



### Greetings Fellow SIR's:

Let me begin my last blurb with good Christmas wishes to you and all your families. By now you've gotten your tickets for our Christmas Luncheon. Rob Ingebretson and his wife have done a fantastic job of putting it together, and I look forward to seeing you all at the Elks Lodge on December 21.

As this is my last message as Big Sir, I would like to thank you all for allowing me to serve you. I also want to leave you with my fondest wish for our club; that some of you will step up and become new leaders of the Pathfinder Branch, Sons in Retirement.

Merry Christmas!

Bob Marshall

See you on the 21st.

### Christmas Luncheon

Back by popular demand our annual Christmas Luncheon will take place on December 21<sup>st</sup>. For an update see page 2.

To view last month's guest speaker Mark Marymee's presentation [click here](#):

Our regular luncheon will resume on Wednesday January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

At our November BEC meeting, after reviewing our expenditures it was decided to reduce our annual membership dues from \$60/yr. to \$50/yr. We will have more information on how and when to pay the dues in the January edition of the Pathfinder.





## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON UPDATE

For those that signed up for the Christmas Luncheon at our October and November meetings here is an update. No further sign ups can be accepted now.

It looks like we are going to have over 100 participants. As soon as you enter you will be put in the Christmas spirit by the decorations, especially the table centerpieces made by Gail Blalock. I hope many of you were successful in obtaining a door prize from our community merchants. Several prizes have already been donated by our members. Please bring your prizes to me during the social hour starting at 11:00 am. Dave Badilla will be playing his guitar for your dancing pleasure during our social hour.



When you enter, my wife, will be giving you your name tag. Besides your name there will be a number which designates the table you have been assigned, as well as a colored dot that tells our servers the entrée you have chosen. **Red** = Tri-tip Roast, **Blue** = Salmon, **Yellow** = Chicken Cordon Bleu, **Green** = Eggplant Parmesan. Nat Lord will give you your free door prize ticket. If you would like to purchase additional tickets, they are 6 for \$5.00 or 13 for \$10.00. The door prize drawing will take place after our luncheon and our entertainment by THE JEWEL TONES. They are a group of singing ladies dressed in holiday finery.

See you there on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Dress will be resort casual.

Rob Ingebretson  
Social Chairman



# SIR Branch 59 BEC Minutes, November 16, 2022

## Branch 59 Officers

### Big Sir

Bob Marshall  
(310) 502-7295

### Little Sir

#### OPEN

Help Wanted

### 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

Ken Brunskill  
Jerry Halligan  
Richard Henry  
Phil Keller  
Sammy Lum  
Dave Shideler  
Jim Ulam

### 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

10:00 AM

Executive Board Meeting

11AM Social Hour

12 Noon Lunch



The meeting was called to order by Big Sir Bob Marshall at 10:00 am. All BEC members were present except Rich Henry, Phil Keller, and Dave Nelsen.

The October 19 meeting minutes were approved as read.

Fred Serena was introduced as our new Area Governor and will be joining our branch as he is transferring from branch 26 in Oakland which will be disbanding at the start of 2023. I informed our group that I have contacted some of the members of branch 26 and invited them to join our wonderful branch.

Our Big Sir reviewed the monthly schedule of branch operations to make sure we have completed them all. We approved the finalization of Branch Covid Protocol. Larry Lardie was acknowledged by our Big Sir for bowling a 200+ game and winning the SIR tournament held in Modesto.

The Treasurers report was approved as presented. The balance of our general account on November 16 was \$5,458.91. Larry led a discussion on the projected dues for 2023 and it was determined and approved that the dues for 2023 will be \$50. We also discussed how our dues and collection procedure are going. Our secretary, David Nelsen, has been doing a great job of keeping tabs on the members that have paid their dues. We still have some members that have not paid their 2022 dues. It was emphasized that Jim Ulam remind future members, during their orientation, that they have a check ready to pay their dues with them when they are inducted into our branch.

Our Membership Chairman brought our new member, Jim McConnell up for approval which was done. We have a new visitor today, Mark Silvera, brought by Andy Lang. Our current membership is 123.

Activities; Bocce Ball is going well as they had 6 players last Friday. Jerry Halligan, the leader of our walking group, would like to purchase hats for the walkers to help promote our organization. It was also brought up about the Newark Days and the Fourth of July parade as a possible activity to further promote our organization. Golf has consistently had 12+ players.

We finished our meeting with an update on are upcoming Christmas luncheon by the social committee leader, Rob Ingebretson. We will have our centerpieces for each table provided by Gail Blalock, Tom Blalock's wife. We have received several door prizes from our membership but more are needed. Rob felt that everyone on the BEC should be part of the social committee so we can all share our ideas and suggestions. Dave Shideler suggested that we should give each attendee a free door prize ticket as well as allowing them to purchase additional tickets at 6 for \$5, 12 for \$10, and 25 for \$20. Dave Badilla will be playing his guitar for your dancing pleasure and we will be entertained by THE JEWEL TONES, a group of women dressed in Christmas finery singing many traditional Christmas songs.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

Rob Ingebretson  
Assistant Secretary



# December Birthdays



**Bud Spalding**  
Age 90



**James Draughan**  
Age 86



**Julian Vega**  
Age 86



**Charles Martinek**  
Age 85



**Carl Nordling**  
Age 83



**William Bauhofer**  
Age 82



**Wes Murakami**  
81



**Russell Blowers**  
Age 79



**George Perry**  
Age 78



**James Ulam**  
Age 77



**Michael Baratz**  
Age 77



**Katsumi Osumi**  
Age 76



**David Shideler**  
Age 76



**Fred Serena**  
Age 72



**Mike Marzano**  
Age 68

**Nickolas Klumpp**  
Age 66



**Sir Sammy Lum**  
Birthday Chairman

*You may have noticed that our birthday procedure has changed. If it is your birthday month you are to pick up a lei in the box located next to the gentleman that gives you your badge when you enter. You are to wear it during the luncheon and you may sit anywhere you want as there will no longer be a birthday table. Sometime during the luncheon you will be given the opportunity to say your name and how old you are. After all the birthdays have been announced there will be a drawing for a bottle of wine given to one of the birthday members present. We ask that when you leave the luncheon that you please return your lei to the same box where you picked it up.*

## ATTENDANCE REPORT

November 16, 2022

Total Membership 128

Members in Attendance 77

Members Absent from Luncheon 51

Percent of Members in Attendance 60%

Members Reinstated:

John Weed -- Badge # 3

Charles Gebhardt – Badge # 52

Frank Steiner – Badge # 120

New Member:

Jim McConnell – Badge # 116

First Time Visitor:

Mark Silvera

Member Transferring from Branch # 26

Fred Serena – Badge # 29

Total Attendance 80



Cyber Geezers *usually* meet on the last Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be held on **December 27**. 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  
Geezers**

Our guest speaker for this special December 27th Zoom session of Cyber Geezers will be Alan Baker. Alan will present a lot of valuable information about Electric Cars or EVs as we now refer to them. Alan presented a well-received session to us in April, 2021 that he did for AARP called "Staying Safe on the Internet". He is also the official Web

Master for the State SIR website. Please send requests to Jerry at [jlsabo3@comcast.net](mailto:jlsabo3@comcast.net).

*SIR Happenings is published 4 times a year—the next issue will be published for February 2023.*



*Deadline for submitting articles is January 15th.*

*You can find past issues on our website:*

<https://sirbranch59.org/>

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

Meeting ID: 963 5853 2596

The "Dealer's Lunch Bunch" meets for Poker every month on the Monday immediately following our monthly luncheon. We currently have about 10 members who routinely attend games. We have a seven-seat table, so space is limited to the first seven players who reserve. But don't let that stop you from joining our group! We have had up to 10 players (lots of common card games) since the group started, and IF we consistently get more than 10 reservations, we will open a second table. The buy-in is \$10, with dime-quarter-half dollar chips, so it is within everyone's means. If you have a desire to play, please contact Sir Larry Jett ([larrywjett@gmail.com](mailto:larrywjett@gmail.com)), or Sir Bob Marshall ([hdog48@gmail.com](mailto:hdog48@gmail.com)).



*We have plenty of room for bowlers to join us on Mondays (Earl Anthony Bowl–Dublin) beginning at 11:00. Arrive at least 15 minutes early for lane assignments and practice. Cost is \$15 per week including a weekly prize pot.*

**Branch 59 has added Bocce Ball as a club activity!** We have free use of the new court at the beautiful Warm Springs Age Well Center on Fridays. Meet up is 10:00 a.m. at 47111 Mission Falls Ct. (near Warm Springs and Warren (use your GPS)). This will be a co-ed activity; everyone is welcome. Bocce Ball is easy to learn and very fun to play. The weather forecast is sunny and warm--PERFECT. Bring a hat and water bottle.

*Send news and questions to:*

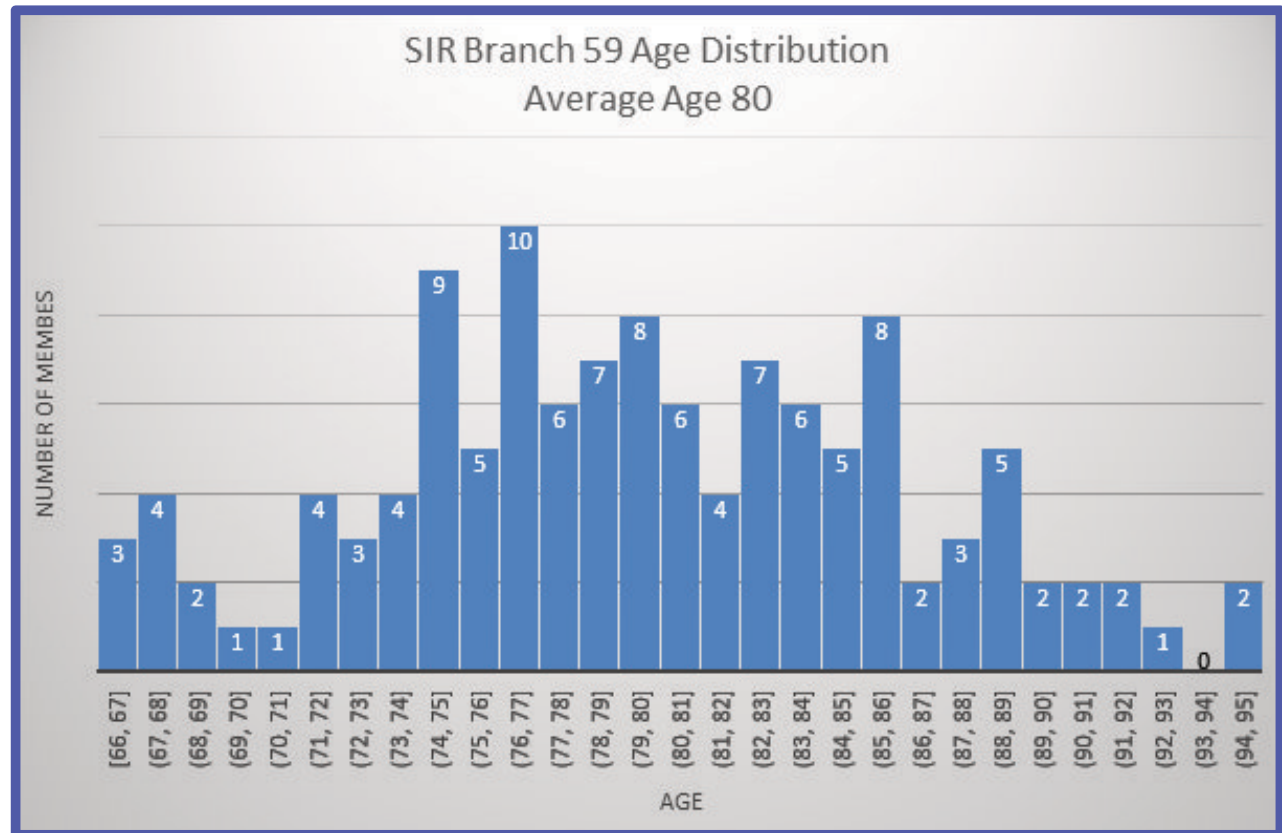
**Sammy Lum,**  
Executive Editor  
[lumsam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lumsam@sbcglobal.net)  
**Jerry Sabo,**  
[jlsabo3@comcast.net](mailto:jlsabo3@comcast.net)  
Assistant Editor

Can't Put a Name to a Face?

Visit our branch website at  
[www.sirbranch59.org](http://www.sirbranch59.org)

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

# What do you think is the average age of the members in Branch 59???



IF YOU ARE BRINGING A GUEST TO OUR NEXT LUNCHEON COULD YOU PLEASE CALL, ROB INGEBRETSON, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, AT (510) 657-7828 OR EMAIL [ROBINGY@COMCAST.NET](mailto:ROBINGY@COMCAST.NET)

Starting last February we notified you of our luncheon meeting two ways. First, via an EVITE to all of you who have a good email address with the club. You can RSVP via the Evite from Phil Keller, by following the directions in the Evite email. Second, you will be notified via the monthly Pathfinder, which is emailed, or U.S. mailed to every member depending on your request

**PHIL@PKELLER.NET**

**510-656-7395**

Do You Need A ride to our monthly luncheons? If the answer is yes then let Rob Ingebretson know at (510) 657-7828 or email him at [ROBINGY@COMCAST.NET](mailto:ROBINGY@COMCAST.NET)

**You can get your Pathfinder**

<https://newsletters-2022/>

Comments, photos for site etc. email to:

[sirbranch59@gmail.com](mailto:sirbranch59@gmail.com)

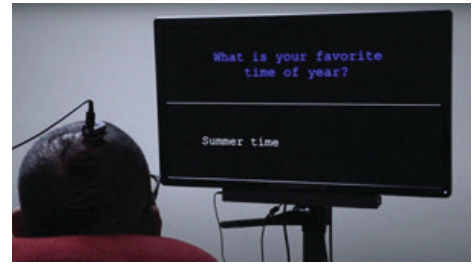


## *Giving a voice to all*

Advances in brain-computer interfaces may soon make communication easier for those who have lost the ability to speak

**November 8, 2022 by Marni Ellery**

UCSF and UC Berkeley researchers have demonstrated new ways that brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) can make communication faster and easier for people who have lost the ability to speak due to severe paralysis.



[In a study published Nov. 8 in Nature Communications](#), a team of researchers in the UCSF-UC Berkeley graduate program in bioengineering designed a BCI that allows a user to silently spell out sentences from a vocabulary of more than 1,000 words in real time with nearly 100% accuracy. This silent, spelling-based approach represents an advancement in BCI research that could someday help users communicate more naturally and with less effort.

"These results show that it is possible to use speech BCIs to drive high-accuracy, large-vocabulary communication," said Sean Metzger, a co-lead author of the study and graduate student in the UCSF-UC Berkeley program. "It brings speech BCIs closer to clinical viability and means that they are closer to being ready for day-to-day use by patients."

This work builds off [a groundbreaking study from 2021](#) led by UCSF neurosurgeon Edward Chang that demonstrated BCIs can successfully translate brain activity directly into text in a person with paralysis. The co-lead authors of both studies are Metzger; Jessie Liu, graduate student in the UCSF-UC Berkeley program; and David Moses, a postdoctoral engineer in the Chang lab at UCSF.

The 2021 study had demonstrated that a person with paralysis who was unable to speak, move or type could control a BCI to generate full sentences simply by trying to say the desired words. This initial proof of concept, however, was limited to a preliminary vocabulary of 50 words and required the participant to try to vocalize, which took effort.

In this new study, researchers wanted to see if it was possible for the same participant to silently spell out sentences from a much larger vocabulary. The clinical trial participant would silently attempt to say NATO code words for each letter of the Roman alphabet — such as Alpha for A, Bravo for B, Charlie for C and so on — to spell out his intended words and sentences while researchers recorded signals from his brain.

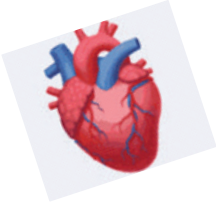
### **How speech BCIs work. ([Video courtesy of UCSF](#))**

The BCI then used custom machine learning algorithms to translate his brain activity directly into text, decoding the participant's intended sentences from a vocabulary of over 1,000 words in real-time and at a high rate of accuracy.

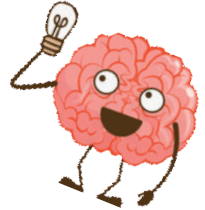
"We were able to decode these sequences of code words — for example, Charlie-Alpha-Tango for cat — with 94% accuracy," said Metzger. "In addition, offline simulations showed this approach could still work with a vocabulary of over 9,000 words while maintaining an accuracy up to 92%."

According to Metzger, this study demonstrates a practical approach to achieving high-accuracy communication using speech BCIs while offering future users the promise of more fluid interaction. "Each advancement brings us one step closer to improving communication and providing greater autonomy to people who have lost the ability to speak," he said.

Other UC Berkeley co-authors of this study are Gopala Anumanchipalli, assistant professor, and Kaylo Littlejohn, a Ph.D. student, both in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences. They are also affiliated with the Department of Neurological Surgery at UCSF and the UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences.



*Join our Wednesday Walkers, it's good for your heart and good it's for your brain!*

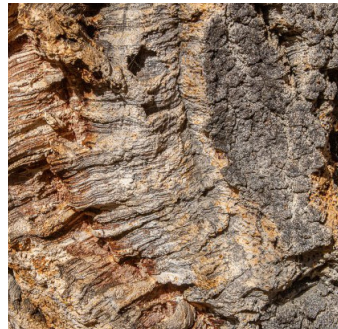
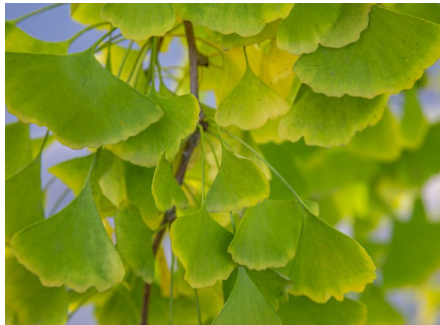


### Wednesday Walkers Our Almost Visit to Shinn Historical Park



What a time to visit Shinn Park! And we almost visited it. Well yeah, we parked in their parking lot. But because we knew actually visiting the Park would be a short visit, we decided to visit the surrounding area first and see the Park on our return.

First, the trees. You know it's fall in Fremont. Especially the gum trees and ginkgos made a splash of fall colors, red, orange and greenish-yellow. Fremont's tree number 1 is a Cork oak, massive with gnarly bark on a massive trunk that looks like a desert landscape.

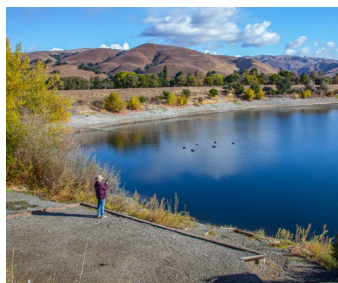


Second, the Pacific Bus Museum. That's right, Fremont is host to a museum of buses, a Peerless bus, school buses, a red streamlined bus, and even a hippy bus among many others.





Third, Kaiser Cove for model boat mariners. East Bay Regional Parks set this lake aside only for folks to run their model boats. At well over a hundred yards in each direction, it is hidden somewhere in between Alameda Creek and the Shinn House. On this day the water reflected the blue sky and formed a foreground for the East Bay Hills on one side and Mission Peak on another.



We well exceeded our one hour scheduled walking time, but we found new places in Fremont that we did not know about. Oh, and don't forget BART and the train tracks. BART passed near us at least every 15 minutes. It's time to get out your maps to find out where we were – a hidden part of Fremont.

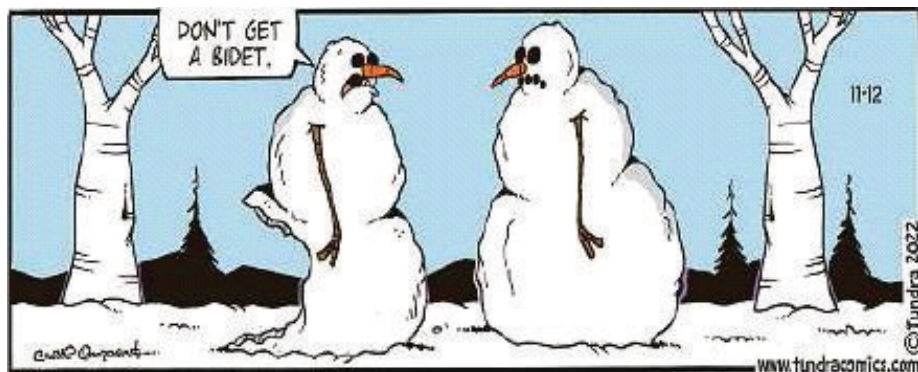


We never set foot into Shinn Historic Park, the historic house and the Japanese garden. We saw the huge magnolia tree, the monumental eucalyptus tree – from outside the fence. We will have to visit Shinn Historical Park another day.

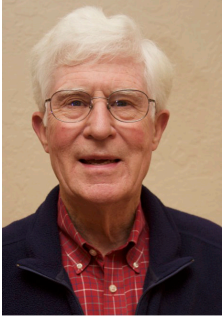
Shinn Historical Park is located at 1251 Peralta Blvd. in Fremont and is open daily from 8 AM to 30 minutes past sunset.

The Pacific Bus Museum is located at 37974 Shinn St. in Fremont and is open from 10 AM to 2 PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month.

~ Bruce Roberts



## *Fishin' at Joe's -- The Gray Line*



It must have been last October 2021 because it was raining, nearly the last time it rained around here. Trying to stay a bit warm and certainly trying to stay dry, after ordering a turkey panini sandwich, I was sitting on one of the four-legged stools at Joe's Corner in Niles, you know the corner at J and Niles Blvd. After a fun visit to the Fremont Art Association Gallery and its visual delights I was hungry. Joe's was close and my mouth was starting to water thinking about Joe's turkey sandwich. And maybe a beer.

My nearly eaten sandwich, a little spicy, made me think about how to get back across the street without getting too wet when a shabbily dressed guy walked by, over to the corner of the street. No umbrella over his head, no raincoat, just a soaked plaid jacket and a sad-brimmed hat, he looked cold as well as wet. He pulled a short stick out of the canvas bag he dragged along the ground. Then he tied a piece of what looked like fishing line to the pole. Yes, he had a fishhook on the end of the line.

He then started to drop the hook (no bait) into the gutter. Water rushed down the curved gutter, a baby torrent. Quite a number of times he dipped the hook into the water and out again. Each time this guy squinted to see if anything was on the hook. I had to grin to myself, no way was he going to catch any fish... or anything else for that matter.

He looked so forlorn, I decided to ask him to come in and have a sandwich (nice guy that I am). At first, he looked suspicious, but he decided, I guess, that I was for real. I ordered him a sandwich, same one as I had, and a beer, and started to talk to him. Was he homeless? Where did he live if he wasn't? What was he doing out in this rain? And so forth. My curiosity got the best of me....Did he catch any fish in this gutter? "You're the third today," he said, a smile on his face.

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Truth is. Today, November 18, 2022, was my first visit to Joe's Corner since I moved to Fremont in 1980. Shame on me. In sort of Spanish style architecture, Joe's Corner has stood there at the corner since 1927. Of course, they didn't have the outside tables and heaters they have now, and the tree probably wasn't growing there in 1927. But inside the long bar with its footrest is still there. No spittoons. Enjoy the Spanish or Portuguese tiles surrounding the front/outside bar. Inside, ten tables pretty much face the bar and the 16 draft beer handles. Of course, TVs hang on the walls playing...food shows? Anyway, friendly folks and good bar food await you. ~ Bruce Roberts





## November 16<sup>th</sup> Luncheon



*BEC meeting before the luncheon*



### *Celebrating November Birthdays*



*Our Guest Speaker  
Mark Marymee*



*New Member Jim McConnell*



*New Member Fred Serena  
transferring from Branch 26*



*Winners of the Wine Drawing*





## FIRST CLASS MAIL

**December 2022**

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND ASSISTANTS

#### ACTIVITIES

Larry Lardie/Jerry Halligan  
Co-Chairmen

#### ATTENDANCE

Bob Marshall - Chairman  
Bill Leake - Assistant  
Bill Pruner - Assistant  
Bruce Hevelin - Assistant

#### AUDIO-VISUAL

Carl Nordling - Audio  
Sammy Lum/Jerry Sabo - Video

#### AUDIT

Carl Nordling - Chairman  
Open - Assistant

#### BIRTHDAYS

Sammy Lum - Chairman

#### BOWLING

Miguel Ferras - Chairman

#### BRIDGE

-Chairman

#### CHAPLAINS

Ted Bresler

#### CIRCULATION

Bill Briscoe - Chairman  
Sterling Strickland - Assistant

#### COUPLES DINING OUT

Jim Ulam - Chairman

#### COUPLES WINE TASTING

Open - Chairman

#### CYBER GEEZERS

Jerry Sabo - Chairman

#### DATABASE

Sammy Lum - Manager

Jerry Sabo - Assistant

#### GOLF

Larry Lardie/Jim Ulam  
Co-Chairmen

#### LIBRARIAN

Richard Holley/Rick Henry  
Co-Chairmen

#### MEMBERSHIP

Rob Ingebretson - Chairman  
Carl Nordling - Assistant

#### NOMINATING

Richard Henry - Chairman

#### PATHFINDER

Editor - Jerry Sabo  
Assistant - Sammy Lum

#### PHOTOGRAPHER

Bruce Roberts

#### POKER

Bob Marshall - Co-Chair

Larry Jett - Co-Chair

#### PUBLICITY

Sammy Lum - Chairman

Jim Ulam - Assistant

#### RECRUITMENT

Jim Ulam - Chairman

Alan Weiner - Assistant

#### ROLLIE REFEREE

Open

#### SOCIAL

Open - Chairman

#### SONG LEADER

Open - Chairman

#### SPEAKER RECRUITMENT

Bob Marshall

#### SPORTS

Bill Leake - Chairman

Nat Lord - Assistant

#### SUNSHINE

Open - Chairman

#### Walking

Jerry Halligan - Chairman

#### WEBSITE

[Sirbranch59.org](http://Sirbranch59.org)  
Sammy Lum - Webmaster

#### STATE OFFICERS

##### STATE PRESIDENT

Rick Kindle

##### VICE-PRESIDENT

Dale Decker

##### STATE SECRETARY

Dick Devoe

##### STATE TREASURER

Roy Hodgkinson

##### Chief Administrator

Dean Steichen

##### DIRECTOR, REGION 5

John Haffner

##### 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\*

#### PAST BIG Sirs

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

2021 Larry Jett

\*(deceased)

#### PATHFINDER DEADLINE

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