



A non-profit club for men devoted to the promotion of independence and dignity.

Luther Burbank Branch 17, Santa Rosa, CA,

Website: <https://www.sir17.org>



REDWOOD

## The REDWOOD BARK Newsletter For APRIL, 2022

**All members are invited to attend our next SIR In-Person Luncheon/Meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at The Epicenter, 3215 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa.**

If you told the Phone Committee **"YES"** you plan to attend but find later that you will be unable to attend, you need to contact **Al Petrie** at 707-974-9193 or email [alpetrie7@aol.com](mailto:alpetrie7@aol.com) by 5:00 pm **Saturday, March 12**, to help keep our count more accurate. Also of importance is, if you are bringing a guest or if you originally said **"NO"** but changed your mind and decided to go after all, in either case, then please contact **Al Petrie** per the above!

### April 21 Lunch/Meeting Schedule

**Social Hour:** 11 am      **Lunch/Meeting:** 12 noon

**Program:** **Steve Taddei** has a very interesting program on the history of the Negro Baseball Leagues and the players that made their way to the major leagues.

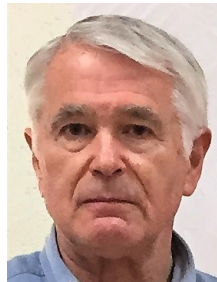
**Announcements:** All indoor activities are in the process of assessing the situations. The chairmen will be contacting you.

### April 21 Lunch Menu. for \$25.00

Caesar salad,  
Fried chicken with sausage gravy, French fries,  
and seasoned vegetables,  
Bread and butter, assorted cookies for dessert.  
Water, lemonade, coffee or tea is included.  
Other drinks available to purchase at the bar.

### BIG Sir Gordon Boulton's Message

[gboulton@aol.com](mailto:gboulton@aol.com) 707-584-8063



Spring has sprung and SIR Branch 17 is bursting with new life! We had a great BNO at the Bear Republic Brewing Company in Rohnert Park early in the month and a very well-attended CNO at La Gare Restaurant on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to check elsewhere in this issue of the *BARK* for their upcoming venues. March luncheon headcount held strong with attendance in the mid-forties, similar to February. However, if you tell the phone committee you are coming and then can't make it, be sure to let Al Petri (*listed above*) know ASAP so we can give Epicenter an accurate count.

Perhaps the best indicator of "new life" is we have three new member applications being processed and I know of one other that is "in the works."

Change is constant in the world and that seems to hold true for our BEC and Activity Chairs as well. Director Tom Johnson might have retired as a professor but apparently not as a researcher

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### Little Sir Gary Bondi's Message

[gbondi@sonic.net](mailto:gbondi@sonic.net) 707-539-2445



Greetings fellow SIR members. In the article, I would like to talk a bit about the spring season and how it relates to our SIR Branch 17. Spring, the season of new beginnings, the season of rebirth, the emergence from the cold and dark days of winter. Spring is the season when trees, plants, and flowers start to grow and bloom. The cold, dark days of winter are behind us. It's the time of year when people come outside and do fun activities again. So, you may ask, what does that have to do with our branch? I see a parallel to here! Much like spring, we are emerging from our winter, two years of covid restrictions and our cold dark days. We are beginning to bloom! We are back to in-person luncheons, activities and social contacts. That is our rebirth. We are we welcoming new members, our new beginnings, just like new growth in the spring. We can begin to experience outdoor activities again! Do fun outdoor things, our picnic in June, wine tasting, golf, bocce etc. So, welcome back

(continued on page 2)

**SIR Luther Burbank Branch 17 is in Area 10 of Region 3.**  
**The following is a list of your 2022 Officers and Directors.**

OFFICERS:	EMAIL:	PHONE:	DIRECTORS:
Big Sir: Gordon Boultonbee .....	<a href="mailto:gboultonbee@aol.com">gboultonbee@aol.com</a> .....	707-584-8063	Barry Bialkoski
Little Sir: Gary Bondi .....	<a href="mailto:gbondi@sonic.net">gbondi@sonic.net</a> .....	707-539-2445	Bill Grafeld
Secretary: Terry Freeman .....	<a href="mailto:terryfreeman32@yahoo.com">terryfreeman32@yahoo.com</a> ..	707-235-7066	Ken Johnson
Asst. Secretary: Steven Saulsbury ..	<a href="mailto:stevensaulsbury@comcast.net">stevensaulsbury@comcast.net</a> .	707-328-4627	Tom Lubas
Treasurer: Al Petrie .....	<a href="mailto:alpetrie7@aol.com">alpetrie7@aol.com</a> .....	707-974-9193	Neil Wheeler
Asst. Treasurer: John Gnam .....	<a href="mailto:musicmed@sonic.net">musicmed@sonic.net</a> .....	707-528-0592	Elias Zegarra
Newsletter Editor: Jim Fenstermaker .	<a href="mailto:sirsrbrn17@gmail.com">sirsrbrn17@gmail.com</a> .....	707-548-3346	<b>WEBMASTERS:</b>
			Dennis Mangan
			Neil Wheeler
			Jim Fenstermaker
<b>STATE PRESIDENT</b> Richard Kindle	<b>AREA 10 GOVERNOR</b> Robert Nadell	<b>REGION 3 DIRECTOR</b> Dennis Pangburn	

**BIG Sir Gordon Boultonbee's Message** *(continued)*

He found that his research study obligations did not permit him to fulfill his BEC and Member Relations Chair responsibilities, so regretfully he resigned from both positions. The Nominating Committee nominated Barry Bialkoski to replace Tom as a director, and George Traverso to replace him as Member Relations Chair. Both accepted and the BEC approved their appointments at the March BEC meeting. Barry has been a director before, so we welcome his experience. And we are hoping that George's efforts to keep the members happy might include salami. And last, for the time being, Denny Hutton has accepted the position of Recruiting Chair, replacing interim Chair Neil Wheeler (still Publicity and Image Chair), who was filling in for Rich de Lambert.

State SIR kicked off a program called "I'm Doing My Part" to incentivize branch membership growth just as the pandemic shutdown normal life. We are restarting the program now that in-person luncheons and other activities have resumed. Members who bring in new members will receive a special SIR pin and be recognized at our luncheons and in The BARK.

The BEC is well aware that some members do not yet feel comfortable returning to in-person activities, such as our luncheons, or are unable to do so for a variety of very legitimate reasons. Do not fret about this. You will not be asked to resign due to non-attendance. We will do our best to keep you informed of what's happening via The BARK. When the time comes when we resume assessing

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**BIG Sir Gordon Boultonbee's Message** *(continued)*

annual dues you will have the opportunity to decide whether continued membership is worth it for you.

To Zoom or not to Zoom, that is the question. We learned to make effective use of Zoom for virtual BEC meetings and (lightly attended) "virtual luncheons" where all the participants were on their computers or smart phones. For hybrid meetings since January 2022, where some participants attended in-person and some on their computers or smart phones, not so much. We could attempt some improvements, but I am not convinced it is worth the effort. We have not had anyone join our luncheons via Zoom since January. However, we do make a video of the luncheon program and post it on YouTube for those interested. The link is:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu\\_0Ngta9EC0dXpzRHr7O/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu_0Ngta9EC0dXpzRHr7O/videos)

If you really, really want to attend future BEC meetings and/or luncheons via Zoom let me know and the BEC and our video gurus will consider it.

**Little Sir Gary Bondi's Message** *(continued)*

back fellow Sirs to our spring, our rebirth, our new beginnings and the blossoming of SIR Branch 17. I may have stretched the spring connection thing a bit, but, I thought it was kind of a fun comparison.

Thank you, Gary Bondi.

## Recap of Meeting on March 17, 2022

**Jill Ravitch**, current Sonoma County District Attorney presented an interesting look into the DA's office, about her personal experiences there and some of the cases they handled.

She was accompanied by Tatiana Lopez and Alex Perry, along with their service dog in training. They represented the Victim Services Division. If you missed the meeting, you can find her presentation on our website, <https://www.sir17.org> then go to our YouTube page. *(Article by Gary Bondi)*

## April 21, 2022 Guest Speaker

**Steve Taddei** has a very interesting program on the history of the Negro Baseball Leagues and the players that made their way to the major leagues. The Passion, Camaraderie and Grit of those individuals! He grew up in Oakland and many of those players were from there. You can find more about him on Twitter and YouTube. *(Article by Gary Bondi)*

**May 19, 2022** Our speaker will be **Tatiana Lopez**, Director of the Victim Services Division, in the Sonoma County District Attorney's office. We all hope none of us, our family or friends will be a victim of crime! But, should that occur, there is help available, such as:

1. Information on your rights as a crime victim.
2. Guidance in dealing with the court system.
3. Assistance in filling out applications for the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) to reimburse you for out-of-pocket expenses related to your victimization.
4. Ongoing support while you learn to cope.

*(Article by Gary Bondi)*

At our March 2022 meeting

**Elias Zegarra** was the free lunch winner!

## List of the April Birthdays



**Robert Reuther**  
**George Traverso**

## The SIR Branch 17 Website

Do you know how to access the Branch 17 website? It's easy! From any web browser, simply type: **SIR17.org** then press the Enter or Return key. Once you're connected to the website, you'll have access to:



- Information about the next meeting, including the menu and speaker
- The **BARK** Newsletter
- The Photo Gallery
- Contact Information for Branch Officers and Committee Chairmen
- Contacts for Activities
- The Branch 17 Roster
- Links to our Facebook Page and YouTube channel, and more!

If you have any questions about where to find things on the website, ask one of our webmasters at [SIRBr17@gmail.com](mailto:SIRBr17@gmail.com) ... they'll be happy to assist you.

**Explore the Branch 17 website today!**

*(Article by Neil Wheeler)*

## REDWOOD LIONS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

LIONS CLUBS ARE HELPING LIONS CLUBS DIRECTLY IN POLAND AND EASTERN EUROPE WITH CASH TO HELP ALL THE REFUGEES.

SO IN THE YEARLONG ENDEAVOR YOU CAN HELP BY MAKING A CONTRIBUTION WHICH IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THIS 501 C-3.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:

RLMF  
PO BOX 502  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95402-0502

OR

AT EACH SIR MEETING YOU CAN BRING A CHECK MADE OUT TO RLMF. IF YOU NEED A RECEIPT WE ARE GLAD TO PROVIDE ONE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

BARRY BIALKOSKI CEO  
707-696-8224

## Vaccination and Waiver Documents for our Partners

As you know by now, the State SIR protocol for COVID-19 requires **all** attendees at our indoor activities to provide proof of vaccination and to sign our SIR Event Waiver and Release of Liability for Exposure to COVID-19. For outdoor activities the State SIR requires the signed waiver only, however we have elected to require proof of vaccination as well as the signed waiver for our June picnic. To avoid delays in checking in the day of **any** event, there are a number of ways you can provide me your partners' documents well in advance.

(1) If you have a printer/copier/scanner, scan your partner's COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (vax card) and signed waiver, and email the files to me: [gboulabee@aol.com](mailto:gboulabee@aol.com).

(2) If you have a smart phone, take a photo of the vax card and signed waiver and either email them to me or text them to my iPhone: 707-217-5709.

(3) Snail mail a copy of the vax card and the signed waiver to me: 4740 Pressley Rd., SR 95404.

I prefer separate electronic files for the vax card and signed waiver but if you send them as a single file, I can deal with it. The waiver form can be found on our Branch website, [www.sir17.org](http://www.sir17.org). Just scroll down the Home page and you will find the link. We will have some paper copies at our luncheons as well.

This is a one-time requirement. Once your partner's documents are on file they may attend **any** SIR couples activity, such as CNO, wine tastings, etc.

*(Article by Big Sir Gordon Boulabee)*

### Joke of the Month



No matter how much you push the envelope, it will still be stationery.

Whoever invented "Knock-Knock" jokes should get a no-bell prize.

Energizer bunny arrested: charged with battery.

Pasteurize: too far to see.

Stealing someone's coffee is called: mugging.

## Help Wanted

Wanted: **SIR Branch 17** members who exhibit the "Spirit of Volunteerism."

There are current openings for:

Recruiting Committee Members (helping recruit new members).

Contact Denny Hutton.

Activities Chairs (Poker, Bowling, Fishing, Gardening, and Camera Club).

Contact Fred Rose.

Member Relations Committee Members (helping both old and new members feel welcome at our meetings and activities).

Contact George Traverso.

Publicity Committee Members (helping distribute SIR materials and posting on Facebook).

Contact Neil Wheeler.

Support your Recruiting, Activities, Member Relations, and Publicity (RAMP) committees.

*(Article by Neil Wheeler)*



**I WANT YOU TO HELP SIR!**

## SIR Branch 17, Member Profiles:

### Barry Bialkoski, Badge # 193

Barry's life has been a journey through poverty, hard work, and an unending quest to help others in need. His story begins in a remote, frigid, but gorgeous area of Canada on the Lake of the Woods. Barry spent his early years in the hamlet of Kenora (*originally named Rat Portage*), Ontario and later moved to Eagle River, Ontario. Life was tough for a small kid living with five siblings and a hardworking single mother. He hauled water to the house and visited the outside toilet, sometimes in winters when the temperature plunged to -40°F and summers when the mosquitoes attacked in swarms. At the time, "this was just the way things were" and he accepted these conditions as "doesn't everyone live this way?" Barry still is baffled by kids today who complain bitterly about minor hardships, like the battery dying on their cell phone.



Barry liked high school even though it was a 20-mile bus ride from home. He avoided playing school sports that would have made him miss that bus. Missing the bus meant having to hitch a ride in the dark, which could mean running into bear, wolves, or moose, not to mention cold weather (*and those mosquitoes!*)

To help meet family expenses, Barry worked in the General Store from 9am to 9pm, pumping gas, flipping hamburgers, and changing tires, all for a whopping \$3 a day. When he was 16, he did what other poor boys did in the area and went to work for a nearby gold mine company that paid enough for clothes, schoolbooks, and some savings. He enjoyed the work for the cash it brought in. Eventually he had enough to buy his mom their first TV, but came up short when he remembered it needed an antenna.

Upon graduation from high school (*in Canada, that's 13<sup>th</sup> grade*) he went to live with an aunt in Daly City, CA and attended San Francisco State University where he majored in geology and geography, and minored in business. He worked his way through college

(*continued above right*)

## Member Profiles:

(*continued*)

with the help of a cousin who got him a job selling Fuller Brush cleaning supplies. In 1971 Barry took a job with Marion Laboratories (*later known as Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals*) where his business acumen and hard work ethics launched him on a career in pharmaceutical sales even though he had to learn a whole new language to talk with physicians and pharmacists.

One day in the mid 1960s, small-town boy Barry was trying to navigate the big bus system in the bay area and met a woman who gave him directions. This led to a friendship with her and eventually to an introduction to her girlfriend, Roxanne (*Roxy*), who he dated and now has been married to for 54 years. The decision for them to live in CA was made easy when Roxy said, "I'm not going back to Canada where when the snow melts the mosquitoes come out!" So, Barry got Marion Labs to give him sales in the northern CA region, stretching from the Golden Gate to Crescent City. In 1972, they moved to Rohnert Park to be near Roxy's sister and other friends, and where affordable housing (*at the time*) could be found. They have two daughters, four grandchildren and still live in Rohnert Park where they are in the process of remodeling their house.

In 1990, Barry retired from Marion Labs and with a business partner, bought and sold several Play It Again Sports franchises, and still owns the one in Santa Rosa. These stores buy and sell used and new sports equipment. Although he is currently the CFO, he is not involved in running the daily business, leaving him plenty of time to play golf and join clubs. He is an active member of the Lions Club, is President of the Redwood Lions Memorial Foundation, and is on the Board of the Earle Baum Center of the Blind. Barry has been a member of SIR Brn 17 for over 24 years and has recently been inducted as a Board Director. In this position, his goal is to see an increase in club comradery. He says, "Every organization needs a project" and urges each of us to help people in time of need through donations and other assistance (*e.g., donating old eyeglasses*) to non-profit charities like the Lions Club. Currently, much of his efforts are focused on supporting Ukrainian refugees. How wonderful to have members like Barry in our branch who are always looking at ways to help others.

(*Article by Dennis Mangan*)

## Activities:

Most indoors activities are now at the discretion of the activities chairs, and subject to all safety and health codes. Some activities have been canceled while others have gone back to using Zoom.

To attend any in-person event you must have had your vaccinations, a copy of your card along with a signed waiver filed with Big Sir Gordon Boulton.

### Bocce:

(Article by Chuck Stark)



Twenty one members returned the bocce interest survey in February. Thirteen stated that they were interested in participating. The majority preferred to play Tuesdays or Thursdays, and most were willing to travel and liked an optional lunch before or after the games. The March 24<sup>th</sup> outing was cancelled because there was only one RSVP. So far, only Chuck Stark and Mark Burchill agreed to be co-managers for our Bocce activities. As it turns out, we both will be traveling extensively in May and June, so unless we can recruit another co-manager, our branch bocce activities will be postponed until July or August. Additional copies of the interest survey will be available at our April 21<sup>st</sup> Branch 17 meeting, Please return them to Chuck Stark at [cstark@sonic.net](mailto:cstark@sonic.net) Thanks.

### Boys' Night Out:

(Article by Don Malvestiti)



What a way to get back to a somewhat normal life, having a BNO meeting at the **Bear Republic Brewery**. Most of the evening was spent describing our individual experiences during the past two years in lockdown. What's amazing is that no one looked any different then when we met two years ago.

On **Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** please join us at **The Bird**, 4776 Highway 12 in eastern S/R.

Plan on joining us at **5:30 pm** for social time and drinks, then order dinner by **6:00 pm**. Sure hope to see you there!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Don Malvestiti at

[malvestitidon485@gmail.com](mailto:malvestitidon485@gmail.com) or call him at **707-539-0677**, leave a message if no answer.

## Bridge:

(Article by James Park)



Bridge has always been an important activity with many of our members not only within our own branch but with participation of members from other branches in our area. Bridge activities are still going to hold off until we can find a new location and look for new players if necessary.

If you have any questions contact James Park at [jcpark38@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcpark38@sbcglobal.net) or call him at **707-578-4255**

### Coffee Club:

(Article by Rich de Lambert)

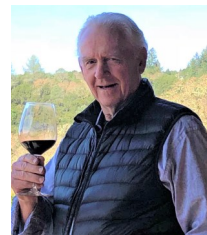


We will be restarting the Coffee Club in April and the current plan is having it on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month around 10:00 am at Cypress Point picnic area (near the boat docks and trail to Spring Lake) in Howarth Park. Our first meeting will be on **Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**, weather permitting. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation with your fellow SIR members, enjoy the views, and maybe even take a walk up the trail towards Spring Lake afterwards.

If you have questions email Rich de Lambert at [richdelambert@gmail.com](mailto:richdelambert@gmail.com) or call him at (707) 545-3490.

### Couples' Night Out:

(Article by Fred Rose)



Fred is vacationing in the Panama Canal and has not secured a location for the next outing to be on **Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**.

After he returns and makes a selection, he will then send a special email with all of the details.

Remember that all participants must have their vaccination and waiver forms completed and on file with Big Sir Gordon to be allowed to attend. Contact me to reserve your seat!

Fred Rose: [fredicrose@comcast.net](mailto:fredicrose@comcast.net)  
or call **707-548-5797**

A special Thank You to members Gordon Boulton and others for helping me by spotting all my errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling and any other boo-boos I have made before the final edition goes to press and you see it.

Jim, the Editor

**GLOBAL FORUM:***(Article by Marvin Mai)*

During our last few meetings we tried to make sense of the happenings in Ukraine and we all did not have any easy solutions to the problem. As the world scene continues to change and evolve we all hope that calm and intelligent leaders will emerge to keep the peace. The attendees all thought that we need to keep discussing and staying informed.



The **Zoom** meeting will be on Friday, **April 15<sup>th</sup>** at 10 am. The **in-person** meeting will be on Friday, **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 10 am at the home of Marvin and Pat Mai, 4743 Woodview Dr., Santa Rosa. (South on Summerfield to the end and left on Woodview. House is on the left, parking is only permitted in the parking bay and in the driveway.)

In **May** we hope to return to our **in-person** meeting on Friday, **May 13<sup>th</sup>** and the **Zoom** meeting on Friday, **May 27<sup>th</sup>**.

If you're not currently receiving the email notices and wish to be included, contact Marvin at: [mairmarvin57@gmail.com](mailto:mairmarvin57@gmail.com) or call 707-545-2224.

**GOLF:**

*Jim Gurke has been busy with helping organize the resumption of the many State SIR golf tournaments and other events. He will have more news to share soon. In between times most of the article from last month needs repeating.*

The two day "Spring Fling." This longstanding annual event will take place Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Eagle Vines GC on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and Chardonnay GC on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Both men and women are invited to play. The first day is a four person, two best ball competition. The second day is four person scramble requiring A, B, C, and D players. You may sign up for one or both events.

For the application, please refer to the SIR-golf.org website.

*(continued above right)***GOLF:***(continued)*

Scroll down to the middle of the home page for further details, the application, and the waiver attesting to Covid vaccination status or testing.

Scroll down a little further on the same SIR-golf.org website and you'll also find details about the 5 day, 4 night Reno event. The dates are June 13 through the 17th. Again, this is a men and women event. Three rounds of golf and accommodations at the Atlantis Resort and Spa.

More to come about other annual tournaments as information becomes available. This will include details about the area wide four person scramble and the individual competition.

Play well and have fun!

Jim Gurke 707-303-0989  
[1jgurke@gmail.com](mailto:1jgurke@gmail.com)

**Lastly, Consider this:**

Your kids are becoming you, but your grandkids are perfect!

You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.

Going out on the town is good. Coming home is better!

**Poem for April****A Real April Day**

by Lenore Hetrick

April for rainbows,  
And April for showers!  
April for a bright hint  
Of lovely May flowers.  
April for nonsense,  
And April for play –  
Best of all times  
Is a real April day!



# The SIR Branches 17/176 Picnic is Back

## Thursday, June 16th, 2022

Outdoor Event Area at Windsor Golf Course  
1302 19th Hole Drive, Windsor, CA

**Catered By Charlie's at Windsor Golf Course**

11:00 am Social Hour      12:00 Noon Lunch Served.

BBQ Chicken, Veggie Pasta, Chili Beans, Corn on the Cob,



Salad, Bread, Butter & Dessert,



Wine, Beer, Soft Drinks,



Raffle, Bingo, and Music.



## All for Only \$40.00 per person!

Tickets for Brn 17 will be on sale at the April 21 and May 19 Meetings,  
or

Purchase tickets by mail to:

Al Petrie, 2188 Francisco Ave., Santa Rosa, Ca. 95403-8173

707-974-9193      alpetrie7@aol.com

Purchase by mail deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Be sure to include mailing address and name(s) for name tags.

**NO tickets will be sold the day of the Event.**

**All members and guests will be required to be fully vaccinated  
and have a signed SIR Event Waiver and Release form on file.**

Contact Ted Scapeccia Brn 17 Picnic Chair with any questions:

707-529-0063      tescape4@gmail.com

*(See pictures from the June 20, 2019 Picnic on next page)*



# Pictures from June 20, 2019 Picnic.



What a beautiful setting for a picnic!



Jamie Gallagher, Fred Rose, Don Salazar, Peggy Salazar



Fred Rose, Gary Bondi, Glenn Seime, Rich Osborne, Claude Schwarz, Don Salazar

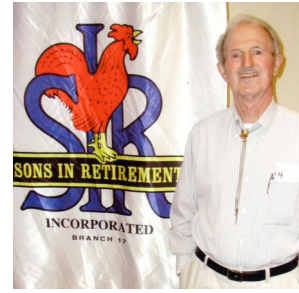


Chris Nolen



Lots of raffle prizes to choice from

*We are sad to inform you that our member*  
***Fred R. Reich***  
*passed away on Feb. 21, 2022.*  
*We send our condolences to his family.*



*(The following was prepared by Richard Lyon, Little SIR, Branch 146 in Walnut Creek.)*

### **Fred R. Reich II Obituary**

SIR Fred Royal Reich at 97 years old passed away on Feb. 21, 2022, with family present. He was the husband of Virginia L. Reich to whom he was happily married for more than fifty years. Stepfather of Richard G. Lyon Concord, CA and father of Fred R Reich III, Wollongong, Australia.

Fred was born in Arco, Idaho and a veteran of WWII where he served as an enlisted man with the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, four battle stars, and the Bronze Star Medal.

Upon returning from Europe, he attended the University of Idaho and was initiated into the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He then served in Korea as an Infantry Officer with the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and was awarded a second Combat Infantry Badge.

Fred worked in various positions for Kaiser Engineers, Transamerica Corp. Wells Fargo Bank, American Savings and Loan, and the Bechtel Corp. Pipeline Division. One of his Bechtel assignments took Fred, Virginia, and Fred III to Fairbanks, Alaska where he worked as a scheduling engineer on the Alaskan pipeline. Fred retired from Bechtel in 1987.

Fred and his family lived in Marin County for twenty-four years before moving to Santa Rosa. In Santa Rosa, Fred held several offices in SIR Branch 17 over twenty-plus years. In early 2015 Fred and Virginia moved to an assisted living facility in Walnut Creek and shortly thereafter, Fred transferred his SIR membership to Branch 146.

Fred was an avid golfer and enjoyed gardening and woodworking. He was a life member of Arco Lodge No. 48 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Arco, Idaho. He and Virginia were active in numerous civic, service, and other volunteer organizations where they contributed over the course of their marriage.

He was a great husband, father, and friend.

Many of our Branch 17 "older" members will remember Fred quite well. After Fred moved in 2015 to the Walnut Creek area, several of our Branch 17 golf members drove to Walnut Creek to spend the day with their long time "golfing buddy." They enjoyed their golf game that day and the time to visit with Fred. Below are a couple of pictures of that memorable day!



The following is a reprint from the State Travel Chair, Milt Smith, about upcoming travels.

## Time to see some more stuff...

Travel seems to be building up all around the globe, particularly with smaller groups as considerable savings can be had. Here are three trips organized by Sir Branches where there is space available. For details, please use the email address or phone number listed for the organizer of each trip below.



I need someone to help me design a survey we can send to our membership regarding travel. If you have some experience in developing surveys or know someone who does and might be interested please let me know ASAP. Also, if you'd like to help me out with some marketing ideas let me know about that too. Now is the time to start looking toward 2023.

Some good news, the state board has reinstated the foreign travel insurance. Travelers will need to pay \$27pp to offset the cost.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Very best regards,

Milt Smith. State Travel Chair 925-285-2897

### ALASKA LAND & SEA May 23 - June 4<sup>th</sup>. 2022 SPACE AVAILABLE

8-DAY CRUISE Aboard the Majestic Princess "Anchorage/Whittier" Hubbard Glacier Scenic Cruising "Glacier Bay Cruising" Skagway "Juneau" Ketchikan "Vancouver Anchorage

**CONTACT** Larry Yarberry (925) 890-9245 [l.yarberry42@comcast.net](mailto:l.yarberry42@comcast.net) Or Talbot Tours 800 662-9933 [info@talbottours.com](mailto:info@talbottours.com) Land & Cruise including roundtrip Airfare \$2995. DBL. OCCUPANCY \$4250. SINGLE

### 8 Night Columbia and Snake River Cruise May 12, 2022, via the American Harmony of the American Cruise Lines. Explore the Pacific Northwest with your fellow SIR members following the path of Lewis and Clark.

Unpack once and enjoy the beauty of the lush forest of the River Gorge and the high desert bordering the Snake River and Hells Canyon. Prices range from \$5,600 pp. double occupancy.

For more information

**CONTACT:** Tan Matosian Branch 128. [tgmatt54@gmail.com](mailto:tgmatt54@gmail.com) Or contact The Travel Center in Pleasant Hill directly at 925-937-2223 be sure to mention Branch 128.

### Discover the Magical Rhine and Moselle Rivers Sept. 12-15, 2022 with Bill Britton from SIR 101. 14 Days 25 meals.

Amsterdam, night River Cruise, Cologne, Moselle River, Cochem, Wine Tasting, Koblenz, Rudesheim, Siegfried's Music Museum, Mannheim, Speyer, Strasbourg, Lucerne, Zurich. Prices range from \$5,999 - \$9,199pp depending on cabin. Includes round trip air from San Francisco.

**CONTACT:** Bill Britton 925-443-9913 [bill.britton@comcast.net](mailto:bill.britton@comcast.net)



### A little brain teaser!



Good example of a Brain Study: If you can read this you have a strong mind:

7H15 M3554G3 53RV35 7O PROV3 HOW OUR M1ND5 C4N D0 4M4Z1NG  
7H1NG5! 1MPR3551V3 7H1NG5! 1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG 17 WA5 H4RD BU7 N0W, ON 7H15  
LIN3 YOUR M1ND 1S R34D1NG 17 4U70M471C4LLY W17H OU7 3V3N 7H1NK1NG 4BOU7 17,  
B3 PROUD! ONLY C3R741N P30PL3 C4N R3AD 7H15.

## Calendar of SIR Events for April, 2022

- Any Monday Golf at BVGC  
 April 11 Last day to reserve for BNO  
 April 13 Boys' Night Out, The Bird, 6:00 pm  
 April 14 Coffee Club, Cypress Point area in Howarth Park, 10:00 am  
 April 15 Global Forum **Zoom** meeting, 10:00 am  
 April 17 Easter  
 April 18 Income Tax Day  
 April 21 SIR BEC meeting, Epicenter, 9:45 am  
**April 21 SIR Mtg/Lunch, Epicenter, 11:00 am**  
 April 22 Global Forum **in-person** meeting, at Marvin Mai's place, 10:00 am  
 April 25 Last day to reserve for CNO  
 April 28 Coffee Club, Cypress Point area in Howarth Park, 10:00 am  
 April 28 Couples' Night Out, Somewhere ??, 5:30 pm

## Getting Older

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row. I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim." I feel so much better saying I went to the "Jim" this morning.

The biggest lie I tell myself is..."I don't have to write that down, I'll remember it."

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Just once, I want a user name and password prompt to say, "close enough."

I'm a multitasker. I can listen, I can ignore and I can forget all at the same time.

### NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All activities arranged for, or by, or sponsored by, SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guest who desire to participate. SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

The **February** 2022 edition of is now available to view  online.

This is an informative newsletter produced by SIRinc with articles re-published from many of the SIR Branches throughout the state. There are lots of very interesting articles to browse. Look especially at page 13 and 14 which are reprints of some articles from our Branch 17. Pages 56 to 65, there are all kinds of consumer tips on various subjects that I am sure you will learn something. Most are reprints from various sources.

To view this free newsletter go to [www.sir17.org](http://www.sir17.org) under the Home tab, click on the "BARK News" tab, now scroll down to near the bottom of the page. Click on the SIR Happenings State SIR Newsletter, the underlined area. This should now open to the SIRinc website where you can choose the most current edition. Click on your choice and your PDF program should open the file for you to look at. You might be asked to open or save this PDF file. It is best to select "Open." You can always save if you want, for later reading. Read and enjoy!

