BEC only met once a month on the first Thursday. Approval will now be possible with the use of e-mail and the telephone.

SIR President Tom Ross presented a Century SIR Certificate to Perry Mosburg at the September luncheon. Perry’s daughters Joyce Hanson and Barbara Green and grandson Bob Green were present.

Regional Director Eugene Parker attended the September luncheon to present several awards. Unfortunately, none of the recipients were present.

John Slater: Senior SIR Certificate

Barton Edwards: Senior SIR Certificate

Ira Dockery: Senior SIR Certificate

Ed Wilgus: Super Senior SIR Certificate

The BEC approved special badges in October for board members to wear during luncheons. This will be effective with the 2008 board members.

TWO THOUSAND EIGHT

The BEC approved the proposal to provide a free lunch to members who sponsor the most new members during a year. The members have to recruit at least four new members.

A $100 donation was given to the Yuba City Moose Lodge for the use of the hall for BEC meetings.

The purchase of 100 rooster lapel pins was approved for presentation to new members.

Larry Jaegar reached the age of ninety in April and was recognized as a Senior Sir at the April luncheon.

Ralph Foster celebrated his ninetieth birthday in May and was recognized as a Super Senior Sir at the May luncheon.

Marion Church was recognized as a Super Senior Sir at the age of ninety-five at the July luncheon.

TWO THOUSAND NINE

The BEC approved to continue the presentation of a free lunch to potential new members and a free lunch to the member who brings in the most new members in a year.

A new contract with Hillcrest Catering was approved in May to provide the food for the monthly luncheons.

Robert Hohman celebrated his ninety-fifth birthday in May and was recognized as a Super Senior Sir as the May luncheon.

A committee composed of Larry Garvin and Larry Rider was created in June to study the possibility of a ladies’ day luncheon.

Free stuff continued to be approved to promote recruitment. In November, a free lunch was offered to any member who recruited five new members between November 1, 2009, and October 31, 2010. In addition, two free Christmas Party tickets would be awarded to the member who recruited the most new members over five.

Assistant Treasurer Udo Huefner agreed to purchase a set of wireless hand-free microphones for $149.00.

Mike White reported on life membership. In December, the branch had the membership that allowed for two new life members. Mike White and Rick Dettmer met after the BEC meeting to select criteria for this honor.

TWENTY TEN

The first attempt to create computer and RV activities met with little success in June and July. The promotion of interest would continue.

Five members reached the age of ninety this year and were recognized as Senior Sirs: James Ish, Gene Muttersback, Bill Herrod, Henri Poffenberger, and E. J. Bagsell.

The 2011 BEC was elected during the September luncheon with the following results:

Larry Rider Big Sir

Dieter Rex Little Sir

William Smith Secretary

Brock Smith Treasurer

Udo Huefner Assistant Treasurer

Directors:

Larry Garvin Mike White

Chuck Moss Jack Mosely

Dutch Plautz Donald Rutherford

Recruitment was discussed. A suggestion was made to have a booth with flyers at public events. Further information is required.

The proposed ladies’ day luncheon was discussed at the October meeting and scheduled for May 2011.

There were discussions at several BEC meetings this year concerning SIR form 27, Monthly Branch Membership Report. It was not clear from the minutes as to exactly what was discussed.

TWENTY ELEVEN

It was decided on January that the Christmas Party would be held on December 16.

The BEC approved the purchase of SIR bumper stickers. They would be given to each member who attends the meeting the month of his birthdays. The bumper stickers would be on sale to those members who requested them. The approval is for a one-year trial.

Further discussion on the proposed ladies’ day luncheon changed the date from May to October 6.

The new activity of the computer club was finally approved in April and a location for the meeting was discussed. In addition, a past Big Sirs group was organized.

Regional Director Rich Dettmer gave a report on a recent SIR statewide meeting.

A discussion began in May to merge with Marysville Branch #109.

Regional Director Rich Dettmer proposed that former Big Sir Orland Tuttle be the new Area 15 Governor. This met with BEC approval.

Further discussion occurred concerning the October 6 ladies’ day luncheon. Big Sir Larry Rider proposed that Manny Cardoza be chairman of the planning committee. BEC agreed.

Discussions about Form 27 continued almost on a monthly basis in 2011. Concern was expressed about the stress of bringing guests to luncheons and making new members welcome. In June, Regional Director Rich Dettmer and the BEC discussed it at length, and Director Dettmer may be interested in changing membership rules.

A water line at the Moose Lodge broke sometime in July flooding a major portion of the lodge. Several board members assisted in moving furniture from the flooded area and assisted in the cleanup.

Director Rich Dettmer continued the discussion on Form 27 and shared the following with the board members:

As the 2012 SIR state vice president, he will be a member of every committee at the state level.

SIR state leadership strongly encourages joint activities with other branches.

The SIR Inc. website is a great tool for all members and packs with a large amount of up-to-date information.

Four members reached the age of ninety this year and were recognized as Senior Sirs: Wilbur Tracy, Lloyd Decker, Bob Cloer, and Ernie Speckert.

Norm Plamer was recognized as a Super Senior Sir for reaching the age of ninety-five.

TWENTY TWELVE

Three members reached the age of ninety and were recognized as Senior Sirs this year: Bob Burden, John Harman, and Jack Moseley.

Carl Phillips turned ninety-five this year and was recognized as a Super Senior Sir.

There are no BEC minutes or luncheon reports for 2012, so no further information is available.

TWENTY THIRTEEN

The recording of branch history resumed in 2013 after Bill Crocker became a member.

The following men were the officers for 2013:

Dennis Dempsey Big Sir

Bill Lyons Little Sir

Bob Engen Secretary

Bill Smith Assistant Secretary

Guy Rector Treasurer

Udo Huefner Assistant Treasurer

Board Members:

Larry Garvin Gary Mitchell

Jack Moseley Dutch Plautz

Dieter Rex Don Rutherford

The activity chairmen are:

Mike Gyorfi Attendance

Brock Smith Bulletin

Don Landrus Chaplain

Bill Lyons Program

Jack Moseley Sunshine

Larry Garvin Travel

Gary Mitchell Badges

Bill Lyons Bocce Ball

Ray Buttacavoli Bowling

Gary Mitchell Computers

Jim Chaussee Fishing

John Boyer Golf

Bill Crocker Historian

Don Rutherford Membership

J. Villalpando Photography

Bill Clark Roster

Gary Mitchell Website

Big Sir, Dennis Dempsey is settling into his new position. He expressed his appreciation for 2012 Big Sir Dieter Rex’s guidance and smooth transition.

Dennis changed the program format in February, sort of a change of pace. Instead of a speaker, it became joke time. Many members brought their favorite jokes and got to be the center of attention for a few moments. The jokes were of varying quality as was their deliveries. But everyone really enjoyed the time and all had a good laugh.

There has been some interest in resurrecting the RV club of late. The interest had sort of fallen off the chart. Little Sir, Bill Lyons, took on the task of canvassing members to determine the depth of interest. He created and distributed a questionnaire at the February luncheon.

Felix Mata was inducted as the branch’s newest member.

Steve Miller, Appeal-Democrat editor, was the guest speaker at the March luncheon meeting. He is very new to this position and is already making changes. He spoke about the newspaper’s present and future operation and what it takes to retain subscribers and attract new ones.

RV questionnaires were collected at the March luncheon and a time and place for preliminary discussions was announced. Bill said that they may be a possibility of an outing next month.

The renewed RV held its first meeting on March 27. The need for a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer and by-laws was discussed.

The Slow Trollers were blown out by high winds at the Oroville Afterbay fishing event. A few stalwart members attempted to fish at Lake Oroville with rather meager results.

The branch was very fortunate to have as its April speaker, Ellie Volles, the wife of board member Dutch Plautz. She is a member of the Rideout Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and spoke on the vial of life.

The branch received six new members this month, the largest number in recent memory. In fact, Tom Retzloft was responsible for two of the members. Robert, Bacevany, Robert Circe, Bill Crocker, Larry Hansen, Clark Tokunaga, and Robert Wilson are the newest members of our branch.

Big Sir Dennis Dempsey attended the regional meeting of Big Sirs on April 1 and learned of the upcoming changes at state headquarters.

The Slow Trollers held their first tournament on April 11 at Lake Oroville. Dave June took first place in two categories: biggest bass at 17” & 2 lb. 5 oz. and heaviest five-fish limit at 10 lb 5 oz.

A branch membership drive was conducted on April 27 in front of the Yuba City Wal-Mart. Members and friends gathered to signup new members.

The military was represented at the May luncheon in the person of Kenneth E. Hall, vice commander of Beale Air Force Base. He spoke about the relationship between the civilian community of Marysville and the surrounding area and the military community.

Wow! We have six, count them, six new members again this month: James Coats, James Doherty, Mike Glovani, Donald Kessel, Michael Lukens, William Welsh.

The annual SIR Ladies’ Day Luncheon was held on May 9. Fifty-five members and their ladies attended. The buffet was well attended and very much appreciated by the ladies. Door prizes and entertainment were included.

A 2014 branch officer nomination committee composed of John Boyer, Dutch Plautz, and Dieter Rex chose the candidates that will be voted on later in the year.

The branch by-laws were reviewed and updated. A copy was send to all members with e-mail addresses.

The June program featured Bill Cornelius, superintendent of schools for Sutter County. He spoke on community relations and presented an update on county schools.

The Slow Trollers participated in a June 20 tournament at Bullards Bar Reservoir, the second club tournament of the year. Buck Foster reported that an Osprey grabbed two “throw back” fish from just behind him. Judging by the results for the day, the Osprey gave the stalwart fishermen some competition.

Larry Garvin, travel chairman, arranged for a wonderful Napa Valley wine tour on June 28. Participants visited the thirteenth century Tuscan castle and winery, Castello di Amorosa. Five preselected wines were tasted. The tour also included Napa Valley wine tasting at two additional wineries with a picnic lunch and chocolate truffles.

The July luncheon speaker was Amy Arndt of the Sutter County Probation Department. She has worked in this profession for nineteen years and spoke about the various roles and duties of the probation department.

Our very own Big Sir, golfer extraordinaire Dennis Dempsey, took low net, white tees first prize in the July 9 golfing tournament at Plumas Lake Golf Club.

Yuba City/Marysville bowling played host to its eighteenth annual bowling tournament on July 15 and 16 at NU Generation Lanes. Several SIR branches were represented with eighty-eight participants. The prize fund for the tournament was over $1,900 and checks were mailed or delivered to forty-two participants.

Larry Garvin arranged another great trip for branch members. Members visited Safari West in Santa Rosa on July 23. Safari West is an African style oasis where guests experience a rare sense of freedom and a fascinating African experience.

Lawrence Juranek, Cale Kelly, and Mori Tanimoto were inducted as the branch’s newest members.

Several members attended the Friday night Gold Sox Baseball & BBQ on August 2 and watched the Gold Sox take on the San Francisco Seals. This was a month of baseball with All SIR Day at the San Francisco Giants vs. the Milwaukee Brewers game and the Sacramento River Cats vs. the Fresno Grizzlies.

Carl Adams was the August speaker. He is the Sutter County District Attorney and has served in that position since 1982. He was recently selected to serve as president of the California District Attorney’s Association. His subject was the awareness and pitfalls of cyber-scams, especially as it affects the elderly.

We welcomed four new members this month: Charles Brown, Art Davis, Howard Dickson, and Michael Sexton.

Bobby Teague won one of the flights at the golfing state division qualifier. He joins a field of only seventy players qualified to complete for the state individual championship.

Big Sir Dennis Dempsey attended the annual state meeting in Vallejo in August so missed the luncheon. Little Sir Bill Lyons conducted this meeting.

Harl Sanderson from Beal AFB was the program for September. The subject was community and military relations.

The new RV Club is off and running. Its first outing was held at Sycamore Campground in Red Bluff. Only a few were expected, but it is anticipated that more will sign up for the next trip.

Donald Bonzai, Erile Cooperman, and Charles Eich were welcomed as new members in September.

Big Sir Dennis Dempsey introduced the concept of a small box to collect donations to the branch’s finances from those who have missed meetings. It was made clear that the state does not recognize absences, excused or not. The branch is assessed, based on the total membership each month. Dennis also made is quite clear that contributions are voluntary. The donations will assist the branch in meeting its financial obligations. After a few questions were answered, the idea was accepted. The box will appear in October.

Historian Bill Crocker is writing the forty-year history of Branch #45. With that in mind, he placed a request in the October bulletin asking for stories of times past that would make the history a bit more colorful. Secretary Bob Engen and Bill met with four past Big Sirs last month and reminisced. It is hoped that more stories will surface that can be added to the branch’s history.

James Gallagher, a member of the Sutter County board of supervisors, spoke at the October luncheon on levies, area improvements, and state budget money for the counties.

A very successful rice growing and processing tour took place on October 17. The trip was to the Matthews Rice Farm in Marysville, District 10 and included a sandwich lunch. It was very well received.

The annual Slow Trollers picnic was held at Hamon Grove Park in Yuba County in October. Club members, family, and friends attended and enjoyed the excellent pot luck banquet with Manuel Castro and son acting as cooks. Jim Chaussee was named Fisherman of the Year for guiding members to far more fish than he caught!

October was a very big month for new members. No less than seven were inducted. Ted Brandos, Gordon Case, Ronald Center, John Frailey, William McCleery, Michael Reilly, and Edward Ullom joined the branch.

John Locher was the November luncheon speaker. He is the Department of Motor Vehicles senior ombudsman for this area and the state head of the program. He spoke about the duties and responsibilities of a senior ombudsman to senior drivers.

Tickets for the branch’s annual Christmas dinner/dance are available for purchase at a cost of $25.00 per person. The event will be help on Thursday, December 12, at the Moose Lodge on Walton Avenue. Prime rib and chicken cordon bleu dinners will be served, and the Glenn Relf Band will provide dancing music.

Two new members were inducted in November: Jesus Hernandez and Johnny Johnson.

The branch’s computer group met and learned how to build a website. Gary Mitchell led the discussion about website design, host, pages, and E commerce.

Gilbert Corchado and William Craig were inducted as new members at the December luncheon.

Five members reached the age of ninety this year and were celebrated as Senior Sirs: Walt Butler, Franl Mesera, Red Murphy, Bob Rich, and Ken Williams.

Dennis Dempsey, bid his farewell as Big Sir. The year 2013 was a very successful one. The branch is financially sound with close to 300 members. It received the President’s Award for Branch of the Quarter for Area 15 for the second quarter.

The annual Christmas dance was held on December 12 at the Moose Lodge at a cost of $25.00 per person. One hundred five members and guests attended, a very good turnout. The menu was the choice of prime rib or chicken Cordon Bleu with an open bar. Door prizes were enjoyed. Attendees danced to the music of Country Tradition, and a good time was had by all.

A great time was had by members who attended the December 13 performance of Miracle on 34th Street and the dinner after the play at Applebee’s.

 TWENTY FOURTEEN

The following men were officers for 2014:

Dennis Dempsey Big Sir

Phil Higgason Little Sir

Bob Engen Secretary

Bill Smith Assistant Secretary

Guy Rector Treasurer

Udo Huefner Assistance Treasurer

Board Members:

Larry Garvin Gary Mitchell

Rich Dettmer Mike White

Jack Moseley Dutch Plautz

Dieter Rex Don Rutherford

The Activity Chairmen:

Mike Gyorfi Attendance

Gary Mitchell Badges

Bill Lyons Bocce Ball

Ray Buttacavoli Bowling

Bill Crocker Bulletin Admin.

Dieter Rex Bulletin

Dieter Rex Chaplain

Gary Mitchell Computer

Rich Dettmer Dining Out

Jim Chaussee Fishing

John Boyer Golf

Bill Crocker Historian

Chuck Brown Membership

Joe Villalpando Photography

Bill Clark Roster

Jack Moseley Sunshine

Larry Garvin Travel

Gary Mitchell Website

The speaker for January was Rob Born. He is a special agent bomb technical coordinator and assistant WMD coordinator with the Sacramento branch of the FBI.

A new bulletin feature began in January of 2014, the recognition of a branch officer or activities chairman. The first to be recognized was Big SIR Dennis Dempsey. He is retired from twenty-one years of service in the Air Force, the sheriff’s department in Southern California and worked at Leo Woman’s Prison in Live Oak until it closure in 2011. He is married with four daughters and eight grandchildren.

Louis Ferri turned ninety years old in January and was celebrated as a Senior Sir at the January luncheon.

Dennis is back for a second term by popular demand. Actually, Steve Sebillian was slated for the exalted position but was unable to complete the transition because of illness. The situation was brought before the Branch Executive Committee and Dennis offered to remain for another year so that relatively new Little Sir Phil Higgason could gain experience before moving into the Big Sir slot. The committee placed Dennis’s name before the members, and the very popular 2013 Big Sir was approved overwhelmingly. Dennis can be depended on to be an involved Big Sir and ensure that our branch remains one of the best in the organization.

The golf breakfast was held on January 28 at the Moose Lodge. This is an annual event and serves as a means for distributing the year’s schedule, rule changes, and other information. The golfing committee has been modified for 2014. Branch #45 and Marysville’s Branch #109 will be combined.

New members for January: Jim Chaussee, Dave Freiler, Chuck Freise, Don Leas, Dean Roberts, Jerry Williams.

Jackie Boor, co-author of Inside the President’s Helicopter was the speaker at the February luncheon. She spoke about LTC Gene Boyer who was the executive pilot for three presidents.

Little Sir Phil Higgason was featured in the February bulletin. He is retired from the Navy and Yuba County Department of Child Support Services. He is married and he and his wife have six children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

A wonderful two nights were spent at the El Dorado Hotel Casino by several members. The package included tickets to the El Dorado stage show “Ring of Fire, Songs of Johnny Cash.”

The State Bowling Committee met in February and discussed the 2014 calendar of tournaments. Unfortunately, the Sonoma, Petaluma, and San Jose tournaments were cancelled because of organizational difficulties.

Long time SIR bowler, Leighton Pearson passed away after a lengthy bout with cancer. He was a retired from service in the US Air Force, having served 24 years and was a Vietnam War veteran. He was an avid bowler with our branch.

SIR golf began its 2014 season with a February tournament at River Oaks Golf Club in Nicolaus and a second one scheduled at River Oaks in March.

Big SIR Dennis Dempsey reported that Branch #45 is the third largest branch in the organization and close to being number two.

Dieter Rex, a past Big SIR recently returned from the Philippines where he was part of a church group who assisted the victims of a terrible typhoon.

New members for February: John Fontes, Jim McLaughlin, Bill Swenor, Jim Locey, Bob Morrish,

The March speaker was Assemblyman Dan Logue who spoke about California’s business climate and water issues.

The first bowling tournament of the 2014 season was held in Stockton. Jeff Brockman was the big winner, placing third in “B” Division Singles and tying for fifth in All Events.

Branch historian and bulletin administrator Bill Crocker was featured in the March issue. He is retired from twenty-six years as a Navy microbiologist and from twenty-six years of healthcare administration. He and his wife of fifty-one years have two children and two grandchildren.

Secretary Bob Engen was also featured in the March bulletin. He is retired from a fifty-year marketing career with major corporations, ending with twenty-seven years as a partner in commercial real estate. He and his wife have three children, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

During Jackie Boor’s talk at the February luncheon, there were a couple of instances of cell phone use that could be clearly heard. Big SIR Dempsey placed a stern warning in the March bulletin banning the use of cell phones during a guest speaker’s presentation.

Richard Dettmer, past state president and member of Branch #45 proposed a quarterly activity called Dining Out in which SIRs and their wives would have dinner together at a local restaurant.

New members for March: Bill Harper, Galen Irons, Bill Meyer, Tom McClung, Duane Rogers.

The Slow Trollers held their fourth meeting with twenty-three members in attendance. The first fishing tournament of the year was held at Lake Oroville on April 9.

Branch treasurer Guy Rector was featured in the April bulletin. He is retired from a thirty-seven-year career in sales, sales training, and sales management. He and his late wife have one son and one grandson.

The very first Couples Dining Out activity, created by Rich Dettmer, took place at Dancing Tomato Caffé on April 17 with 14 people attending. It was a wonderful experience and definitely an activity that will continue to grow. This periodic social function allows spouses and partners to participate in a SIR activity.

April’s speaker was Dr. Michael Fahey who spoke about senior’s health issues.

New members for April: Jim Almond, Terry Hood, Merle Machen, Don Siggins, Dan Sprenger.

Increased use of the branch’s website began in May. Golf and bowling tournament results were removed from the monthly bulletin and placed on the website in an attempt to encourage a move into the electronic age.

The SIR State Bowling Tournament was held at NU Generations Lanes in Yuba City on May 19, 20 and 21. The competition included a doubles event and a four-man team event.

The speaker for May was Congressman John Garamendi. He spoke about water issues and the need for more reservoirs.

The Ladies’ Day Luncheon took place on Thursday, May 15. Nine tables were beautifully set with wonderful centerpieces. Sixty-eight men and their guests enjoyed a dinner of tri-tip steak, chicken, roasted potatoes, pasta, green, and broccoli salads, and a beautiful sheet cake. Coffee and iced tea were the beverages.

Big SIR Dennis could be seen floating among the guests hawking wine with some success. However, as the customer base dwindled, a few late customers got a deal for half price. It’s possible that Dennis may ask Larry “Get the L Out” Schutz for strokes at the next golfing competition as quid pro quo.

Little SIR Phil opened the luncheon with the story about his task of purchasing door prizes for the ladies. When his wife, Patti, took a look at what he had purchased, she made him return them. She told him that Craftsman tools were not fitting door prizes for the female guests. Patti ensured that he purchased appropriate gifts. Phil hoped the ladies would like the prizes. If not, they should be happy they didn’t get a set of screwdrivers.

The entertainment was unique and a smash hit. “Gesundheit!,” a Chico-based barbershop quartet provided some wonderful a cappella close harmony. They sang old songs, a little doo-wop, and humorous versions of hit songs.

The quartet bass asked who in the audience had been married the longest. Jake and Dorothy Buttacavoli passed up everyone with seventy years. The quartet then crowded around the “young couple” and sang their riotous version of the popular Elvis Presley hit, “Are You Lonesome Tonight.” It brought down the house.

 But the absolute event of the luncheon was unplanned. After the quartet finished its performance, Jeanne McClard asked the boys if she could sing them a song. The luncheon guests sat in awe as she performed “Once Upon a Dream” from Disney’s Sleeping Beauty. It was a really touching end to a wonderful gathering of friends. Dennis, Phil, caterer Jennifer, and others are to be commended for a well-organized event.

Branch #45 hosted the STE State Bowling Tournament on May 19, 20, and 21. The completion consisted of a doubles event and a team event for 4-man teams. The event was a great success with 112 bowlers participating in twenty-eight 4-man teams and fifty-six doubles teams. Twenty-eight branches were represented from as far away as Sunnyvale and Fremont.

Assistant secretary Bill Smith was featured in the May issue of the bulletin. He spent time in the Air Force and is retired from thirty-six years as a civil engineer with Caltrans. He and his wife have two children.

New Members for May: Hal Beeso, A. J. Hyatt, Tony Kurlan, Stephen Lesser, Gary Moore, Richard Tenhaken, Dennis Faron-Wilson.

The guest speaker for the June luncheon was Jackie Sillman who is the public education coordinator for Recology Yuba-Sutter. Recology is the local trash recycling center. She spoke about Recology’s community benefits and encouraged a visit to the facilities. This was arranged for September.

Larry Garvin gave up his position as travel activity chairman because of illness. Big Sir Dempsey stepped in with the understanding that the arrangement was temporary.

Little Sir Phil Higgason has created a new pinochle and poker activity. It will be called The Card Guys. The activity will be up and running by July.

New members for June: Tom Bethards, Walt Huss, Norm Jones.

The Card Guys met for the first time in July to begin organizing this activity. The final meeting of players to work out the details has been delayed because of summer vacations and many players being unavailable.

July 3 was the big SIR day with the San Francisco Giants. A bus was chartered for the trip to the game against the St. Louis Cardinals. Unfortunately our boys lost but it was a great day and those who attended had a wonderful time.

Royce Calhoun, MD, spoke to the branch in July about lung cancer and a new screening procedure. He is a thoracic surgeon and director of thoracic oncology at Rideout Thoracic Clinic.

Assistant treasurer Udo Huefner was featured in the July bulletin. He is retired from a twenty-three-year career in the Air Force as an avionics technician. He had a second career as an electronic technician, training supervisor, and an electronic equipment specialist and custodian at McClellan AFB. He and his late wife have two children and five grandchildren.

Branch chaplain, Dieter Rex, spent time as a volunteer in Ormoc City, Republic of the Philippines, building new roofs on three schools. He often works with church organizations in various volunteer projects.

The Dining out Activity has been off to a great start over the past four months. The previous three months have included Dancing Tomato Caffé Restaurant and Bar, Cool Hand Luke’s Steakhouse/Saloon, and Dragon Inn. The group met at the Ranch House for dinner on July 15. Thirty Sirs and guests attended.

New members for July: Dan Abken, Joe Carmona, Waylan Lee, Rex Pharis, Frank Zotz.

The guest speaker for August was Yuba City Police Chief Robert Landon. He spoke about crimes targeting seniors and issues affecting the local area in general.

Big Sir Dennis Dempsey attended the annual SIR state meeting in Vallejo. He learned at the meeting that most branches assess members $15 to $25 each. These funds are set aside in a general fund to be used as determined by the elective branch officers and the board of directors. Branch #45 is in good financial shape, so it was determined that the branch members did not need to be assessed.

Chaplain Dieter Rex was featured in the August bulletin. He served in the Air Force for thirty years and fourteen years as a letter carrier. He and his wife have two daughters and six grandchildren.

New members for August: Eddie Bankhead, Cal Beutler, Bill Lindholm, John Morris.

Pranav Amin, MD, an ophthalmologist with Sutter North Medical Foudation, was the featured speaker at the September luncheon. He was one of our best speakers of the year with interesting medical information delivered with great sense of humor.

Several branch members visited Recology Yuba-Sutter on September 10. This sold-out activity was planned by our Big Sir, Dennis Dempsey, with Art Worledge in charge. Recology is an integrated resource recovery company headquartered in San Franciso. It was formerly known as Norcal Waste Systems, Inc. The tour of the facilities was very interesting and it was quite apparent why the place is no longer called the local dump.

Gary Mitchell continued his monthly computer instructions with the introduction to Microsoft’s Excel spreadsheet program. He continually proves that old brains can comprehend the cyber world.

The branch membership continues to grow. This is remarkable because members are lost to illness and death on a regular basis. The active branch membership in September 2013 was 276. A year later in September 2014 the active membership was 290 with a net gain of fourteen members.

New members for September: Mike Edwards, Ken Garcal, Jim Lazansky, Bob Morton, Dave Petersen.

Computer guru Gary Mitchell was featured in the October bulletin. He is retired from a thirty-seven-year civilian career with US Navy on the East Coast, Europe, and the Western Pacific. He was involved with several ships and participated in numerous aircraft carrier cruises during his time in Okinawa.

The fishing activity, Slow Trollers, held its annual picnic at Hammon Grove Park in Yuba County. The California drought is making fishing a bit difficult but if you can get your boat launched several feet below the normal launching site and crawl your truck back up to a safe, level place, the fishing is still pretty good.

Another Big Sir Dempsey activity was a day of horse racing at Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley on October 30. A busload of members left Yuba City in the morning, were treated to several live races and one of the best buffets around, and returned early that evening.

Diana Barrett, animal services manager for Sutter Animal Services Authority, was the featured October speaker. She spoke about the organization’s services and programs.

New members for October: Joe Warda, Bob Bumen, Preston Bradley, Richard Hackney, Doug Jones, Don Solheim, Terry Tatum, William Wallace.

Richard Dettmer, past state president was featured in the November bulletin. He joined Branch #45 in 2000 and passed through the local ranks and moved into the state positions ending as state president in 2013. He retired from the Hayward Police Department as chief of police with 38 years of service.

Jimmy Graven, sports editor for the Appeal-Democrat newspaper. He was joined by a feature reporter and they talked about the World Series and local, collegiate, and NFL football and answered questions.

New members for November: Ray Dirks, Mike Moyers.

The various activities continue to be busy. The new Dining Out Activity is becoming quite popular. The Slow Trollers held their annual picnic at Hammon Grove Park. Fred Preston was selected as Fisherman of the Year.

The annual Christmas dinner party was held on December 11 at the Moose Lodge. One hundred seventeen SIR members and guests were in attendance. Outgoing Big Sir, Dennis Dempsey, greeted all of the attendees and made them feel welcome. A special members committee was responsible for decorations. Dancing followed a wonderful dinner. Christmas gifts were handed out to lucky ticket holders. SIR Dempsey was in rare form and performed his “My Way” rendition.

Ray Buttacavoli was featured in the December bulletin. He retired from General Motors as regional director for government relations with over forty years of service.

Manny Cardoza, a 15-year member of our branch passed away this month. He had been in an inactive status for 18 months. He was a lifetime Yuba-Sutter resident and a retired maintenance mechanic.

The first annual Sir of the Year award was presented at the December luncheon. Actually there were three recipients: John Boyer as golf activity chairman, Ray Buttacavoli as bowling activity chairman, and Bill Crocker as bulletin chairman and historian.

The annual golfing breakfast was announced as scheduled for January 27 at the Moose Lodge.

New members for December: Joe Davis, Bob Erdman, John France, Merle McCougall, Jim Rennie.

Sir Dempsey conducted his last luncheon as Big Sir and passed the baton to Phil Higgason. Bill Craig replaced Phil as Little Sir. Dennis Dempsey served two years as Big Sir, a rare occurrence. He was a very popular Big Sir and will be missed in that position.

Udo Huefner was elected as Area 15 Governor.

TWENTY FIFTEEN

The following men were officers for 2015:

Phil Higgason Big Sir

Bill Craig Little Sir

Bob Engen Secretary

Bill Smith Assistant Secretary

Guy Rector Treasurer

Ron Grist Assistance Treasurer

Board Members:

Dennis Dempsey Dutch Plautz

Rich Dettmer Dieter Rex

Jack Moseley Mike White

The Activity Chairmen:

Bill Crocker Attendance

Glenn Clingman Badges

Buck Foster Bocce Ball

Ray Buttacavoli Bowling

Bill Crocker Bulletin Admin.

Dieter Rex Bulletin

Dieter Rex Chaplain

Gary Mitchell Computer

Rich Dettmer Dining Out

Jim Chaussee Fishing

John Boyer Golf

Bill Crocker Historian

Chuck Brown Membership

Joe Villalpando Photography

Bill Clark Roster

Jack Moseley Sunshine

Dennis Dempsey Travel

Gary Mitchell Website

Dennis Dempsey took over the travel responsibilities in January on a temporary basis when Larry Garvin became ill. Presently, Larry is in an inactive status..

After several years of handling the attendance responsibilities, Mike Gyorfi decided to leave this position. Bill Crocker took over this month.

The speaker for the January luncheon was Steve Greensteen. He spoke about his recent trip to Russia to learn about the Russian space program and to witness the launch of a Soyuz rocket.

The golf activity continues to be very popular. The 2015 sign up was held during a breakfast at the Moose Lodge.

Mike White, assistant cashier was featured in the bulletin. He was born in Minnesota on the Canadian border, is a US Navy veteran, and worked for the Boeing Company.

Twenty-six members of the dining out activity met at Colusa Casino Wintun Dinner House in January, hosted by Rich Dettmer. It was a fun time with good food and good socializing.

Bill Peardon was installed as a new member in January.

February’s luncheon speaker was Patricia Miller, the president of Sutter County Taxpayer’s Association. She spoke about the organization, its successes, and current projects.

Little Sir Bill Craig spoke about the result of a recent satisfaction survey in which most members expressed satisfaction about the food, reports, and fellowship. Bill went on to say it was apparent many members were not participating and not taking advantage of the several activities available. He asked for continued feedback concerning branch activities and new ideas.

Bill Smith received an honorary life membership award and Gene Muttersback received a super senior award at the February luncheon.

Udo Huefner, the newly elected Area 15 Governor resign from this position due to health issues.

The 2015 Christmas party was confirmed for December 17 at the Plaza Room.

The 2016 nominating committee for chapter officers was announced as including Dennis Dempsey, Dieter Rex, and John Boyer.

A few members have suggested a photography activity. A signup sheet was created to determine the extent of interest.

Glenn Zeller, past regional director for SIR was featured in the February bulletin. Glenn was a navigator during World War II with the US Army Air Corps. This began his many years of flying in several types of aircraft. He ended his military career in 1968 as the commander of the Beale Command Post. He is a lifetime member, having joined SIR in 1983. He was our branch’s big sir in 1988, area governor in 1989, and was one of the original six regional directors in 1990.

New members for February: Pete Brennan, Andre Douyon, Dave Hummel, John Ruzic

Dennis Dempsey has been working hard in his new temporary position as travel chairman. Two travel activities occurred in March: A tour of Recology with Art Worledge and racing at Golden Gate Fields.

The new photographic activity held its first meeting on March 10. Bob Engen is the activity chairman.

Jim Chaussee, president of Slow Trollers was featured in March’s bulletin. Jim is from South Dakota and is co-owner of Chaussee Appraisals for trusts, tax use, bankruptcy, marketing, and real estate-related litigation. He has served as an expert witness in state and federal court cases.

Lou Ferri passed away in March. He was a member for twenty years. He was a life-long Sutter County farmer. He enjoyed fishing and tinkering in his shop. Lou was a past grand knight of the local Knights of Columbus, a member of Order of Elks and Loyal Order of Moose..

Mike White, a member of the branch executive committee had to resign membership in SIR due to illness. He was an active member of the branch for nine years.

The dining out activity was held at Casa Carlos for “south of the border” cuisine. It was a total sellout with 34 members and guests attending. The event was hosted by Dieter Rex and his wife, Fran.

Rikki Shaffer, the chief executive officer of Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce was the speaker at the March luncheon. She discussed the chamber’s 2015 focus and programs related to economic development, education and workforce readiness, increased levels of participation in local/state/federal initiatives/legislation relating to business, and business promotion/networking.

Henry Poffenberger passed away in March at the age of 95. He was a popular member for eleven years. Many remembered him as the “go to” mechanic at John C. Bayes Ford in Marysville. He served in the Army during World War II as a sergeant. After the war, he returned to Yuba City and built a career in the automobile industry serving as service manager at Bayes Ford for fifteen years and then as a owner/proprietor of service stations and auto repair businesses.

The new photography activity, chaired by Bob Engen received approval at the March BEC meeting and the first gathering was held on March 10 at Perko’s Café and Grill. Seven branch members attended.

The bowling activity continues to be very popular. A larger than average prize fund of more than $500 was on the line. The big branch winners were Jeff Brockman, Mike Lukens, Bob Jones, and Ray Buttacavoli.

New members for March: Burwell Ullrey, Ed Ericson.

Little Sir Bill Craig was featured in the April bulletin. He is retired from the Air Force, serving in several capacities, including as a KC-135 navigator. He had a second career as a physical science teacher with the Marysville School District.

Bill Herrod passed away in April. He had been a member for twenty-six years, one of the longest memberships on record. He was an engineer and entered the US Navy as a lieutenant and served in the Philippines during World War II. After the war, he became a farmer of rice, beans, and tomatoes south of Meridian. He was a life member of Order of Elks and of Military Officers Association of America, Alta Chapter.

The April speaker was Captain Shon Harris, Commander, California Highway Patrol, Yuba-Sutter Area. He gave a brief personal biography and an overview of the CHP, its mission, goals, and purpose. He also discussed programs offered, priorities, concerns, and community involvement.

The 2016 nominating committee for branch officers poled the present members. All are willing to remain.

John Fontes, a long time member of branch #109 and a recent transfer to branch #45 was appointed to the BEC to replace Mike White who resigned last month because of illness. John was very active in branch #109 as Big Sir and in various other offices and chairmanships. He is a senior honorary life member of SIR.

The computer activity group decided to take some time off. Gary Mitchell is willing to revive the activity when interest is renewed.

New members for April: Jeff Davidson, Bob Lovell, Dick Grant, Bill Milborne

Preparations are being made for the Ladies Day Luncheon that will occur on May 14 in the Plaza Room. The memory of last year’s blockbuster event bodes well for a good turnout next month.

Long time member and popular sunshine activity chairman Jack Moseley was featured in the May bulletin. He was a World War II veteran, flying in B-24s and B-17s. After the war, he remained in the reserves, was recalled to active duty in 1951, and flew in B-36s and B-52s.

Slow Trollers, the fishing activity, was host to Deputy Sheriff Sgt. Gary Zimbeck and his partner, Deputy Sheriff Jack Berg. The officers spoke about boat safety, required boating laws, and required boating equipment.

Amanda Hopper, the newly elected Sutter County District Attorney was the May luncheon speaker. She addressed the mission, vision, and state of the District Attorney’s office.

The annual Ladies Day Luncheon was held on May 14. Nearly fifty members and guests enjoyed a fun time. The dinner was delicious and the entertainers put together a fine selection of songs.

Bill Herrod passed away in May. He was a loyal supporter. He had perfect attendance through 2014 and up to two months before he passed. He was a member for 26 years, one of the longest participating branch #45 members.

New members for May: Dan Bennett, Dick Cook.

Ron Grist, assistant treasurer, was featured in the June bulletin. He was born and raised on a farm 20 miles north of Visalia, California. His elementary school experience was in a three-room country schoolhouse. He claims he graduated from the eighth grade near the top of his class—of seven students. He was a mining engineer, working in California, Wyoming, and Alaska.

The photography activity acquired an important new member. George Leverett taught photography at Yuba City High School for many years and will add substantial professional experience to this relatively new activity.

Bill Crocker and Bill Clark are working together to ensure the next membership roster booklet is accurate. Using Bill Clark’s 2014 “pass around” membership list and the current roster booklet as a starting point, Bill Crocker has entered all of the information into his SIR computer files and will update this information monthly.

Big Sir Phil Higgason informed the membership in June of issues recently discovered concerning the lack of liability insurance for Sirinc pertaining to the fishing activity. This is not a new concern, but, at this time, the state leaders have determined it is too much of a risk and must be fixed or the fishing activity must be disassociated from SIR. State President Bob Hairston informed Region 9 Big Sirs at an April 25 meeting that all branches were to dissolve all ties with fishing activities until the question could be resolved. Therefore, the Slow Trollers news was removed from the bulletin and ties with SIR were severed.

Orland Tuttle passed away in June. He had been a member for several years and was the 2005 Big Sir. He joined the Navy in 1944 and served aboard the USS *Ticonderoga* (CV-14) for two years. After the war, he spent many years traveling and selling heavy construction equipment and retired from Komatsu America as the western sales manager. He was active in several civic organizations throughout his life.

The new branch position of auditor was recommend in June. New member George Healy was unanimously approved for this position. He is a retired bank auditor.

The bowling activity played host to the Round Robin mini-tournament with 34 bowlers from Paradise, Auburn, and Yuba City participating.

Larry Garvin, the long time Travel Activity chairman, passed away in June. He was a member of Branch #45 for ten years and had been on inactive status since November 2014.

The June speaker was Reverend Dr. Toby Nelson, known as “The Disaster Pastor.” He had a very important message: prepare for disasters. He told dramatic stories of people dealing with disaster events. He also spoke about personal disaster preparedness and listed the necessary items for a three-day emergency box for two people.

 6 Gallons of water

 6 Canned fruit with pull lids

 6 Canned vegetable with pull lids

 3 Tuna, 3 canned beef, 3 spam

1 Jar peanut butter

 1 Box powdered milk

 12 Cookies or energy bars

 1 box of Graham crackers, snack food

 Comfort food, nuts, candy, beer

 Knife, fork, spoon for each person

 Plastic cup, plate & bowl for each person

 Crank can opener

 Hand sanitizer

 Pet food

 Medications

 Food to share with neighbors

Jimmy “Bones” Beeler passed away in June. He was a member for 24 years, an honorary life member, and the 1999 Big Sir. Jimmy was a World War II Navy veteran, a sprint race car driver, a salesman for FMC, a shopping cart repair and steam cleaning business owner, and the Cart Hawk inventor. He was a long time member of Loyal Order of Moose and American Legion.

New members for June: George Healy, Beorge Leverett, Dave McCormack, Mike Pederson, Sac Sacchetti.

Bill Crocker encouraged members prior to the July luncheon to be willing to show their badges as they enter future luncheons. This will ensure an accurate documentation of attendance.

Mori Tanimoto and Galen Irons were recognized for achieving Super Senior status in July. Mori celebrated his 95th birthday on July 9 and Galen on July 21. Region 9 Director Mark Stuart presented the awards. This brings the number of Super Seniors to four: Gene Muttersback, Trumon Cooper, Galen Irons, and Mori Tanimoto. Trumon is our oldest member at 97.

One of our bowling teams participated in the Annual State SIR Bowling Tournament in Sonora. The team was composed of two bowlers from Branch 109 and two from Branch 45. Branches 109 and 45 hosted a SIR bowling tournament a couple of weeks later.

Branch #45 hosted a singles and doubles tournament on July 13 and 14. Ninety-one bowlers from nineteen branches completed for $2,040 in prize money.

Dieter Rex was recommended for the honor of Honorary Life Member by Dennis Dempsey and his committee. Dieter was unanimously approved for that honor.

July ended the traditional three-month peak fishing period with a club fish fry at Manny Castro’s home. This is the time when they consume what they catch. Richard Minor, Tom Pickett, Manny Castro and his wife, Lourdes, ensured that everyone had a great time. This was an event when their wives could get together to discuss the Slow Trollers in “positive” ways.

Diana Langley, Public Works Director/City Engineer for the City of Yuba City was the July guest speaker. Her presentation provided an update of the city’s water supply and conservation efforts, including emergency water restrictions in Yuba City.

Little Sir Bill Craig created and distributed a satisfaction survey. The results will be available in August.

Former Big Sir Dennis Dempsey continues to act as interim travel chairman. He will remain in this position until a permanent travel chairman is found.

The photography club activity continues to grow under the leadership of Bob Engen. Plans were made to display members’ photos on an easel at future luncheons. Photography field trips are planned.

Big Sir Phil Higgason attended the annual Sirinc meeting, this year, held in Concord. The 2016 state officers were elected. Several changes were discussed, most having to do with improving membership numbers. One of the big issues concerns the state providing more training for all branch officers. Region 9 Director Mark Stuart will head up the training efforts. He presented his plans at the meeting. The classes will begin in September in Roseville.

New members for July: Johnny Hill, Roy Rodrigues.

The branch survey results from July were presented at the August luncheon. Overall, the members participating ranked the branch as 62.7% excellent and 35.3% good.

George Healy a new member is a retired bank auditor. He agreed to serve as the branch auditor. This is a first for our branch. He will be taking a look at the golf, bowling, and any other activity in which money is involved.

Roy Newman agreed to be the new travel chairman.

George Riley passed away in August. He had been a member for over twenty years.

The dining out activity had another very successful gathering at The Refuge Restaurant in Butte House Road. Twenty-four members and guests attended. The restaurant is under new management. The venue was good and the management and staff superb.

The latest edition of SIR Happenings was posted on the SIR website, and everyone was encouraged to check it out. President Bob Hairston wrote an article expressing his upbeat outlook on SIR and his positive suggestion on getting involved.

New members for August: Stephen Clark, Jesse Hernandez, Bill Sherwood.

Long time Branch #45 supporter and 2012 Big Sir Dieter Rex was awarded Honorary Life Membership in September. SIR State President Bob Hairston attended the September luncheon to present the award. Albert Hirner was recognized as a Senior SIR at the same luncheon.

Gary Mitchell introduced Windows 10 in his monthly gathering of his computer group. There had been many questions concerning this new program.

SIR ball caps are back by popular demand. An order has been placed. The caps will be sold at future luncheons.

New members for September: Dave Bagley, Arvid Crabtree.

Interm Travel Chairman Dennis Dempsey arranged for an October 22 trip to Golden Gate Fields back in August. This has been a popular local trip and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Roy Newman agreed to take the permanent chairmanship of the Travel Activity this month. He has extensive travel experience and knows how to arrange for large scale trips.

A membership drive was conducted at Sam’s Club on October 28. This resulted in the installation of six new members in December, more than any month in 2015.

Mark Miller, founder and president of River Valley Community Outreach Center was the October speaker. This organization is non-profit and helps major companies such as Home Depot with overstocked materials, and works with people who do not have the money for home improvement: matching the material with people.

Little Sir Bill Craig, incoming Little Sir Doug Parker, Treasurer Guy Rector, and Membership Chairman Brock Smith attended SIR training in Roseville on October 30. This was a gathering to inform branch officers of the changes of rules and practices of these offices. RAMP, Recruiting, Activities, Manager Relations, and Publicity, was introduced.

New members for October: Bart Wade.

The last 2015 bowling tournament occurred in November. This was held in Modesto and Concord. As the 2015 season ended, the winter season began. This usually allows for additional bowlers, from seasoned veterans to beginners.

Plans for the Christmas dinner/dance are set. The annual party will be held on December 17.

The November speakers were Julie Morehead and Mandy Jones from the Bank of Feather River. They spoke about financial abuse of the elderly.

The Computer Group covered the subject of the best Internet browser for Windows.

Roy Newman, the new Travel Activity chairman has hit the ground running. He has arranged for Christmas Shopping Spree with a Bidwell Mansion Tour for December, a Reno overnight Bus Trip with Show Option for February 2016, and an Alaska Land and Sea Journey for September.

New members for November: Don Fox, Stan Gryczko, Cecil Clemmen, Carey Saunders.

Instead of a December luncheon speaker, a special event was provided. The very popular Chico based barbershop quartet returned with a medley of Christmas songs and doo-wop. “Gesundheit” brought the house down with a performance of “The Restroom Door Said Gentlemen,” a humorous parody of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.” The group received a standing ovation after its performance, a first for this group of old guys.

Roy Newman decided to cancel the Christmas shopping spree and the Bidwell Mansion tour because of a lack in interest.

The year 2015 hosted no less than four new Senior Sirs and five Super Senior Sirs. The new ninety-year-olds were: Al Hirner, George Riley, Walt Huss, and Glenn Zeller. The ninety-five-year-olds were Henry Pffenberger, Galen Irons, Gene Muttersback, Bill Herrod, and Mori Tanimoto.

New members for December: Chuck Frost, Terry O’Dell, Larry Kruletz, Chuck Buerki, Gary Gildemeister, Huff Stillwell.

The December Christmas Dinner/Dance on the 17th was a blast. Steve Allard of TSPdj, a professional mobile DJ service provided the music of the 1940s and 1950s. fifty-eight couples dined and danced to his tunes. Former Big Sir Dennis “The Golden Voice” Dempsey bowed to popular demand and performed Frankie’s classic song, “My Way.”

 TWENTY SIXTEEN

The following men were officers for 2016:

Bill Craig Big Sir

Doug Parker Little Sir

Bob Engen Secretary

Bill Smith Assistant Secretary

Guy Rector Treasurer

Ron Grist Assistance Treasurer

Board Members:

Dennis Dempsey Phil Higgason

Rich Dettmer Dieter Rex

Jack Moseley John Fontes

The Activity Chairmen:

Bill Crocker Attendance

Glenn Clingman Badges

Buck Foster Bocce Ball

Ray Buttacavoli Bowling

Bill Crocker Bulletin Admin.

Dieter Rex Bulletin

Dieter Rex Chaplain

Gary Mitchell Computer

Rich Dettmer Dining Out

Dennis Faron-Wilson Fishing

John Boyer Golf

Bill Crocker Historian

Brock Smith Membership

Joe Villalpando Photography

Sac Sacchetti Pool

Bill Clark Roster

Jack Moseley Sunshine

Roy Newman Travel

Gary Mitchell Website

January 2016 began with a changing of the leadership. Little Sir Bill Craig assumed the big guy’s position and Doug Parker began his term as Little Sir. Bill thanked his mentors: Phil Higgason, Dennis Dempsey, and Dieter Rex and expressed his appreciation for the leadership group that was to work with him in 2016.

The speaker for the January luncheon was Sue Cejener-Moyers, the founder and charter member of the Yuba County Historic Recourse Commission.

Roy Newman, the branch travel guy presented several new interesting trips to the membership: a trip to Glacier National Park, the Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and a Colors of Canada & New England visit. These are exciting trips that are sure to be popular.

New members for January: Ed Smith, John Mallen, Gene Trujillo, Gene Moscuzza, Harold Webster.

Sac Sacchetti a new member is already involved in branch activities. In fact, he created a new one: Pool and Billiards Group. The group started in February meeting every Monday at 1:00 p.m. at Gold Rush Billiards in town.

Big Sir Bill Craig recently attended a Chico branch luncheon. The group was surprised as to the number of active members in our branch.

The idea of creating a formal group of individuals willing to transport members to and from luncheons was raised. There are a few members unable to provide their own transportation. Secretary Bob Engen was asked to serve as the coordinator.

New members for February: Dave Barone, Russ Clark.

Bob Hight passed away in March. He had been a faithful member for thirteen years and served as the Sunshine chairman for several years. He served in the California National Guard from 1950 to 1956 and left duty as a sergeant first class. He held various leadership positions in the Boy Scouts of America, coached his children’s sports, was a member of Loyal Order of Moose, and enjoyed organizing Marysville High School Class of 1949 reunions.

The March guest speaker was Deborah Short, founder of Planning for Seniors. This organization is an advocate for the aging community.

Jack and Mary Moseley hosted the Dining Out Activity at the Dragon Inn. This was a repeat visit and the food and service did not disappoint.

Roy Newman added yet another trip to the roster for this year: a Panama Canal cruise-San Francisco to Fort. Lauderdale in March of 2017. The package includes home pickup and return airfare.

Les Robison was installed in March.

The April speaker was the new CEO of Rideout Health, Geno Patrizio. He discussed the construction of the hospital and answered questions. He was well received and was an impressive speaker.

New members for April: Bob Massey, Marvin Clark, Manny Cardoza, Frank Giordano, Bill Jaeger.

The branch treasurer began providing a monthly treasurer’s report in the bulletin in May. This new feature was created at the request of some branch members. The report will be a permanent part of the bulletin each month.

A sponsor contest has been ongoing this year. A first quarter total was provided to the Big Sir. Eight new members have been installed provided by eight different sponsors. No one has the upper hand yet.

The golfing area qualifier was announced. It is to be played May 24. Members were encouraged to put teams together.

One of our longest serving members passed away in April. Bill Clark had been a member for nearly twenty years. He was responsible for updating and printing the annual membership roster for many years. He also assisted with the question and answer period after a speaker, ensuring that all members had access to a microphone with which to ask questions. He was a US Air Force pilot and served in several capacities. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The Ladies Day Luncheon was held on May 5 with a Cinco de Mayo theme. The luncheon was well attended and everyone had a great time. Enough money was collected to meet all expenses.

Twelve new members were installed this month, the most that this branch has seen in one month for several years. Carey Saunders, a relatively new member himself, was responsible for three.

Two long time members passed away this month. Art Field participated in the Golf Activity and had been a member of the branch for twelve years. He loved golf and gardening. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus as well as a fourth degree member. He retired from Pacific Telephone Company and was past president of the Telephone Pioneers of America, a volunteer organization.

Charles “Dan” Winona had been a member for twenty-two years.

The speaker for May was John Garamendi, Congressman Garamendi represents California’s 3rd District. He talked about California’s water problems, other areas in which he is working, and answered questions.

Glenn Zeller, our longest active member gifted beautiful pens with Branch #45 label to each active member. This was in appreciation of the branch and the benefit he derived from being a member. Glenn has been a member for thirty-three years. He served as Big Sir in 1988, area governor in 1989, and was one of the original six regional directors in 1990.

Big Sir Bill Craig attended the Project 2016 Committee meeting on May 12. The Committee indicated that retirement is to be deemphasized as a condition for membership. This important change will be voted on and implemented by State SIR on August 1. The members of our BEC discussed this change and unanimously agreed that it was a bad idea. Big Sir Craig was directed to express a strong negative to Regional Director Mark Stuart and the State SIR organization, which he did.

New members for May: Cal Cornils, Peter Gilb, Cale Judd, Steve LoBue, Al Moody, David Prater, Carl Puchalski, Bill Saunders, George Scharff, Bob Schroeder, Charles Smith, Ron Whisenhunt..

The following branch members for the 2017 BEC and Board of Directors were presented to the June meeting of the BEC by the nominating committee:

Branch Executive Committee (BEC)

Big Sir Douglas Parker

Little Sir Dennis Faron-Wilson

Secretary Bob Engen

Ass.t Secretary Bill Smith

Treasurer Steve Clark

Asst. Treasurer Guy Rector

Board of Directors

Bill Craig

Bill Crocker

Dennis Dempsey

Phil Higgason

Dieter Rex

Art Worledge

The members will vote on the candidates at the August Luncheon.

A membership drive was held at Sam’s Club on June 25. It was well received and several men expressed interest in the organization. It is hoped this will bring in some new members.

Big Sir Bill Craig announced at the June BEC meeting that the State Sir officers are considering a change in the organization to include younger men and even changing the name of the organization. This announcement was met with universal disapproval of Branch #45 BEC members. Bill voice his approval to the officers through an email and former Big Sir Dennis Dempsey telephoned and talked with the state president, Don Dill. However, the state board met and unanimously approved the recommendations.

Little SIR Doug Parker conducted a branch survey at the June luncheon. The results will be available at the August luncheon.

New members for June: John Perkins, Jack Smith.

Wayne Beutler was recognized at the July luncheon as a senior SIR, having celebrated his ninetieth birthday. Wayne is the owner of NU Generation Lanes and is quite an accomplished bowler. Just two weeks before his birthday, he bowled a 299.

The very popular Pranav Amin, MD, was the featured speaker at the July luncheon. He is a local ophthalmologist and answered questions concerning eye health. He has spoken in the past and was well received.

By popular request, there will be a short treasurer’s report in the monthly bulletin beginning in July.

The pool and billiards activity is growing. Beginning with just four members, it has grown to fourteen regulars.

The new activity of activities coordinator has been created with former Big Sir Phil Higgason as head guy. He will report on the smaller activities of bocci, cards, computers, photography, and pool in an attempt to reduced the time spent on reporting the news of these activities and to conserve bulletin space.

New members for July: Ken Sisney, Richard Vassar, Chuck Champlin, Bill Sims, Tom Thompson, Pat Dilling.

The 2017 proposed Branch Executive Committee and Board of Directors candidates were voted on at the August luncheon. All were approved unanimously.

The results of the June branch survey were made public at the August luncheon. One of the surprising results was that the branch website is underutilized. Discussion on this subject will take place at a future BEC meeting. Three new activities were suggested in the survey: RV, camping, and woodworking. RV has been tried in the past and was not successful because there were a couple of other clubs in the area to which many branch members belong. Camping and woodworking will be considered, depending on their popularity.

Big SIR Bill Craig attended the state SIR meeting at which a new mission statement was created for the state organization. “The mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun, activities and events while making friends for life.” The state board officers were elected. Discussion was held concerning the training of branch officers in 2017 as well as branch RAMP chairmen for each branch. RAMP is an acronym for **R**ecruiting **A**ctivities, **M**ember relations, and **P**ublicity. The training will be conducted in half-day sessions this fall.

Ten bowlers from our branch participated in the August Reno Tournament. Following Wayne Beutler’s 299 game in July, bowling activities director, Ray Buttacavoli showed tournament participants how it’s done by bowing a perfect 300 game.

The 2016 membership drive contest is well underway. Thirty branch members are responsible for at least one new member. Dennis Dempsey, Merle McDougall, and Dieter Rex have corralled two each. The big guns are Cary Sauders with three and ace pool hustler, Sac Saccetti, with four.

Gilbert Corchado took over the position as assistant cashier in September. Three positions remain unfilled: assistant bowling, assistant computers, and assistant membership. The Area 15 governorship remains vacant. This would be a good opportunity for an experienced branch member to step up and provide a needed service.

New members for September: Tom Dietrich, Gary Kim, Max Ritson, Henry Sarcra.

The 2016 Christmas dinner/dance was announced in the October bulletin. It will take place on December 15. Tickets are $28.00 per person and go on sale at the October luncheon.

Trumon Cooper turned 99 years old on October 17. He is an active luncheon attendee and our oldest member.

The popular practice of featuring a branch officer in the bulletin returned in October. Little Sir Doug Parker was elected to this position for 2016. He will become big sir in 2017. He was born in San Francisco, served for twenty years in the army and has managed golf courses for the army and the air force all over the world. He is retired from the military, Civil Service, and the City of Sacramento. He and his wife have two sons and two grandsons.

The tickets for the annual Christmas dinner and dance went on sale at the October luncheon at a cost of $28 per person.

New members for October: Charles Stewart, Peter Klempau, Tim Dorcy.

A successful membership drive was held on November 3 at the Yuba City Senior Center’s Senior Resource Fair. SIR representatives talked with several membership candidates.

Approximately twenty members, along with a few spouses, visited our local military museum, the Museum of the Forgotten Warriors, on Thursday, November 10. This museum was started after the Vietnam War to honor those who served. It gained in size and popularity over the years to include war memorabilia from the Revolution to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

New members for November: Michael Dragoo, Wayne Ahlers, Tony Rainey, Bill Reynolds.

There were four members who attained the status of Senior Sir at the age of ninety. They were J.C. Trammell, Jim White, Jake Butacavoli, and Wayne Buetler.

Wilbur Tracy and Bob Cloer were celebrated as Super Senior Sirs at the age of ninety-five.

New members for December: Carl Daniel, Tom Dodge, Keith Heinberger.

The annual Christmas Dinner/Dance was another success. Fifty-five couples sat around ten circular tables, ate tri-tip, Mediterranean chicken, roasted veggies, wild rice pilaf, roasted rosemary red potatoes, Caesar salad, and rolls. Several wines were served and couples danced to the sweet sixties tunes played by the award winning TSPDJ, a local DJ company.

Our branch’s favorite answer to “Old Blue Eyes,” former Big Sir Dennis Dempsey did not disappoint. With the assistance of the DJ, he belted out all of ten verses of the classic, “My Way.”

Tickets were drawn and approximately forty door prizes along with thirty-two bottles of sparkling cider were given out.

Roy Newman, travel chairman, continued to arrange great trips as the new year began, such as Panama Canal in March, Canadian National Parks in August, and Paris in September.

TWENTY SEVENTEEN

The following men were officers for 2017

Doug Parker Big Sir

Dennis Faron-Wilson Little Sir

Bob Engen Secretary

Bill Smith Assistant Secretary

Steve Clark Treasurer

Guy Rector Assistant Treasurer

Board Members:

Bill Craig Phil Higgason

Bill Crocker Dieter Rex

Dennis Dempsey Art Worledge

The Activity Chairmen:

Bill Crocker Attendance

Glenn Clingman Badges

Buck Foster Bocce Ball

Ray Buttacavoli Bowling

Bill Crocker Bulletin Admin.

Dieter Rex Bulletin

Bill Lindholm Chaplain

Gary Mitchell Computer

Rich Dettmer Dining Out

Dennis Faron-Wilson Fishing

John Boyer Golf

Bill Crocker Historian

Brock Smith Membership

Bob Engen Photography

Sac Sacchetti Pool

Bill Crocker Roster

Jack Moseley Sunshine

Roy Newman Travel

Gary Mitchell Website

The 2017 officers moved into their positions in January. Doug Parker became big sir and Dennis Faron-Wilson became little sir. The board of directors now includes Bill Craig, Bill Crocker, Dennis Dempsey, Phil Higgason, Dieter Rex, and Art Worledge. In taking office, Dennis Faron-Wilson thanked Dennis Dempsey for his excellent little sir training seminar.

New members for January: Jim Fasano, Roy Clifton, Tom Barris, Ron Burton, Darel Abbott.

Bob Cloer, 1997 big sir, passed away in January. He was retired from the U.S. Air Force as a squadron commander and had been a member of SIR for nearly seventeen years. He was very popular and a significant contributor to Branch 45.

The Slow Trollers activity announced in February its 2017 plan for five tournaments, six fun days, four specials, and the Shasta Outing. The Shasta Outing has been renamed the Bill Clark Outing in memory of Bill’s many years of participation and support of this activity. Bill passed away in May 2016.

The 2017 membership drive was promoted this month. As was true last year, there will be prizes for those members bringing in new members.

New members for February: Bill Linsenmayer, Harvey Robinson, Del Heffley, Lou Hofer, Bruce Lewis.

Bill Sims was recognized as attaining the advanced age of ninety. He celebrated his ninetieth birthday on February 27.

The Ladies Day Luncheon of May 11 was discussed at the branch #45 executive committee meeting in February. Approval was gained to spend $200 for entertainment that includes Gesundheit!, the very popular barbershop quartet from the Chico, California, area.

Also discussed at the BEC meeting were the merits of the monthly bulletin being posted on the branch website and the continued value of the paper bulletin. It was decided that both have merit at this time.

Bob Bacsvany, a four-year member of our branch, passed away on March 13. He was born in Budapest, Hungary, and was a member of the Hungarian soccer team that won a gold medal at the 1952 Olympics held in Finland. He escaped communist Hungary after the Olympics to Austria where he worked in a machine shop and played professional soccer. Bob came to the US at the age of twenty, married, had two children, and worked as a maintenance mechanic for Planters and Anheuser Busch.

Giorgio Dina, the new Area 15 governor attended the March luncheon and the BEC meeting. He listened and answered questions concerning Area 15 issues.

The BEC members discussed the possibility of obtaining public signage similar to other local community organizations. Bob Engen will be responsible for this project.

New members for March: Dick Ehrhardt, Jim Haynes.

The 2017 golfing schedule has been set and the boys are looking forward to excellent venues that include Cherry Island, River Oaks, David, and Canyon Oaks.

Phil Higgason, Activities Chairman, attended the Region 9 Branch Activity Chairman Training Class in Roseville in March. Our February branch activities survey was very helpful in providing him with Branch 45 members’ interests.

Jeff Brockman, a top bowler with the Wednesday SIR group bowled a nearly perfect 299 in April. As if this wasn’t enough, he continued to bowl at his best and finished with a 790, three-game series.

Colonel Tony Bevacqua, U.S. Air Force, retired, was recognized at the April luncheon on the sixtieth anniversary of his solo flight in the U-2 spy plane. He checked out in the U-2 at Groom Lake (Area 51), March 1957. Tony is one of the very few Air Force pilots who flew both the U-2 and the SR-71.

Gene Muttersback passed away in April. He was a popular member of our branch from December 1995 until April 2016. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the Army Air Force from 1941 to 1946. He was a captain in the 8th Air Force 100 Bomb Group stationed in England. As a tail gunner, he flew many missions over Germany.

New members for April: Frank Gallo, Tim Crowhurst.

Steve Clark, the branch treasurer returned to his duties in May after a complicated hip replacement.

The Ladies Day Luncheon, held on May 11 was another rousing success. Gesundheit!, the popular Barbershop Quartet from Chico was scheduled to perform. However, the baritone decided to leave the quartet, so the performance was cancelled. In its place was a performance by local jazz pianist and vocalist, Gay Galvin. Gay has been playing the piano since she was six years old. She is trained in classical and jazz styles, has worked in big bands, musicals, jazz trios, and various classical ensembles. Her performance was wonderful and well received.

The speaker was Jim Mackensen, a retired fire department captain.

The Slow Trollers were back in business on the running rivers and freshly filled lakes. The Feather River produced some stripers and the lakes lots of black bass and a few trout.

New members for May: John Clark, Gil Hllleary.

Bob Circe passed away in May. He was a member of our branch for four years and a twenty-year veteran of the Air Force. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. He owned and operated Property Management and Sales, was a members of the Rotary International and Loyal Order of Moose.

Charles “Jerry” Freise passed away in June. He was a member of our branch for four years and a twenty-year veteran of the Air Force. After the Air Force, he managed parts stores in Alaska, worked on the Alaska pipeline, did a short tour in Algeria with Bechtel Construction, and retired as a project expediter for Bechtel Constructions Los Angeles Power Division.

New members for June: Larry Rathbun, Marvin Gieber, Nate Roberts, John Neal.

Oroville Dam’s main and emergency spillways were significantly damaged in February, prompting the evacuation of more that 180,000 people. The speaker at the July luncheon was Jana Frazier, Department of Water Resources, Division of Operations and Maintenance. She gave an excellent talk on the work being performed to repair the damage and the thought being given to modifying future evacuation plans.

New members for July: George Murray, Mike Sisney.

Pete Brennan shot a hol-in-one at Table Mountain Golf Course in Oroville on July 11. Unfortunately, he did not have an NCGA number from SIR and, therefore, was ineligible for the Feather in the Cap award. John Boyer, the golf chairman, said he would look into the situation.

Manny Castro attended the August luncheon with his son. Manny has been a very popular member for thirteen years and famous for his fish fries. Manny suffered a serious stroke about a year ago, and this was the first time he had been able to attend a luncheon.

The August speaker was Colonel Larry Broadwell, Commander, 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale Air Force Base. He was one of our better speakers and gave an overview of the 9th. He opened his talk with the comment that when he gives talks to younger Air Force members, he feels like the “old man.” However, with this SIR group, he did not feel that way. The members certainly agreed with laughter, especially since Colonel Broadwell is a *very* youthful looking colonel!

Two members passed away in August. Nate Roberts was a very new member. He was installed in June. His passing was a surprise to everyone.

Chuck Frost was born in Onida, South Dakota, and was employed as an operations manager with Golden Bear Alarms for over thirty-five years. He was a member of SIR for two years.

New members for August: Ken Buerhrle, Bill McKenzie.

Members of Slow Trollers played host at their August meeting to a very important guest and speaker. James Stone is a local fishing guide and the president of the NOR-CAL Guides and Sportmen’s Association. He spoke about the state of the local fisheries.

 The September speaker was to be Daryl White, American Red Cross disaster program manager for northeastern California. Unfortunately, Mr. White was on assignment with crews fighting several California fires. Manny Cardoza, City of Yuba City council member, and one of our own members volunteered to substitute and answer questions concerning the city. His contribution was well received.

There were no new members in September.

Gary Mitchell, computer club chairman began a two part series entitled, “Working with the MS Excel Program.” Gary continues to provide computer instruction and guidance to members in his very popular monthly gatherings.

Larry Fox, our 50/50 guy, passed away on September 27 after a short illness. He was an Air Force veteran with twenty years of service. He retired at Beal AFB, became a civil servant, and worked as a construction flight chief/contracting officer. He was a very popular SIR member and was a member of the branch’s Slow Trollers fishing club.

September’s luncheon completed two months of soliciting attending members for membership roster corrections. This is an annual task in preparation for the printing of the 2018 roster that will be available at the January 2018 luncheon.

An important celebration occurred at the October luncheon. Trumon Cooper was awarded the very rare title of centurion. He turned 100 years old on October 17. State President Derek Southern presented the award. Trumon has been a regular attendee of the monthly luncheons and is very popular with the members.

The branch’s monthly bulletin was discussed at the October BEC meeting. It was decided the printed bulletin will be replaced by an electronic version that will be distributed to members via email. This change will occur sometime in the first quarter of 2018. Meanwhile, the bulletin will continue to be printed along with a copy sent via email until the change to the new system is complete. Once this change occurs, the printed version will be discontinued. Realizing that approximately thirty percent of the members do not have access to email, a refrigerator magnet has been designed that lists the 2018 luncheon dates as well as the date of the Ladies Day and Christmas dinner/dance. Magnets will be distributed to those who want them. Carl Puchalski has volunteered to become the bulletin chairman.

New members for October: Ray Guthrie, Vic Minetti, Glenn Stark, Ed Valusek.

Photographing members began at the November luncheon. The photos will be used for various purposes including bulletin news items. This process will continue as new members are installed.

New members for November: Joe Fisher, Ed Genato, Jon Smethers, Bob Claggert.

Bob Hagel, Area #2 governor attended the November luncheon.

Approval was reached in the BEC meeting to purchase the refrigerator magnets listing the 2018 luncheon dates. The distribution of these magnets will begin at the December luncheon.

A large SIR banner was purchased and displayed at the November luncheon.

Over 200 refrigerator magnets and gift pens were distributed at the December luncheon. Records are being kept to ensure that everyone received these items. New members will receive these items in their installation package.

It was decided at the BEC meeting that printed bulletins will discontinue with the March issue. The April issue will be an email attachment. No printed bulletins will be available after the March issue.

Although the vote to proceed with the project was approved, one vote against the project was registered. A legitimate concern was raised about the unavailability of email and the Internet to about thirty percent of the membership. For those members who do not have this access, it is hoped the refrigerator magnets will, at least, ensure these members are reminded of the monthly luncheon dates.

Carl Puchalski presented a short slide show to the BEC members about the new electronic bulletin and answered questions concerning the plan.

New members for December: Butch Hodgkins, Glen Wood, John Arnold, Marvin Ganske.

The annual Christmas Dinner/Dance was held on Thursday, December 14 in the Plaza Room in back of Ruthy’s Restaurant on Clark Avenue. One hundred eight members and guests attended a very well presented program. Guests listened and danced to the sixties tunes played by the award winning and very popular TSPDJ, a local DJ company. Every lady received a gift, and the food was provided by Hillcrest Catering. Dennis Dempsey did not perform his usual rendition of Frank Sinatra’s “My Way” this year but had everyone laughing with his jokes.

TWENTY EIGHTEEN

The following men were officers for 2018

Doug Parker Big Sir

Tom Thompson Little Sir

Richard Grant Secretary

Bob Engen Assistant Secretary

Steve Clark Treasurer

Guy Rector Assistant Treasurer

Board Members:

Bill Craig Phil Higgason

Bill Crocker Dieter Rex

Dennis Dempsey Art Worledge

The Activity Chairmen:

Bill Crocker Attendance

Bill Smith Badges

Buck Foster Bocce Ball

Ray Buttacavoli Bowling

Carl Puchalski e-Bulletin

Dieter Rex Bulletin

Bill Lindholm Chaplain

Gary Mitchell Computer

Rich Dettmer Dining Out

Dennis Faron-Wilson Fishing

John Boyer Golf

Bill Crocker Historian

Bill Crocker Membership

Richard Grant Photography

Sac Sacchetti Pool

Bill Crocker Roster

Dennis Demsey Sunshine

Roy Newman Travel

Gary Mitchell Website

The new year began with the passing of three long time members of our branch. John Fontes was one of our senior honorary lifetime members, having served in several leadership roles in two SIR branches: Marysville’s Branch 109 in which he was big sir and Branch 45. He was born in 1930 in Fall River, Massachusetts. He joined the Marine Corps in 1948 and served for two years. Then in 1951 joined the Air Force and retired as a senior master sergeant in 1975. He was a real estate salesman and broker and retired in 1999.

Trumon Cooper became just the second centurion in the forty-four history of Branch 45. He was born on October 17, 1917 and spent his childhood and teen years in Cumby, Texas. He was drafted into the Army in 1944 and was trained in aviation to service and maintain military aircraft. After the war, Trumon sold cars, and farmed peaches and walnuts. He eventually became a real estate broker and a licensed contractor. He was a member of several local civic organizations.

Manny Castro was a very popular member for fourteen years and famous for his Slow Trollers fishing club fish fries. He was a cement mason and worked all over the San Francisco Bay Area. He served on the board of Local 300 in Oakland for several years and recently received his Gold Card from the union for being a mason for fifty years. Manny was a volunteer with Hands of Hope and Regional Emergency Shelter Team (Rest), serving as a driver. He also served as our treasurer. Manny suffered a severe stroke in the fall of 2016. He recovered enough about a year later and was able to attend two luncheons before returning to the hospital.

Branch #45 hosted a 9-pin no-tap bowling tournament in January. No-tap bowling is a variation of traditional bowling in which nine pins knocked down on the first ball of each frame is recorded as a strike. Bill Crocker was the winner with a total of 808 pins. He was the only participant to record over 800 and won $100.

Doug Parker began his second year as Big Sir, taking the place of Little Sir Dennis Faron-Wilson who was unable to continue into the Big Sir position. Tom Tompson began his year as Little Sir.

New members for January: Butch Hodgkins, Glen Wood, John Arnold, and Marvin Ganske.

Carl Puchalski, e-bulletin editor, was the January speaker. He discussed the upcoming change from a printed monthly bulletin to an electronic on. This change will occur with the April bulletin.

Gary Mitchell renewed his computer club activity in February after a holiday hiatus. The topic was the Branch #45 web page.

New members for February: Paul Dunham.

We experienced yet another passing of a member in February. Terry Hood suffered from Hairy Cell Leukemia for several years. He was an Air Force Vietnam veteran of twenty-two years, a deputy probation officer, and a teacher. He was the assistant golf activity chairman and had been a very popular and active member for nearly twenty-two years.

The very popular bowling chairman, Ray Buttacavoli underwent rather unexpected coronary bypass surgery in February. He is recovering and was back in the bowling driver’s seat by March keeping the books. While he was out, his wife, Rita, filled in. Ray still can’t bowl yet, but he is hoping that will change soon.

New members for March: Jerry Tatum, Joe Saavedra, and Bob Penix.

LeRoy Hilbers passed away the last of March. He was past president of Hilbers, Incorporated Contractors and Engineers with corporate headquarters located in Yuba City. LeRoy had been an active members since 2000 and was a senior SIR at ninety years of age.

Jessica Hougen, director/curator of Sutter County Museum spoke at the March luncheon. She brought us up to date concerning the events and displays at the museum.

New members for April: Mike Novak, Shon Harris, Tom Jones, Fred Boswell.

The April speaker was Mary McCree, administrative officer, medical support assistant supervisor, patient advocate, and acting site manager for Yuba City VA Clinic. Ms. McCree discussed the services provided by the local VA. One of the main points was that all veterans should, at least, register with the VA, regardless of any plans to use the system.

The computer club met on April 12 at the usual site at St. Andrews Church. They worked on creating email accounts and how to access the internet.

Several members and their wives traveled to Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley to enjoy a day of horse racing. This is one of the branch’s most popular day trips. Mike Lukens, Bill Crocker, and their wives were chosen to represent SIR Branch #45 and had their photograph taken with the jockey after the SIR race.

New members for May: Clifford Stamps, Jack Schoen, Frank Bockus, Dan Skaggs.

Carl Puchalski, the branch RAMP chairman expressed interest in forming a cycling group. There are a few members who cycle and are interested in this becoming a formal branch activity.

The Ladies Day Luncheon was a rousing success. The tables were filled, and every lady either won a drawing prize or a door prize. The Chico barbershop quartet, “Gesundheit,” kept us in stitches and in good song.

In the branch’s constant search for finding new members, an advertisement was placed in the Appeal-Democrat’s Monthly Shopper. However, the attempt was without success. Word of mouth remains the best way to find potential members.

The May speaker was Lt. Scott Smallwood of the Gridley-Biggs Police Department. He spoke about the local gangs, their identities, and methods.

New members for June: Jim Chalmers

The Dining Out activity returned this month with dinner at Pete’s Restaurant and Brew House. This is a relatively new place but has become a favorite. This event was hosted by Fred and Jan Preston.

Larry Rider, Big Sir for the year 2011, passed away on June 11. He was a faithful member for twenty-one years. He was also a long time member of Moose. He was retired from the head of maintenance and operation for Franklin School District. He loved camping and fishing and was one of the founders of Branch #45’s Slow Trollers.

The Photography Club has changed its meeting place to Tracey’s Diner in Marysville. A private room is available for the breakfast meetings and the atmosphere is a fun 1950s. There first meeting there will be next month.

A bicycling activity was created this month with Bill Craig and Gilbert Corchado in charge.

New members for July: Rick Fagen, Len Brunelle.

Last month, it was realized that several members including officers were unsure as to how to express the abbreviation SIR/Sir in writing. The proper use can be a bit confusing, depending on how it is being used. A SIR Primer written in 1998 by Dwight Sale, state secretary, was resurrected and published in this month’s bulletin. As an example, we are Sirs not SIRs. This is only one SIR (the organization) so no SIRs.

Yuba City Branch #45 hosted a tournament on July 9 and 10. Jeff Brockman, the assistant bowling chairman, was the big winner. A few days prior, Jeff, bowling in the Swinging Singles summer bowling league (not associated with SIR), bowled an astounding perfect game of 300.

A walking activity was created with its first gathering on July 11 ad Regency Park. It is headed by Art Worledge. The walk was two miles and was judged a great new activity.

Henry (Hank) Anderson passed away on July 25 after an extended illness. He was eight-five. He was Big Sir in 2000. Hank was a senior transportation engineer for Caltrans. He loved travel, camping, and fishing and was a SIR member for twenty-one years until ill health forced him to resign in December 2015.

New members for August: Steve Perry.

Denise Sheridan from Adventist Health/Rideout Health was the speaker for the August luncheon. She is a registered nurse and an expert on managing diabetes and maintaining proper nutrition.

Bill Crocker, attendance chairman reminded members of the general attendance rules of the organization. Members are encouraged to attend at least fifty percent of the scheduled luncheons. If a missed luncheon in anticipated, a call or email to him is appreciated.

The following officers were elected for 2019:

Big Sir Tom Thompson

Little Sir Carl Puchalski

Secretary Richard Grant

Ass’t Secretary Bob Engen

Treasurer Steve Clark

Ass’t Treasurer Guy Rector

Board of Directors Bill Craig

 Bill Crocker

 Doug parker

 Dieter Rex

 Art Worledge

 Ed Valusek

Bill Crocker and Carl Puchalski attended the state SIR meeting in Rocklin, California. Among other subjects, importance was placed on recruitment. There is a push to refrain from referring to the organization as Sons In Retirement and to use SIR instead. In an attempt to recruit younger men, the use of the words, senior and retirement is also discouraged.

New members for September: Ken Klebe

Branch #45 has seen a serious dip in membership since June 2017 from 288 to 261. This problem was discussed during the month of September and a presentation was created and given by Dennis Dempsey at the September luncheon. The presentation included a bar graph of the last five years created by Bill Crocker. The main reason for the dip was determined to be the lack of recruitment.

The Dining Out activity was active this month. Buck and Harriett Foster hosted the event at Betty’s Authentic Mexican Restaurant in Live Oak. Twelve SIR members and spouses attended.

September was a busy month for Slow Trollers fishing club. The popular Norm Palmer Memorial fishing event was held on the 20th at Lake Englebright; the annual picnic was on the 27th; and a celebration of the life of Jim Chaussee, their former president, brought 20 members.

New members for October: Paul DeLong, Steve Albrecht, Jim Anderson, Dale Hoag, Boots Johnson, Joe Villalpando.

The computer club continues to be active. This month’s meeting was about basic Windows 10.

Roy Newman, travel chairman led a tour of Rideout Regional Medical Center in Marysville. This is the first of such tours and quickly became a popular one. Additional tours will be scheduled.

The biannual “ Day at the Races” took place at Golden Gate Fields on the 25th. This is one of the most popular local trips and includes a killer luncheon spread and tables in the Turf Club atop the viewing stands.

New members for November: Herb Bradley, Dave Goldwyn, Ralph Looney, Dennis McCarley, Don Priem, Jim Welch, Bill Shaul

Following the recruitment plea at the September luncheon, members really stepped up and brought seven guests to the October luncheon. This seven were installed as members in November. Six more were guests at the November luncheon, scheduled to be installed in December.

Buck Foster, the very popular bocce ball coordinator and branch member for seventeen years passed away this month. He was also active in the Slow Trollers fishing club and rarely missed the branch luncheons and club meetings.

A guided tour of the 5th Street bridge construction was conducted. This was a rather unusual tour, but was popular. More tours will be schedule as the construction progresses.

New members for December: Roy Meli, Earl Cortner, Dennis Lim, Dan Reiswig, Joel Swinford.

The 2019 branch officers and board of Director members were officially sworn in at the December 3 luncheon

To celebrate the Christmas season, Dennis Dempsey arranged for the popular barbershop harmony quartet from Chico, Gesundheit!, to perform at the December luncheon. The boys did a series of Christmas songs, some with humorous word changes.

The Christmas dinner and dance was held on December 13. One hundred nine members and guests danced to 50s and 60s tunes played by Steve Allard and his TSPDJ, the local, very popular DJ group.

TWENTY NINETEEN

The activity chairmen for 2019 are as follows:

Activities Dan Reiswig

Attendance Bill Crocker

Badges Bill Smith

Bocce Ball Al Moody

Bowling Ray Buttacavoli

Card Guy Phil Higgason

Computers Gary Mitchell

Dining Out Rich Dettmer

Fishing Carl Puchalski

Golf John Boyer

Historian Bill Crocker

Horseshoes Frank Bockus

Membership Bill Crocker

Photography Bob Engen

Pool Richard Sacchetti

Roster Bill Crocker

Sunshine Dennis Dempsey

Travel Roy Newman

Website Gary Mitchell

New members for January: Carl Adams, Paul Demeritt, Chuck Denny, Steve Kincade, Bill Eldridge, Barry Greathouse.

Members have been doing some hard recruiting since they were informed of our reduced membership last September. The year of 2019 began with a membership of 268, a net increase of seven members. Members were reminded that membership loss is traditionally substantial due to death, illness, or relocation, so it is important to bring in a constant stream of new members.

The Camp Fire that destroyed Paradise, California, last November has resulted in some displaced SIR members. A few have transferred to Branch #45. In addition, the bowling activity has acquired a couple of bowlers. Ray Buttacavoli, bowling activity chairman, decided in February that all Round Robin tournaments that normally rotated between Paradise, Chico, and Yuba City will now be held every last Monday of the month in Yuba City.

Mindy Poukish continues to work with the computer club teaching how to use Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, including formulas, sums, and pivot tables.

New members for February: Sam Barone, Sam Uriarte, Kim Cupples, Bill Cornelius, Dale Sparks, Art Boulet, Keith Antic.

The speaker was Dr. Pranav Amin. He is a local ophthalmologist and a very popular speaker at our luncheons. He spoke about cataracts and macular degeneration.

New members for March: Tom Caldie, Bob Haase, Stan Gudmundson, Randy Groves, Neal Brookman.

Jim Balsdon received his certificate for reaching the age of 90 years. Actually, he was 90 last year. The certificate was delayed and presented on the 15th anniversary of his joining SIR.

The number of members reached 274 in March. The last time the membership was 274 was December 2017. It is clear that personal one-on-one contact with prospective members, using the small business cards, works the best.

New members for April: Dave Davis, Wayne Dutra, Bob Flaherty, Ron Earl, Lew Hudspeth. Ray Anderson, a long time member, had asked to be dropped last month because of health issues. As requested, he was dropped in March. Then later in the month he asked to be reinstated. This was done in April.

The April speaker was Katy Goodson. Katy has been with the Yuba City Police Department since May of 2006. She has worked in several departments, acquiring an impressive knowledge of the department.

The Slow Trollers fishing club continues to be quite active, with its members fishing in southern California, Hawaii, Mexico, and locally at Collins Lake.

The computer club met this month and hosted a special guest, Melinda Poukish. Mindy taught some basics of Microsoft Outlook. She showed the members how to create and keep contracts as well as working with mail merge.

New members for May: Walt Cotter, Ed McConnell, Bob Triplett. This addition brings the total membership to 279. We continue to slowly build our membership from the low of 261 in September 2018.

Carl Fassler was recognized for reaching his 90th birthday this month. He is a retired farmer and has been a member for fifteen years.

The speaker this month is a local military legend. Obie Wickersham is 94 years old and a World War II and Korean War veteran. He was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, fought at Anzio and the Battle of the Bulge. He returned home a highly decorated paratrooper. Five years later, he returned to active duty in Korea as a platoon sergeant. He was captured, spent two years as a POW and suffered brutality, dysentery, and malnutrition.

Steve Clark, the branch treasurer, raised an issue concerning state sales tax rules regarding tips and charges at the May BEC meeting. He was of the opinion that the branch should not be paying sales taxes on these items. Dieter Rex offered a motion that was seconded by Bill Crocker that the monthly tip to the caterer be increased from $100 to $150 and make this a cash payment rather than a part of the taxable monthly catering cost. After discussion, the motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The annual ladies luncheon was held on May 9. Twenty-six branch members and their guests and one single member attended. The buffet lunch included tri tip and Mediterranean chicken. After lunch the popular Gesundheit barbershop quartet entertained for about an hour. There were drawings for door prizes and the ladies were given a rose as they departed.

The Fishing Club held a celebration of life for President Dennis Faron-Wilson’s deceased wife, Diana. It was held at the Foothill Lions Club in Loma Rica.

New members for June: Frank McCarley, Donald Cornett, David Karnegas, Dave Ebersole.

Long time member and past Big Sir Phil Higgason decided to drop his membership this month because of illness. He was the card guy. Dennis Dempsey agreed to take over that position.

Branch officers for 2020 were installed in June.

Big Sir Carl Puchalski

Little Sir J.P. Hill

Secretary Bill Smith

Asst. Secretary Bob Engen

Treasurer Steve Clark

Asst. Treasurer Guy Rector

Board of Director

Bill Craig Bill Crocker

Dennis Dempsey Doug Parker

Dieter Rex Art Worledge

The bowling activity continues to hold a round robin tournament the last Monday of the month at 12:00. SIR members from Auburn, Grass Valley, and Paradise join our bowlers at NU Generations Lanes.

New members for July: Timothy Burri, Chuck Sievers.

Michael Nichols, President of the annual Yuba-Sutter Stand Down was the guest speaker at the July luncheon. This year’s stand down will occur next month. This organization serves area military veterans.

Dennis Dempsey stepped up, again, this time to take over the golf activity from John Boyer. John has headed it up for many years.

The horseshoes activity was deleted this month because of the lack of interest. In addition, Frank Bockus was the activity chairman and lives in Sacramento, so it was difficult to continue to promote.

The bowling activity hosted the 24th Annual Twin Cities singles and doubles tournament in July 8. It was a great success with a good turnout.

New members for August: Michael Trimble, David Mishler. Jerry Ringlbauer,

August marked the passing of our most distinguished member, Glenn Zeller. Glenn was installed as a member of Branch #45 on September 15, 1982. He was the 1988 big sir, an area governor in 1989, and one of the original six regional directors in 1990. He was our oldest member at 93 years of age, the senior living big sir, and the senior branch member with 37 years of service.

Glenn also had an impressive military career. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Army Air Corps in 1945, joined the 509th Bomb Group as a navigator, and flew cargo aircraft from Roswell, New Mexico, to Kwajalein Atoll during the atomic bomb test on Eniwetok Atoll. Discharged in 1946, Glenn was recalled to active duty in 1951, became a pilot and flew the first C-123 to France from where he flew throughout Europe. He returned to the US in 1958 and flew B-47s and B-52s. He ended his military career in 1968 as the commander of the Beale Command Post.

The bowlers were witness to a 622 series bowled by one of our oldest members, Jay Trammel. Jay will be 93 years old this November, carries a 154 average, and has never bowled a 600+ series.

New members for September: Steve Wheeler, Jerry Ritchey, Noli Pabalan, Lu Hintz.

The speaker, Supervisory Special Agent Arvinder “Vinny” Ginda of the FBI was a most interesting and entertaining speaker. He spoke of his emigration from a poor village in India to the United States and his upbringing in Yuba City. He also described his career with the FBI.

Little Sir Carl Puchalski attended the state SIR meeting at Thunder Valley, stepping in for Big Sir Tom Thompson. He returned from the meeting with information and recommended changes that he will relay to the membership next month.

The Dining Out Activity was in full force this month. Several met at Alamar Marina and Restaurant in Sacramento. This on the river venue was picturesque and holds a great reputation for the cuisine.

New members for October: John Krohn, Don Schwellenbach, Phil Thunen.

Sutter County Undersheriff Scott Smallwood was the guest speaker this month. He is a graduate of the National FBI Academy and a published author. He spoke of public safety, the local homeless, and answered questions.

Our bowling chairman, Ray Buttacavoli, accomplished a feat as a result of a combination of luck and skill. He bowled a 226 in his first and second games. He needed a nine count on his last shot to shoot a “bowling triple,” three games with the same score. His very last shot left a seven-ten split. The seven-pin wobbled and finally fell over, resulting in a third game of 226.

Little Sir Carl Puchalski spoke at the Slow Trollers October meeting about food preparation. He reviewed Procedure 16A of the SIR Manuel. Occasionally the fishing club holds fish fries and it was important for members to be aware of the guidelines.

New members for November: Tom Conry, Jack Dunn.

Members of the BEC decided to change the seating arrangement for the monthly luncheons from rows of tables to circular tables that see eight. This change is to take place in January. The members attending the November luncheon were told of the change and asked to agree to give this new arrangement a try. If, after several month, the arrangement is not satisfactory, the return to rows is possible.

John Boyer and Udo Huefner will have been honorary life members for ten years as of January 2020. Therefore, they will be upgraded to senior honorary life members after State approval. Once approval is received, there will be two honorary life member positions available. The BEC voted unanimously to nominate Dennis Dempsey for one of the positions. Dennis was the Big Sir in 2013 and 2014 and has been intimately involved in branch operations since. The remaining position is open.

Major Julius Murphy of The Salvation Army was the November speaker. He addressed homelessness and the way out.

New members for December: John Stankevich, James Ousey, Bruce Kennedy.

Brock Smith, an honorary life member, has asked to be dropped from membership due to health issues. The BEC elected to request the State that he be given emeritus status. Once approval is received, this will open one more honorary life member position. Dieter Rex suggested at the BEC meeting that Bill Crocker and Ray Buttacavoi be considered for the remaining two positions.

The crew of Engine 3 of the Yuba City Fire Department spoke at the December luncheon. Fire Captain Matt Johnson, Fire Fighter Jordan Poe, and Fire Apparatus Operator Nevin McRice discussed fire safety, especially around the holidays.

Slow Trollers, the branch’s fishing club, elected Dan Skaggs as president, Dennis Faron-Wilson as vice president, Pat Dilling as secretary, and Carey Saunders as Treasurer.

The annual Christmas dinner and dance was held on December 12. There were eighty-three tickets sold with seventy-nine attending. Everyone danced to 50s and 60s tunes played by Steve Allard and his TSPDJ, the local, very popular DJ group. This year dinner was served at tables rather than buffet style. The food was excellent as was the service.

 TWENTY TWENTY

The chairmen for 2020 are as follows:

Activities Dan Reiswig

Attendance Bill Crocker

Badges Bill Smith

Bicycling Bill Craig

Bocce Ball Al Moody

Bowling Ray Buttacavoli

Bulletin Gary Kim

Cards Phil Higgason

Computers Carl Pulchalski

Fine Dining Rich Dettmer

Fishing Dan Skaggs

Golf Dennis Dempsey

Historian Bill Crocker

Membership Roster Bill Crocker

New Members Bill Crocker

Photography Bob Engen

Pool Richard Saccetti

Sunshine Dennis Dempsey

Travel Roy Newman

Walking Art Worledge

Website Carl Pulchalski

New members for January: Phil Higgason, Greg Isaacson. Phil was the 2015 Big Sir and returns after an extended absence. He took over the cards chairmanship.

Carl Puchalski and JP Hill began their year as Big Sir and Little Sir, respectively.

This month was the first with the new table arrangement. The circular tables seat eight, allow for more to be seated, and make it easier for food servers to move among the attendees.

HLM Brock Smith, a member since 2001, requested to be removed from the active member list due to illness. He can no longer attend luncheons. The BEC decided to award Brock HLM Emeritus. Brock is the only Branch #45 member to be recognized in this fashion in the branch’s seventy-three-year history. This opens up a second HLM slot.

Dennis Dempsey took over the golf chairmanship from John Boyer. John held this position for many years.

The January speaker was Nate Black, the Sutter County Auditor Controller. He has held this position since 2014, being re-elected in 2018. He described what the controller does and answered questions.

The annual golf breakfast was held on January 28 at the Moose Lodge. As usual, those who participated in the branch tournaments during last year attended.

A full year of travel was outlined by Roy Newman, the travel chairman that included international travel.

Slow Trollers fishing club’s president Dennis Faron-Wilson banged the gavel for the last time at the January 6 meeting. Dan Skaggs took over the leadership.

New members for February: Frank Eberle, James Carr, Jerry Kirland, Timothy Hill, Rob Ivanisevich, Brad Johnson, Bob Thomas, and Carey Saunders. Carey was a transfer from Branch #109.

February’s speaker was Rick Millhollin, executive director for Hands of Hope: Resources for Homeless Families. He described the organization’s work with the Yuba-Sutter homeless population. The organization currently operates two homeless day centers.

The season’s golfing schedule was published beginning with Coyote Run on March 3 and ending with River Oaks on October 27. Dennis Dempsey shares the tournament directorships with Pete Brennan.

The computer club is back in operation after a few months off. A reminder that our smart phones are computers, so questions concerning the phones will be addressed.

The photography club continues to meet the second Tuesday of the month at Tracey’s Diner in Marysville.

New members for March: Leo Villaneuva, Jerry Jaeger, and Richard Salcedo.

Speaker was Jarrod Siebert, the driver safety manager for the California Department of Motor Vehicles. He has fourteen years of military service and was quite entertaining concerning DMV interaction.

Dining Out is back in business. They met courtesy of Rich and Jill Dettmer at the City Café on Plumas Street. Eighteen enjoyed a very nice multi course meal and libation.

The branch said good-bye to longtime member, Art Worledge as he and Dee moved out of the area to be close to their children. Art was a BEC member and a director. His father was Big Sir in 1983.

The COVID-19 Pandemic required the monthly luncheons to be curtailed in April until further notice. The BEC continued to meet at Tracey’s Diner in Marysville to keep the branch alive. The possibility of a limited luncheon in November was presented at the BEC’s October meeting. It was agreed that Bill Crocker would canvas those members who have email to determine the interest.

Fifty-three responses to the request for luncheon information were received. Thirty-one did not want to meet and twenty-two were willing to meet. The remaining members did not respond. It was determined that a November luncheon would not take place.

As mentioned previously, two HLM slots remained open. They were filled by Bill Crocker and Ray Buttacavoli. The certificates were presented at the October BEC meeting.

The state president, Ed Benson announced in November that all SIR activities were to be curtailed until further notice. Prior to this announcement, bowling and golf had taken place since September, although actual luncheons had not. The bowlers and golfers continued to play but not under the banner of SIR.

There was no BEC meeting in December because of the lack of change. There was nothing to report. However, the 2021 membership roster was approved through email and sent to the printer. Ullrey Memorial Chapel agreed to sponsor the printer and it has for several years.

A review of 2020 brought to mind the five SIR members lost that year.

Maynard Dunn; 88; May 19; 21 years of service

Boots Johnson; 84; Jun 9; 1 year of service

Don Solheim; 86; July 13; 5 years of service

Frank Eberle; 80; October 18; 1 year of service

Bobby Barlow; 80; December 2; 11 years of service

Wayne Beutler; 94; December 23; 20 years of service

Wayne was our oldest member at 94 years, five months. He was well known in the local bowling community and owned the bowling alley.

 TWENTY TWENTY-ONE

The chairmen for 2021 are as follows:

Activities Dan Reiswig

Attendance Bill Crocker

Badges Bill Smith

Bicycling Bill Craig

Bocce Ball Al Moody

Bowling Ray Buttacavoli

Bulletin Gary Kim

Cards Phil Higgason

Computers Carl Pulchalski

Fine Dining Rich Dettmer

Fishing Dan Skaggs

Golf Dennis Dempsey

Historian Bill Crocker

Membership Roster Bill Crocker

New Members Bill Crocker

Photography Bob Engen

Pool Richard Saccetti

Sunshine Dennis Dempsey

Travel Roy Newman

Website Carl Pulchalski

The COVID-19 pandemic continued into 2021 with the organization completely shut down. The board members continued to meet on the first Monday of the month.

Steve Lesser, 76, passed away on January 10 and was dropped from membership in February. He was an attorney and was a member for six years.

Dennis Dempsey raised the issue of the state organization requiring branches to continue their monthly payments to the state, regardless of the fact that the branches were not able to collect funds from their members. He promised to talk with Mark Stuart, the Area 2 governor. He reported limited success at the February BEC meeting that Mark had agreed to a three month hiatus of payments.

Joe Fisher, 80, passed away on March 17 and was dropped from membership in April. He had served in law enforcement and as a chief of police. He had been a member for three years.

A discussion was held at the BEC meeting on February 1 concerning creating a method for contacting members in an emergency situation. Bill Crocker agreed to work out a plan and present it at the March 1 BEC meeting. The board members did not meet in March but did so on April 5. Bill’s plan of assigning contact responsibilities to fifteen board members and activity chairs was approved. The assignments were distributed in April.

Some thought was given to having an unofficial gathering of interested members in May at the Moose Lodge during the April BEC meeting. Later in the month, it was decided to not go through with this plan and, instead, consider an official luncheon on June 7.

Carl Puchalski announced at the April BEC meeting that he and Donna were moving to Washington state. Bill Crocker agreed to take on Carl’s website and Constant Contact responsibilities.

Dieter Rex suggested that Bill Crocker should have some backup in case he is no longer able to perform his responsibilities. Bill agreed and suggested that the backup members should be men who have not participated in the past.

The BEC met on May 3 at the Plaza Room, our normal luncheon place. Everything was confirmed for a June 7 luncheon. Masks will be required. The signing of a SIR Event Waiver and Release of Liability for Exposure to COVID-19 will also be required. However, the showing of vaccination cards will not be required.

Dieter Rex created a postcard that he sent to all of the members on May 15 alerting them of the June luncheon and that they would be receiving a telephone call asking if they plan to attend.

The call system was activated during the last week in May.

A total of 170 positive responses for attending the June 7 luncheon were received, using the call system. However, only 138 actually attended. The speaker was Monica Arrowsmith, chief strategy officer, Adventist Health and Rideout. The luncheon was a very successful one after a sixteen-month hiatus. Dennis Burgess was installed. Dennis was due to be installed sometime in the summer of 2020. The branch lost seven members, but nine guests attended, so the membership will recover nicely next month.

The new branch website was up and running as of the first part of June. It is a WordPress website and connected with the State’s system.

Bill and Gary Kim, the creator of the monthly bulletin, decided that the Constant Contact program was no longer needed.

The bowling lanes owned by member Wayne Beutler who passed away in December 2020 is for sale. Ray Buttacavoli, bowling chairman, has arranged for the bowling activity to continue at Beale Air Force Base in Marysville. It is uncertain as to when the bowling lanes will no longer be available.

The July luncheon was held on July 12 with 120 members attending. This was considered a poor showing but many are still concerned about the pandemic and July 12 was the second Monday, not the first. The first Monday was a part of the 4th of July celebration.

Richard “Sac” Sacchetti, pool and billiards chairman, moved out of the area. Rubin Gomez, who was Sac’s assistant agreed to become the chairman. Bob Penix was tapped to be his assistant.

Bob Penix has also agreed to be responsible for ensuring that name badges are returned to their proper place following luncheons.

Mike Gyorfi, attendance chairman for many years, agreed to be the backup for the attendance responsibility.

Gary Kim, who creates the branch’s monthly bulletin, agreed to be the backup for the website responsibility.

Bob Engen, who was the branch secretary in 2019, will serve as backup for the branch history.

The bowling activity will continue at Beale Air Force Base in August. The league will bowl at 11:00 every Wednesday.

Eight new members were installed: Rod Jorgenson, Larry Hoffman, Frank Hopkins, Marv Banta, John Leeder, Jim Merrell, Walt High, and Ken Lay.

Ralph Pelichoff and Ed Goodman received their ninety-year-old certificates that they should have received in 2020. Ed McConnell turned ninety years old last February and received his certificate as well.

Dennis Dempsey, 2013, 2014 Big Sir, gave a short presentation concerning the branch’s reduced bank account. The state organization required all branches to continue with their monthly dues to the state, although the branches were unable to replace the funds through monthly luncheons during the pandemic. Dennis asked that the attending members consider donations to rebuild the branch’s funds. The members met that request with donations of over $800.

Four new members were installed in August: Stan Shelsta, Paul Breitag, Aureliano Robledo, and Doug MacIvor.

Honorary Live Member Emeritus Brock Smith attended the August luncheon. It was great to see him after a serious illness and the pandemic hiatus.

The luncheon speaker was Yuba City Police Chief Robert Landon. He spoke of the department’s activities and answered questions. The most troubling aspect of policing in Yuba City these days is the homeless problem.

Bill Crocker met with Roy Meli who agreed to be the backup for the membership roster. Bill will provide Roy with monthly updates and Roy will update his copy in his computer. new members were installed in September

Three new members were installed in September: Lewis Pond, Paul Weber, and Mark Wood.

Officers for 2022 were elected at this luncheon.

Big Sir – Tom Bethards

Little Sir – Harvey Robinson Sr.

Treasurer – Brad Johnson

Secretary – Butch Hodgkins

Board of Directors: Bill Crocker

 J.P. Hill

 Ed Kennedy

 Doug Parker

 Dieter Rex

 Tom Thompson

The September guest speaker was Doug Heathcock. He is the chief of operations for the local construction firm, Hilbers , Inc.

The Dining Out activity is now back in full swing. The young couples dined together at the Dancing Tomato Caffé on September 22.

Bill Crocker, attendance chairman, reminded everyone in the September bulletin that the branch is assessed $1.75 per member, per quarter. Our only obligation is to regularly attend the luncheons and pay the monthly fee. If a member does not attend, the branch is still assessed. Poor attendance results in a reduced bank account from which to pay our state obligation.

Three new members were installed in October: Bijan Parhizgar, Mo Dosanjh, Robbie Merwin.

J. C. (Jay) Trammell passed away on September 21. Jay had been a member since March 1991. He was both our oldest member in years at ninety-four and the longest serving member at thirty years. He would have been ninety-five next month. He was the last to hold both titles. Jay was an avid bowler and possessed a wonderful personality. Bill Sims now holds the title of oldest member at ninety-four and Ed Goodman with the longest service of twenty-seven years.

Assemblyman James Gallagher was the October speaker. He spoke of state projects with which he was involved. Unfortunately, his talk was somewhat political, which was problematic. As a result, the BEC re-affirmed the long-standing policy of no politics and decided to discontinue scheduling politicians as speakers.

Bob Engen and Bob Singh were recognized as seniors at ninety years of age. Bob Engen has been a member for nine years. Bob Singh has been a member for eleven years.

Four new members were installed in November: Kirby Jessen, Dave McCormack, Steve Marshall, Jerry Ensworth.

Dr. Pranav Amin was the November speaker. Dr. Amin is a local Ophthalmologist and a regular speaker at Branch #45 luncheons. Over the years, he has treated a large portion of the membership and is a very popular visitor.

A survey of missing members was taken this month. There were thirty-three members who had not attended a luncheon since the branch opened June 2021. Of those thirty-three, it was discovered that seventeen members had decided to not return for various reasons. Eight were dropped in November and the remaining nine will be dropped in December.

Although nine members were dropped in December, six new guys were installed. Despite the serous “bite” of the pandemic into the membership, the branch continues to draw new faces.

Six new members were installed: Bob Coomes, Hari Goyal, Garth Long, Tony Mello, Paul Townsend, and Sam Wong.

The speaker was Dr. James Siller, a local chiropractor. He spoke about the health of the spine and answered questions.

The Christmas party was held on December 15 and was very well attended. The food was great, and many danced until the D.J. pulled the plug.

 TWENTY TWENTY-TWO

The chairmen for 2021 are as follows:

Attendance Bill Crocker

Badges Roy Meli

Bicycling Bill Craig

Bocce Ball Al Moody

Bowling Ray Buttacavoli

Bulletin Gary Kim

Cards Phil Higgason

Fine Dining Rich Dettmer

Fishing Fred Preston

Golf Dennis Dempsey

Historian Bill Crocker

Membership Roster Bill Crocker

New Members Bill Crocker

Photography Bob Engen

Pool Ruben Gomez

Sunshine Dennis Dempsey

Website Bill Crocker

Three new members were installed in January 2022: Bill Kindred, Johnnie Wurm, and James Jim Francis.

Attendance continues to be light at approximately fifty percent of active members because of COVID concerns. Therefore, the policy of not enforcing the usual attendance requirement, started in June 2021, remains in effect. The branch membership is now 271.

The branch has had a difficult time finding a little sir. Two members initially agreed to fill the position, then declined installation. A third member has been approached and appears to be willing to step up. He will be installed at the February luncheon.

Three members were installed in February: Ken Buehrle, Mike Buttacavoli, and Jim Matson. Sir Buehrle is returning from a two-year absence. Sir Buttacavoli is the brother of honorary life member Ray Buttacavoli.

Manny Cardoza was installed as Little Sir. He is a previous member of the Yuba City Council and will provide important leadership over the next two years.

One Senior Award and one Super Senior Award were given to Bob Lovell and Bill Sims, respectively. Bob celebrated his ninetieth birthday and is an Army veteran who survived the infamous Battle of the Chosen Reservoir during the Korean War. Bill celebrated his ninety-fifth birthday. He entered the Navy after high school graduation in 1945 and became a motor machinist mate. He did his time and was discharged. He then acquired a college degree, volunteered for the Air Force, and retired as Lieutenant Colonel.

One member was installed in March: Kevin Fine.

Branch #45 lost one of its longest serving members on March 1, Don Andrews. Don was installed in 1995, held several positions, and was the Big Sir in 2010,. He was retired from PG&E, loved golf and the outdoor activities of hunting, fishing, and camping. He was eight-seven years old.

Two members were installed in April: Mike Ponte and Doug Marr.

Jack Christie was presented with a certificate for reaching the age of ninety years. When asked what he attributed his longevity to, his response brought down the house. He stated that he had good genes, good luck, and a great cardiologist.

Attendance and member installation chair, Bill Crocker requested permission of the BEC to renew the monitoring of attendance beginning with the May luncheon. Attendance has not been monitored since the branch returned to monthly luncheons in June 2021 because of COVID fears. He will send out an email announcing this return.

Four members were installed in May: Dennis Gabel, Scott Seymore, Steve Limper, and Jack Mayberry. A telephone canvas of forty-three members not heard from since 2019 was conducted. Of those, thirteen decided to not return. An additional ten members called on their own to ask to be dropped. So, twenty-three members were dropped in May.

Bill Crocker performed his annual membership reconciliation of the applications, luncheon report, label count, birthday list, master list, roster 1-320, and state membership list. All agreed with a confirmed membership of 251 as of May 2022.

Carl Jacobi was honored with a certificate for reaching the age of ninety. Carl has been a member for twenty-two years.

June was a very light month of membership activity. Albert Rogas was the only member installed.

The speaker this month was Megan Anderson, Manager of Sutter Animal Services. Her talk was well received, and many questions were asked.

Bowling at Beale Lanes on Beale Air Force Base returned to the use of all twelve lanes. The use of every other lane had been the rule since the beginning of the pandemic.

No members were installed in July, but several members were dropped. There were several who had returned just one or two times after the June 2021 opening from the pandemic closure. Attendance chairman, Bill Crocker, emailed, telephoned, and wrote letters to those members. Twenty-four of them decided not to return permanently and were dropped from membership. The membership now stands at 227. The pandemic took an unprecedented toll on the branch membership!

Two members were installed in August: Perry Murphy and Gary Murphy. Eleven members were dropped for various reasons. The membership now is 218. Attendance chairman Bill Crocker placed a note in the August bulletin concerning the lack of attendance. It was a plea for members to ensure they attend regularly and support the branch.

Fred and Jan Preston hosted the August Dining Out at the popular Ranch House. The turnout was great and the food wonderful.

Bill Crocker decided to reassign eleven numbers after realizing that, because of the significant reduction in membership since June 2021, just eleven members were left between the numbers of 276 and 320. The members affected were notified by email and telephone.

Four members were installed in September: George Magann, Richard Poma, Charles Mitchell, and Frank Sorgea. The percentage of attendance was up this month, partially due to the dropping of several members who did not return from the pandemic hiatus. Ten additional members were dropped this month.

The September luncheon speaker was the Sutter County administrator, Steve Smith. Steve has several years in administrative positions in several California counties. He has been in his present position for three years. He brought the members up to date on county issues.

The fishing club held a tournament on Lake Oroville last month. Again, Robbie Merwin was the big winner with a 7.5 pound bad of bass.

Two members were installed in October: Rick Laird and Ron Sullenger. The percentage of attendance reached sixty-one percent this month.

There was a surprise visit by long-time member, former big sir, and senior honorary life member Udo Huefner. Udo has been absent for over one year due to health issues.

Bob Engen celebrated his ninety-first birthday. Per usual, his wife, Marge, brought in a large birthday cake for the members to enjoy.

One new member was installed in November: Paul Deol. Chuck Champlin rejoined after a four-month absence.

Bijan Parhizgar, who joined just one year ago agreed to be the 2023 little sir. He promises to be an excellent addition to the branch staff.

The luncheon attendance reached 67% this month. This is the first significant level of attendance that has been seen since the branch opened up after the pandemic in June 2021.

One new member was installed in December: Lee Kirchner. Two previous members: Wayne Dutra and Duane Rogers rejoined. They both were out due to family health issues.

The Christmas dinner and dance was very successful with twenty-six couples attending.

 TWENTY TWENTY-THREE

The chairmen for 2021 are as follows:

Attendance Bill Crocker

Badges Roy Meli

Bicycling Bill Craig

Bocce Ball Al Moody

Bowling Ray Buttacavoli

Bulletin Gary Kim

Cards Roy Meli

Fine Dining Rich Dettmer

Fishing Pat Dilling

Golf Dennis Dempsey

Historian Bill Crocker

Membership Roster Bill Crocker

New Members Bill Crocker

Photography Bob Engen

Pool Ruben Gomez

Sunshine Dennis Dempsey

Website Bill Crocker

January saw three additions to the membership. One of which was a returning previous member, Gordon Case. New members installed were Jesse Odom and Larry Munger

The membership appears to be stable after COVID. Some actually are drifting back asking to rejoin. The membership began this year at 216. The branch’s return from the pandemic in June 2021 showed a membership of 265 and a tentative attendance of 52%.

Treasurer Johnson announced at the January BEC that State has increased the assessment per member per month to $2.00.

There was one addition to the membership in February. Tom Walther, a long time local civic leader, was brought in by Tom Jones.

Long-time member, Fred Okimoto, asked to be dropped from the membership because of health issues. Fred was an Air Force vet and very popular with the branch bowling group.

Mike Newton was added to the membership in March. There were no drops, the membership remails at 216.

Leilani Barnhart from Luna Lei Wellness was the speaker at the March luncheon. She talked about a very popular subject and answered questions.

The bowling lanes at Beale Air Force Base closed this month for renovation. So, the bowling club is taking a vacation. It is unknown how long bowling will be suspended.

April saw a significant increase in new membership with the installation of four guys: Bruce Henley and Gil Stresser were brand new and Tom Caldie and Rene Lomelia were past members who had decided to return. Although that was good news, it was more than balanced out with the dropping of five members because of health issues, relocation, and full time work.

The branch’s most popular speaker was Dr. Amin in April. He visits the branch at least once a year to talk about various vision issues and answer questions.

The bowling lanes at Beale Air Force Base remain closed.

The Slow Trollers Fishing Club remains the most active activity. Their tournaments and fishing gatherings are always very popular. The latest tournament was held on April 20.

Four guys were installed in May: Wes Green, Mario Almendarez, Bruce Capaul, and Raul Gonzales. Unfortunately, three were dropped. The membership has remained relatively stable this year.

The bowling lanes at Beale Air Force Base opened this month, however, the air conditioning is still not working.

There were no new members in June and two were dropped.

The speaker was Dr. Gus Tolly, a hydrologist. He presented a very interesting talk on local ground water issues.

The July luncheon was held on the second Monday because the first Monday was close to the 4th of July holiday.

We lost two members, one due to the death of Charlie Whitaker, a long-time member. Mario Johnson and Bob O’Neil were installed.

Pat Dilling, the head of the fishing club, was the speaker in July. He spoke about classic cars and members brought their classic cars to the luncheon. Several members joined the owners outside after the luncheon to ask questions about the cars and talk cars in general.

Three guys were installed in August, on of whom was a re-joiner. Dave McCormack had been a member from October 2021 to September 2022. He was able to return to membership this month. We welcomed him back. The two new guys were Ralph Blackburn and Eric Bellenfant.

Our branch finally convinced someone to become little sir for 2024. Barry Greathouse stepped up to the plate and knocked a homerun in September. He’s a great guy and will do well in a leadership position. Finding a secretary seems to remain a problem. Assistant Secretary Bill Craig has been serving as the secretary for three years and is very interested in someone taking his place.

New members in September: Barry Turk and Carl Hall. Barry was brought in by Doug Parker and Carl by Tom Walther.

The branch membership has remained pretty steady between 212 and 216 since last October after the post COVID reduction during the summer of 2022. The attendance, however, has been a little low, between sixty and sixty-five percent.

One new member was installed in October, Ron McEwen, brought in by Bill Crocker. Bill met him at a local barbershop and discovered they both grew up within twenty-five miles from each other in Chautauqua County, New York.

Guest speaker at the October luncheon was Attorney Joseph Carrico from the Legal Center for Seniors.

One new member was installed in November. Eddie Melendez was brought in by John Krohn.

The December luncheon was the first time the attendance was over 70% since the return from the COVID hiatus. This is partially due to a close watch over attendance. One of the important factors in keeping the attendance over 70% is ensuring that non-attending members are questioned to ensure they are no longer able to participate and then dropped from membership.

 TWENTY TWENTY-FOUR

The chairmen for 2021 are as follows:

Attendance Bill Crocker

Badges Roy Meli

Bicycling Bill Craig

Bocce Ball Al Moody

Bowling Ray Buttacavoli

Bulletin Gary Kim

Cards Roy Meli

Fine Dining Tom Bethards

Fishing Pat Dilling

Golf Dennis Dempsey

Historian Bill Crocker

Membership Roster Bill Crocker

New Members Bill Crocker

Photography Bob Engen

Pool Ruben Gomez

Sunshine Dennis Dempsey

Website Bill Crocker

Scott Lofis, Mike Tyler, and Mark Schneider were installed in January of 2024. Unfortunately, we lost six, including one death. Mark is an excellent bowler, carrying a 190 average and has already joined our Wednesday bowling group.

The branch’s attendance and installation chairman performed a study concerning the range of ages of the branch’s members. It turns out the membership ages form a perfect bell curve ranging from forty-nine to ninety-seven.

The February luncheon was canceled because of bad weather. The Sunday before the luncheon saw heavy rain and very destructive wind. As a result, the luncheon place had no power for two days.

There was a large turnout for the March luncheon. There were 146 members present for a seventy-two percent attendance. Birthdays for February and March were recognized. Of particular interest was Bill Sims who celebrated his ninety-third birthday in February. He is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and was an electronic warfare officer on B-52s during his SAC days.

Rick Brady, Tim Petrin, and Rick Walters were installed at the March luncheon. Big Sir Parhizgar welcomed any members to attend the BEC meeting that occurs after every luncheon. New member Tim Petrin did so and found the experience informative.

Scott Roberts was installed at the April luncheon. The attendance continues to be very good. Tim Petrin has indicated that he would be willing to take the 2025 little sir position with Barry Greathouse as big sir.

Perry Hayden and Michael Walsh were installed at the May luncheon. Bill Crocker would like to give up the responsibility of the website and the membership roster. He placed a request for new chairman in the May bulletin. As a result, Dave Goldwyn has agreed to take over the roster responsibility.

Jim Morton was recognized at the May luncheon for reaching the age of ninety-five.

It was confirmed at the May BEC meeting that Tim Petrin would become the secretary and Richard Grant would serve as assistant. In addition, Dave Goldwyn will assume the responsibility of creating the annual membership roster booklet that is given to each member.

Curt Anderson, Juan Delgado, Tom McKenzie, and Jim Seif were installed at the June luncheon.

Marvin King was the guest speaker at the June luncheon. He is the local veterans services office expert. His knowledge is legendary and was a very interesting speaker.

During the July luncheon, Chuck Markham was recognized for reaching the age of ninety and Gordon Rohleder for reaching the age of ninety-five. Both were not in attendance so Big Sir Parhizgar personally delivered the framed certificates to the men at home.

Stan Kearby and Carlos Vargas were installed in July.

During the BEC meeting after the luncheon, Big Sir Parhizgar reviewed the Branch Officer’s Town Hall Meeting from June 26 that he attended via Zoom. He learned that the state board of SIR is contemplating changing the name of the organization and creating a new logo that will be more attractive to younger potential members. The BEC members were also told that several branches were now accepting women at members. In fact, one branch has a female big sir. It was quite apparent from ensuing discussion that the Branch #45 BEC members are not interested in any such changes. The branch average age is seventy-seven and it continues to serve this senior group of men well, does not have a recruitment problem, and is interested in providing a place for senior men to have lunch with friends and listen to a speaker as has been the practice.

The new members in August were Greg Isaacson and Len Kovats.

The BEC members approved the creation of a letter to the State SIR president stating their disagreement with the proposed organization name change, the logo change, and the introduction of women into SIR. Big Sir Parhizar will write the letter using BEC Crocker’s July 15 email on the subject to President Decker as a guide.

Wade Kirchner, Mike Houser, Mike, McGee, and Bob Grunder were installed as new members at the September luncheon.

The status of the letter to the state SIR president was questioned. It has not been written yet. Big Sir Parhizar promised to write it this month.

Yuba City Chief of Police Brian Baker was the guest speaker at the September luncheon. It was a very informative presentation with several questions at the end.

Bill Evans and Leo Villanueva were installed as new members at the October luncheon. Leo was returning to membership having dropped in May of 2022.