

SIR Branch 59 Meeting

With the passing of our beloved John Skarpelos an "Official" Pathfinder is not being published this month. We hope to get it back up and running by next month.

SIR Branch 59 will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at the Newark Pavilion on Thursday, September 15, 2016, at its regularly scheduled time. Board of Directors will meet at 10:00 am, socializing from 11:00 to 12:00, and the meeting will start at 12:00 noon sharp!

Jim's Thoughts

SIR Branch 59, and everybody who knew him, lost a very good man last month. The passing of John Skarpelos was a heavy blow to everyone whom he touched, his sons and grandchildren, family and friends and the entire SIR organization.

John was a quiet man, a gracious, generous gentleman who never blew his own horn. He did so much for those around him, quietly, sometimes without recognition, and certainly without asking for accolades.

John loved SIR and poured his talent and energy into the organization and to the many friends he had made here along the way. His son Michael told me that John, after his wife died, would have been lost and probably would have died had he not had SIR and all the energy he exerted for and to SIR. "It kept him going," his son said.

Anyone would be very hard pressed to find a finer example of a gentleman or a finer embodiment of what SIR is all about. SIR nurtured John and John nurtured and gave to SIR, the perfect fit for a retired man who needed something to do and people with whom to do it. He shared his talents and his love of the organization he served and achieved a peace and a purpose which should be a shining example for all of us.

We will miss John Skarpelos and everything he brought to our table, and we may flounder for a while without his many talents and contributions, but, I am sure, he would want us to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and continue on the course he so happily trod. SIR meant an awful lot to John and he, in turn, meant an awful lot to SIR!

We should all strive to honor John by giving our time and talent and energy to this organization. We should all volunteer to do our part, participate in activities, bring in new members, make new friends and be a part of probably the last endeavor of our life just like John did.

May this excellent man rest in peace.

September Speaker

Tia Kratter is a long-time Pixar employee. She started at Pixar in 1993 and worked on Pixar's first feature film, Toy Story. Kratter has worked on almost every other Pixar film including Toy Story 2, Monsters, Inc. and Cars. She was also the art director of Brave.



SIR Branch 59 BEC Meeting, August 18, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Big Sir Jim Ulam; the flag salute and the roll call of officers and directors was conducted.

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

Directors Present: Sir Nat Lord and Sir George Perry.

Directors Absent: Sir Jerry Sabo and Sir Al Weiner

Treasurer's Report: Sir Hugh Twomey reported that Branch finances are in good shape with a balance of \$4214.09 on August 10th.

Minutes of the June meeting and the Treasurer's report were accepted without change. Big Sir Jim Ulam introduced and welcomed Region 6 Director Ed Benson to the BEC meeting.

Those of us at the BEC meeting expressed great sorrow due to the unexpected death yesterday of Honorary Life Member Sir John Skarpelos.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Birthdays: Chairman Sammy Lum reported on July and August celebrants. Gordon Thym is the oldest at 93 and James Lomax is the youngest at 68.

Membership: Ron Brutvan reported that there are no new members this month. Two guests will attend orientation today. Five new guests today are Joe Lucia, Bob Marshal, Gene Page, Ken Arora and Ronald Pucci. Tony Bruno has resigned; Frank Borghi is going inactive due to health concerns. Bob Fondiller has become active again.

NEW BUSINESS

Big Sir Jim Ulam led off the discussion of Form 27 by commenting that we are doing OK with a plus 4 members year to date. However, he emphasized the need to focus on recruiting more new members to make up for resignations and inevitable deaths. August Form 27 shows that Branch 59 picked up a net 4 members since January 1, 2016. Good news is that 26 guests were welcomed through August including 5 guests today. Member attendance for the August luncheon was 99, or 64% of active members, well behind our goal of 70% attendance. Hopefully this was a result of summer vacations.

Big Sir Jim Ulam commented on the difficulty of finding someone to fill the voids left by John Skarpelos' death. The comment was made that it would take at least 3 persons. Jerry Sabo

had already agreed to take over running the branch web site. Approval to spend \$25 or more, as required, to cover expenses for this purpose was moved, second and passed. Significant effort may be required to recover the many data bases John had for the roster etc. plus his other activities including his outstanding *Pathfinder*.

The large banner purchased for SIR publicity and recruiting has been displayed at the bowling alley, senior center, driving range and library. Big Sir Jim Ulam complimented Arnold George, Sammy Lum and Peter Angelides for their effort in placing the banner.

Big Sir Jim Ulam opened a discussion on the possibility of relocating the monthly luncheon. This was due, in part, to having to cancel the July luncheon when the Newark Pavilion cancelled, on short notice, the SIR luncheon in favor of the Holy Ghost religious activities. Other venues were discussed including The Elks (not available on Thursday) and Swiss Park (very noisy). We have been with the Newark Pavilion for 9 years on a month to month basis without a contract. Some of the advantages of Newark are parking, size, stage, available storage for books, etc. After much discussion a motion was made, passed and second to have a committee meet with Newark Pavilion management on August 30th to discuss contract options that would guarantee a schedule for SIR luncheons.

Rob Ingebretson volunteered to coordinate information regarding sick or injured members since the Branch is without a Sunshine Committee Chairman. He also advised the planning is well underway for our Christmas program.

Sir Ed Benson, Director Region 6, announced that there will be Regional SIR Officer training programs December 5th in Castro Valley. The training will cover all officers, nominating committee chairman. He also commented on the request made earlier during the BEC meeting for volunteers for the Newark School tutors. While such volunteer work is commendable for individuals, solicitation is expressly forbidden by the SIR rules and is not insurable under SIR policies. He strongly recommended that Branch 59 avoid any involvement that could lead to active support of such solicitation activities. Big Sir Jim Ulam tabled further discussion to a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Secretary Jerry Robertson

Pavilion Bar

The board has decided to not open the bar, except for the ladies' luncheons, but members are permitted to bring their own "bottles" per personal consumption or to share with friends. The branch may also open a few bottles of wine to be shared by anyone who wishes to partake; abstaining is a perfectly acceptable option.

Newsletter Publisher Wanted

We desperately need someone, or several people, to volunteer to be our newsletter publisher. All of your officers and board members are stretched to the limit and cannot take on this very important job for the branch. Somebody has to step up and contribute if we are to maintain a monthly Pathfinder newsletter!!

Branch Website

Jerry Sabo, who already is wearing more hats than you can imagine, has very generously set up a branch website for us and potential new members. The address is: <http://www.sirbranch59.org/> It is just in its infancy stage, but will become bigger and better as Jerry receives (**see if you guys can take a hint!**) more and more help with its content, and administration.

Parade Flop

Too many guys out of town, tied up, or just not interested is our reason for scrapping the Newark Days Parade this year. We are hoping for a huge, enthusiastic turn out of volunteers for next year's *Fremont Fourth of July* and *Newark Days* parades!

Christmas Ladies' Luncheon

It is not too early to start getting ready for the December 15th Christmas Ladies' Luncheon! Line up your dates, ask those wives, girlfriends, lady acquaintances to save the date for you! It is also not too early to start soliciting raffle drawing gifts from local merchants, see Bill Leake for letters!

From Treasurer Hugh Twomey

Sons In Retirement Branch 59 agree to continue to rent Newark Pavilion Hall Number One for \$300.00 per month until further notice.

The dates will be September 15, 2016 Through December 21, 2017 on the third Thursday of every month except for one month, the second Thursday, July 13, 2017, due to the Holy Ghost Festival use of the Hall Number One on the third Thursday of July, 2017.

Sons in Retirement Branch 59 will continue to pay the custodian \$100.00 per month for the set-up of the tables and chairs and the screen when needed.

Sons in Retirement Branch 59 will continue to pay the bartender \$50.00 when needed for the "Spring Luncheon" and the "Holiday Luncheon". All other months Sons In Retirement will allow each member to bring wine to be used for himself or to share with table mates.

From Golf Chairman Bill Leake

Welcome to the Sir Branch 59 golf newsletter for the month of September. In the last column we summarized all of the happenings up to August of 2016. What about the rest of 2016 and what is happening in 2017 you ask!

Please take a moment to remember my friend **John Skarpelos**. I worked with John every month on this column. He was a big help to me and I will miss him a lot. I look forward to working with his successor.

This is the month of September. NCGA dues are coming up. I will be sending out a message letting you know when they are due. The earliest you can pay dues for 2017 is October 2016. The amount should remain the same at \$37.00. Make checks out to SIR Branch 59. Look for a message late this month on the amount and where to send the check if you want to be / remain a member of SIR branch 59 golf.

Currently branch 59 has at least 3 groups that play on a weekly basis. One group meets early Mondays, -- 730ish. One group meets at 9ish on Mondays, and one group meets Wednesdays around 9. What would you think of having a monthly tournament/get together and combine all 3 groups and have 1 tournament. You may invite anyone else who is a SIR 59 member to play with us. Please give me your feedback and any other ideas that you may have – next year in 2017. What – 2017 – are you kidding me!.

October 17 and 18th is the open play/final tournament of the year (SIR tournament) with the 17th being open play and 18th the actual state tournament. Applications are on the web.

At this writing I do not have a schedule for 2017 but it will be out soon. It should start off with Napa in April (2-day tournament, format to be explained later), Team qualifying (think about where you would like to have our team tournament and about your team), Reno in June (one possibly 2 weeks of golf in Reno), July is individual qualifying, reporting results to our Division, August will be division qualifying for the state tournament in late October or early November.

In December we will have the Christmas social. This will be the 3rd Thursday in December and look for a flier for this in October. **We will need door prizes**. But most importantly we need attendees so consider joining us on December 15.

Please post your scores. You need to remember your NCGA number. Scores are updated the 15th and last day of each month and are on the internet.

We need more members for SIRs and also SIR golf. You have friends – talk to them about joining us. Besides golf we have a whole lot of activities. If you are a member of SIR Branch 59 golf – post! Post! Post! Please post your score. Did I forget to tell you to post.

Thank you for reading this article.

Bill Leake 793-6561

From Membership Chairman Ron Brutvan

New member

Fred Baker #64

Members for orientation

Joseph Lucia

Robert Marshal

S Gene Page

Ken Arora

Ronald Pucci

Please be advised that if any one doesn't want to become a new member their application should

be shredded.

I will call these folks prior to the next meeting to confirm their attendance.

Please advise if there is anyone else that should be copied on these applications.

Cyber Geezers

Cyber Geezers—we usually meet on the Tuesday following our monthly SIR Luncheon. The September meeting will be held as usual a week late--on September 27th at Fremont Congregational Church, 38255 Blacow Road, Fremont, CA. Just show up and you will be a member of our group. The meeting time is from 1:30 to about 3:30 P.M.

Jerry is always looking for new topics to discuss, and as stated above, welcomes any input. One option that is always a possibility is Excel, another might be setting up a “blog”. Please send in any and all suggestions or questions prior to our meeting. If you have a question, there are at least five others in the meeting that would likely have the same question

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. Please send an email to Jerry if you want to get on the mailing list for reminders and follow up data.