



SIR Solano Branch 88 Newsletter

June
2023

"Live Longer, Live Happier, Join SIR"

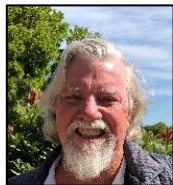
State Website – sirinc.org

Branch 88 Website – sirinc2.org/branch88/

P.O. Box 502, Benicia, CA 94510

Big SIR ... My Two Cents

– Harold Persily



Well June is here. Start of summer, although it feels more like fall, being colder than expected. Finally I got all the tomatoes into their barrels and watched them start to mature. Needless to say, no tomatoes yet; but waiting patiently.

At our last meeting one of our members, Ron Gervasoni, should have gone to Las Vegas instead. He first had his badge pulled for a free lunch. He went to his seat. Then we drew his ticket for the \$50 drawing. He sat down again. Then he had a second of his tickets drawn for a bottle of wine. Wow, Ron, great going. We suggested he go and buy a lotto ticket, and share.

Unfortunately, we lost a few members this month. We usually find out who has left when dues are not paid. Several left due to moving away or passing. Other the reasons are more complicated. We believe the best way to keep members is to have a range of various fun activities, and entertaining as well as informative luncheon meetings.

Potential Activities –

Are any of you interested in a **Day at Scandia in Cordelia**? They have miniature golf, car racing, and games galore. Other potential activities include a **Chess club**, a **Tennis activity**?

Benicia Parade –

We are hoping to be in the **Benicia Parade again on July 3** starting at 6:30pm. We need

NEXT MEETING

**Thursday,
June 8, 2023**



Zio Fraedo's

23 Harbor Way

Happy Hour 11:00

Lunch 12:00

Program 1:00

(BEC 10:00am)

Lunch \$25

Today's Program

Art Stine

Preparedness

walkers (and some riders) to hand out candy to the kids while walking down Main Street to show who we are.

If you see ways we can improve things let us know, or better yet, join our leadership team. Members of your branch BEC and activity chairmen try to make Branch 88 the best place to have fun and enjoy companionship.

A shout out to David Muth. He does a great job finding interesting speakers for our luncheons. I hope everyone appreciates his efforts. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future speakers, let us know.

That's about it for my June 2 Cents. Be safe and stay healthy.

Harold



Little SIR — *Just Saying...*
Wayne Burdick

Hello Sirs.

Here we are ... five months ripped off the 2023 calendar.

We are well into all the outdoor activities; and summer is only weeks away. If you haven't been getting out much, maybe you should. For myself, getting my garden going & general yard work is satisfying.

Participating in Bocce Ball and other SIR activities gives me a sense of community. See you at the Luncheon June 8.

*About our Speaker
June 8, 2023*

– David Muth



Hello Everyone.

Our Guest speaker for June is Art Stine. He will speak on disaster preparedness. Art is a graduate of UCLA and is a 6-year veteran of the Red Cross as the Legacy Society Director. Before that, he spent 20+ years as a Gift Planning Director at The Salvation Army, receiving his Certified Planned Giving Specialist Certificate from CSU Long Beach in 2006. He spends about 75% of his time in the field, stewarding donors, educating volunteers, board members, and staff about impactful Legacy Planning. He is also an active Red Cross volunteer by regularly donating platelets (a blood product) and installing smoke alarms (Home fire Campaign).

Art is going to be speaking about preparedness.

CITY OF BENICIA

4TH of July

July 3 · 6:30-10PM

Come join us for a slow walk down Benicia's First Street on July 3. This will be our third time participating. It has been a lot of fun in the past. We will have a couple of cars and a 6-foot rooster. We will hand out about 24 pounds of candy to the kids and hand out flyers to let people know who we are.

Contact Carl Mason (707-746-1347) for more details. Don't be just a spectator ... be part of the action!



2022 Torchlight Parade



Edward Brice
 Skeeter DeMartini
 Larry Fade
 Bob Gearhart
 John Kroan
 Roy MacGregor
 Bert Parker
 Jhun Patrico
 Mario Pimentel
 Lefty Serpa
 Kenneth Tacconi

Editor's View – Carl Mason



Gail and I attended some great SIR activities this month, including Coed Bocce Ball, Pop the Cork, and Bridge lessons. Harold and David Muth have spent a lot of time arranging for activities and interesting speakers. Some new activities to consider are Bridge, Chess, and Tennis.

Women In Sirs

The SIR State conducted a survey to see the general support for allowing women to be members in SIR. A resounding number (86%) of branches said they did not believe that women should be members, but a little over half of the branches said it was OK if other branches did. This whole issue was put forward last year by a couple of failing branches wanting to increase their membership. A pilot program was set up at two branches. One of the branches closed and the other had several women join their branch. Overall the pilot was not successful.

The results of this pilot and the survey made it clear that this is not the time to consider women as members and this issue is dead for now.

SIR88 Membership Loss

Our branch just got a surprise when some 20 plus members did not re-up this year. We made some calls and found a lot of those not renewing were getting infirm or had passed away. While we have inducted a lot of new members over the past months, we need to continue to invite visitors to the meetings.

We also noted some of the loss was from of our minority members. While I have not seen anyone in our branch not being welcomed, the loss above may mean we should make a special effort to make everyone feel welcome. By the way ... the Sir State has identified minorities as an area for potential growth.

Sunshine –

John Lawson



Our get-well wishes go out to SIR wives Arlene Fuhrer (Lou) and Maria McKinney (Russ).

If you know of any of our members who are sick or having problems, please let me know (707-853-6972).



May's guest speaker
 Aubrey Matthews
History of the Tuskegee Airmen



Bocce Ball (Co-Ed) –

Tim Tarazi



Friday games have been going strong with hopefully everyone enjoying play.

We're still enrolling new players, which shows the popularity of the game. We have new pallinos (a little larger and yellow in color) to get used to. Actually, they should show better against the white background.



A game of inches ... and a 25-foot tape measure!



Bocce Ball (Men) –

Steve Hazelton



We started the season on May 4. Unfortunately, members from some teams did not show up resulting in some games being forfeited.

As a result of these no-shows for some teams, a decision was made to reduce the five teams to four, so all teams can play each week.

Players from team #2 ("The Late Bloomers") will be added to the other four teams (2 per team).

Top players have not lost their skills. Gerry, Dave, Wayne, and Bert for "Wats A Matta U" are in hot competition, while Bill, Greg, Harold and Ken of "The Bocce Warriors" are pressing them.

We have a new SIR member Matt Giuffrida, who is a seasoned Bocce player, and has been showing us how to play.

I will be posting pics and videos of the action. Bocce is Back!

Pool League – Ed Droesch

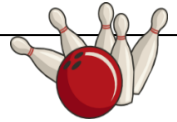


The Spring League will be shortened somewhat, due to management's decision to update the clubhouse facilities. The billiard room will be closed for renovations sometime in June, with no end date known.



Bowling –

Don Ramsay



The winter league season starts on September 6. The league fees are still \$20 per week. I have not heard how much the sanction card will cost this year. If you want to bowl let me know by phone (707-644-2194) or e-mail (donram2@comcast.net) as I will be setting up teams soon. If the sanction card stays at \$25 the first week of bowling will be \$85 which covers the first and last two weeks of league bowling and the sanction card. The minimum I can except the first week would be \$45 if the sanction card stays at \$25.

If anyone is interested in semi-professional baseball the Vallejo Seaweeds are playing at Wilson park. Check your paper for times and dates.

**When older people say,
"Enjoy them while
they are young."
They are talking about
your knees and hips
not your kids.**

YOU KNOW
YOU'RE GETTING
OLDER WHEN
YOU START TO
NOTICE LITTLE
GRAY HAIRS IN
YOUR CHILDREN'S
HAIR



Pop-the-Cork – David Muth

In May, we continued the selection of wines for a single country. This month the theme was wine and food from France.

French wine turned out to be a broad subject including white, red, and even Champagnes. We had a great variety of wines to drink, which we did, but we mainly had great conversation, a lot of laughter, and overall a great time.

Next month will be a different country, but while we drink the wine, our main enjoyment is the people and the experience of the friendships and relationships we share.

Our next meeting date is June 25. If you are interested in joining us, give David Muth a call or email, the more the merrier.

David's email (david66muth@gmail.com) and phone 707-332-3352



French Wines Night (May 28, 2023) –
L-R: Jane and Dale Sexton, Carl Mason, John and Patricia Lawson, Ann and Brandon Wroblewski



Bridge – Tim Tarazi

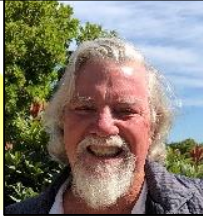


Bridge classes: Ladies are welcome.

It was requested to have the classes open to the ladies. Our instructor Mr. Wayne Miller was very much in favor of expanding the classes.

Classes are being held at the Benicia Senior Center on Mondays at 9:30am. Our first session had five players and our second had nine.

Since these classes are free, we don't have a budget to do handouts. Everyone is urged to read the various links that I forward to all participants.



Member Spotlight

Harold Persily

Life in a Nutshell

Capricorn. Born in Los Angeles and moved to SF bay area at nine. Never left. Berkeley, San Rafael, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, then Vallejo.

I attended high school and college. During the summers I moved furniture. I went to College of Marin and then graduated from LA State in 1971 with a BS in Information Systems (aka computers). I got into computers because a high school counselor said, "you do well in math, you should work with computers." After graduation, I found I did not like computers, so I spent five years "finding myself". While coaching women's softball in San Rafael I met Christina, soon to be my wife of 46 years. She had a 3-year-old son, Richard.

Finally, I decided I had to find employment, so I worked my way into a computer job selling and programming small desktop computers. Eventually I went to work for the Fireman's Fund Insurance in Marin, and eventually for Bank of America where I performed Quality Assurance.

This consisted of testing systems to ensure the various programs and interfaces worked. I tested ATM's and teller machines to see how they talked with their host systems. When I started, there were five interfaces (or boxes) between the ATM and the host. When I left after 12 years, there were 17. Most of my job was identifying defects and insuring resolution. I broke it, others needed to fix it.

I moved to Santa Rosa because they had new houses for 30k, with 5% down. I could, and did, buy my first house with a credit card. Moved to Sebastopol. BofA then moved from SF to Concord. After a year, BofA offered to move us closer. Since Christina was working in Marin, we found Vallejo a convenient location. I eventually started working for PG&E in downtown SF. Commuting by ferry. Nothing is better. Retired from PG&E after training my offshore replacements.

After a few years of retirement, went to lunch with a long retired high school buddy. Asked what he did for fun, he said SIRs. I then found Branch 88 and the rest, as they say, is history.



June 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00 – Men's Bocce	2 9:00 – Co-Ed Bocce	3
4	5 9:00 – Men's Bocce 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	6	7 10:00 – Bowling 6:00 – Men's Poker	8 10:00 BEC 11:00 – Luncheon	9 9:00 – Co-Ed Bocce	10
11	12 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	13	14 10:00 – Bowling	15 9:00 – Men's Bocce	16 9:00 – Co-Ed Bocce	17
18 	19 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	20	21 10:00 – Bowling 6:00 – Men's Poker	22 9:00 – Men's Bocce	23 9:00 – Co-Ed Bocce	24
25 4:00-6:00 – Pop the Cork	26 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	27	28 10:00 – Bowling	29 9:00 - Men's Bocce	30 9:00 - Co-Ed Bocce	



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CITY OF BENICIA

4TH
of July

July 3 · 6:30-10PM

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

TORCHLIGHT PARADE ON FIRST STREET · 6:30PM
SPONSORED BY BENICIA MAIN STREET

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING EAST BAY MUDD
FIRST STREET GREEN · 8PM | DRONE LIGHT SHOW · 9:30PM
SPONSORED BY ACE PEDROTTI HARDWARE

July 4 · 3-10PM

LIVE MUSIC & VENDORS AT FIRST STREET GREEN · 3PM
FIREWORKS · 9:30PM

ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING
JAMES DAY DUELING PIANOS · 3PM | MICHELE LAMBERT · 4PM
HEATHER NORMANDEALE DUO · 5PM | SUN SILVER · 6PM
DAVID MARTINS BAND · 7:30PM

**NO ALCOHOL VENDORS AVAILABLE. PLEASE ENJOY
LIBATIONS AT DOWNTOWN ESTABLISHMENTS!**








**State Officers
2023**

SIR President
Dave Gonzales

Area Representative
Jerry Stabile

SIR BRANCH 88

P.O. Box 502, Benicia, CA 94510

Officers 2023

Big SIR	Harold Persily	554-2380	halpers@yahoo.com
Little SIR	Wayne Burdick	642-7808	wburdick205@gmail.com
Secretary	John Lawson	853-6972	johnjhawk@msn.com
Treasurer	Roy MacGregor	297-6153	macgregor.roy@gmail.com
Asst. Treas.	Jerry Millard	642-8144	millardvallejo@aol.com

Committee Chairmen 2023

Bocce Men	Steve Hazelton	501-3535	steve.hzlt@gmail.net
Bocce Co-Ed	Tim Tarazi	297-5957	timtarazi@gmail.com
Bowling	Don Ramsay	644-2194	donram2@comcast.net
Chaplain/Sunshine	John Lawson	853-6972	johnjhawk@msn.com
Golf	Jim Jewell	745-3086	bfd@earthlink.net
Golf Handicap	Dick Schumacher	745-1571	dickschu@aol.com
Membership	Harold Persily	554-2380	halpers@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Carl Mason	746-1347	masonquy@aol.com

Board of Directors 2023

Jim Burcham	746-8645
Sanford Gladding	745-6430
Dave Krenzke	648-1308
David Muth	332-3352
Fred Warren	552-7261

Past Big SIRs

David Muth	2022
Fred Warren	2020-21
Jim Burcham	2019
Carl Mason	2018
Gary Savelli	2017
Ron Darling	2016
Dick Schumacher	2015
Stan Turrini	2011-14
Tom Hebbon*	2010
Bill Hester	2009
Richard Stone*	2008
Don Waterbury*	2007
Ed Sweet*	2006
Ed Bradley*	2005
Gerald Davis	2004