



Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA

New Website: www.sir17.org

THE **REDWOOD BARK** NEWSLETTER

For July 2020

Meetings are at **LEGENDS** in the Bennett Valley Golf Course, 3328 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

ALL CANCELED UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE!
No need to call anyone. Keep checking the website for updates!

July 16th Meeting Schedule via Zoom!

Social Hour: 11:00 am Please check in about 5 minutes early to be ready to avoid the last minute rush.

Speaker: None at this time.

Lunch: 12:00 noon plus/minus **CANCELED** as you are on your own, fix what ever you desire.

July 16th Lunch Menu CANCELED!

Fix your own sandwiches--at home!

Beverages: Regular or decaf coffee, iced tea or water. Beer, wine and mixed drinks, and free sodas are available at the bar.

BIG Sir George Traverso's Message

geosan@sbcglobal.net 528-6987



We look back to the July of 2019 and notice such a difference in the July of 2020. Mass gatherings in spectator sports, music concerts and after-dark firework festivities on a grand scale enjoyed by individuals standing shoulder-to-shoulder will not exist this July. The thousands of corona virus deaths in this country is a sad testimony to the viciousness and merciless of this plague. Aside from the mortal sting that this infection imparts to society, the economic effect on the world stage is devastating. The events caused by this epidemic has emphasized the fact that humanity is truly ONE and that what has occurred during the past several months crosses international borders and makes no distinction as to the victims in its path.

Little did we realize what laid ahead of us in the early January days of this year. Certain words such as "social distancing," flattening the curve" and "herd immunity" were not in our vocabulary in early 2020. Understanding the full meaning of these terms is still a little difficult to comprehend...some people still are reluctant to wear a face mask in public and stay a couple of arms lengths apart. I understand that many people are tired and bored about this "new norm" and

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Little Sir Gary Bondi's Message

gbondi@sonic.net 539-2445



Hard to believe, but here we are six months into 2020 and what a year it has been! I am sure the next six months will bring its own challenges and changing times. It has also been an unprecedented time for the State SIR organization and for our branch. To that issue, our BEC and Big Sir George have been grappling with how we can continue to function as we go through this time and what lies ahead.

We want to stay in touch, as much as possible, with all of you to keep up our social contact and keep you informed as to what is happening with our branch. To that extent, as most of you are aware, we have set up virtual monthly meetings on the Zoom platform. We would like to see more of your smiling faces at those meetings, but we realize that does not work for everyone. If you are unable to attend those meetings, our monthly edition of the **BARK** newsletter is a great source of information.

We also want to let all the activity chairs know that we can resume some, if not most of our activities subject to local rules and restrictions.

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SIR Luther Burbank Branch 17 is in Area 10 of Region 3. The following is a list of your **2020** Officers and Directors.

OFFICERS:	EMAIL:	PHONE:	DIRECTORS:
Big Sir: .George Traverso	geosan@sbcglobal.net	707-528-6987	Gordon Boulthbee
Little Sir: Gary Bondi	gbondi@sonic.net	707-539-2445	Rich de Lambert
Secretary: Kurt Wehrmeister	kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com	630-461-2715	Ken Johnson
Asset. Secretary: Jim Gurke	1jgurke@gmail.com	707-303-0989	Chris Nolen
Treasurer: Glenn Seime	gseime@sbcglobal.net	707-537-5360	Paul Willihnganz
Asset. Treasurer: Al Petrie	alpetrie7@aol.com	707-545-7208	Elias Zegarra
Newsletter Editor: Jim Fenstermaker .	sirsrbrn17@gmail.com	707-548-3346	WEBMASTERS: Dennis Mangan Jim Fenstermaker

Big Sir Message *(continued from page 1)*

are not following the approved guidelines. I believe that social responsibility and respect for others especially in this difficult moment are the ingredients to guide us and ultimately conquer this pandemic.

Safely considering flying on airplanes, confidently going to movie theaters, attending music concerts, or enjoying our monthly lunches at Legends now seem like distant memories.

Some thoughts about the safety of the various social activities in our daily schedules need to be addressed. Until a vaccine is discovered to be a proven solution to this pandemic, most of us will not engage in tranquil visits to many spots. Having a “relaxing” in-door lunch, an invigorating massage, visiting your dentist for a six-month check-up or going to exercise at a gym will have to wait. Now, for me, those taken-for-granted activities are on hold. I hope to return to a normal daily life soon.

A few days ago, I spoke to some fellow SIRs about (for me) a humorous situation. I always associated masks with robbers. The only good guy wearing a mask was the Lone Ranger. In my wildest dreams, I would never consider going to a bank to make a withdrawal wearing a mask. And you know what...the bank tellers were wearing them too! Oh, well, this is our new world....and I must get used to it!

Membership Attendance on June 18th

It was **CANCELED** due to the virus outbreak.

At the end of the February meeting we had a total of **82** members. Since the BEC meeting in May, we now have 79 members.

On June 18th we held our second Zoom General Meeting to see how it might work. We had 24 members who signed in and gave it a try. It is definitely different than an “in person” meeting.

Little Sir Message *(continued from page 1)*

Any of the chairpersons that wish to restart an activity are reminded to submit the restart form to Big Sir George so that the BEC can approve the restart. It is available on our Sir branch website at sir17.org. We have also explored some “outside the box” methods of getting together for in person casual lunches, and meetings. Some consideration was given to a “picnic meeting” at the BV picnic area. However, Santa Rosa City Parks does not allow any gatherings of over 12 unrelated persons. Another consideration was an “outdoor box lunch,” on the patio at Legends. That was also disallowed as there cannot be gatherings of more than 20 unrelated persons. So, as you can see, we are working as best we can to keep our branch alive and well until we get through this crisis and can once again enjoy the company of our great members.

In the interim, please stay healthy, wear your mask, social distance and enjoy a beverage of your choice as needed!

Speaker for June 18th SIR General Meeting, on Zoom, by SIR Brn 17 Paul Willihnganz

His talk on his experience while in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service was one of the most interesting I think we have had. Paul has a lot more he can tell us. Maybe we can get him back for Chapter 2 of his time spent with the Navy.

Speaker for July 16th SIR General Meeting

We do not yet have a speaker lined up for our July 16th meeting. We are finding it difficult to secure speakers who can present a program using our Zoom meeting platform. Paul and Dennis worked very hard on the June audio/visual presentation and did an excellent job. Because they are SIR members we were able to make it happen. But it will be difficult to find outside speakers who can or will put in the same effort. We are working on obtaining some interesting, topical, entertaining videos that we can use for our programs.

SIR Branch 17, Member Profile:

Badge #178 Al Petrie

Al warned me that an interview with him would be very boring. I'm delighted to report he was terribly wrong. Quite to the contrary, I found him to be an exceptionally interesting man. I mean, really...how can someone who fed sewage to a septic tank (isn't that what septic tanks are for?), designed and built bridges and then helped make Santa Rosa the wonderful city it is today, be considered boring?



As a boy, Al fondly remembers hanging out in the bleacher seats at Crosley Field, cheering for his hometown Cincinnati Reds. (He is the same age as Pete Rose who attended another Cincinnati high school). Al says he was a real nerd back then, and lucky to have attended a high school with good math and science classes, along with a very insightful counselor who steered him towards engineering at the University of Cincinnati. His parents also expected him to attend college and be as bright as his sister who graduated valedictorian from high school. Although Al felt pressure to succeed, he loved and even received college credit for those advanced science classes in high school.

At the University of Cincinnati, Al began by studying chemical engineering, thinking that science should be put to practical uses. Quantitative and qualitative chemistry were interesting, yet too esoteric for someone who likes to build things. One day, Al looked out the window and saw some guys with poles and telescopes in a nearby field. He asked, "Who are they...what are they doing?" They were students learning how to survey property to construct a new building and put in a road. "Wow, now that's what I want to do!" Al quickly switched his major to civil engineering and never regretted the change, even though it required an additional year of college to graduate.

The University of Cincinnati taught civil engineering through a cooperative program in which academic studies were supplemented with jobs at local companies, jobs that provided hands-on practical experiences as well as some sorely needed money for college expenses. Al landed a terrific position at the Robert A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center in Cincinnati, dedicated to improving the "process" of septic tanks. Al was given the prestigious and admittedly stinky job of feeding sewage to septic tanks to study the breakdown

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Member Profiles: *(continued)*

of fecal materials under various conditions. This experience together with an engineering degree made Al highly employable and California came calling.

Following graduation, Al accepted a position at Caltrans making sure bridges and roads got built safely. Then, one day while reading the newspaper, he saw that Manteca, California was looking for a City Engineer. He landed that job, enjoyed it and followed it with a string of engineering jobs for five different cities. For ten years, he was an Assistant Director of the Santa Rosa Public Works Department in charge of overseeing development of subdivisions, representing City Engineers and verifying that proposals satisfy the latest City General Plan. These Plans address issues related to the physical development and growth of Santa Rosa and represent what the City will look like in the future. Al's knowledge of civil engineering served him well.

Al continues to use his engineering background to evaluate properties as a real estate broker and consult with property developers. Al has many other interesting tidbits too. Al has been married to Jackie for 51 years, and a resident of Santa Rosa for 45 yrs. His hobbies include playing golf and watching his three grandkids play soccer and gymnastics. Al is our Assistant Treasurer and can be found at club luncheons at the table collecting lunch fees. He refers to himself as a "nondescript, local neighbor." Hmmmm, that's exactly what people say who are in the witness protection program. Let's find out more about Al at the next BNO, CNO or golf outing!

(Article by Dennis Mangan)

ACTIVITIES:

Bocce:

(Article by Chuck Stark)

CANCELED FOR THE TIME BEING!



To gather around Bocce, we would need BEC and State approval of health precautions such as wearing gloves, masks, two sets of balls only touched by single team member, and individual refreshments, all while being separated by six feet apart. Sound like fun?

I recommend waiting until we can enjoy the camaraderie of the sport in closer proximity, and interesting venues.

Suggestions or questions please contact: **Chuck Stark** at: cstark@sonic.net or call 707-571-0207.

Bowling:*(Article by Mike Heinzelman)***CANCELED!**

Like most other activities.

Boys' Night Out:*(Article by Don Malvestiti)***CANCELED!**

Like most other activities.

Bridge:**CANCELED!**

Like most other activities.

**Camera Club:***Rich Osborne**(Article by*

Hang in there. Use your camera, fill up your memory cards. One more month is my guess, but one never knows.



Have you tried taking any close-up pictures like this one by Lindsay Olsen? If not, then give it a try. You may be surprised!

If you have not been taking pictures these past three months, then start now! Take pictures on your daily walk, of your yard, flowers, weeds, neighbors, lack of traffic, the blue sky. Believe me when I say, we will be thrilled to see them!

Everyone is welcome, all men and ladies interested in photography, so please come join us! Email to: richosborne@outlook.com or call 303-304-9262

Thanks, Rich Osborne

Couples' Night Out:*(Article by Fred Rose)***CANCELED!**

Like most other activities.

GLOBAL FORUM:*(Article by Marvin Mai)*

Even though our "in person" meetings have been canceled we have held three "virtual" meetings via "Zoom."

Although we have not developed a cure for COVID-19, we've alleviated a little of the quarantine boredom. We briefly explored what the "new normal" will look like and these "Zoom" meetings seem to be working quite well. Please give us a try!



We will have more to explore about the new release of some restrictions and what new businesses can start to reopen. Also, of course, are all the other global issues such as: Iran, China, Hong Kong, North Korea, Syria, Turkey and much more!

If you'd like to be included in the next "Zoom" meeting on **Friday, July 10th at 10:00 am** for Global Forum and need more information about how to use "Zoom," then please send an email to Marvin at mairmarvin57@gmail.com or give him a call at 545-2224.

Below is the schedule and link for SIR Branch 17 ZOOM Global Forum discussions slated for every **2 weeks** until the end of 2020

Time: **10:00 AM** Pacific Time

Jul 10, 2020 10:00 AM
 Jul 24, 2020 10:00 AM
 Aug 7, 2020 10:00 AM
 Aug 21, 2020 10:00 AM
 Sep 4, 2020 10:00 AM
 Sep 18, 2020 10:00 AM
 Oct 2, 2020 10:00 AM
 Oct 16, 2020 10:00 AM
 Oct 30, 2020 10:00 AM
 Nov 13, 2020 10:00 AM
 Nov 27, 2020 10:00 AM
 Dec 11, 2020 10:00 AM
 Dec 25, 2020 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83022861588?pwd=K0E4ci9SUUFkTW5NYm5wUmRrQUhvUT09>

Meeting ID: 830 2286 1588

Password: 453906

Do you need a new member application form? If so, just go to our new website www.sir17.org then scroll down near the bottom of the screen and click on "Contact Us" then click on which ever format you would prefer to use. If you have problems, just give Jim a call at 707-548-3346.

GOLF:*(Article by Roy Thuestad)***THE NEW NORMAL**

When SIR Golf finally re-opens, we must all adhere to current and future Health and Safety Orders issue by County Health Officers. We must observe protocols set in place by the Golf Courses, including but not limited to the following:

In the Pro Shop:

- Players will be required to wear facial coverings while in the Pro Shop.
- There shall be no more than two players in the facility at a time, while keeping a minimum of six feet distance from one another at all times.
- The Pro Shop will not be open for retail sales.
- Only credit card or online payments will be accepted.
- Players shall avoid contact with "frequently touched surfaces" such as: doorknobs, handrails, and counter tops. Players should make use of the provided hand sanitizer when exiting the Pro Shop.

On the Golf Course:

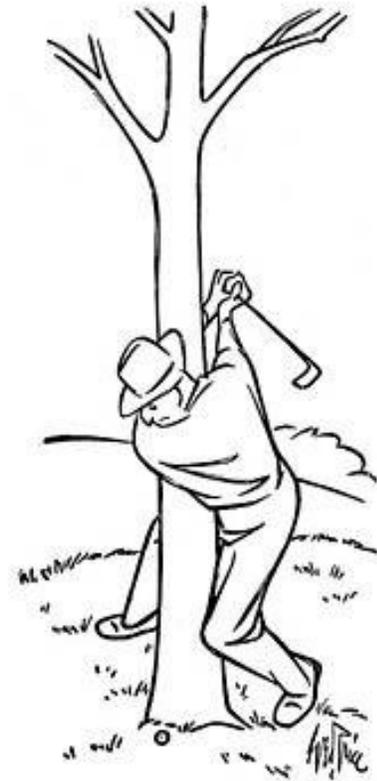
- Players shall maintain a minimum six-foot distance from others and shall wear facial coverings when the six foot social distancing requirement cannot be maintained.
- There will be a maximum of four players per group.
- Carts will be limited to one rider and two bags.
- Flags will always be no touch and left in.
- Cups will be filled to within one inch of the green height to avoid reaching in the cup for the ball.
- There will be no shared equipment, including: clubs, tees, ball markers, or golf balls. When identifying balls on the fairway, do so by moving the golf ball with your foot, not your hand.
- Do not pick-up or handle stray golf balls.
- Hand towels, seed/sand bottles, bunker rakes, ball washers, community tees, score-cards and pencils and all on-course water stations will be removed or disabled. Bring your own score card and water bottle, and repair divots & bunkers as best as possible.

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--Tournament style golf events shall not be held within any county unless so authorized by the County Health Officer for that jurisdiction.

--No carpooling to SIR-sponsored events unless all riders of the carpool have sheltered in-place together.

--There will be no club-organized social gatherings before or after golf.

Yes, we still**call it golf.**

Come join us
for a fun day of golf.

The place to be is the Bennett Valley
Golf Course - The time to be there is
Monday mornings starting at 8:30.

Hope to see you all out there.

Until next time, Good Golfing,

Roy Thuestad
707-975-4406

roymond@comcast.net

POKER FEST: *(Article by Steve Edelstein)***CANCELED!**

Like most other activities.

Wine, Beer and Spirits: *(By Gary Bondi)*

Our wine, beer & spirits activity is **canceled** until the various sites can accommodate large groups, meet the social distance standards and comply with State and local regulations. We will provide more info when we get the green light and can get back out there again.

Thanks for your understanding!

2021 BEC Officer Candidates

The Nomination Committee has produced a list of SIR Branch 17 members who are interested in serving on the Branch Executive Committee beginning in January 2021. The BEC works as a team to provide the resources to keep the club functioning and meet the desires of our members. If you would like more information about specific positions, or want to nominate yourself or someone else, then please contact Dennis Mangan, Ted Scapeccia or Bob Reuther.

Following is list of 2021 Officers and Directors:

Big Sir	Gary Bondi
Little Sir	Gordon Boulton
Treasurer	Al Petrie
Asst. Treasurer	John Gnam
Secretary	Kurt Wehrmeister
Asst. Secretary	Jim Gurke
Directors:	Rich de Lambert
	Tom Lubas
	Ken Johnson
	Chris Nolen
	Paul Willihnganz
	Elias Zegarra

HAVE YOU INVITED A GUEST TO ATTEND THE NEXT SIR ZOOM ON JULY 16, MEETING?

Our Future Regular Meetings,

less the lunch!

Since we do not know when we will be able to get back to having "in person" meetings and luncheons, these meetings and the BEC meetings will for the time being be held on ZOOM.

The regular meetings will be held on our usual dates of the third Thursday of each month, starting at 11:00 am.

The BEC meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month, starting at 10:00 am.

All members are invited to attend all of the meetings. If you are not sure how to join a ZOOM meeting, please contact Big SIR George Traverso at geosan@sbcglobal.net or call 707-528-6987 for more details. It is not really that hard and it is a different fun thing to do since we can't do our more regular fun things!

List of the July Birthdays

Frank Bastoni Dino Boito
John Gnam Don Salazar
Kurt Wehrmeister

We will celebrate all birthdays whenever we are back to our regular meetings again, but when that will be is????

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Joke of the day

The pharmacist said to a customer: "Sir, please understand, to buy an anti-depression drug, you need a proper prescription. Simply showing me a marriage certificate and your wife's picture is just NOT enough!"

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, our Secretary at 630-461-2715 or send him an email to: kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com.

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

The Poem of the month for July 4th Of July Activities

By Marilyn Lott

The 4th of July Activities
Are something we all enjoy
It's the one day that's set aside
For every adult, girl and boy
First we're honoring our country
With the colors red, white and blue
Brilliant fireworks light the sky
That depicts our freedom pure and true
The entire day is set aside as well
For family and friends to meet
So much fun is had by everyone
That every year it's a day we repeat
And the food is so delicious
Outside on the summer grill
Along with watermelon and salads
You eat till you get your fill
Flags are flown and waved
To show how proud we are
Of our country strong and beautiful
We have come so very far
So we listen to God Bless America
And we play games and eat all day
That's why we love the 4th of July
It's the true American way!

Volunteer Opportunity Covia.org Social Call Program

Sometimes a phone call or a visit from a friend can make your day. You may be interested in volunteering in the Covia.org Social Call program (<https://covia.org/services/social-call/>). Covia arranges one-on-one matches between older adults (aged 60+) and a volunteer for weekly friendly visits. In-person matches are made in Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco and Alameda counties. Additionally, they now have Social Call by phone, offered nationwide. They are looking for friendly, caring volunteers to provide support and friendship with an older adult in Sonoma County.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, please visit their webpage at [Volunteer Match](#). All volunteers must pass a background check and attend an initial two-hour training program, which they offer regularly. If you or someone you know would benefit from Social Call, please contact Covia at: coviaconnections@covia.org or call 877-797-7299. *[This is not a formal SIR activity.]*
(Article approved by Big Sir George & Little Sir Gary)

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 May 2020 edition of [SIR HAPPENINGS](#) is now available to view online.

This a very informing newsletter produced by **SIRinc** with many articles re-published from many of the SIR Branches throughout our area. Check out pages 17,18 & 19 of articles from Branch 17, and all of the other items in its 44 pages. The last four pages, 39 to 44 have lots of interesting consumer tips for you to check out. To view this free newsletter go to www.sirinc.org then click on the **About SIR** tab, followed by clicking on the **SIR Happenings Newsletter** tab, then select **Happenings_v16_Issue_2 dated April 28, 2020**. This will ask you to open or save the PDF file in you favorite PDF program. Best to select "Open." You can always save if you want, for later reading. Also you can print what pages you what or the entire document. Read and enjoy!

There has been a lot of discussion about trying to repeal all or parts of **Prop. 13**. Check out various websites to make up your own decision, especially this one: <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/jan/24/facebook-posts/no-californians-arent-being-asked-repeal-prop-13s/> There are also websites for "Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association Proposition 13" to check out. Read a few of them, then decide who to believe, then go vote your choice this November!