



The Pathfinder

Branch 59 Fremont

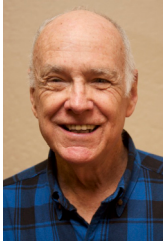
Forty-Sixth Year

August 2021

Bulletin No. 8

All Close contact MEETINGS-Cancelled until further notice

Musings of Big Sir Larry Jett



SIRs governing body (Branch # 59) felt like, and resembled, a government body last week as we debated opening for lunch at The Elks Lodge in August. So many questions and so few answers. It was unanimous that we were **not** prepared to serve lunch in August or even later in the year until we ascertain the pulse of Branch #59.

Although contracts for hall rental as well as catering costs have not been signed pending closing arguments as to the \$'s required vs the \$'s we think we can acquire, the rent & food costs are pretty well nearing focus. This focus will be measured against a census of our current membership and their intentions and state of mind vis-a-vis lunch opening. Should we not have enough "I will eat" promises, we would have to operate in the red if we open. Being 'dark' for 1.5 years has exhausted our meager reserves so that would be a troublesome problem.

In the next several days you will find a member of the BEC reaching out to you either by email or a phone call. Your answers will be very important to our planning to open for lunch SEPTEMBER 15th (not August 18th which was our goal but no longer is) Your prompt and honest responses will be extremely important to your BEC and the future of Son's In Retirement in Fremont. Please return any message machine recordings you receive from the BEC even if you have moved or have a declining interest in SIRs.

You should know that any lunch attendance less than 60 members would not give us the incoming cash to pay the \$600 rent of the Elks Lodge and the cost of the catered lunch. We really need to know how you are and your thoughts toward moving forward with Branch #59.

More on Pages 6 and 7

August Guest Speaker Meridith White

"I was born and raised in Eureka CA, the true Northern California. I moved to the Bay area in 1988 with my five kids. I've always loved the Life Sciences. I completed my Biology degree at Cal State Hayward in 1989 and my Masters in Biology at CSU East Bay in 2013. The Bay Area is known in the US as Biotech Bay because of all the Biotech Companies in the area. I have worked in Biotech for over 30 years. It's been fascinating and the technology is constantly changing. We have just celebrated the 20th anniversary of the first DNA Sequencing of the entire Human Genome!



Like many people, I am interested in my ancestry and where my family came from. DNA sequencing has brought science into the field of genealogy. With DNA we can now determine our ancestry and where we came from. I'm going to give a simple explanation on how this is done and talk about some family history. Some hidden and unknown family stories that were discovered and some family myths that were passed down generations that were debunked all because of DNA sequencing!"

Anyone that is interest in joining the BEC meeting on Wednesday, August 18th is welcome.

The BEC meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. The regular meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. and we will have a speaker.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/955020906>

Meeting ID: 955 020 906

SIR Branch 59 BEC Minutes, July 21, 2021

Branch 59 Officers

Big Sir

Larry Jett
510-794-7911

Little Sir

Bob Marshall
(310) 502-7295

Secretary

David Nelsen
(510) 673-5042

Asst. Secretary

Rob Ingebretson
(510) 657-7828

Treasurer

Larry Lardie
(510) 579-5934

Asst. Treasurer

James Vermazen
(563) 920-6908

Directors

Jerry Halligan
Richard Henry
Sammy Lum
Dave Shideler
Hugh Twomey

RAMP

Jim Ulam-Recruitment
Larry Lardie/Jerry Halligan-
Activities
Rob Ingebretson-Membership
Sammy Lum-Publicity

Branch 59

Meets at Fremont Elks
38991 Farwell Drive,
Fremont CA on the 3rd
Wednesday of each
month
9:30 AM

Executive Board Meeting
11AM Social Hour
12 Noon Lunch



Our meeting was held on the ZOOM platform, hosted by Jerry Sabo. The meeting was called to order by Big Sir Larry Jett at 11:30am. All BEC members were present except Dave Shideler who was excused. The June 16, 2021 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer; Larry Lardie reported the balance of the general fund was \$2,479.15. The main expense this period was payment of the fourth quarter assessment, \$271.25. The treasurers report was approved.

Rob commented, regarding our current bank balance, that we are far short of the recommended balance suggested by SIR State. He feels we should address this in an upcoming meeting. Hugh reminded us the BEC voted to increase the price of our lunches in January 2020. This action was to help correct the shortfall of funds we experienced at that time.

Little Sir, Bob Marshall spoke of our upcoming speakers. If it happens that we meet in person at the Elk's Lodge in August, he's confirmed our August speaker will join us there. He also confirmed all monthly forms have been sent in to SIR State.

Rob reported our membership stands at 158. This includes five new members who will be introduced and given certificates once we meet again in person. He also mentioned our chairman for Caps & Emblems, Nat Lord, needs to step down from that position. Nat has been the one who orders, stores and distributes SIR marketing materials, apparel and other merchandise for our branch. The BEC approved relieving Nat of this responsibility and we thank him for his many years of service taking care of this role. Going forward, Rooster and SIR Promotional items will be ordered through Ron Saltgaver via form 21. SIR logo apparel can be ordered at the ProShop from the SIR website.

Attendance; Ed Guthrie reported 28 members attended the June meeting. This represents 18% of the branch. Ed feels the need to speak with attendance volunteers before we meet again in-person to ensure all tasks are covered.

Nominating; Rick reported finding volunteers difficult via zoom meetings or phone calls. He is eager to speak with people face to face.

Activities; Larry reported golf has continued to have a good turnout. Harvey indicated bowling has been well attended. Since the beginning of summer they have allowed non-Sir members and women to participate in order to increase their numbers. He is also reaching out to other SIR branches to find additional participants.

Big Sir; Larry Jett opened a discussion about meeting again in person. Rick spoke with Diane at Elk's, they are ready for us in August. He also spoke with Daniel who is prepared to serve us in August. He will meet with Daniel on July 22 to discuss new pricing and ensure insurance is up to date. After much discussion we realized there is too much to be done and too many unanswered questions to be able to meet at the Elk's lodge in August.

Jerry Halligan made a motion: "We plan to hold our September 15 meeting at the Elk's lodge with catered lunch and speaker, provided we are able to complete the necessary work to make it happen". Jim Ulam seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Continued Page 6

August Birthdays



Arthur Winkley
Age 94



Gerald Robinson
Age 89



Don Potestio
Age 86



Robert Higday
Age 85



Robert Compton
Age 84



Arnold George
Age 82



Donal Spicer
Age 79



Douglas Howd
Age 75



Frederick Kasman
Age 75



John Weed
Age 75



Ken Arora
Age 74



Frank Steiner
Age 74



Dave Nelsen
Age 68



You're How Old?
Happy Birthday!



Sir Sammy Lum
Birthday
Chairman



Cyber Geezers usually meet on the Tuesday following our monthly SIR Luncheon. Our next meeting will be held on August 24th. We will again include Seniors of the Greater Niles Village, and any SIR Member wanting to join us. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm. Login information is given below.

Cyber Geezer Meeting

During our July meeting we discussed transferring photos from old flip phones and newer smart phones into a computer.

In the next ScreenFlow session we will discuss "The Cloud" and storing photos and other files to "The Cloud". We may involve importing the photos into various photo programs such as Photos for PC and Mac, Adobe Elements, and Lightroom. Jerry is hoping that members will submit questions regarding technology: such as Smart TVs, WiFi, home networks, computer usage, iPhone or iPad usage.

Please send requests to Jerry at jlsabo3@comcast.net.

Join the next Zoom Cyber Geezer Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/96358532596>

Meeting ID: 963 5853 2596

Lots of Zoom information on the sirinc.org website

<https://sirinc.org/zoom/>

SIR Happenings is published 4 time a year—the next issue will be published for August 2021.

Deadline for submitting articles is July 15th.

You can find past issues on our website:

<https://sirbranch59.org/>

Send news and questions to:

**Jerry Sabo,
Executive Editor
jlsabo3@comcast.net**

**Sammy Lum,
Assistant Editor
lumsam@sbcglobal.net**



Branch 59 bowlers continue to bowl on Mondays at 11:00 AM at Earl Anthony Bowl in Dublin. We are hoping to get a better turnout and have even checked with the SIR Branches in the Dublin/Livermore area to find out if we can increase the size of our league. Currently we have 7 or 8 women bowlers that have joined us.

SIR COVID-19 protocols are still in place, but now that all of our bowlers are either vaccinated or bringing in proof of negative testing—we can bowl comfortably without masks.

Our motto is still "Beat Miguel" because Sir Ferras continues to lead the league. Please join us. I suspect that once you bowl with us once, you will continue with the fun times.

Can't Put a Name to a Face?

Visit our branch website at
www.sirbranch59.org

Click on the Member Gallery tab on the website and then enter the password: SIR59

You can get your Pathfinder

<https://sirbranch59.org/newsletters-2021/>

Comments, photos for site etc. email to:

sirbranch59@gmail.com

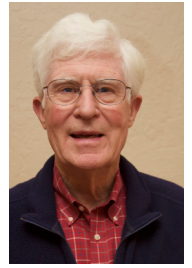
New

Our website now contains video files of speakers that were recorded during previous Zoom sessions.

<https://sirbranch59.org/speakers/>

Are you *SIRious* Bruce Roberts Editor

Begging for Water – Bruce Roberts



The brutality of our first day on my first fire made me think I had chosen the wrong summer job. The Interregional Fire Suppression Crew (locally known as Hot Shots) had been dispatched from our base in McCall, Idaho, to southern Utah for a fire very early in the summer. My teammates didn't care; time on the fire line was money in their pockets. I was just trying to survive the climb to the fire. I found out later some of those peaks topped out at 12,000 feet or more. With no other way to get to the fire, we all climbed. Yes, we had trained at over 5,000 feet, but did the supervisors expect us to fight a fire after this climb? Yes they did! Perspiration kept us cool as long as we had water. Well, I carried two, quart canteens which lasted me through the morning. Then what? I begged/borrowed sips from my fellow team members. The next morning I found a strap-on gallon canteen which lasted me the whole day. I carried it from then on – for three summers.

As an aside, on day two of that fire the Forest Service helicoptered us firefighters up to the fire and back down. Our fire-line production improved immensely, and I decided I could hack it. Kudos to the pilot who landed his Bell bubble chopper on one skid to let me out on the mountainside and then picked me up the same way. The pilot told me to be very careful to crouch next to the skid to avoid the helicopter's whirling rotors after he dropped me off on the steep mountainside. (Yes, it was that steep!) Although it was just part of the Hotshot's job, it scares me now to think about the danger involved.

You can call that firefighting experience my personal water shortage. It made me think about our current drought. Do we have a "gallon canteen" to get us through the next five or six months? Or maybe longer? Does the future hold for us a wet winter with lots of Sierra snow? The weatherman is not very optimistic right now. I think we will need to conserve what we have so we can make it to the next monsoon winter, whenever that will be. So guys, pay attention to the water-saving tips from the Governor, the California Water Efficiency Partnership, the Pacific Institute and our local water company – so that we may continue to have water.



Rob offered to compile information collected by BEC members and committee chairs regarding the vaccination status and required waiver forms of all members. Each Sir member will be called and asked whether they will attend the September meeting. Unless enough members say they will attend it will not be practical for us to meet in person. The minimum number of attendees is not clear. Sammy suggested we send a short questionnaire to members via email to gather information as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.

Dave Nelsen, Secretary

Your BEC is faced with a very real dilemma.

After you have read Big Sir Larry Jett's musings, and realize that the BEC had another emergency meeting on Monday the 26th of July you will better understand. The essence of the dilemma is outlined below.

You will soon be receiving a phone call from a member of the BEC asking you questions that give us a better understanding of how to proceed. We wanted to have an in person luncheon in August, but there are too many unresolved issues.

SIR Luncheon restart:

- 1) Following SIR protocol we need to verify the vaccination card and have a signed liability waiver from each attending member. If no vaccination then a negative Covid test result within last 72 hours is required.
- 2) Attending the luncheon is voluntary so a RSVP is needed to make sure we can break even with at least 60 members attending. Once a member RSVP then the \$25 payment is due whether you attend or not?
- 3) Indoor masking may be required when not eating or drinking.
- 4) Take survey of members with the above three conditions to see how many would be willing to attend. Survey can be done electronically.
- 5) Waivers will be sent electronically or mailed to all members. We need to decide on how the waiver is to be written. What is being used for the bowling, golf and walking? Who will keep the waivers? Database will need to be updated with vaccine and waiver information.

Luncheon Setup:

- 1) Number of people per table?
- 2) How will food be served?
- 3) Will guest speakers be willing to attend?

You may be receiving an email survey regarding the reopening of our regular SIR Branch 59 Luncheon meetings beginning in September.

Please read the email and respond if requested.

If you don't respond to the email, please be expecting a phone call sometime after you receive this Pathfinder.

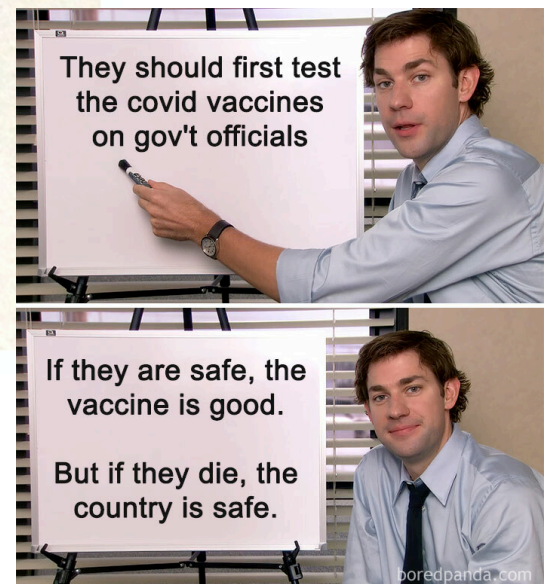
If a BEC member calls you to ask the sort of questions referred to on the previous page, please be very understanding of the situation.

It is very difficult for us to even answer the telephone these days with all of the solicitors and spam calls. Your BEC member will leave a message in case you are unable to answer the phone. These are not spam calls.

Please call back if so requested!

COVID VACCINE WARNING!

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS For SENIORS:



PATHFINDER BRANCH 59

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Return Service Requested

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

August 2021

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND ASSISTANTS

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Larry Lardie/Jerry Halligan
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Ed Guthrie - Chairman
Bill Leake - Assistant
Bill Pruner - Assistant
John Williams - Assistant
Bruce Hevelin - Assistant

AUDIO-VISUAL

Carl Nordling - Audio
Sammy Lum/Jerry Sabo - Video

AUDIT

Carl Nordling - Chairman
Ron Brutvan - Assistant

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Sammy Lum - Chairman
Art Winkley - Assistant

BOWLING

Harvey McAninch - Chairman

BRIDGE

Arnold George - Chairman

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Nat Lord - Chairman

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Howard Thompson
Ted Bresler

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Bill Briscoe - Chairman
Sterling Strickland - Assistant

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Jim Ulam - Chairman

COUPLES WINE TASTING

Open - Chairman

CYBER GEEZERS

Jerry Sabo - Chairman

DATABASE

Hugh Twomey - Manager
Jerry Sabo - Assistant

GOLF

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Co-Chairmen

LIBRARIAN

Richard Holley/Rick Henry
Co-Chairmen

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Carl Nordling - Assistant

NOMINATING

Richard Henry - Chairman
Arnold George - Assistant

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Assistant - Sammy Lum

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Bruce Roberts

POKER

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Larry Jett - Co-Chair

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Jim Ulam - Assistant

RECRUITMENT

Jim Ulam - Chairman
Alan Weiner - Assistant

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Dino Mostardi - Head Ref

SOCIAL

Rob Ingebretson - Chairman

SONG LEADER

Bob Benya - Chairman

SPEAKER RECRUITMENT

Bob Marshall

SPORTS

Bill Leake - Chairman
Nat Lord - Assistant

SUNSHINE

Art Winkley - Chairman

WEBSITE

Sirbranch59.org
Sammy Lum - Webmaster

PAST BIG Sirs

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Stuart Williams

VICE-PRESIDENT
Rick Kindle

STATE SECRETARY
Ronald Flegal

STATE TREASURER
Roy Hodgkinson

Chief Administrator

Dwight Sale

DIRECTOR, REGION 5
Bill Holly

GOVERNOR, AREA 15

John Haffner

SENIOR HONORARY LIFE

MEMBERS

Nat Lord

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Hugh Twomey

Arthur Winkley

Rob Ingebretson

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*

2016 Jim Ulam

2017 Jim Ulam

2018 Harvey McAninch

2019 Harvey McAninch

2019 Richard Henry

2020 Richard Henry

*(deceased)

PATHFINDER DEADLINE

Copy deadline for the next issue of the Pathfinder
will be Wednesday, a week after the regularly
scheduled Monthly Luncheon Meeting.