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| The *REDWOOD BARK* Newsletter for Dec. 2021  |

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| **All members are invited to attend our next SIR In-Person Luncheon/Meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at The Epicenter,****3215 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa.** |

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| 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** by 5:00 pm Saturday, December 11, to avoid being charged for your meal. 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** at **707-974-9193**! |

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| **December 16****Lunch/Meeting Schedule****Social Hour**: **11 am** **Lunch/Meeting:12 noon****Program:** Relax, enjoy our holiday meal and the camaraderie of your fellow Sirs!﻿**Announcements:** All indoor activities are in the process of reactivating. The chairmen will be contacting you. |

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| **December 16****﻿Holiday Lunch Menu**At the request of our Board of Directors, Epicenter will be serving us an enhanced version of our usual lunch for $30 as follows:Herb Roasted Turkey with Pan GravyScalloped PotatoesCaesar SaladArtisan Ciabatta RollsBread Pudding for DessertBeverages – Water, Lemonade, Tea, and CoffeeOther drinks available for purchase at the bar |

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| **List of the December Birthdays**Gary Bondi               Bill GrafeldJim Gurke                 David HarrisKen Johnson            Bob OstDan Schell                Tom SparroweLloyd Von Der Mehden***At our November 2021 meeting Chris Nolen******was the free lunch winner!***  |

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| **﻿﻿BIG Sir** **George Traverso’s****Message****﻿****geosan@sbcglobal.net****528-6987** |

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| Probably no other statement has evoked a profound and emotional feeling as “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.” As we enter this magical period of the Holidays, this, for me, is central to the meaning of the importance of the month of December. Before we delve into my philosophical interpretation of this sentence, I wish to give some historical background into the origin of these meaningful words.In 1897 an eight-year-old Virginia O’Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York’s Sun newspaper.  This fascinating story begins when young Virginia asks her father, Philip O’Hanlon, if Santa Claus really exists. The elder O’Hanlon suggested that his daughter write to The Sun for an answer. Her father said that “if you see it in The Sun, it’s so.” Taking her father’s advice, the young lady wrote to one of the newspaper Editors. This gentleman’s written response to the little girl’s question became one of the most iconic and treasured explanations to Santa’s persona. A few days later, Editor Francis Church received her letter. He served as a correspondent during the Civil War and witnessed the scar of suffering and disorder that plagued the nation during those terrible years. Editor Church’s editorial response appeared in The Sun on September 21, 1897 and “deeply affected most who read it.” He claimed that there truly is a Santa Claus and that “he exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist… Alas! How dreary would be the world if there was no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias.”Virginia O’Hanlon lived an extraordinary life, passing away at the age of eighty-one years old in 1971.  According to her family, Virginia was “a modern woman…. ahead of her time.” She earned a masters degree and doctorate in education and was a New York City school teacher and principal. Her great-grandson keeps the original letter written to the Editor in a scrapbook. Although Virginia’s letter is worth thousands of dollars, her letter written so many years ago has never left the family. This is a statement of the importance and innocent character of a little girl’s question that is above a monetary reward.The innocence and simple questioning of that little eight-year-old presents an important message to us. The glimmer in the eyes of children when they experience the wonder and excitement of the holiday season and sitting on the lap of that jolly old man gives me pause to reflect on the true meaning of a child’s innocence and purity that is so important in today’s hectic world. I firmly believe that there is a bit of Virginia in all of us. We must strive to continue to keep our sense of innocence and wonder…maybe this could lead us to a better world!Wishing you all my sincere wishes for a Safe and Wonderous Holiday Season! |

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| **﻿Little Sir** **Gordon Boultbee’s****Message****﻿**gboultbee@aol.com 584-8063 |

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| As some of you are aware, Jim Fenstermaker, our BARK editor and publisher and roster maintainer has been hospitalized after abdominal surgery. This issue of the BARK is brought to you with the help of **Rick Sale**, chair of the State SIR database of branch rosters, emails and other important information. Rick used the Constant Contact app to put our articles together for us and email the resulting newsletter to you.State SIR held a Leadership Summit via Zoom the afternoons of November 15-19. The sessions provided valuable information for new 2022 officers, directors, and committee chairs on the keys to successful Branch management and growth.The State website [**www.sirinc.org**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001UZm4yfngxSxPObJWUvj9R3Xzy5hzDVpbE9KmzdgRZFXBltNfwL1hl8cxAwMUCeZ4BiWksXedI6Fh0uuexM7cDLNeaXPq_pK_fJCMdOcqFLl3MUqNlUAKZ6ltDWdcH1u3KKDUW2HsNyg=&c=1TaWJL1Dd1J58vyPCeoA9PVk5lv4hRPeZu3kJknIGuoEhebqhZB5ag==&ch=on7VW3YwleZkRSve2naeQuTsI7SwU28K_xhna6klSMXMw9NU337Wlg==) provides a wealth of information, including job descriptions for all positions, a Brand Style Manual for branding, recruiting and social media materials, and much, much more. Check it out!The State also provides insurance for branch activities, officers and directors. Each branch is a separate California corporation and the importance of acting like a corporation by keeping BEC meeting minutes, financial records, COVID-19 vaccination records and so forth was stressed. 2022 will be the year where recruitment and a safe return to activities are major initiatives and our own Sir Neil Wheeler gave a presentation on our branch’s RAMP efforts to date and plans. Our Branch’s goal is to increase membership to 100, where it was a few years ago, from our current number in the low 80’s.﻿In other news, in 2022 we plan to resume having our BEC meetings the third Thursday of each month beginning at 9:45 AM; i.e., before the monthly luncheon. They will be in the Trophy Room at Epicenter, which is off the Victory House Sports Bar and Restaurant, across the hallway from our luncheon room. We expect to include a Zoom option. |

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| **SIR Branch 17 is looking for NEW Members!****Check Out Our Revised Website at:**[**https://www.sir17.org**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001UZm4yfngxSxPObJWUvj9R3Xzy5hzDVpbE9KmzdgRZFXBltNfwL1hl8cxAwMUCeZ4Tr05EBGKubUHcNwr2zKFHtMKMgbO7vcrI9f-INLT1_uSIiUjpS3q1HBVq7IaLyRnjy43y1VuDdU=&c=1TaWJL1Dd1J58vyPCeoA9PVk5lv4hRPeZu3kJknIGuoEhebqhZB5ag==&ch=on7VW3YwleZkRSve2naeQuTsI7SwU28K_xhna6klSMXMw9NU337Wlg==)**with new information and forms available.****Contact potential members today and invite them to the next meeting!** |

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| **SIR Luther Burbank Branch 17 is in Area 10 of Region 3.****The following is a list of your 2021 Officers and Directors.** |

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| **OFFICERS:** | **EMAIL:** | **PHONE:** |
| Big Sir: George Traverso | geosan@sbcglobal.net | 707-528-6987 |
| Little Sir: Gordon Boultbee | gboultbee@aol.com | 707-584-8063 |
| Secretary: Kurt Wehrmeister | kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com | 630-461-2715 |
| Asst. Secretary: Terry Freeman | terryfreeman32@yahoo.com | 707-235-7066 |
| Treasurer: Al Petrie | alpetrie7@aol.com | 707-974-9193 |
| Asst. Treasurer: John Gnam | musicmed@sonic.net | 707-528-0592 |

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| **DIRECTORS:** |

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| Ken Johnson | Tom Lubas | Steven Saulsbury |
| Rich de Lambert | Chris Nolen | Elias Zegarra |

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| **WEBMASTERS:** |

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| Dennis Mangan | Jim Fenstermaker |

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| **STATE PRESIDENT** | **AREA 10 GOVERNOR** | **REGION 3 DIRECTOR** |
| **Stu Williams** | **Robert Reuther** | **Dennis Pangburn** |

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| **Recap of Speakers for November 18, 2021**In recognition of Veterans’ Day, two of our newer members gave talks about their own experiences in the military.﻿Sir Bill Grafeld explained that when his number came up in the Selective Service draft during the Vietnam War (“The only lottery I’ve ever won”) he decided to apply to the Marine Corps Officer Candidates School (OCS). His main reason for applying was to honor his uncle and father who both served in the Marines during WW2 and Korea. At OCS his best buddy was a fellow named Bill Terry who had flunked out of OCS, then completed the enlisted boot camp where he excelled and applied three times for reinstatement in OCS before he was finally accepted. It seems that someone higher up learned that his father was a Marine on Wake Island at the start of WW2 and spent the entire war as a POW of the Japanese. Bill Terry too wanted to honor his father and graduated first in his OCS class the second time through. At the graduation inspection the commanding officer told Bill Terry “Your father would be proud of you, Marine!” Our Bill credited his buddy Bill with helping him graduate from OCS, where they have a 67% washout rate. Our Bill eventually made captain, served in logistics and on a task force to address harassment, particularly sexual harassment, in the Corps. [Although Bill is a Vietnam era veteran, he corrected the statement in the October BARK that he served in Vietnam.]﻿Our second speaker Neil Wheeler was an AFROTC graduate who was stationed at NORAD’s Cheyenne Mountain headquarters as a meteorologist. His path there was somewhat humorous. Since his west coast college major was in a technical field, he was sent to Vandenberg AFB, site of the Western Test Range, for his AFROTC boot camp. The Air Force needed missile launch officers but those he met at boot camp told him to avoid being a missile launch officer if he could. So he got a second bachelor’s degree in meteorology after he was commissioned and was assigned to Cheyenne Mountain. His unit provided forecasts for several Air Force commands where weather and radiation bursts from the sun, for example, might affect mission performance and asset reliability. After he left active duty Neil had a long and successful career in the field he chose to avoid being assigned to an ICBM silo in the middle of nowhere! |

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| **Upcoming Speakers***(Article by Gary Bondi)*Upcoming programs for January and February are a tale of two Chris's!**January**: **Chris Philbrick**: Chris grew up and still lives in Ukiah. He is a lifelong motorcycle rider and on his bucket list was a trip to the annual gathering at the Motorcycle Mecca of Sturgis, South Dakota. Upwards of 300,000 cyclists descend on this small community, over a ten-day period, with a year-round population of around 7,000. This year he made the trip and will share some stories and photos of his adventure. You won't want to miss this one.**February**: **Chris Smith**: Most of us know of Chris from his entertaining columns while he was with the Press Democrat. During his career, he entertained us with many articles about the people, places, and historical events from around Santa Rosa. He has many interesting stories he will share with us. **March**: TBD |

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| **Membership and Recruiting (Rich de Lambert)**With the holiday season around us it is a hard thing to get our heads into the importance of asking our friends to come to a meeting for the first time. However, it presents a wonderful opportunity as we have small parties with friends to drop the idea that you belong to a wonderful small group and why don't you drop in and check us out. This time of year does present some difficulties especially since we are kind of in lock-down from our many activities. Hopefully a late winter and early spring will open up and give us that opportunity for new members.   |

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| **2022 Nominating and Audit Committees**2021 Big Sir George Traverso will chair the 2022 Nominating Committee and Dennis Mangan and Elias Zegarra will continue to serve as members.Marvin Mai will continue to chair the 2022 Audit Committee and Stan Borges will continue to be a member.﻿Thanks to all of them for their continued service to our Branch! |

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| **Couples’ Night Out:***(Article by Fred Rose)*With all the holidays and so many other things happening in December we feel it is best to wait for 2022. ﻿In January we will assess the situation and decide from there. If we get a green light to go, then we will plan to start with the La Gare Restaurant, 208 Wilson St., Santa Rosa.So, if you are interested in attending the CNO on Thursday, January 27, watch for an email from me with the final information. Do not wait very long after receiving my email. Contact me quickly to reserve your seat at the table!**Reservations are a must!**Contact Fred Rose: **fredricrose@comcast.net**or call 707-548-5797 |

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| **Boys’ Night Out:***(Article by Don Malvestiti)***December 8**will be the date for BNO at **The Washoe House**, 2840 Roblar Rd. in Petaluma. If you don’t want to miss out then join us by **5:30**pm for drinks, order dinner by **6:00**pm. Hope to see you there!  |

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| You **MUST**have your vaccination cards and the signed waiver form to have been recorded by Gordon. You need to contact Don Malvesiti soon as possible to let him know that you will be attending. Attendance will probably fill up FAST! **Reservations are a must!**Contact Don by Sunday December 5, at 5:00 pm. **malvestitidon485@gmail.com**or call him at **707**-**539-0677**, leave a message if no answer.  |

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| **GLOBAL FORUM**The December Global Forum will be held at the home of Marvin and Pat Mai. We meet at **10:00 am**.Reminder: this is a discussion of the multitude of world events and individual topics of interest. All SIR members who have met the SIR protocols for COVID vaccination are welcome but please let Marvin know if you plan to attend so that the proper amount of coffee, etc., is available. We always try to meet on the **second** Friday of the month.This month’s meeting is 10:00 am December 10**4743 Woodview Drive**, Santa Rosa (South on Summerfield RD to the end, turn left upThe hill about 1/3 mile, the house is on the left) **PARK IN THE DRIVEWAY OR IN THE BAY****ACROSS THE STREET, AS THERE IS NO****PARKING ON THE STREET**. Should you have questions, please email Marvin at: **maimarvin57@gmail.com** or call him at:  707-545-2224 |

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| **Poker Fest:***(Article by Gordon Boultbee)*Poker group playing is still in a holding pattern. In January 2022 they will see how things are looking then and make decisions of when and where to play. ﻿The poker activity is looking for a new chair. If you would like to volunteer in 2022 contact Little Sir Gordon Boultbee. |

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| **Member Profile: Oscar Barragan, Badge #54***(Article by Dennis Mangan)* |

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| What’s it like to have your heart and breathing stop? Oscar Barragan knows, and he talked with me about it after the November luncheon at the Epicenter. He’s perhaps one of the best-looking guys in our club, with a handsome face, a mane of hair I would die for, and a friendly smile that perfectly reflects his unassuming personality.  He’s got stories of growing up in Oakland and working for State Farm Insurance where he wooed his wife to-be with a stack of computer punch cards. You’ll need to sit down and have him explain that. |

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| Oscar has survived two sudden cardiac arrests (SCA). The first was while playing volleyball at a company outing. His job at the time was mostly sedentary and he thinks bouncing a ball over the net, running, jumping, and diving might have been overdoing it for his heart. You think? The second SCA was on the Bennett Valley Golf Course 14th fairway. (I’m not sure how bad Oscar’s drive was, but I know that some of my shots on number 14 have made my heart stop too…just not as bad as his.) He dropped to the ground and lost consciousness. SIR17 members Fred Rose and Marv Schouweiler were playing with Oscar that Wednesday morning and with the help of a group of retired firemen on the parallel 13th fairway began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) after not detecting a pulse or noticeable breathing. Calls to 911 and the pro-shop summoned more help. Jess, working the golf course desk, took out the posts on the sidewalk so that the ambulance and fire trucks could drive onto the course. Then he jumped into a cart, brought out an automated external defibrillator (AED) and re-started Oscar’s heartbeat. According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, between 250,000 and 450,000 Americans have SCA each year. Almost 95% of these people die within ten minutes. It can happen to people who appear healthy and do not know they have any heart problems. A heart pumps about 100,000 times a day and 35 million times a year. In SCA, the natural pacemaker malfunctions, the heart flutters and fails to effectively pump blood. The person quickly loses consciousness and the pulse stops. CPR, if performed in the first few minutes, can triple a person’s odds of survival, according to the American Heart Association*.*The chest compressions given during CPR move a small amount of blood to the heart and brain, “buying time” until a normal heartbeat can be restored.  AEDs are even better at saving lives after a SCA by delivering an electrical shock that restores the heart’s normal rhythm.  AEDs are simple to use and are now found in many public places such as schools, restaurants (the Epicenter has two!) and … golf courses. A new one costs about $1000 if you want to have one at home. For more information about CPR and AEDs, go the American Red Cross website or take one of their courses.Oscar was fortunate to survive thanks to the CPR and defib efforts by a Fred, Marv and a group of ex-firemen. He continues to rehabilitate and admits that the heart conditions have left him a bit foggy brained. Yet, he remains active and in good physical condition, walking every day, but playing no golf! After losing his wife, his two daughters helped Oscar manage the numerous day-to-day activities. He claims that “I lost a wife but gained two mothers!” Oscar is back with us in SIR17 now and reminds us of what it literally means to appreciate a helping hand from friends. Next, how quickly can we recruit those firemen into SIR17? |

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| **Golf Update:***(Article by Jim Gurke)*On a weekly basis, we’ve been averaging between 16 and 24 players at each of our Monday rounds. The weather has been exceptional, and the course is playing about as good as anyone could expect for late November.For those who might not have followed the controversy about possible closure of the Bennett Valley Golf Course, it now appears that the city is committed to keeping the course as is. That said, there are changes ahead beginning in July 2022 when management of the course will change hands. The city has hired a consultant to look at issues facing BV such as irrigation, income and operating expenses, and technical assistance regarding a new operator.For those of you who purchase annual passes, BV is offering a six month pass from January 1 to June 30. For an unlimited play, Monday thru Friday pass, the fee is likely around $600. Also, be aware that any credits you may have acquired over the years must be used before the June 30 end date for the current operator. Those credits accrue when you finish either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in your respective flight. Check with the staff to see whether you have a credit. It’s good against almost all items in the pro shop. Hit ’em straight and long, your 17/76 Golf Committee. |

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