



SIR HAPPENINGS

August 2018

Volume 14

Issue 2

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement



Ron Flagel received a State SIR Honorary Life Membership certificate from State SIR President Derek Southern at the May 23 Branch 103 Luncheon.

Ron has served with the State SIR in a number of capacities, including Assistant Secretary and is now the Secretary.

Ron has been a member of Branch 103 since January 2003 and served in a number of positions prior to becoming a State SIR Assistant Secretary. He performs numerous functions including keeping the State SIR in compliance with state and federal laws. President Southern stated he was a real asset to SIR.

Sounds like an interesting speaker!

Roseville SIR Branch 98 had Michael Sullivan, son of Author Mark Sullivan as their July guest speaker. Mark Sullivan is the acclaimed author of eighteen novels, including the #1 Kindle bestselling *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*, and the #1 New York best selling private series, which he writes with James Patterson.

Beneath a Scarlet Sky is a biography based on the true story of a forgotten hero. His son Michael was with the group to discuss the fateful events that made his father a hero.



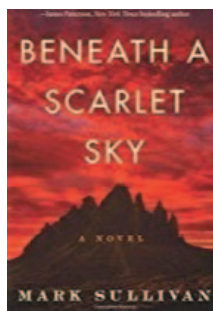
SIR Happenings has resumed publication!

Sir John Skarpelos and Sir Don MacGregor published the SIR Happenings Newsletter for nearly 11 years until John passed away in 2016. Before John's death he asked me to help him out in the future, but the future came too soon. I took over the publication of our Branch Newsletter, *The Pathfinder*, but hoped that someone would take over the Happenings. Big Sir Derek Southern did an awesome job of publishing Volume 14, Issue 1, Derek inspired me, and as part of my promise to John, I have decided to continue his work and I am now the Editor of the *SIR Happenings*.

Please send me articles that are in line with their philosophy as sent to me by Don MacGregor stated below.

Our (John and Don) key philosophy was to publish the fun things that were going on in the organization with only minimal administrative information. I also added some special features like the President's Column, a Travel Bulletin and columns for the various State activities like the Golf Committee.

Jerry Sabo
Editor



News from the Branches



Arnold Branch #152

State President Derek Southern Presents Honorary Life Membership.

**Left to Right: President Southern, Jim Walton
Big SIR, Doug Weir HLM recipient, and Doug's
wife Dana Weir**

On June 19th Arnold Branch 152 held its Annual Ladies Day Lunch with a special twist, having our State President Derek Southern and his wife Pauline in attendance.

Not only was it an honor to have Derek and Pauline present it was an even more special day with Derek presenting the Branch's first Honorary Life Membership to Douglas A. Weir.

Doug Weir transferred to Arnold SIR in 2005 from Livermore Branch 121 and has been involved in Branch activities from the first day he joined. He has held many positions within the BEC including: Treasurer 2008 – 2011; Big SIR in 2012; back up Treasurer 2012 – 2013; and then Historian and Treasurer 2014. Doug continues as Branch Treasurer to this date.

Also, Derek surprised those in attendance with a special recognition for the Branches efforts in growth and building spirit among its members. Arnold Branch has grown just over 39% in the last 18 months. Derek presented a President's Certificate to Jim Walton as 2018 Big SIR and Tom Gosswiller as 2017 Big SIR for spearheading these efforts.

Celebration in Modesto

**From R-L: Wesley Rash age 90,
Don Locke age 92, George Wal-
lace age 92, Charles Fox age 91,
Richard Kershner age 90. Ar-
thur Long (Super Senior Sir
Certificate) age 95.**



SIR Branch 103 members over the age of 90 were presented with a Senior Sir Certificate. The presentation was made at the June 25, 2018 luncheon by Big Sir Richard Provost.

News from the Branches



Big Honors for SIR Branch 17-76 Golf Club

On June 8, 2017 the SIR Area 13 Team Scramble Qualify golf tournament, comprised of eight teams representing Santa Rosa Branches 17 and 76, Windsor Branch 176 and Healdsburg Branch 157, was held at the Bennett Valley GC. Other SIR Areas within the various Divisions of SIR State also held their respective Team Scramble Qualifiers during the months of June and July. The first place winners of each of the SIR Area qualifiers were invited to the 2017 SIR State Team Scramble Championship, which was to be held on August 14, at the Rancho Solano GC in Fairfield, CA.

In a field of eight teams, the team consisting of Bob Nadell, Eddie Gibbs, John Sommerville and Roy Thuestad placed first in the SIR Area 13 qualifying competition with a net score of 57.27. With their victory, they received an automatic invitation to the 2017 SIR State Team Championship. Coming in with a score of 58.57, a mere 1.3 strokes from first place, was the team of Jim Dale, Kent Richmond, Jack Rosetti and Stephen Virtue.

At the end of the SIR State Team qualification period, the Area 13 second place team was invited to play in the Team Scramble Championship because another qualifying team could not compete due to the team's schedule conflicts. Now, the SIR Branch 17 & 76 Golf Club had two teams competing in the championship. In keeping with the traditions of SIR State Championship Golf, only the best of the best were invited to play and only the best of the very best are the winners of these championship tournaments. Quite an honor for our golf club!

August 14 turned out to be a rather windy and cold day in Fairfield. Competition among the teams was intense and the conditions on the course required every team which hoped to place well in the tournament had to play at their peak. And so they did! After a hard fought game between 36 competing teams, the team of Jim Dale, Kent Richmond, Jack Rosetti and Stephen Virtue walked away with a net score of 54.37 to secure first place, 4.2 strokes better than when they played in the qualifying round at the Bennett Valley GC. And, they were 1.1 strokes better than the second place team. The team of Bob Nadell, Eddie Gibbs, John Sommerville and Roy Thuestad finished 24th in the competition with a very respectable score of 61.26, beating out the 25th place team by a mere 0.01 strokes. It doesn't get any closer than that, even with a Gillette razor.

Just recently, each of our first place team members was presented with a 2017 SIR State Golf jacket. Each jacket is embroidered with their name, the 2017 Team Scramble Champion event and the SIR logo.

Congratulations to both of our teams for playing outstanding golf at the 2017 SIR State Team Scramble qualifying and championship games.

Article written by Jim Jones, Branch 76, Co-Chairman of Traveling Golf for Branches 17-76

Late news is better than no news. Sorry, but the SIR Happenings was not happening—Jerry Sabo

News from the Branches



SIR Branch 161 Cyclers

As the freshness and warmth of Spring arrived, SIR Branch 161 Cyclers began to get out on the bike trails, led by Sir Jerry Wiebe. They have been riding regularly on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. and started a second riding day on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for Cyclers just beginning to re-sharpen their old bicycle riding skills, but preferring to go at an easier pace and distance than the more advanced group.

The Thursday group's 'go-to' 22-mile round trip is Marsh Creek and the connecting Big Break Trails. Both trails wind through Brentwood and Oakley, and underwent some needed repairs during the month of June; They are now in much better condition. The group changes starting destinations and routes from time to time, and a nice change of scenery was a special ride through the vineyards and back country of Livermore. They rode to the top of the Lake Del Valle dam for beautiful views of the reservoir and surrounding area, as well as scenic rides through Livermore's vineyards.

Other outings have included a very serene ride out to the Holland Riverside Marina. Spring flowers, newly grown crops, and quiet waters of the California Delta gave that ride many fulfilling moments.

News from the Branches



Westwood BBQ

SIR Branch 159—Men's Luncheon

Marjorie & Jim Wulf, Mi & Lee Moy, Hector Leyva, Steve Beveridge
Major Feasel, Roger Deal, Reg Rosander, Duke Marshall
Doug Duke, Ron Travis, Bob Kayajanian



Sir Lee Moy,
Men's Luncheon



News from the Branches



From SIR Branch 1

Broadway by the Bay in Redwood City has been presenting award-winning musicals on the peninsula for over 50 years. The theater company is a diverse Company of theatrical artists. From stage hands to designers to performers, the company seeks out local, top-tier talent to bring you the very best in bay area musical theater, while striving to reflect the community that has made them strong for 50+ years. Perform at the historical Fox theater in downtown Redwood City there 2018 season is filled with heart, rhythm, and soul and music that will make you groove, swoon and maybe even strut. Activity director and special event director Frank Schwarz of Branch #1 has coordinated a Sons In Retirement Theater Day, which includes nine branches in area 13th. We offer all the branches discount tickets with a Sunday matinee starting at 2:30. This is a great entertainment value and also a fantastic recruitment tool to get new members for all the branches. The musical productions the members have seen where The Music Man and Million Dollar Quartet. Future musical production this year we are offering in August, Saturday Night Fever and in November Elton John & Tim Rice's AIDA. We are averaging anywhere between 50 to 80 participants for these musical shows. We also manage after the performance sometimes have a meet and greet with the performers and you have the option to eat at the fine restaurants one block in distance with 15% discount for SIR members. The branches that have been participating are absolutely having a blast with this year's musical events. We of Branch #1 will continue this event next year. If anyone wants to get in touch with me my email is fslefty@sbcglobal.net or phone number area 1-650-367-5037. I wish everybody a fantastic year and good health, Frank Schwarz

Rainy Day in Clovis
Men's Luncheon
a monthly regular

News from the Branches

Branch 68 Summer Garden/Bocce Party

When it's a perfect day, with the sun out and not too hot with no wind, what is a retired guy to do. Well if he's in the San Rafael area he comes out to the Annual SIR Branch 68 Garden/Bocce Party. This event has been growing for the last four years and has become the Branch's favorite event to bring your spouse too.



The Event was first started by Joe Grasso, referred to as "Our Bocce Guy". Sadly, Joe passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. Roger Burem, one of our Christmas Party Chairman stepped up and volunteered to pick up the reins to ensure the event would continue. And succeed he did. He made the extra effort to extend this year's invitation to the surrounding branches and 13 extra guests came and all reported that they would be coming back next year and try to get more of their own members to come.

The Party is held at the Marin Bocce Federation courts on B Street in San Rafael. We had 6 courts, 4 outside and 2 inside. There were volunteer coaches at the courts giving guidance and encouragement to those that didn't know how to play or how to improve their game. There are several seating areas and tables around the courts where members and their wives can relax and catch up with those around them. This event is very popular with the wives because it's such a comfortable setting to engage in conversation with the other ladies and to try a game of bocce.



Lunch was catered by Gaspare's Pizzeria and they provided a large spread of fine Italian dishes. There was plenty of food and drink and everyone went away full and satisfied. After lunch \$400.00 in door prize drawings was distributed to the joy of many lucky winners.



Roger put together a great team of volunteers to make this event the success it was, from setting up, manning the drink station, checking in guests, coaching players, taking pictures and cleaning up. And with his organizational skills he was also able to donate \$186.97 to the Branch's Treasury.

This event has become the hallmark of Branch 68 and we plan to continue it for many years to come. Everyone who has come to this event have always enjoyed it and have always looked forward to its next year's incarnation. So, if you plan on being in the San Rafael area around the third week of June you might want to contact Branch 68 and ask if you can join in on the fun.



News from the Branches

FYI—Letter forwarded to SIR Happenings from Sir Derek

Derek,

I am a member of Branch 163 in Bakersfield. Not an officer but I do take part in the Branch activities as House Chairman plus I show patriotic videos as part of our opening ceremonies.

During my business career, I wrote computer programs using Microsoft Visual Basic and the programs were directed to very specific group of companies and individuals in the water well industry.

After selling my company I continued to write programs which I sold to a number of companies in the US and Hawaii. However, I finally decided enough was enough and ceased to be involved in the industry.

Still programming has always been a real joy for me and I decided to write some programs for our Branch. Hence, I have completed several programs specifically for SIR. The Branch is currently using my membership application, a table drawing application, and a unique Bingo program.

Membership Application: This is a database program to maintain complete information on the members plus provides immediate identification of the member's birthdays, anniversaries, and attendance.

Table Drawing Application: We draw table numbers to determine the order of tables being serve lunch and this application randomly selects table numbers and displays them on a screen.

Bingo Application: This program provides several interesting alternatives to the traditional Bingo games but does include the traditional game. We use it at an alternate luncheon that some people attend (about 25 members usually show up) and we use the bingo program to determine who get a free meal.

Okay, so the point of my email to you is these applications are available to all of the SIR Organization at absolutely no cost. No strings attached. If the organization is interested, let me know who I should visit with to make the applications easily available to the members.

Although I designed each program with SIR in mind, anybody can use them for any other organization completely free of any costs.

Thanks for your time.

Gary Corbell

Publication Deadline for Future Issues

SIR Happenings will be published Quarterly in the future.

Deadline for future issues will be:

- October 15 for the November Issue
- January 15 for the February Issue
- April 15 for the May Issue
- July 15 for the August Issue

News from the Branches

Probably too late to respond to this flier, but this is definitely a SIR Happening



"SIR Day at the Ball Park" Sons in Retirement-Baseball-Series Revisited

July 22, 2018, 1 p.m.-Oakland Coliseum
Oakland A's vs San Francisco Giants
Section 104-105, Field Level

Send \$ 55 check for each person to:

Lee Moy
127 N. Helm Avenue
Clovis, CA 93612

Chairman Lee Moy
State SIR Sports
Branch 159

contact:
559-709-9851
LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com

Triple A affiliate

Houston Astros vs LA Angels
(Fresno vs Salt Lake City)



Special Group Rate—block of 7 tickets

Sons in Retirement—Fresno Area SIRs
Chukchansi Park
Friday—August 24, 2018—7 pm
Deadline: August 10th

When was the last time you went to a ball game???

Write a check to: **SIRS 159**

Send \$ 15 check w/stamped
return envelope to:

SIR Stan Day,
Branch 159 Treasurer
9592 N. Ann Avenue
Fresno, CA 93720

Batting Order—Optional

4 pm Clovis carpool
from Lee's—127 N. Helm Ave

5 pm Tioga-Sequoia

6 pm pre-game warm-up

SIR Lee Moy
State SIR Sports

News from the Branches

BRANCH 149 LADIES LUNCHEON

Sons In Retirement, Wine Valley Branch 149, celebrated its twenty sixth consecutive Ladies Luncheon, on July 10, 2018, at the Chardonnay Golf Course Moonlight Grove Pavilion, with three hundred and five members, including State Vice President Ed Benson and their ladies enjoying a BBQ Tri-Tip or Flame Roasted Chicken, along with Cesar Salad, Corn on the Cob, BBQ Beans, and Carrot and Chocolate Cake, refreshed with twenty two varieties of Red and White Wine, Foreign and Domestic Beers and Soft Drinks.

Through the generosity of local Merchants and Wineries, and the guidance of Big Sir Jim Prudhomme and Little Sir Carl Hammond, the Branch realized \$5,455.00 from the door prize drawings, and auction of some sixty- five prizes, the proceeds being used to offset the cost of the Annual Members Christmas Dinner.

With the excitement generated, as evidenced by the pictures from the Luncheon, the Ladies are making sure the men have their tickets for next year, considering all three hundred and five tickets sold out in one regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Stu Williams

Chairman Standing Committee

Growth & Membership



Bits and Pieces

SIR State Bowling Information

Most if not all of the information that is given below, is on our bowling website: <http://sirinc.org/bowling/>.

The State Bowling Committee now only meets once a year, in February with Tournament Managers and Area Bowling Representatives. The “Committee” meets as needed throughout the year.

Any SIR member in good standing can participate in any of our 20 annual tournaments even if your Branch does not have a bowling chairman or a bowling league. If you are interested in hosting a tournament of your own, there are two documents that are on the website: SIR Bowling Tournament Guidelines, and the SIR Bowling Manual (soon to be updated). To bowl in any of the tournaments, simply check out the “Bowling Home Page” (above), and link to the Tournament Applications page.

You will notice that all SIR Tournaments are 100% handicap. That means that if you are a bowler with an average of 110, you will get a high handicap. Our bowlers have averages running from 100 to 230. There are also various Divisions at some tournaments. You will need to be a USBC member, and have a bowling league record of 20 or more games to bowl—otherwise you will be entering a tournament with a very high average. If you check out any of the applications, the entry requirements are listed. Also, most

if not all of our tournaments are open to female guests. Again, check out the tournament application for more information.

By the way, at our State Tournament in Citrus Heights, the Division A Team winners were Charlie Babiarz, Mark Nagafuchi, Robert Barr, and Gary Rich from Branch 55. B Division winners (two teams tied) were Mark Steffens, Richie Carlson, Joe Bowers, and Darren Simonds from Branch 69; and Alan Merrell, Brad Petersen, Tom Brown, and Mike Akiyoshi from Branch 55.



Division A Doubles winners were James Russell and Charles Russel from Branch 127, and for Division B, Ted Brnados and Wayne Cartwright from Branch 55.

Earlier this year, at the Stockton Tournament, Mike Bowers from Branch 136 rolled an outstanding 801 series and has been awarded a SIR Bowling Watch. At the same tournament, Arlie Blackshear of Branch 108 rolled a perfect 300 game. Arlie was also presented a watch. (Presentations were to be made by the Area Governors)

Jerry Sabo
State Bowling Chairman

Final Reminder

Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of SIRinc in conjunction with our 2018 Annual Meeting. All Sirs AND their Ladies are invited to join in the activities planned around the Annual Meeting. Deadline for Reservations and Payments:

Friday July 27

The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday August 7th at 9:30 am at the Thunder Valley Casino and Resort 1200 Athens Ave, Lincoln, CA 95648

Phone: (916) 408-7777

In addition to State Board Members, Area Governors, Past Presidents, and State Activity Chairs, the Big Sir of each branch is expected to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting. All Little Sirs are invited and strongly encouraged to attend.

Detailed information has been previously distributed.

Bits and Pieces



SIR Travels – by *Norm Milsner*

Want to go on a Safari? You can without getting on a plane, or even leaving California. Safari West is a wild animal park, 400 acres, just outside Santa Rosa. Over 700 wild African animals and birds of all kinds. Children and physically impaired are welcome. Staying overnight is a must. You will be assigned a tent, class 3 accommodation, large bed, shower, heater end table and chairs. You are offered three meals a

day. Continental breakfast is included, lunch and dinner are extra. Lunch and dinner are barbecues. There is a small Delicatessen for cold drinks,

sandwiches, etc. Now about the tours. You are loaded onto a jeep for a 2 1/2 hour tour. You will be driven into compounds where you will be up-close to the animals. Your guides will describe the animals and their native habitats. Of course, there are some animals you will not get too close to, they may charge the jeep, so it's best to keep clear.

The Tubbs Fire, October 2017, came very close to burning the park, but Peter Lang, owner, stayed and protected the animals while losing his own home. His heroic efforts won him the "American Red Cross Animal Rescue Award". For more information and reservations, (reservations are required for overnight stays and tours) go to: www.safariwest.com 1-800-616-2695



Please Read and Heed

Hi Fellow Sirs,

Many of you received a direct email from me which contained a link to our latest video about how you, a SIR member, can help bring us back to the organization we were in our 1993 heyday. It revolves around each member working to display our member expectations. They were approved as a part of Project 2016. If you haven't seen the video, paste the following link in your internet browser:

<https://youtu.be/Z3u2rCOVpwc>

The expectations are fourfold, and the first two are easy:

- Be a friendly, sociable guy
- Attend our fun activities, luncheons and event.

The next two are somewhat tougher:

- When asked to volunteer, thoroughly consider the opportunity and give it a shot – We are an all volunteer organization, and when we spread the work around, more gets done
- Bring guests to our activities, luncheons and events - We need to perpetuate SIR, so our sons and grandsons can enjoy it as we do.

If we all practice these expectations, we can bring back SIR to its rightful place among mens' social organizations. I'm trying, are you?

Best regards,
Ed Benson, State Vice President



SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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Publisher

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