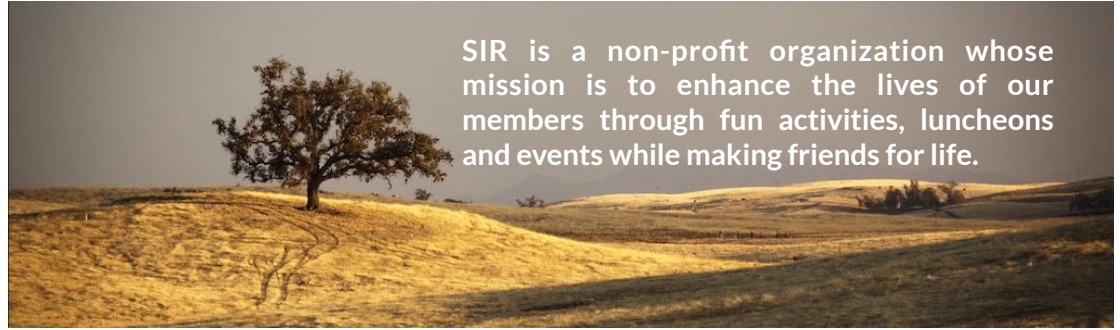


# GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95



SIR is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the lives of our members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making friends for life.

Bulletin 409

December 2023

Kevin King, PBS - Editor

## BIG SIR | Jay Muzio 650-302-1902



Fellow SIRs, how fortunate are we to have made it to the end of another year! As almost all of us are in our seventh, eighth, ninth and a couple of us in our tenth decades of life, we all can look back at scores of years with many memories. In our memories are happy years and not so happy years. We can look back on joyful times and ones that were sad due to want, being away from home, or the loss of a loved one. *"Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning, but a going on, with all wisdom that experience can instill in us."* ~Hal Borland Let us bid farewell to the past and go optimistically into our futures.

This is my last article as Big SIR. I have certainly enjoyed authoring these articles, although it has often been a challenge, as I am not a natural writer. In composing these paragraphs over the last two years, I have used many sources to find ideas. The web has been extremely helpful for seasonal ideas and monthly awareness topics, and my wife, Irene, has been invaluable for her suggestions and editing of my muddled thoughts. I hope you have enjoyed my musings and factoids. So, it is with confidence and joy that I will be turning this duty over to Lew Chapman, our Big SIR for 2024. I know he will bring new energy and interest to these tomes.

I am also excited to be handing over the duties of leading our monthly BEC and luncheon meetings to Big SIR Lew. This can be very time consuming as it takes a few hours a month to make sure all the administrative issues are on the BEC agenda, and it takes several hours to script the luncheon meeting Power Point with the invocation, jokes, awards and special announcements. I am looking forward to Lew's creativity and leadership going forward.

And now dear Fellows, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for giving me the opportunity to lead our incredible group for the past two years. It has been an absolute privilege to serve alongside each and every one of you, and I am truly humbled by the trust and support you have shown me throughout this journey. Together we have achieved many of the goals that we set out at the first of the year and reported on every month. Your dedication, enthusiasm and unwavering commitment have been the driving force behind our success. Thank you for inspiring me to become a better leader. It has been an honor to serve you, and I am grateful for the memories we have shared. Here's to many more years of growth, collaboration and friendship.

*"For last year's words belong to last year's language, and next year's words await another voice."* ~ T.S. Eliot

### Gold Country Branch 95 2023 BEC Members- (PBS) denotes Past Big SIR

<b>Big SIR</b> Jay Muzio 650-302-1902	<b>Little SIR</b> Lew Chapman 510-912-5658	<b>Secretary</b> Terry Starkel 916-817-1524	<b>Assistant Secretary</b> Bob Carlson 916-817-1181	<b>Treasurer</b> Oli Bohlman 916-844-4067	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b> Tim Irish (PBS) 916-933-3466
<b>Director at Large</b> David Chighizola 530-558-9336	<b>Director at Large</b> Ken Mahar 650-504-1393	<b>Director at Large</b> Marshall Armstrong 650-438-7802	<b>Director at Large</b> Bill Yeager (PBS) 916-941-6632	<b>Director at Large</b> Hugh Thompson 916-276-5117	<b>Director at Large</b> OPEN

## LITTLE SIR | Lew Chapman 510-912-5658



Happy Holidays. By the time you read this Thanksgiving has come and gone, and hopefully the pounds have come and gone too!

If you missed the November luncheon, we had a very interesting speaker, Christina Wynn, Tax Assessor for Sacramento County. She got lots and lots of questions.

### January Speaker

It is the responsibility of the outgoing Little SIR to arrange the speaker for the January luncheon. I have found a great speaker through my membership at the Renaissance Society, Dr. Jeffrey Mount, a hydrologist from UC Davis. His subject is **Water in California**. I heard him give this talk earlier this year and I thought it would be very interesting for our branch members. Jeff is a Senior Fellow in the Public Policy Institute of California and is Emeritus Professor at UCD. This is a topic like the weather, everybody is interested in it, and I found Jeff to be a very entertaining speaker.

### Holiday Dinner

It looks like we will have a very robust turnout for the SIR Branch 95 Holiday Dinner on Wednesday, December 13. It is promising to be a very nice evening in a great setting, the Cameron Park Country Club, decorated for the holiday season. The Holiday Dinner committee has put together a great program. We will swear in our new branch officers for 2024, give out some deserved recognition, have a drawing for some terrific gift baskets and auction off some exciting items to raise money for future activities and events of our branch in 2024.

There was an email blast from Jay Muzio on November 16 with the details about all the gift baskets and auction items, go back and check that out if you missed it. Special thanks go to Jay's wife, Irene, for taking the lead on putting together the gift baskets. She did a great job!

***There's still time to sign up for this year-end event. But don't delay - the deadline is December 6th. Details and a registration form are on the last page of this newsletter. Or, just give me a call and I will get you signed up, and you can send me a check.***

Well, this is my last article as Little SIR. I want to thank Jay Muzio, Ken Mahar and Kevin King (and a few others, you know who you are) for all the help and guidance they provided in getting through 2023. I could not have done it without their support.

Let's all welcome Ron Wadsworth to the Little SIR role, I will look forward to working with him in 2024. Good luck Ron, and thanks for taking on this important position.

## Christmas Holiday Dinner Wednesday, December 13, 2023 6:00pm

CAMERON PARK COUNTRY CLUB  
3201 Royal Drive  
Cameron Park, CA 95682

Registration deadline December 6th



### *Salad*

HOUSE SALAD

### *Main course*

SHORT RIB W/ RIB JUS

CHICKEN MARSALA

GARLIC MASHED POTATOES

SEASONAL VEGETABLE MEDLEY

### *Dessert*

NEW YORK STYLE CHEESECAKE W/  
STRAWBERRY COMPOTE

## December Birthdays



Wayne Allen  
Bob Carlson  
Dennis Eyler  
Richard Mohr  
Ron Wadsworth  
Paul Warner

## December SIR Anniversaries

1 year - Jim Peterson

## Membership

Welcome new members:  
Wayne Allen, Harry Hall, Rick Talone,  
Harlan Proctor and John Zehner

New members this year: 27  
Current number of members: 92

## BRANCH HAPPENINGS / SIR COMINGS & GOINGS | Kevin King (PBS) 916-337-9811

We are on track to have our best turnout in several years for our annual Holiday Dinner. It's not too late to signup. A great turnout would be a just reward for those who've worked so hard to make this a fun and memorable event. See the last page for details regarding the dinner and registration.

Three new members were inducted into our Branch at our November meeting:



Wayne Allen was sponsored by Marshall Armstrong. He served in Vietnam with the Navy having spent roughly two years of his tour on a mine sweeper hunting and clearing mines from the coastal waters and rivers of Vietnam. For his service, his team earned a National Defense Service Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal and a Combat Action Ribbon. He owned and operated a swimming pool and landscaping company that specialized in large-scale residential and commercial projects from 1985 - 2009. Wayne listed bocce, fishing, golf, travel, woodworking and veterans as activities he enjoys. He's also a beginning luthier. What's a luthier you may ask? It's a maker of stringed instruments such as violins or guitars. He and his wife, Jo Ella, live in El Dorado Hills.



Harry Hall was sponsored by Terry Privott. He served in the Army National Guard for six years. Harry is a registered, professional Chemical Engineer who spent 33 years working for Chevron. He retired in 2004 as Manager of Chevron's Marketing Department which set fuel specifications for Chevron. During his career, he worked as Chevron's representative with a number of outside partners. Harry has been a speaker at a number of retirement clubs including ours. He enjoys golf and small woodworking projects. He and his wife, Wanda, moved from Texas to El Dorado Hills in 2012 to be closer to their grandchildren.



Rick Talone found us through our website. He worked for El Dorado Irrigation District as a Water Operator in Customer Service. He enjoys bocce in his local neighborhood and I expect we'll see him at our drop-in bocce and perhaps in league play. Of the other activities we offer, Rick indicated that he enjoyed biking, bowling, golf, pickleball and wine tasting. There were several other activities listed. Perhaps some of them are enjoyed by other members which could result in the branch offering a new activity or two. That's something I'm sure Jay will pursue when he steps into the Activities Chairman role after the start of the new year. Rick and his wife, Elise, live in El Dorado Hills.

Patrick Machado-Derdowski has decided to leave our Branch after a brief stay. No reason was given. We wish him the best.

See **BRANCH HAPPENINGS** next page



As previously announced, lunch prices will increase to \$35 in January. Also, the BEC voted to keep our 2024

annual dues at \$40. They were able to hold the line on dues in spite of State SIR increasing the dues our Branch pays every quarter for each of our members and the increased cost of guest and speaker lunches. Dues will be considered late and you will be subject to being dropped from our membership if dues is not paid on or before our March meeting.

*May your home be filled with all the joys of the season. With all good wishes for you and your family for health and happiness throughout the coming year.*

*~ SIR Branch 95 BEC*



**BRANCH HAPPENINGS** continued from previous page

Peter Puglia, whose work assignment was extended, has also decided to leave the Branch. He hopes to return should his work situation allow.

Two of our guests at our November meeting joined our Branch shortly following the meeting. Look for them at our December Holiday Dinner. They will officially be inducted into our Branch at our January meeting.



Harlan Proctor found us through one of advertisements. He is a retired Aquatic Biologist for California Water Resources. He enjoys fishing and wine tasting among other things. He served in the US Army as a Staff Sergeant from 1960 to 1966. He and his wife, Sandi, live in Cameron Park.



John "Jeff" Zehner is sponsored by Terry Privott. He is a retired Field Service Representative for Pitney Bowes. Jeff listed several activities that he enjoys, including several that our Branch currently offers. Those include bocce, bowling, fishing, golf, pickleball, poker and wine tasting. He and his wife, Charlotte, live in Folsom.

With the addition of these two new members, our Branch will see a modest membership increase over last year's final membership count. Member referrals, the advertising efforts of George Alboff, the signboard that Terry Starkel puts out at our lunches and many of our activities, active membership recruitment by our Membership Chairman, David Chighizola, membership assimilation and retention efforts by Bill Yeager, the many activities we offer and our website have all contributed to increasing our membership.

During his stewardship of our group over the past two years, outgoing Big SIR, Jay Muzio, and his leadership team should be congratulated for all they've done to improve our Branch and to help it grow. These are challenging times for SIR where it has seen Statewide membership decline, branches merging and some branches giving up altogether. Yet our Branch continues to thrive with the addition of 27 new members and the introduction of several new activities this year. Our Branch remains strong and continues to provide the types of programs that SIR was built on due to our dedicated members and especially those who give of their time to lead our group.

With new Branch leadership in 2024 will come new ideas that will create even more Branch growth opportunities. I encourage all members to support the incoming BEC; give of your time if asked to do so; and continue to talk up SIR amongst your friends, neighbors and even former members, who if gently prodded, may consider returning. Most importantly, actively participate in the many things that being part of SIR is all about by attending our monthly lunches and events; participate in the many activities the Branch offers; and suggest and help develop new activities that would be of interest to current and prospective members. Doing so will bode well for SIR and the future of our Branch.

As we wind up another year, I wish you and your families the best this holiday season and the gifts of good health and happiness for the coming year.



## BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman

916-817-1524



With only a couple of golf rounds left to play in December, we are coming to the end of the 2023 golf season for SIR Branch 95. At the end of the season, we will find out the recipients of the Gold Country Cup and the Marksman of the Year. Congratulations again to Randy Hood, this year's Club Champion. Next year's schedule is

mostly completed. I am waiting on confirmation of the last three dates and times.

A reminder, if you have not yet let me know of your intentions to participate in SIR Branch 95 golf for next year, please do so soon. At the time I am writing this, we have had 20 players let me know they plan to renew for next year. 15 of them have already paid and 2 members have informed me they will not be renewing with us next year. That leaves quite a few that I am not sure about. I know several in our group have health issues that keep them from participating as much they would like. Please let me know by mid-December. I will be sending out reminders before then, with a list of those that have renewed. You can bring a check made out to SIR Branch 95 Golf to one of our golf outings or send it to me at: 1038 Houston Circle, Folsom, CA 95630.

Before next season starts, I would suggest everyone review the USGA golf rules. I am not aware of any changes yet for next year, but there are usually some. As for SIR Branch 95, I will be sending out updated rules before we start our new season. To speed up play, play ready golf. Have your club selected and be in position to play when it is your turn. If someone is on the other side of the fairway you may want to go ahead and hit your ball, even if you are a little closer. If someone is raking the bunker, you may want to have your group putt while the raking is being done, instead of waiting for him to finish and then come to the putting surface. Since we can move the ball six inches when it is not in a hazard or on the putting surface, you may also consider it as lift, clean and place whenever we play. Do not spend more than 3 minutes looking for a ball. Try to keep an eye out for the golf balls of others in your group. Our depth perception and eyesight is not as good as it once was and we can all use help keeping track of the ball.

## SAND TRAPS

Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman  
916-817-1524

Golf Director (Mather)  
Dennis Petersen 916-817-1149

Golf Director (Wildhawk)  
Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484

#####

### SIR Branch 95 Results 2023 Tournaments

November 7th - Empire Ranch

1st - Al Gurevich

2nd - Ray Guenther

3rd - Bill Yeager

Closest to the pin - Ray Guenther

November 14th - Mather

1st - Bob Carlson

2nd - Al Gurevich

3rd - Randy Hood

Closest to the pin - Tim Irish

November 21st - (no golf; Thanksgiving)

November 28th - Wildhawk

1st - Steve Thomson

2nd - Ron Wadsworth

3rd - Bob Carlson

Closest (hole #4) - Marshall Armstrong

Closest (hole # 17) - Dennis Petersen

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Only two tournaments remain for our 2023 season - December 5th at Empire Ranch and December 12th at Mather. This is your last chance to make a push for Gold Country Cup and Marksman of the Year honors. Check up-to-date standings on our Branch's [Golf page](#).

#### SIR Websites

Branch 95: [sirinc2.org/branch95/](http://sirinc2.org/branch95/)

State SIR: [sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org)

State SIR Marketing: [WeAreSIR.com](http://WeAreSIR.com)

SIR Happenings (State SIR newsletters):

[sirinc.org/newsletters](http://sirinc.org/newsletters)

SIR-Branded Merchandise: [sir.ourproshop.com](http://sir.ourproshop.com)

#### State SIR Officials

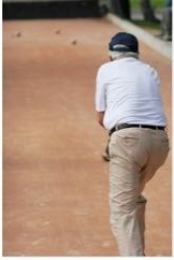
##### State President

Dave Gonzales (Br98 - Rocklin)  
916-587-3538

##### Area 3 Representative

Jim Gragg (Br98 - Rocklin)  
916-708-5154

## BOCCE | Oli Bohlman 916-844-4067



Attendance is increasing at drop-in bocce. Come join us as we play at Promontory Park every Thursday at 10:00am. If you are not on the current email list and would like to be, contact Oli Bohlman at [obohlman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:obohlman@sbcglobal.net).

## PICKLEBALL | Dan Cockcroft (PBS)

408-781-0714



The interest in our drop-in pickleball group remains high. We meet at 1:00pm on Wednesday's at Heritage Park in El Dorado Hills. If you want to be placed on the email interest list, contact Lew Chapman, Ron Wadsworth or Dan Cockcroft. We will

send out a reminder early each week to confirm play time.

Other courts in the area (not SIR-sponsored) where you'll occasionally find our members playing during the week include:

- EDH Community Services District gym (indoor; Tu & Th 9:00am)
- Cameron Park Community Services District Gym
- Andy Morin Sports Complex (Folsom; indoor)
- Lembi Park (Folsom; outdoor)
- Heritage Village Park (EDH; outdoor)
- Cameron Park Lake remains closed indefinitely

## BREAKFAST & WALKING |

Norman Orrick 916-709-1693



Come join us every Thursday morning for breakfast and discuss the day's events; come up with the solution to all the world's problems; or maybe just BS. Afterwards, we go on an easy walk. As of now, we are meeting at Denny's 3446 Coach Lane, Cameron Park at 8:00am. Send me an email at [7norte@gmail.com](mailto:7norte@gmail.com) if

you're interested and I will send you a weekly reminder the day before.

## E-BIKING | Ken Mahar 650-504-1393



We are still looking for e-bike riders to ride on Mondays and Fridays beginning at 9am from various starting locations.

I'll put out an e-vite to interested members a few days before each ride so you can sign up. Simply reply "YES" or "NO". It's as easy as that.

We generally cover about 20 miles which is a snap on an e-bike. Our rides take about an hour and a half with a break in between. There's a lot to see on the trails, wildlife abound. Join us and get in on the fun. In order to get regular updates about upcoming rides, give me a call or email me at [kmahar@comcast.net](mailto:kmahar@comcast.net) to be put on the list.

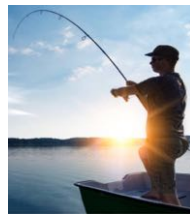
## TEXAS HOLD'EM | Ken Mahar 650-504-1393



We meet the first Wednesday of every month at someone's home. A \$20 buy-in and you're good to go.

More information about Texas Hold'em rules and strategy can be found at <https://www.pokerzone.com/rules/texas-holdem/>. If this sounds like something that you might be interested in, please give me a call or email me at [kmahar@comcast.net](mailto:kmahar@comcast.net).

## FISHING | Dan Maglionico 916-719-6821



I spoke to a local guide about setting up a salmon trip on the Sacramento River only to learn that there's no fishing for salmon in California for the next 3 years. Currently, salmon can only be caught on the Rogue and Columbia rivers in Oregon. He is currently fishing for trout. He did mention that

there are land locked steelhead at Lake Berryessa. They are deep now but will come up to 10 to 15 feet when the water cools. I'll contact him again in January and try to set up a trip to Berryessa if warranted.

**New Year's resolution: Contact Jay or Lew to suggest a new activity that you think other members would enjoy.**

## WINE TASTING | Jay Muzio, Big SIR 650-302-1902



The wine tasting group did not meet in November and will not meet again until January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The holidays are a busy time for everyone so the group elects not to meet during these busy months.

Interest in the Wine Tasting Group is growing. With most homes having an indoor capacity of 10-12, the 2024 format may include two homes for each wine tasting. However, it is best if there is a minimum of 8 at a single home so we are looking for a few more regular attendees. If you would like to join the Wine Tasting Group, contact Jay Muzio at [jaymuzio@gmail.com](mailto:jaymuzio@gmail.com). Besides being able to sample a variety of great wines and wonderful food, the Wine Tasting Group provides a fantastic opportunity to get out of the house and socialize with your SIR friends. Don't hesitate just because you or your partner don't drink wine. We have a few members who prefer not to taste the wine but come to enjoy the camaraderie. Why not check us out?

## BOOK EXCHANGE | Lew Chapman 510-912-5658



We had a significant influx of additional books for our Book Exchange program at the November luncheon. Thanks for all your contributions. The Book Exchange library gets more interesting by the month. Check it out at our first luncheon in 2024 on January 10.

So, as those of you who read my Book Exchange article each month know, I write some sort of book report on what I have been reading. I'm still plowing through two big reads from the past few months, so I have nothing new to report on. Therefore, I decided to do a little research on other people's reading and came across this on Microsoft Edge, and that is Bill Gates recommended holiday reading. I am an admirer of Bill Gates, his Gates Foundation work, etc.



These seemed pretty interesting, here goes:

The first one he recommends is "The Song of the Cell" by Siddhartha Mukherjee MD. It's right up my alley. Mukherjee, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, and Columbia University oncologist, writes here about what Gates calls "the building blocks of life" – the cells that make up all living organisms.

In one sense, "[The Song of the Cell](#)" is a medical history, covering the discovery of cells in the 1600s and how people's understanding of them has evolved over time. The book, published last year, is also a look ahead to the future medical breakthroughs that cellular manipulation could unlock.

The next one is "Not the End of the World" by Hannah Ritchie. How about a little climate optimism to get you into the holiday spirit? "Everyone who wants to have an informed conversation about climate change should read this book," Gates wrote.

Finally, he recommends "Invention and Innovation" by Vaclav Smil. Smil, a professor emeritus of environmental science at the University of Manitoba, is [one of Gates' favorite authors](#). Gates said he's read every single one of Smil's 44 books, and that "nobody is better than Smil at explaining the past."

Now mind you, Gates is a connected guy, and he gets to pre-read some books so the last two are books that will be published early in 2024. I'll will do my best to get copies of them and get them into the Book Exchange.

Happy Holiday reading and remember: *SIR Branch 95 Book Exchange: no cost, no library cards, no late notices, no fines.*

## DECEMBER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - Drop-in bocce  
Promontory Park EDH; 10am



5th - Empire Ranch  
12th - Mather  
End of season; season resumes  
2/6/2024 at Empire Ranch



13th - Christmas Holiday Dinner  
Cameron Park Country Club



The Wine Tasting group is on  
hiatus over the holidays; will  
resume January 18th



No planned tournaments until January  
2024



7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - Breakfast &  
Walking - Denny's Cameron Park; 8am



6th - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



Mondays and Fridays - e-Biking;  
various starting locations



6th, 13th, 20th, 27th - Drop-in pickleball;  
Heritage Park; 1-4pm

## BOWLING | Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727



The 2024 SIR State Bowling Calendar is now available and posted on the state website. Branch 65 and Napa Bowl will host the first tournament of the year. Cindy and I have always enjoyed this tournament along with spending an evening and sharing a nice meal with our local friends.

Napa Bowl is one of fifteen centers across the nation that have installed USBC-certified string pin setters. USBC has done research in bowler scoring between free fall and string pin which shows a minimal difference in averages. The findings will allow bowlers to use their current average in tournaments held at centers with either type of machinery.

Interested in how string pins work and the research behind them? Visit the USBC website for all you need to know: [BOWL.com](http://www.usbc.com) | [String Pinsetter Research](http://www.usbc.com/string-pin-research)  
For more information about SIR bowling, check out our website at:

<http://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling/index.html>

*Striking up Friendships*



*I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.*

*If I agreed with you, then we'd both be wrong.*

*Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.*

### Member Attendance

To maintain membership, a member is required to attend one-half of the regular Branch monthly luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period, unless the Branch BEC has approved different attendance requirements (Policy 25; Bylaw 18).

### SIR Non-Responsibility Clause

All activities arranged for, or by, or sponsored by SIR'S Inc. and its branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. SIR'S Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property in matters pertaining to said events or activities.



### Christmas Holiday Dinner Party

December 13<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm

\$65 per person

Cameron Park Country Club  
3201 Royal Dr, Cameron Park, CA 95682

**DOOR PRIZES**  
Fantastic themed baskets

**Buffet style dinner**  
**No host bar**

**ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY**

- WRITE YOUR CHECK TO SIR BRANCH 95
- COMPLETE DINNER ORDER FORM ON BOTTOM OF FORM
- BRING FORM & CHECK TO NOVEMBER'S MEETING, OR MAIL TO:  
LEW CHAPMAN, LITTLE SIR,  
6006 MONET WAY, EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762

**TICKET DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 6TH**



### MENU

#### SALAD

CPCC House: Baby greens, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, red onions, carrots, dried cranberries, sunflower seeds, choice of dressing

#### MAIN COURSE / SIDES

Choice of Short Rib with Rib Jus or Chicken Marsala

Garlic mashed potatoes, Seasonal vegetable medley, Rolls and butter

#### DESSERT

New York style cheesecake with strawberry compote

#### DRINKS

No host bar, coffee, iced tea

No ticket sales this year

Wine for dinner may be purchased at the bar



### DINNER ORDER FORM

Dietary restrictions (circle)

Member Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

No restrictions      Vegan  
Vegetarian            Gluten free

Guest Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

No restrictions      Vegan  
Vegetarian            Gluten free

Number attending \_\_\_ X \$65 per person

Please enclose check made out to **SIR Branch 95**