



The Pathfinder

Branch Number 59

Forty-First Year

February 2016

Bulletin No. 2

NEXT MEETING at Newark Pavilion - Thursday, February 18, 2016

Jim's Thoughts by Big Sir Jim Ulam



Since I don't have a Little Sir . . .

Reminds me of a story: A group of men were hiking in the woods when they came upon a woman and three small children sinking in a bog of quicksand and screaming for help. There were plenty of branches around, and the men were carrying a big coil of rope, but the men just stood there watching as the poor woman and her children sank deeper and

deeper. The woman screamed and begged for assistance and the children wailed in fear, and the men just stood there.

Finally, with a last gasp of fear and agony, the woman and her children sank from sight, lost forever because men who watched, and were able to help, did nothing. As the quicksand bubbled and then became calm, the men looked at each other. One man spoke to his comrades and said "why didn't you save them?" Each man, in turn, looked at the others, and finally one said "I thought YOU were going to do it!"

Since I don't have a Little Sir, let me explain the moral to you. Sir Branch 59 is sinking in quicksand, and if everyone just stands around waiting for someone else to save it, we are going down like that poor woman and her children. Are you going to stand around and say "I thought YOU were going to save it?"

Why do I bring this up again? At the end of calendar year 2010, this branch had **229** active members, in 2011 membership fell to 204, then to 195 in 2012, then 179 in 2013, 163 in 2014, and **153** in 2015! That is a **33% drop in membership in six years!!** This branch truly IS sinking and we need lots of help to save it! SIR state officers have given us a plan to turn this trend around, and their goal for us is to **increase membership** by just one each year. Assuming we meet that goal, we will be back to our 2010 numbers in 76 years! If we can achieve a net increase of five new members a year we'll be there in 15 years.

Since I don't have a Little Sir, I have to ask you all again, are we just going to stand around looking at each other, waiting for the OTHER guy to step up?!

SPEAKER Walter Birkedahl


Walt Birkedahl has served since 2000 as Dean of Arts and Social Sciences at Ohlone College. The division's departments include academic programs in art, interior design, graphic arts, dance, journalism, multimedia, music, philosophy, radio, television, and theatre. Social science departments include administration of justice, history, political science, psychology, and sociology. Also within the division are KOHL, a respected bay area radio station, and ONTV, a public access TV station, both of which are successful training programs for broadcasters. The college's award-winning Smith Center for the Fine and Performing Arts houses performing arts instructional programs and sponsors student, community, and professional performances and exhibits.

He holds two master's degrees; one in music from Catholic University of America (Washington, DC), the other, an MBA from George Mason University (Fairfax, Virginia). He received a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

He will speak to us about the Ohlone programs available to the public.



Win a Free Lunch

By finding ROLLIE —  — you can win a free lunch if your name is selected. Let Rollie Referee Dino Mostard know where he is located in the **Pathfinder** after you buy your luncheon ticket. Sir Dino will be found at a table in the back left of the hall.

MENU

Beef Stroganoff and Chicken Chipotle
Noodles, Rice and Medley of Vegetables



If you are not coming or if you are bringing a guest or visitor
Don't forget to Call on the Monday before the meeting - or earlier
Ed Guthrie (510) 659-0498 or email edguthrie@comcast.net



Branch 59

Officers

Big Sir
Jim Ulam
(510) 797-9357

Little Sir

Secretary
Peter Angelides
(510) 797-3570

Asst. Secretary
Jerry Robertson
(510) 490-0450

Treasurer
Hugh Twomey
(510) 796-5559

Asst. Treasurer
Arnold George
(510) 797-9524

Directors
Nat Lord
George Perry
Jerry Sabo
Alan Weiner

Branch 59

Meets at Newark Pavilion
6430 Thornton Avenue
Newark
on the 3rd Thursday of
each month
10:00 AM
Executive Board Meeting
11AM Social Hour
12 Noon Lunch

A Nonprofit
public benefit
corporation for
retired men



January 2016 Meeting Minutes

Big Sir Jim Ulam called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL BY SECRETARY

Officers present: Big Sir Jim Ulam, Secretary Sir Peter Angelides, Treasurer Sir Hugh Twomey, Assistant Secretary Sir Jerry Robertson and Assistant Treasurer Sir Arnold George

Officers Absent: None

Directors Present: Sir Nat Lord, Sir George Perry, Sir Jerry Sabo and Sir Alan Weiner

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the November 2015 minutes as published in the Pathfinder.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Secretary's Report: None

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sir Hugh Twomey presented the January 2016 Treasures report and indicated that a Check Book balance of \$3795.08 and a Petty Cash balance of \$400.00 for a total of \$4195.08.

Little Sir's Report: Big Sir Jim Ulam filled in for the vacant Little Sir position and announced that our speaker today will be Alan Blavins reporting on his "River Monsters" fresh water fishing adventures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Attendance: Sir Ed Guthrie projects the attendance at today's luncheon will be 118.

Bowling: Sir Jerry Sabo announced that Sir John Pesek will be taking over the Bowling activity. See details in the Pathfinder.

CyberGeezers: Sir Jerry Sabo announced that there will not be a meeting this month. The next meeting will be February 16th. See details in the Pathfinder.

Golf: Sir Bill Leake is expected to be unavailable for the next two months. See details in the Pathfinder.

Membership: Sir Ron Brutvan reported that 4 new members and 2 guests were expected today. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the new members.

Big Sir Fred Gotthardt explained the data on the revised form 27 and stressed the need to actively recruit new members.

Activities Committee: Sir Roger Wallin indicated that other than continued interest in Couples Dining Out and Wine Tasting there are no new developments.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Sir Rob Ingebretson showed a bottle of pinot noir wine that is handed out as a speaker gift at another SIR's branch. The wine has a picture of a rooster on the label. The gift bottle is decorated for presentation with the SIR logo on the front and SIR promotional information on the back. After discussion Sir Ingebretson moved that Branch 59 adopt a similar speaker gift. The motion was seconded and passed.

Sir Ed Benson recommended that the terms of office for all SIRS officers and board members be extended to two years. After discussion the recommendation was moved, seconded and passed.

Sir Ron Brutvan proposed a formalized "Procedure to Process Guest to New Membership." The procedure was moved, seconded and passed for implementation with the goals of better orientation of new members into SIR and increasing membership. The procedure is as follows:

PROCEDURE TO PROCESS GUEST TO NEW MEMBERSHIP

First Meeting

Guest will be greeted and given a short insight of SIR. He will be asked to fill out a Membership Application - Guest will be provided a guest voucher ticket for a complementary lunch by MEMBERSHIP.

One to two weeks prior to the next luncheon MEMBERSHIP will contact the guest to see if he is still interested in becoming a member. If he is, MEMBERSHIP will advise the AMBASSADOR AT LARGE Sir Alan Weiner. MEMBERSHIP will also contact the sponsor, if there is one, so he can accompany his guest to the orientation.

Second Meeting

Prior to the start of the luncheon ATTENDANCE will return the guest badges to MEMBERSHIP so they can be reissued to the returning guest. The returning guest will be given their guest badge along with an Orientation Guest voucher by MEMBERSHIP; the guest will use this voucher to purchase their \$13.00 lunch.

The returning guest will then go to the orientation which is led by the AMBASSADOR AT LARGE and, if they choose to become a member, the AMBASSADOR AT LARGE will advise MEMBERSHIP so they can prepare the package for the new member.

Third Meeting

MEMBERSHIP will provide the new member his badge and package and the new member will be inducted into SIR by the Big Sir.

Big Sir Jim Ulam provided his thoughts on improving luncheon table arrangements and officer seating for discussion in February.

Big Sir Jim Ulam discussed his intention to implement a R.A.M.P. (Recruitment, Activities, Membership and Publicity) culture for survivability in the face of declining membership.

The meeting was adjourned by Big Sir Jim Ulam at 11:00 AM

Minutes submitted by

Sir Jerry Robertson
Assistant Secretary

MEMBERSHIP, ATTENDANCE and BIRTHDAY NEWS

by Sir Ron Brutvan, Sir Ed Guthrie, and Sir Art Winkley

Birthday Report



Sir Art Winkley
Birthday Chairman

February Birthdays

Forrest Lusher	02/13/1917	99
Frank Borghi	02/22/1924	92
George Morariu	02/03/1929	87
Donald Thatcher	02/04/1929	87
Charles Linzey	02/24/1929	87
Noboru Ono	02/05/1930	86
Walt Caeton	02/24/1932	84
Sal Lamagna	02/10/1935	81
George Prows	02/11/1935	81
Laverl Tomlinson	02/10/1937	79
Dennis Bowman	02/28/1938	78
Jacques Guertin	02/28/1939	77
Larry Jett	02/15/1940	76
Alan Weiner	02/10/1943	73
Bruce Roberts	02/04/1944	72
Ronald Hamro	02/14/1945	71
Stephen Francis	02/27/1946	70

Happy Birthday



<http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>

You can get this issue of the Pathfinder or earlier issues by going to the Branch Website:

<http://branch59.sirinc2.org/>

New Members

Bob W. Banfiel

3348 Beard Road
Fremont, CA 94555-2237
510-703-8053
Email: BANFIEL@comcast.net

Birthday: 1/28/1945

Spouse: Linda

Badge No. 104

Sponsor: John Pesek

Call me: Bob

Larry W. Jett

8176 Fairway Court
Newark, CA 94560-2133
510-794-7911

Email: lwjett@gmail.com

Birthday: 2/15/1940

Spouse: Sandy

Badge No. 105

Sponsor: Jim Ulam

Call me: Larry

John R. Wong

4351 Richmond Avenue
Fremont, CA 94536-6851
510-794-6787

Email: da5Wongs@comcast.net

Birthday: 11/22/1940

Spouse: Joanne

Badge No. 116

Sponsor: John Pesek

Call me: John

Frank H. Mulder

6009 Joaquin Murieta Ave Apt A
Newark, CA 94560-5497
510-687-0208

Email: fhmulder@juno.com

Birthday: 12/24/1937

Spouse: Lucie

Badge No. 107

Sponsor: Jim Ulam

Call me: Frank

Membership Report



Sir Ron Brutvan
Membership Chairman

Guests:

Guest of:

Jim Draugham Rob Ingebretson
Bruce Hevelin Jim Ulam

Visitors:

Sir Alan Blavins Speaker

Change of Status:

Wade Walter Resigned
Alan Zolman Resigned
Tom Federico To Inactive
Bob Fondiller To Inactive

Membership Total

(as of January 2016)

153 — Active Members

18 — Inactive Members

Attendance Report



Sir Ed Guthrie
Attendance Chairman

Attendance Report

(For January 2016)

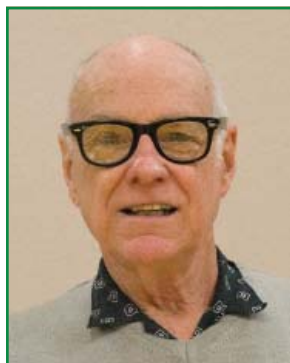
Members 117
Guests 2
Visitors 1

Total = 120

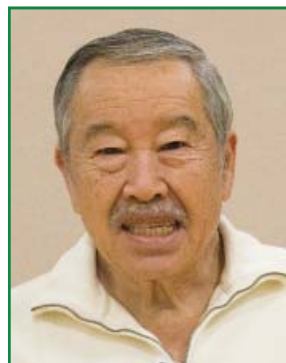
24 excused 16 unexcused



Bob Banfiel



Larry Jett



John Wong



Frank Mulder

SIR BRANCH 59 ACTIVITIES

Strikes and Spares by John Pesek



In the first bowling tournament of 2016 at Stockton, our Monday Sirs bowlers did very well. **Don Henry** came in first place (out of 33 bowlers) in the B singles division getting hot the second and third games, with scores of 157, 257 and 221 for a total of 635 + 189 in handicap for a total of 824. **Victor Okumura** came in fifth place in the B singles

division with a total of 771, with a high game of 210. In doubles **Victor** partnered with **Harvey Mcaninch** to come in third place in the B doubles division with a total score of 1469.

In all events, out of 55 bowlers **Don** came in second and **Victor** came in tenth place.

Rich Bowers, 224 and a 250, Jerry Sabo with a 213, 203 and a 222 and Larry Sallee with a 225, and a 202, bowled some good scores.

Most of the recent tournaments and upcoming tournaments will be held in faraway places. **Frank Cordova, Gary Bennett, Lew Heffron, Rich Bowers, Don Henry, Jerry Sabo, John Wong and John Pesek** bowled in the Napa Classic on January 27, 2016.

The results have not been published. On Tuesday February 9, 2016, eight bowlers will try their luck and skill in the 2016 Livermore Tournament at Granada Bowl. We will go back to Stockton on February 23, 2016, for a no tap tournament. That is where if you knock down nine pins on your first ball you get credit for a strike. It will be lots of fun.

On March 7, 2016, on our regular Monday bowling day we will hold the 2nd Annual Chuck Pereria Bowling Tournament. This is honor of a long time bowler and great friend to all. Everyone is welcome to participate.

On February 9, 2016 Jerry Sabo and I will travel to Sacramento to the SIR State Bowling Committee meeting where our own Jerry will be installed as the new California State Bowling Chairman.

We always have room for more bowlers in our group. Usually 15 to 20 bowlers show up on Monday to bowl. There is no team commitment, nor a penalty if you can't make it. We meet at the Cloverleaf Family Bowl. Just show up and be ready to start practice bowling at 12:45 PM. The cost is \$14 to bowl 3 games. We normally finish before 3:00 PM.

John Pesek

Golf Notes by Bill Leake



Welcome to the Sir Branch golf newsletter column.

I had a major operation and I am currently in the sand trap. But – I will be out the end of February. Just a little slow but progress is being made. That does not mean golf does not go on.

We have activities scheduled for SIR state through this year. They are as follows:

Spring time in Napa – April 18 and 19 – entry form are on the web. Men, day 1 low net at Eagle Vines, day 2 at Chardonnay – 2 man team, 4 man best ball. For ladies reverse courses. Both shotgun starts at 9:00 am.

Reno 2016 – week 1 June 13-17 and week 2 June 20-24. Stay at Atlantis Hotel. Play Somerset day 1, Red Hawk day 2, and Lakeridge day 3. Format will be scramble.

Solvang is back and we will be playing there for the Fall Classic. The dates are September 18-21. It has always been a fun tournament so please consider joining us.

There will be team tournaments in May. If there is interest within branch 59 area 8 then maybe we can get a team. Last year it was very difficult to get a complete team for branch 59.

Old news – Sunol is closed. It is a big empty field now. We have been playing at Spring Valley and would like to invite you to join us. Also, if you like to play a certain course and it is not listed then let Jim or me know. If you would like to join us then please call Jim Ulam (797-9357) and you are in. Just that easy. The group plays Mondays weather permitting. We are also looking at other courses -- San Jose Muni, Los Positas to name a few.

For those golfers that play well – do you want to be recognized? We can do that – just send to me a note and let me know how you did on your round – where you played and what you are bragging about – and it will be put into the column. Space available. Want to try it?

Because of my surgery I will not be playing golf for about 2 months.

Please – we need more members for SIR and also SIR golf. Thank you for reading this article.

Bill Leake

CYBERGEEZER MEETING

Cyber Geezers—we usually meet on the Tuesday following our monthly SIR Luncheon. Our next meeting will not fit the usual pattern. There was **no January meeting**, and the **February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16 – 1:30 to 3:30 PM.** at **Fremont Congregational Church, 38255 Blacow Road, Fremont, CA.** The **March** meeting will be held as usual on March 22. Just show up and you will be a member of our group.

What is a Cyber Geezer? We are members of SIR Branch 59 and friends that want to keep up with technology. Topics are varied and usually generated by attendees. If you have any technology topic that you would like included in our next session, please send the information to Jerry at jlsabo@sbcglobal.net. We have previously discussed such things as e-books and audio downloads using devices such as the Kindle, iPad or iPhone, home Wi-Fi systems, cloud storage, Windows 10, Mac OSX and using software such as Excel. More of the previous or most any new topic is welcomed.

We are still discussing Windows 10, since XP is gone, and Windows 10 combines the best of Windows 7 and 8. If you have not made the switch, Cyber Geezer members will help convince you that it is a wise move. I time allows, Jerry will also go over some of the features in the latest Microsoft Office version for the Mac—Office 2016. The last version was Office 2011. The PC is also due for an Office Upgrade. If you have Office 365, this upgrade will be forthcoming.



SIR members and friends/significant others are welcome, and we do have wireless access so bring your laptop, smart phone or tablet. Call Jerry Sabo – 510-790-3135 or 510-299-3736 if you have other questions.

BRIDGE GROUPS

The Bridge activity includes 2 night time couple's groups and a daytime group following the monthly luncheons. **Sir Arnold George - 510-797-9524**

COUPLES WINE TASTING

All Sirs (singles, couples, friends) are invited to join us. This activity is in the planning stage so let your thoughts be known to:

Chairman **Sir Skip Mugford 510-794-1184**
or email **SMUGFORD86@COMCAST.NET**

WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

HEY!

What's in Your Wallet?
You will receive the new
Hotline card when you
receive your badge.

No more hunting for that phone number
to call to be excused or to bring a guest.

It's in Your Wallet!!!



Pathfinder
Branch 59

Your SIR Hotlines

Attendance:

659 - 0498

Sir Ed Guthrie

Membership:

794 - 4019

Sir Ron Brutvan

**BRING IN A GUEST
WE NEED NEW MEMBERS**

COUPLES DINING OUT

All Sirs (singles, couples, friends) are invited to join us. This activity is in the planning stage so let your thoughts be known to:

Chairman **Sir Skip Mugford 510-794-1184**
or email **SMUGFORD86@COMCAST.NET**

READERS AND BROWSERS

Bring your magazines and books to
share, take books home to read.

Sir James Ploor 510-656-9537



BRANCH 59 NEWS



New Members were given membership certificates and welcomed to Branch 59 at the January Luncheon. Shown in the photo from Left to Right are Big Sir Jim Ulam, Sir John Wong, Sponsor Sir John Pesek, Sir Bob Banfiel, Sir Larry Jett and Sir Frank Mulder.

SUNSHINE REPORT

Last week Walt Oden was trying to take a box full of maps from the hall closet, he didn't realize it was heavier than he thought, he lost his balance and fell back and hit his neck and broke two vertebrae. He had surgery in Oakland to put some rods in his neck to secure his neck region. He is now wearing a neck brace and they moved him to WINDSOR COUNTRY DRIVE CARE CENTER located at 2500 Country Drive in Fremont. He was lucky he wasn't paralyzed.

Gig and I have visited him a couple of times as well as Skip Mugford and Dave Tanner. He really enjoys seeing his golfing and SIR buddies. He is worrying about his care when he goes home because his wife Norma is pretty frail herself (105 lbs.). I don't know when he will be coming home but if you have time and are near his facility please drop by and say hello. Walt is a strong guy for 89 years of age. He gets around in his walker and wheel chair pretty good. I will keep everyone posted as to when he gets home.

Rob Ingebretson/Skip Mugford

JANUARY SPEAKER



Sir Alan Blavins regaled us with the fishing adventures in far off places where he and his son fish for "River Monsters."

BRANCH 59 NEW ACTIVITIES

SIR DAY AT THE COLISEUM OAKLAND A'S VS ANGELS JUNE 18, 2016 SATURDAY, 1PM

ALL SIR ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE A '89 DENNIS
ECKERSLEY REPLICA JERSEY WITH TICKET



VS



SECTION 101-106, 128-132
GROUP RATE-\$32-DYNAMIC PRICING
SUBJECT TO CHANGE & AVAILABILITY

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 12TH 10% DEPOSITS DUE

**PLEASE FIRST CALL, RESERVE, AND THEN
SEND ONLY ONE BRANCH CHECK FOR GROUPS OF 25+**

**RYAN PHELAN, GROUP ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
7000 COLISEUM WAY, OAKLAND, CA 94621
(510) 563-2393**

Lee Moy, State SIR Sports
LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com
(559)709-9851

George Dimi, a member of Branch 26 in Oakland, is trying to coordinate a trip on June 18, 2016 to the Coliseum to watch the Oakland A's play the L.A. Angels. He said that he has around 15 guys from his branch that want to go and was wondering if there are any guys from the other branches that might like to join the group. He was thinking about having everyone meet at some brewery and then take the chartered bus to the game.

If you would like to be a part of the SIR group that will be attending the Oakland Athletics vs Los Angeles Angels game on Saturday June 18th would you let our Big Sir Jim Ulam know by giving him a check for \$32. More info to follow as the date gets closer.



9-HOLE CO-ED GOLF PROPOSED

One of our sister branches has asked if we have any Branch 59 guys interested in joining a 9-hole golf league which includes wives, girlfriends. Sign up at the activities table if you are interested. Play will be at the Mission Hills course in Hayward.

RV/MOTORHOME GROUP PROPOSED

Anyone interested in getting into a SIR RV/Motorhome group please sign up at the activities table. SIR state has appointed a chairman and they are asking for branch interest. Details will be found at the activity table.

Thanks!
Jim Ulam

PATHFINDER BRANCH NO. 59

John Skarpelos, Editor & Publisher
1636 Vernal Avenue
Fremont, CA 94539-4736

< john@mediaart.com >

Return Service Requested



FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE

FIRST CLASS MAIL

February 2016

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND ASSISTANTS

ACTIVITIES

Roger Wallin - **Chairman**
James Ploor - Assistant

ATTENDANCE

Ed Guthrie - **Chairman**
Bill Pruner - Assistant
Larry Goodman - Assistant
John Williams - Assistant

AUDIO-VISUAL

Carl Nordling - **Audio**
Jerry Sabo - **Video**

AUDIT

- **Chairman**
- Assistant

BIRTHDAYS

Art Winkley - **Chairman**
Sammy Lum - Assistant

BOWLING

John Pesek - **Chairman**
- Assistant

CAPS & EMBLEMS

Nat Lord - **Chairman**
- Assistant

CHAPLAINS

Howard Thompson
Ted Bresler

CIRCULATION

Bill Briscoe - **Chairman**
Fred Ilg - Assistant

COUPLES DINING OUT

Skip Mugford - **Chairman**

COUPLES WINE TASTING

Skip Mugford - **Chairman**

CYBERGEEZERS

Jerry Sabo - **Chairman**

GOLF

Bill Leake - **Chairman**
Fred Ilg - Assistant

LIBRARIAN

James Ploor - **Chairman**
Roger Wallin - Assistant

MEMBERSHIP

Ron Brutvan - **Chairman**
Fred Gotthardt - Assistant
Carl Nordling - Assistant

NOMINATING

- **Chairman**
- Assistant

PATHFINDER

John Skarpelos - **Editor**
Fred Gotthardt - Assistant

ROLLIE REFEREE

Dino Mostardi - **Chairman**

ROSTER - DATABASE

John Skarpelos - **Chairman**
Fred Gotthardt - Assistant

SOCIAL

- **Chairman**

SONG LEADER

Bob Benya - **Chairman**

SPORTS

Bill Leake - **Chairman**
Nat Lord - Assistant

SUNSHINE

- **Chairman**

STATE OFFICERS

State President

Don Dill

State Vice-President

Jerry Strain

State Secretary

Derek Southern

State Treasurer

Karl Ryden

Director, Region 6

Ed Benson

Governor, Area 8

Rob Ingebretson

Senior Honorary Life Members

Fred Gotthardt
Lyle Kingery
Nat Lord

Honorary Life Members

John Skarpelos
Arthur Winkley

PATHFINDER DEADLINE

Copy deadline for the next issue of the
Pathfinder will be Thursday a week
after the monthly luncheon meeting.

PAST BIG SIRS

1976 Peter Clark*
1977 Karl Heine*
1978 Harry Cooper*
1979 Kenneth Foster*
1980 Larry Varblow*
1981 Guido Milano*
1982 Alex Fulton*
1983 Stephen Epler*
1984 George Herman*
1985 Ray Crosby*
1986 Loran Coburn*
1987 Robert Davis*
1988 Robert Klindt*
1989 Martin Annen*
1990 Lee Updegraff
1991 Fred W. Fretter*
1992 Lyle Kingery
1993 LeRoy J. King*
1994 George Hubach*
1995 Clyde Killion*
1996 Bill Schwan*
1997 Nat Lord
1998 John Buchanan*
1999 Art Lampert*
2000 Harry Heyen*
2001 Bob Beam
2002 Rollin Cunningham*
2003 Don Henry
2004 Tom Sherba
2005 Howard Thompson
2006 Les Addison
2007 Ted Bresler
2008 Richard Holley
2009 Don Gillis*
2010 Frank R. Thomas
2011 Hugh Twomey
2012 James Ferenz*
2013 Skip Mugford
2014 Rob Ingebretson
2015 Skip Mugford

*(deceased)