



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 SEPT, 2022

### All members are invited to attend our next SIR In-Person Luncheon/Meeting on Thursday, Sept 15, 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 6:00 pm Saturday, Sept. 10 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!

#### Sept 15 Lunch/Meeting Schedule

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

**Program:** Our speaker will be Jon Stout, the manager of Charles Schulz Sonoma County Airport.

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

#### Sept 15 Luncheon Menu

Asian salad

Herb roasted chicken with chicken gravy

Green beans and smashed red potatoes

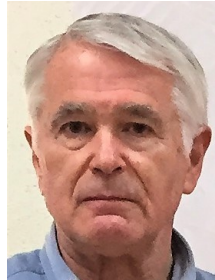
Rolls and butter, warm apple cobbler for dessert.

Water, lemonade, coffee or iced 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



After the August luncheon the RAMP (Recruiting, Activities, Member Relations, Publicity) committee played catch-up and held a new member orientation session for members who have joined since January and their sponsors. We have 12 new members so far this year and several applications are in the pipeline. The orientation included a review of the contents of the membership packets; a brief history of SIR; the fact that the branch is a CA corporation under the State SIR umbrella corporation; what we ask and expect from our members; current branch activities and how to get involved.; and how to start new activities if there is sufficient interest from the membership. We plan to hold new member orientation sessions after every luncheon until we are completely caught up and as long as we have new members joining. We will hold follow-up sessions after three and six months to see if we are meeting our new members' expectations. As Member Relations chair George Traverso said .

(continued on page 2)

#### Little Sir Gary Bondi's Message

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



Hard to believe, but we are eight luncheon meetings into 2022! Only four to go! Seems like we were just putting together our first post-COVID meeting for January. That meeting was somewhat disappointing and concerning as we had only 13 members in attendance. It has, however, been a busy year since then and that disappointment was short lived! I am happy to report we have made great progress since then. Our attendance has grown considerably and we are now averaging between 40 and 50 members at our luncheons. Additionally, we entertained 15 guests. As a result, we have inducted 12 new members to date, with more applications in the pipeline. Many of our activities have restarted and new ones are being added. Thanks to our activity chairs, our very active membership committee, and our membership in general our branch is headed in the right direction. We are fortunate, as there have been several branches that did not survive the last couple years and were

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

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

at the meeting, member *retention* is as important as important as new member recruitment. Our thanks to all who participated at the meeting.

I attended the State Annual Meeting (Zoom) on August 25<sup>th</sup>. A complete recording of the meeting and PowerPoint slides will be posted on the State website in due course, but here is a very brief summary of some of the topics.

- Financially, State SIR is in OK shape, it is on budget for 2022. However, membership is now below 10,000 members and they are expecting 3% attrition per quarter. (more on this below.)
- I know that State SIR can seem like an impenetrable bureaucracy that provides no benefit to us but in reality it provides a lot of services, such as liability insurance for the BEC and for all activities as a result of carelessness and accidents; branding and image materials; Zoom accounts for branch use; filing all federal and state tax forms and other annual corporate forms required by the CA attorney general; leadership training; branch policies and procedures; state activities such as golf tournaments; and branded apparel.
- There were 115 branches in October 2018 and 92 branches in April 2022. We are losing about six branches per year! Two branches were selected to pilot allowing women to join. One branch gained 16% in membership, including a woman who became the activities chair. The other branch gained 10% in membership but no leaders volunteered and the branch closed.

*(continued at top right this page)*

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

- The State's strategy to stem the loss of membership is to remove constraints in the incorporation and bylaws documents of the State to make them gender neutral and to remove the word "retired." Branches would have a choice to be "open to all," or "status quo." There will be no change to the corporate name, "Sons In Retirement." SIR already is a brand name, like AARP, for example. This work on the State bylaws will be completed sometime in 2023.
- The membership awards program has been overhauled to make it easier to give recognition to our members and to make that recognition more visible. For example, certificates for Honorary Life Members and Distinguished Service Awards have been replaced retroactively with pins to wear on your shirt pocket or collar. (We awarded some of those at our August luncheon.) There is much more to this program and the details can be found in State Policy 10.

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

either forced to either shut down or merge with other branches. All that said, the officers and BEC want to express their gratitude to all our members for your support. Let's keep the branch moving forward and continue to enjoy the social activities for which SIR was created.

Thank you,  
 Gary Bondi.

## Recap of August 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Our speaker was Greg Anderson, the General Manager of Bennett Valley Golf Course and Restaurant. He will oversee the operation of both entities. He discussed the future operations, contract with the City of Santa Rosa and answered the many questions some of us had.



Speaker for the August 18, 2022 luncheon and meeting.  
L/R: Greg Anderson and Little Sir Gary Bondi.

(Photo by Neil Wheeler)

## Future Programs/Speakers

**October 20, 2022** Our program for October will be presented by Jean-Marie (Jerry) Heskett and her son, Michael McCoy. As a young child in the Philippines during WW2, Jean and her family, along with over 3,600 other non-national civilians, were forced to surrender to the Imperial Japanese Army and live as prisoners of war in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila. She and her son, Michael, co-authored a book, "Through My Mother's Eyes," chronicling her experience during that time. She has an amazing story of survival to tell us!



The book is 188 pages and available at most bookstores and Amazon.

**November 17, 2022** Our program will be by Gary Maher, an Army veteran and a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. I am sure he will have some interesting experiences to share with us.

**December 15, 2022** To be determined.

## September 15, 2022 Meeting

Our speaker will be Jon Stout, the manager of Charles Schulz Sonoma County Airport. He last spoke with us in 2017 and there have been considerable changes in the operation since then. He will bring us up to date on the airlines serving the airport, changes in parking, the terminal, the number of passengers passing through, etc.



## 2023 BEC Officers and Directors

These are the new SIR Branch 17 members who were voted to serve on the Branch Executive Committee beginning in January 2023. The BEC works as a team to provide the resources to keep the club functioning and meet the desires of our members.

Big Sir	Gary Bondi
Little Sir	Chris Nelle
Treasurer	Al Petrie
Asst. Treasurer	John Gnam
Secretary	Terry Freeman
Asst. Secretary	Steve Saulsbury
Directors:	Wynn Bailey
	Barry Bialkoski
	Bill Grafeld
	Davis Harris
	Tom Lubas
	Neil Wheeler

## Clever Wordings:

**AT THE ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY:** "We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted!"

[Return to Page 1](#)



## SIR Branch 17, Member Profiles:

### Harold Minkin, Badge #124

Talking with Harold is like touching the third rail: electrifying! He is one of the most energetic people I've ever met, a guy who loves life and powers through adversities. On top of this, he is bright and well-versed in sports, travel, and cuisine.

Harold is a Bay Area boy, living most of his early life in the Westlake District of Daly City, which before being developed after WWII, was nothing but sand dunes and cabbage patches. He attended Serramonte High School (now part of the Jefferson Union High School District) and was enrolled in a work study program where he took classes in the morning and then managed an ice cream store in the afternoon. (Some kids just have all the luck...and best jobs!) Working and school studies left him little time for other activities although he did run long distance track for a while, played tenor sax in the band and dated the high school homecoming queen. (Some kids just have all the luck...and best dates!) The queen didn't last long and later he discovered Stephanie, who he "absolutely adores" and has been married to for 40 years.



Harold has spent most of his career in the computer industry. After high school, he considered a major in oceanography at Humboldt State, but that "just didn't feel right." He returned to the Bay Area and got degrees in engineering and marketing sales while attending San Francisco State University, City College of San Francisco, and Control Data Institute. This was about the time Silicon Valley was busting with new ideas and products, and Harold's background in both the technical and business sides of the profession were perfect. Right time, right place, right knowledge: he had no problem in getting job offers. Harold could (and still can) sell you anything. He eventually landed with Oracle and remained with them until he retired in 2004, moved to Cloverdale and worked special events at Coppola Winery in Geyserville. *(continued above R)*

[Return to Page 1](#)

## Member Profiles:

*(continued)*

Those of us who have met Harold know he actively tries to help people in need. To better prepare himself to help others, Harold earned certification in disaster services from the American Red Cross. He volunteered at the Santa Rosa chapter to help during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans (2005) and, as part of the National Disaster Team, drove cross country to assist recovery efforts from Hurricane Sandy on Staten Island, New York (2012). At one point he managed 29 emergency response vehicles used to feed people.

Harold is the former Big Sir of Healdsburg SIR #157. He said he landed that position when he made the mistake of going to the bathroom and when he returned, the BEC had voted him in as Big Sir. He also wrote their newsletter and served as Mr. Sunshine. Harold recently transferred to SIR 17. He already knew several of the guys in our club and was impressed with how we remained connected during the pandemic with Zoom meetings, an informative website, an excellent *BARK* newsletter, and safe outside activities such as golf. He loves golf but has put the game on hold for a now while he awaits some clean-up surgery on his shoulder so he can get back and play pain-free golf. (Someone will have to explain to him "golf is never pain free!") Although he is willing to take on leadership roles in the future, for now, he just wants to enjoy good speakers, good food and the friendship of good guys. He plans to be a regular at our luncheons, Boys Night Out, and Couples Night Out.

*(Article by Dennis Mangan)*

### **Grandparents Day, Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

Grandparents Day is an official national holiday, signed by President Carter in 1978 and celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day.

**GRANDPARENTS**  
fill the world  
with **LOVE**



**New Member** Badge # 147  
**Chuck Baker**

I was born in Los Angeles, but by the time I was six we had moved to Downey, then Big Bear Lake, next to Missouri, then back to LA, Strathmore, Woodlake and finally Bakersfield.

I attended Bakersfield College and transferred to UC Berkeley, quickly followed by a stint in the US Army.

My dad moved all over the country, and I followed suit moving from job to job in the Bay Area.

During the time at T.H. Davies I met and married Barbara Simmons and our first daughter, Eileen was born in HI. We soon moved to Santa Rosa where our second, Laura happened upon us. In all the years I had spent in the Bay Area, traveling frequently to the Wine Country, I never expected to live here, but in 1971 I was hired as a Sales Engineer at Reitz Manufacturing which at that time was second in size only to OCLI. I was given the opportunity to move to Chicago. No thanks. Instead I became General Manager at a small engineered equipment manufacturer in Healdsburg. I later purchased myself a job at A & A Transmissions from which after 24 years, I retired.



Outside of just working I have belonged to: The Russian River Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited, Automotive Service Council (ASC), Automatic Transmission Rebuilders Association (ATRA), Santa Rosa West Rotary, and the Empire Breakfast Club.

Thanks to Rich de Lambert for sponsoring me, and to the club for accepting me as a member. Barbara was worried that I was becoming a hermit tied to the computer. She was right, so thanks for saving me!

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



**New Member** Badge #142  
**Denis Lezotte**

Denis, born in San Diego but grew up on Long Island, New York after a brief stay on the west coast. Denis attended grammar, high school and some college back east before finishing undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of California in Mechanical Engineering.

Employment in San Francisco's PG&E and Bechtel followed for 15 years before moving to Sonoma County. We purchased our first home on 2 acres for \$50k on the east side of Sonoma, not smart enough to realize what we had!

My first true love is teaching. I taught upper level Mathematics and Engineering at Cardinal Newman H.S. and Napa Junior College for another 17 years. My love for golf started seriously with my teaching career and living here. Prior to golf, I played a lot of baseball with serious hobbies in photography and ornithology.



Olivia and I have raised two sons and daughter and all are doing well. Presently, Olivia and I are owners of Sienna Antiques on the Boulevard in downtown Petaluma for the past 14 years. We are blessed because it's been extraordinarily successful; of course because of Olivia's talent. Come by for some serious negotiating.

New members inducted during the August 18, luncheon/meeting.



L/R: Chuck Baker, Tony Negri, Denis Lezotte, Rich de Lambert,  
(Photo by Neil Wheeler)



**New Member** Badge #149  
**Tony Negri**

Born in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on October 31st, 1942. I lived the first 18 years in Ironwood, Michigan. After graduating from high school in 1960, I began my college work at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1965, I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in social science, with emphasis in political science and history. Being a professional student for many years, I went directly to graduate school, majoring in school administration, with a specialty in leadership.

After graduating with a master's degree in June of 1966, I moved to Southern California, with my first teaching job at Eisenhower High School in Rialto, CA. For the next 27 years, I taught at Santa Rosa Junior High School and Santa Rosa High School, moving into administration in the fall of 1993. My first administrative position was as an assistant principal. After three years, I was promoted to the position of vice-principal. In 2001, I was selected to be the principal of Santa Rosa High School, the job that I coveted for many years. After 45 years in education, I retired from the Santa Rosa School District in 2007. Since then, I have been serving as a substitute principal in many of the 22 schools in our Santa Rosa School District.



I am happily married to my wife, Susan. We'll be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on December 9, 2022. We have one son, Ivan, who'll be 49 years old in October.

### Joke of the Month



### Pieces of Gold and Silver

You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV "On" than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep."

You forget names...but it's OK because some people forgot they even knew you!

Everybody WHISPERS!

[Return to Page 1](#)

*We are sad to inform you that our member*

**Oscar Barragan**

*passed away on August 24, 2022.*

*We send our condolences to his family.*

We will have more information on Oscar's life and time with SIR in the October issue of *The BARK*.

*We are sad to inform you that our member*

**Don Coover III**

*passed away on July 30, 2022.*

*We send our condolences to his family.*

Past SIR Branch 17 member Don Coover III passed away July 30, 2022 at the age of 77. He was a lifelong resident of Santa Rosa and attended Proctor Terrace Elementary, Santa Rosa Junior High, Santa Rosa High School, SRJC, Sonoma State and UC Berkeley. He got his real estate license and later worked for the family business, Kresky Signs, where he retired as president.

Don joined Branch 17 in May 2013 and resigned in April 2019 for health reasons. Don underwent two heart transplant surgeries at Stanford and later a kidney transplant from his wife Mary. He and Mary co-authored a book, *I Left My Heart at Stanford*, where they recounted their journey through his health challenges. Don's interests included golf, theater, travel, wine, and baseball. Donations may be made in Don's name to the Santa Rosa High School Foundation: <https://srhsf.org/>

### Sunshine Report:

We need your help to tell us before the monthly meeting if any of our members are sick or if some member has died.



All you need to do is call Kurt Wehrmeister, at **630-461-2715** or send him an email to:

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



## SIR at the Sonoma County Fair

(Article by Neil Wheeler)

SIR Branch 17 had an information table at the Sonoma County Fair on Senior Day, August 12<sup>th</sup> and handed out brochures, granola bars, and candy. Eight of our members took turns working the event, and Big Sir Gordon Boulton stopped by. Admission to the fair was \$1.00 for seniors. It was a fun and enjoyable afternoon. Thanks go to Art Appling, Dave Harris, Marc Perl, Al Petrie, Gary Bondi, Rich de Lambert, Bill Grafeld, George Traverso, and Neil Wheeler for volunteering!



Neil Wheeler and Rich de Lambert manning the booth.  
(Photos by Neil Wheeler)

### Can You Hear Me Now? Maybe Not!

Several of our members are hearing impaired, not surprising at our ages. That's why we Zoom our guest speakers' presentations even when we have no remote attendees, to make use of its closed captioning feature. It's not perfect, but it helps. And that is why I ask our speakers during Q&A, etc. to use one of our two microphones. It can make a significant difference in our members' abilities to be fully engaged in our luncheons. Thanks!

[Return to Page 1](#)

## And the Winner is... (Article by Rich de Lambert)

Gentlemen, we have a winner for our competition to locate Branch 17 signs. I am still seeing drivers looking for these hot signs that have been placed around East Santa Rosa. One of our members, Gary Bondi, proved he could find anything if put to the test. Enjoy the wine, Gary!

We are proud of the many members who used their time and gas to look for these treasures. Thank you, Gary, for taking your time to find four of these beautiful signs located in many difficult places...we know you spent considerable time finding them because the committee had additional problems locating places where we could put our branch signs. Stores and individuals were contacted for their approval. Sit tight for the next treasure hunt!!

## Enrich Your Life!

Be Socially, Physically & Mentally Active



**SIR17.org**

SIRBr17@gmail.com

(707) 596-8027

Find us on  
Facebook

### What is Labor Day and why do we celebrate it?

Labor Day 2022 will occur on Monday, September 5. Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers and is traditionally observed on the first Monday in September. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894

(Reprinted from the internet)



## New SIR State COVID Protocol

On August 22 the SIR State Board of Directors made significant changes to the State SIR protocol for COVID. The State requirements for proof of COVID vaccination and the signed waiver of liability were dropped and replaced with the following:

1. Delete the SIR State COVID Protocol as currently written.
2. Add the following wording:
  - A. Branches shall require all attendees participating in SIR activities to comply with all current federal, state, and county public health mandates.
  - B. Branch leaders are expected to ensure that all SIR members and guests participating in meetings or activities comply with all Branch and Venue requirements.
  - C. Branches may choose to preserve additional measures, such as proof of vaccination or written waivers, as approved by their membership. Thus, a requirement to require proof of vaccination and/or sign a waiver is now a local branch option. It will be discussed at the September BEC meeting, so if you have any input, please let the BEC know or attend the meeting in-person.

## The August "Birthday Boy" winner of a FREE Lunch was: Bill Traverso

## List of the September Birthdays



David August	Stan Borges
Ron Clark	Thomas Johnson
Denis Lezotte	Marc Perl
Mike Requarth	Mike Rogalski
Fred Rose	Ted Scapeccia
Marv Schouweiler	John Sommerville
Bob Vidalin	Neil Wheeler

## MemberFest 2022

(Article by Rich de Lambert & Neil Wheeler)

September marks the end of summer and the beginning of autumn, when the pace of life changes once again. Autumn is when the frenzy of summer outings and activities diminishes, and it is a time for renewing friendships as we prepare for the winter season. It's also a great time to reach out and introduce your friends to the fun and friendship of being a SIR member.

To help you in your outreach efforts, your recruiting committee is planning a MemberFest for September and October. What exactly is a MemberFest? You'll just have to "stay tuned" to find out!



## Activities:

### Bocce:

(Article by Mark Burchill)



All interested in Bocce should calendar Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 12:30 pm for an initial outing for this year. Show up at Julliard Park in downtown Santa Rosa at 12:30pm and bring your own refreshments. Please RSVP to [cstark@sonic.net](mailto:cstark@sonic.net) to register your intent to attend so we know how much equipment to provide. We will have first come first serve to the public courts until 4:00pm. Upon arrival we will sort out teams based on experience. Perhaps our most experienced members can give us a 30 minute clinic on rules and techniques. During play we can discuss preferences for future locations times, and refreshments.

Any questions contact:

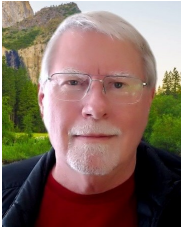
Chuck Stark at [cstark@sonic.net](mailto:cstark@sonic.net)

Mark Burchill at [marknick@sonic.net](mailto:marknick@sonic.net)



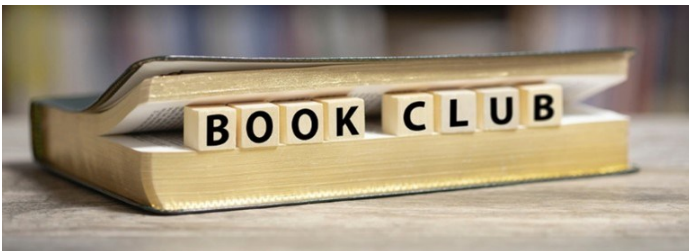
## Book Club

(Article by Neil Wheeler)



Enough of you have responded positively to the idea of forming a book club that we will move forward this month. I will be sending out a survey during the first week of September to help define what type of book club it will be. Following the survey, an organizational meeting will be held, and then we will request BEC approval of the book club as an official Branch 17 activity.

If you have any questions, email me, Neil Wheeler, [njmwheeler@gmail.com](mailto:njmwheeler@gmail.com) or call me at 707-291-0271



## Boys' Night Out:

(Article by Don Malvestiti)



Our August BNO was at **Osake Japanese Restaurant**, and, like always, the food was to die for.

For **Wednesday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup>** we will be at the **Cattlemens Restaurant**, 2400 Midway Drive, S/R.

(In the Montgomery Village Shopping Center)

### Ribs, Steak, Beef—what a way to enjoy an evening!

For information visit their website: [cattlemens.com](http://cattlemens.com) or call 707-546-1446.

Arrive by 5:30 pm for social, dinner at 6:00 pm.



Let me know by Friday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> if to you are planning on joining our group.

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

[Return to Page 1](#)

## Are there any members interested in Bowling?



Before the pandemic came and shut down most of our activities there were several members who enjoyed the occasional game or two. It has been a slow process getting it back going again. If you have an interest in helping to get this activity going so you also could enjoy it then contact our Activities Chair, Fred Rose at [fredicrose@comcast.net](mailto:fredicrose@comcast.net) or call 707-548-5797.

We play at Double Decker Lanes in Rohnert Park any **Friday**. They open at 10:00 am and you can start bowling after checking in with Bob Brown of SIR Branch 76 after 10:15am.

## Coffee Club:

(Article by Rich de Lambert & Neil Wheeler)



Coffee Club will continue in September on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays from **9:00 am to 10:00 am** near the Cypress Point picnic area (between the boat docks and trail to Spring Lake) in Howarth Park.

Come enjoy a cup of coffee, some baked goods, and conversation with your fellow SIR members, take in the views, and maybe take a walk up the trail towards Spring Lake before or after having coffee. We ask for a \$1 donation to offset the cost of the coffee and treats. Bring a friend and a lawn chair as we've been "camping out" under the trees.

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

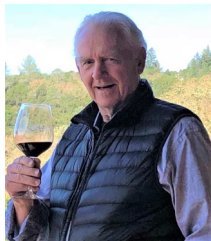


(Photo by Neil Wheeler)

## Getting Older:

I came. I saw. I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps. Got lost on the way back. Now I have no idea what's going on!

## Couples' Night Out: (Article by Fred Rose)



The August CNO at Central Market Restaurant was the smallest group I can remember! Only five couples had a charming evening of great food and service, along with lively conversations. We will be planning on returning

there soon.

The next CNO will be on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Time:** Social 7:00PM and Dinner at 7:30PM.

**Place:** Los Molcajetes Bar and Grill at 6599 Montecito Blvd. (NW corner of Middle Rincon Road and Montecito, there is parking in the back and across the street.)

We will **NOT** be dining outside!

For more information contact 707-791-7571 or

[losmolcajetsbarandgrill.com](http://losmolcajetsbarandgrill.com)

**Reservations are required!**

So get your reservations to me as soon as possible.

[fredricrose@comcast.net](mailto:fredricrose@comcast.net) or call 707-548-5797

## GLOBAL FORUM: (Article by Marvin Mai)



As we continue to hold our discussions and try to keep abreast of all the issues facing our world many of the core GF group are attending the September 9<sup>th</sup> World Affairs Luncheon where the speaker is the former ambassador to the Ukraine.



Therefore, our normal 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of September, the 16<sup>th</sup>. The **in-person** meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> will be at 10 am at the home of Marvin and Pat Mai, 4743 Woodview Drive, Santa Rosa. (South on Summerfield to the end and left on Woodview. Parking is only permitted in the parking bays and driveway.)

The Zoom meeting for September will be on the **FIFTH** Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am.

If you are not currently receiving the email notices and wish to be included, contact Marvin at: [maimarvin57@gmail.com](mailto:maimarvin57@gmail.com) 707-545-2224.

## GOLF:

Jim must be on vacation or out of the country. We have had no response from him but I am sure he will be in contact with all you golfers when he returns.



Come out and join the fun at the weekly 17/76 tourney, with tee times beginning bright and early at 8:30 AM each Monday.

Your Golf Committee

Jim Gurke 707-303-0989

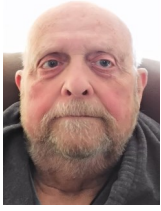
[1gurke@gmail.com](mailto:1gurke@gmail.com)



## Hiking/Walking: (Article by Stew Lauterbach)

The Hiking/Walking group will have their first meeting on Tuesday, September 6, at 9:00 am at the Spring Lake Lagoon parking lot. We will divide into two groups, one for a leisurely walk and the other for a hike into Annadel. At this point those who show up can discuss future hikes. We look forward to seeing all who can make it. We can then discuss whether we want to do lunch or coffee afterwards.



**POKER:***(Article by Mike O'Neill)*

Our next game is scheduled for Thur., **Sept 8<sup>th</sup>** at Epicenter. We'll start at 12 noon, play until 3:30pm, with a break for lunch. This will be our third game since the pandemic shut us down.

In August, Marv was the "big winner." Rich and Tom learned a bunch of new games. Fun was had by all!

If interested in joining our group, contact Mike O'Neill at [mikeo46@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mikeo46@sbcglobal.net)

**Wine, Beer and Spirits:**

Bill and George Traverso will now be the new Co-Chairs of this event. They do not have any events planned for this month, but are working on some new locations. In addition to wine tasting, they are also exploring other venues, such as distilleries and breweries, so stay tuned!

They plan to have some update information to share at the meeting. If you have any questions or suggestions for places to visit, please contact either one of them.

Bill Traverso, email :[yinselr2@pacbell.net](mailto:yinselr2@pacbell.net)  
or call 707-477-4337.

George Traverso, email: [geosan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geosan@sbcglobal.net)  
or call 707-528-6987.

**Fellow Golfers,**

Attached is the announcement for the final State golf event of the year, "**THE FALL CLASSIC**," to be held at the Blue Rock Springs golf courses in Vallejo. This event will be held on Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a two day event but if a golfer wants, he can play either of the days or both. Members can also make up their own team for either day.

I ask that for additional information check out the State golf website at: [www.sirgolf.org](http://www.sirgolf.org) This event is open to all SIR members, their wives and invited guests.

Many Thanks,  
Mark Stuart,

2022 SIR State Golf Committee Chair

**The 2022 Member Survey**

By now you should have received an email or letter asking you to take the 2022 Member Survey. The officers and committee chairmen of Branch 17 are asking you to please complete a survey so we know what we need to improve and what activities we should offer. Branch 17 exists for the benefit of its members, and we want to know if it's meeting **your needs**.

You can access the survey online using the following link: [Begin the survey](#)

[Please complete this survey BEFORE Sept.13.](#)

The online survey is anonymous. If at all possible, take the survey online because the results are then automatically summarized.

If you are unable to take the survey online, email us at [SIRBr17@gmail.com](mailto:SIRBr17@gmail.com) and you will be sent a version that is printable. We do not recommend printing out the online version because not all questions may be printed. Please specify if you would prefer the printed survey in Word or PDF format. *(Article by Neil Wheeler)*

**SIR Branch 17 - 2022 Member Survey**

The Mission of SIR is to enhance the lives of our members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making Friends for Life. Branch 17 exists for the benefit of its members, and we would like to know if it's meeting your needs. Please complete the following survey so we know what we need to improve and what activities we should offer.  
**Thanks!**

Sign in to Google to save your progress. [Learn more](#)

\* Required

---

SIR Branch 17 - Santa Rosa



**First Day of Fall in 2022**

The autumnal equinox—also called the September equinox or fall equinox—arrives on **Thursday, September 22**. This date marks the start of fall in the Northern Hemisphere and spring in the Southern Hemisphere.





## Poem for September

**Leaves** by Elsie N. Brady

How silently they tumble down  
And come to rest upon the ground  
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,  
Beneath the trees without a care,  
Content to sleep, their work well done,  
Colors gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly  
Until they nearly reach the sky.  
Twisting, turning through the air  
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.  
Exhausted, drop to earth below  
To wait, like children, for the snow.

## Calendar of SIR Events for Sept, 2022

- Sept 6 Hiking/Walk at Spring Lake Lagoon, 9:00 am  
Sept 8 Coffee Club, Cypress Point area in Howarth Park, 9:00 to 10:00 am  
Sept 8 Poker, Epicenter Trophy Room, 12 noon  
Sept 9 Last day to reserve for BNO  
Sept 14 Boys' Night Out, Cattlemens S/R, 5:30 pm for social and 6:00 pm for dinner  
**Sept 15 SIR BEC meeting**, Epicenter, 9:45 am  
**Sept 15 SIR Luncheon/Meeting**, Epicenter, 11:00 am  
Sept 16 Global Forum **in-person** meeting, 10:00 am at the home of Marvin and Pat Mai  
Sept 19 Last day to reserve for CNO  
Sept 22 Coffee Club, Cypress Point area in Howarth Park, 9:00 to 10:00 am  
Sept 22 Couples' Night Out, Los Molcajetes Bar and Grill, 7: 00 pm Social, 7:30 pm Dinner  
Sept 30 Global Forum **Zoom** meeting, 10:00 am

The **August** 2022  
available to view

**SIR**  
**HAPPENINGS**

edition of is now  
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 19 and 21 which are reprints of some articles from our Branch 17. Pages 64 to 69, 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!



## Burma Shave Signs

For you who never saw any of the Burma Shave signs, here is a quick lesson in our history of the 1930s, '40s and '50s. Before there were interstates, when everyone drove the old 2 lane roads, Burma Shave signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmers' fields. They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 100 feet apart, each containing 1 line of a 4 line couplet...and the obligatory 5th sign advertising Burma Shave, a popular shaving cream.

## 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.