



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 NOV, 2022

### All members are invited to attend our next SIR In-Person Luncheon/Meeting on Thursday, Nov 17, 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, Nov. 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!

#### Nov 17 Lunch/Meeting Schedule

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

**Program:** Our speakers will be a few of our veterans who will give a short talk of their time in the military.

**Announcements:**

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

#### Nov 17 Luncheon Menu

Caesar salad.

Beef stroganoff, with seasoned vegetables and glazed carrots.

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



Branch 17 continues to see growth as a result of the efforts of our RAMP committee and of individual members. The BEC approved four new membership applications at its October meeting, we have received two new applications since then and I know of at least one more in process. It is possible we will have 100 members by the end of the year.

The BEC approved the new Book Club as a branch activity and approved the formation of a Community Involvement Projects Committee. It is co-chaired by Bob Reuther and Mike Bialkoski, and Rich de Lambert and George Traverso are co-vice chairs. This gives the branch the opportunity to do good works for the community under the ground rules set by the State SIR. The committee will be bringing specific project ideas to the BEC in the near future.

"The times they are a changin'." Jim Fenstermaker, our BARK editor and publisher and roster maintainer and

*(continued on page 2)*

#### Little Sir Gary Bondi's Message

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



In this article, I will be addressing our branch's financial status. The BEC and branch officers have discussed our current financial status in great detail. Here is where we are now and what we are facing down the line. The branch has several ongoing and fixed expenses, such as State SIR quarterly assessment, guests, speakers, birthday lunches, printing expenses, and recruiting expenses to name a few. In just this past year alone we have paid almost \$1,000 for guest lunches and about the same amount for the State assessment. Over the past 3 years our expenses have amounted to about \$2,500 per year. We were fortunate to have adequate reserves and were able to cover the costs during that time. We need to maintain a reserve so that we have enough cash on hand to pay for our monthly luncheons at the end of each meeting, in advance of any monies received. We also need cash on hand to pay for any expenses we need to advance, such as for the annual picnic or for any unexpected expense.

*(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)*  
so much more for 10 years would like to retire from those responsibilities. Rich Osborne has agreed to assume responsibility for the BARK, and a team of Neil Wheeler, Tom Sparrowe, Wayne Brigden, Rich Osborne and I are working to modernize and take over all membership list related matters. So bear with us as we transition over the next few months!

### Recap of past speaker programs:

For members who were not able to attend a particular meeting, the speaker program is available on our website [sir17.org](http://sir17.org), scroll down near the bottom of the home page, click on the red arrow for YouTube to view all the programs that are available now.

*(Article by Little Sir Gary Bondi)*

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

There will be some known and unknown increases in costs. The State has already raised their assessment fee. Bottom line, we have pretty much depleted our reserves.

All that said, I expect you have already guessed where I am going with all this. Given what I outlined in the preceding information, our financial reserves are at a point where we need to reinstate annual dues. Way back when we did assess dues, I believe it was in the range of \$20 or \$25? Our branch treasurer, Al Petrie, presented a detailed review of expense and income to the BEC and we have not yet decided on the exact amount. We do expect the amount will be within the above range. So, beginning in January 2023, we will, once again, be asking our members for annual dues. There will be more information in the December issue of the BARK as to the amount. Please feel free to reach out to the officers or other BEC members with any questions you may have.

### Future Programs/Speakers

#### November 17:

As we celebrate Veterans Day in November, it has been our tradition to call upon some of our member/veterans to give a short talk of their time in the Military. Mike O'Neill has arranged for several members who will enlighten and entertain us with their military experiences.

#### December 15:

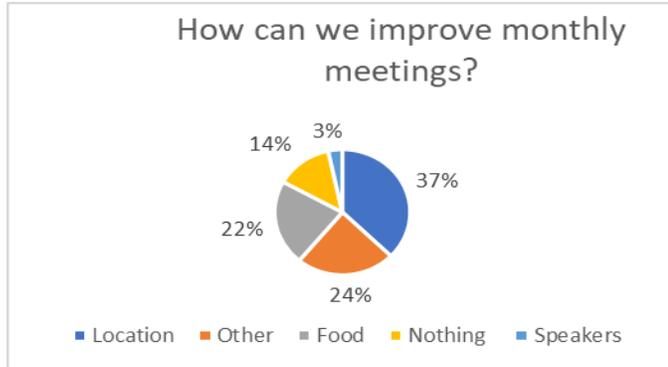
No program is planned as it is our annual holiday luncheon.

#### Poem for November

By Margaret Morgan  
Now it is November,  
Trees are nearly bare;  
Red and gold and brown leaves  
Scatter everywhere  
Dark now, are the mornings  
Cold and frosty too;  
Damp and misty evenings  
Chill us through and through.  
Busy are all the creatures,  
Winter food to hide;  
Nests to make all cozy  
Warm and safe inside.

## The 2022 Member Survey:

During October, we summarized the responses to the 2022 Member Survey and sent a summary to all members. The survey summary will also be posted on the SIR Branch 17 website: [SIR17.org](http://SIR17.org) in the Member and BEC (Login) area.



The members of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) would like to thank each of you who took the survey and provided suggestions for improving our branch. We hope surveys like this will help us create an organization that meets the majority of our members needs and keeps us viable.

The BEC has looked carefully at your suggestions and concerns and is working to address them. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Big Sir, Gordon Boulton, at [gboulton@aol.com](mailto:gboulton@aol.com) (Article by Neil Wheeler)

## Recruiting: MemberFest:

(Article by Rich de Lambert & Neil Wheeler)



MemberFest concluded on October 17<sup>th</sup> and during September and October we approved nine new members, invited seven guests to our luncheons, invited four guests to our

activities, and obtained contact information from four other men.

The recruiting committee would like to thank all of our members who have joined SIR Branch 17, and particularly those members who have made the effort to introduce other men to SIR. As a token of our appreciation, new members and members who worked to recruit new members were invited to a special MemberFest celebration on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

We try to make our brochures, invites cards, and applications available at every SIR activity...just ask. You can also find SIR applications on our website, [www.sir17.org](http://www.sir17.org), by clicking the [Member Application link](#) on the home page.

Pick up an invite card today and hand it to one of your friends!

## Community Involvement Program:

(Article by Robert Reuther)

In SIR, our mission is "to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events which create friends for life."

We all have lived a long life and have special talents in our own way. Our program is for members to use those talents to give back to the community. A country is only as strong as its community. By our activities we will be building a healthier community, and in turn a stronger country. In doing so we will have fun and enjoyment.

Our program, based upon SIR State Policy 8, will avoid monetary contributions, soliciting business, endorsing politicians, religion, or ideological concepts. We will have fun in doing those things which help others with our knowledge and abilities.

Please join us. Just contact by phone or email Rich de Lambert or George Traverso at 707-596-8027 or [SIRBr17@gmail.com](mailto:SIRBr17@gmail.com)

Barry Bialkoski will be collecting used eyeglasses or hearing aids at our next meeting.

Barry Bialkoski, Bob Reuther Co-Chairs

Rich de Lambert, George Traverso Co-Vice Chairs

## SIR Branch 17, Member Profiles:

### Timothy Fawcett Badge #162

“Avoid telling me I can't do something until after I've done it!” Timothy Fawcett's story is one of determination, dedication, and a bit of good luck. He grew up in Wheeling, WV with his four older siblings in a 100-year-old house. He said he had a “Leave It to Beaver” family, with no drama and no tragedies. His dad followed in the footsteps of other medical professionals in the family and became an ophthalmologist. (Timothy had no interest in such a career especially since it required taking standardized tests that he...ahem ...detested.) Timothy described his mom as a domestic goddess who stayed at home and raised kids. Both his mom and dad lived long lives, suggesting that their longevity genes live on in Timothy.



Timothy attended Linsly Military Institute (now called The Linsly School) for 5-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Several of the Fawcett men attended Linsly, a top private school in Wheeling with traditional values of hard work, respect, honor, honesty, and self-discipline. The school boasts of class sizes of 10 and a 100% college placement. Sure enough, Timothy graduated and went on to college for two years at West Virginia Wesleyan College where he got involved in their little 14K watt radio station. (Commercial radio stations typically broadcast at 50-100K watts.) Wanting to get more experience in telecommunications, Timothy transferred to Ohio University and earned a degree in radio and TV management administration. Despite failing the GMAT test to get in three times, he received an MBA at OU by proving himself a good student by maintaining high grades following a provisional acceptance. Confident in his ability to get a job in radio sales, Timothy moved to San Francisco with only a few bucks in pocket. Much to his distress, finding employment

*(continued on top right)*

## Member Profiles:

*(continued)*

took longer than expected. With no friends in the area, living in a Holiday Inn, and no cash in his wallet, he had serious thoughts about starvation. Miraculously, a credit card he applied for weeks before showed up in his mailbox that day! “Dinner is served!” he howled.

In 1983, getting work in radio in San Francisco was very competitive and almost exclusively for those with experience. Timothy started investigating smaller markets and interviewed with stations up in Sonoma County. He landed a job with an upstart country music station in Rohnert Park. Timothy's skill in sales paid off and the station started making profits quickly. Some of his success came from just dumb luck. While shopping in Costco, he and another guy were looking to buy the same ring. Timothy allowed the other guy to have it. With thanks, the guy handed Timothy a business card from a company Timothy was trying unsuccessfully to get to buy radio ad time. Following up a few days later with a phone call, Timothy asked the guy to help him get a meeting with the CEO of the company, after which they signed two-year deal! I guess success is both what you know and who you run in to at Costco.

On December 10, 2017, Timothy's life took a serious knock when he fell off a roof and severely injured his head.

Timothy is a collector of over 7000 45rpm vinyl records. These sound great on the 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary Rock-Ola his dad gave him many years ago for his birthday. Timothy says the jukebox “thunders” when you turn it up! Timothy still has his first car, a 1972 Buick Grand Sport convertible V8 engine with less than 57,000 miles. The bad news, he groans, is that it gets six miles/gallon. Rich de Lambert introduced Timothy to SIR17 about 18 months ago. He didn't know anyone at first and was going to leave the club until he realized the terrific programs and activities the club offers. Now he claims he is in for life and eager to meet more guys! With in-person luncheons here again, our members will be glad to meet him too.

*(article by Dennis Mangano)*

*We are sad to inform you that our former member*

## **Al Odabashian**

*passed away on August 16, 2022.*

*We send our condolences to his family.*

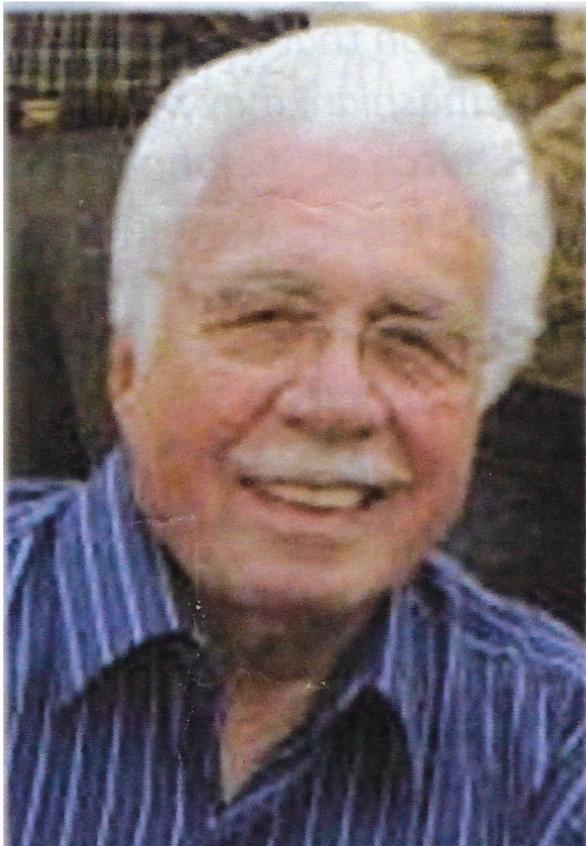
Al was born in San Francisco on July 5, 1927.

He joined SIR Branch 17 in July 2002 and was sponsored by Doug Weber. His favorite past-times were playing golf and the card game, bridge.

Al served as Big Sir in 2008 and then went on to become Area 10 Governor in 2011. For the last few years he was our Branch photographer. and put together an album of all the current members and it kept him busy keeping it updated..

Al transferred from Branch 17 in July 2016 and moved to the Moraga area to be closer to his relatives. and join a Branch in that area.

No known services are scheduled at this time.



### **More sad news to report**

As you may recall we had originally scheduled Jean Marie (Jerry) Heskett as our speaker for our October program. Jerry and her family were force to live as prisoners of war in a Japanese prison camp when she was a very young child. She has written a book "Through My Mother's Eyes," chronicling her experiences and was to share them with us. We were notified before the October meeting that she would have to cancel because of illness. Sadly, Jerry passed away a few days ago. Our condolences go out to their family and friends.

### **The October "Birthday Boy" winner of a FREE Lunch was:** **Steve Saulsbury**

#### **November Birthdays**



Gordon Boulton

John Castro

Denny Hutton

Duane Jensen

Hank Karow

Fredrick McMane

Chris Nelle

Chris Nolen

#### **Sunshine Report:**

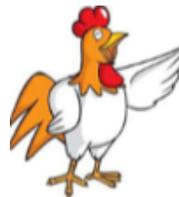
We need your help to tell us before the monthly meeting if any of our members are sick or if some member has died.



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).

#### **Joke of the Month**



A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. "Is it true," she wanted to know that the medication you prescribed "has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'."

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

## Activities:



### Bocce:

No members RSVP'd for either the June or October outings, so Bocce activities will now be postponed until the spring.



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)



Our book for October was **Never Surrender** by Michael Hobbs, selected by Frank Panza, and hosted by Fred Rose. For November our book is **2034: A Novel of the Next World War** by Elliot Ackerman with Admiral James Stavridis. We plan to meet at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at my home to discuss the book. Light refreshments will be served so please let me know if you will be attending.

If you have any questions or would like to be on our email list, email me at [nimwheeler@science-one.org](mailto:nimwheeler@science-one.org) or call me at (707) 291-0271.



## Boys' Night Out:

(Article by Don Malvestiti)



Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> BNO will be at the Los Molcajetes Bar & Grill, NW corner of Montecito Boulevard and Middle Rincon Rd. 5:30 pm Social, 6:00 pm Dinner.

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

## Bowling:

(article by Fred Rose)

If you have an interest in helping to get this activity going again so you also could enjoy it then contact our Activities Chair, Fred Rose at [fredricrose@ciomcast.net](mailto:fredricrose@ciomcast.net) or call 707-548-5797.



We will 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.

## Bridge:

If you have an interest in helping to get this activity going again so you also could enjoy it or if you have any questions, then contact either Co-Chair.



**Dean Lundgren** at [mdlungren@msn.com](mailto:mdlungren@msn.com) or call 707-544-8088.

**James Park** at [jcpark38@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcpark38@sbcglobal.net) or call 707-578-4255

## Coffee Club:

(article by Rich de Lambert)

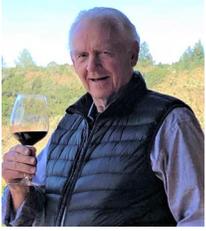


Autumn has come to our Bennett Valley neighborhood and Coffee Club will continue in November only the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (11/10) at 9:00 am. But autumn is a time of change, and we will be changing format from meeting in Howarth

Park to meeting at various coffee shops. Come enjoy a cup of coffee, some baked goods, and conversation with your fellow SIR members. We will be sending out a notice every other week to let you know where we are meeting. If you are not on our email list, let me know so you will be added! If you have questions contact Rich at: [richdelambert@gmail.com](mailto:richdelambert@gmail.com) or 707-545-3490.



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



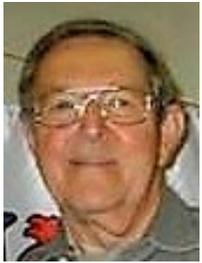
On Thursday, October 27th, we enjoyed the last great dinner out at the **Northwood Bistro & Bar**.

Due to the November and December Holidays there will not be any **Couples' Night Out** until January.

### 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)



What seems like a never ending war in Ukraine, pipeline explosion sabotage and LNG shortages, the rising dollar, shots fired by North and South Korea, a new prime minister in the U.K., possible food shortages worldwide, there's too much going on in the world for a person to keep up.

The monthly Global Forum looks out at our contemporary world from multiple perspectives. We gather to discuss what's in the news and what's likely to be in the news soon. We have a variety of perspectives and bring to bear our various backgrounds. It's always great fun and the monthly GLOBAL FORUM provides a place and a group interested in all that is going on around us.



We'll meet Friday, November 11 at 10 am at the home of Marvin and Pat Mai, 4743 Woodview Drive. (South on Summerfield Rd to the end, turn left up the hill about 1/3 mile, the house is on the left.)

Our monthly Zoom will **NOT** occur this month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Reservations are going to be required, we've grown too large to host in one room. Attendance will be limited to the first seven members who respond to our email invite. (There are 23 now on our Global Forum roster.)**

Should you have any questions or wish to be included, please contact Marvin at:

[maimarvin57@gmail.com](mailto:maimarvin57@gmail.com)  
or call him at: 707-545-2224.

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## Hiking Group: (Article by Stew Lauterbach)



For our first hike let's meet at the Taylor Mountain Regional Park entrance at 2080 Kawana Terrace, at 8:00 AM on Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>.

There are many options for a hike, but most are in and out, so if you get tired you can just turn around and leave. Plan on a couple of miles with some elevation gain. You can download the map at: <https://sonomahikingtrails.com/wp-content/uploads/TaylorMtnTrailMap.pdf>

While we're there we'll discuss future places to hike. I'd love input to where people want to go. We have many wonderful parks in the county that allow for a large variety of terrain.

Any questions or you want more information, contact Stew at: [stewlauterbach@gmail.com](mailto:stewlauterbach@gmail.com) or call him at 707-495-0985.

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



Our next poker game will be on **Thursday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>** at the Epicenter at 12 PM when they open, and play until 3:30. Instead of renting the Trophy Room, we have all agreed to buy lunch. We usually break about 12:15 for lunch. We are always interested in new players, but they must be a SIR member.

For October, the "big winners" were: Rich de Lambert and Marv Schouweiler.

Contact Mike at: [Mikeo46@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Mikeo46@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in joining us.

## TRAVEL GOLF: (Article by Art Appling)



17/76 golfers are off to a good start with re-established travel golf. Our first event at Oakmont in October went well and we are looking forward to playing Foxtail (North course) in November and then Windsor on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Remember it is the first players to RSVP to the email announcing the sign-up that will be on the players list with backup names kept in reserve for filling any cancellations.

If you have any questions, please contact Art at: [art4747@msn.com](mailto:art4747@msn.com) or 707-322-0632

## Wine, Beer and Spirits:

(article by Bill and George Traverso)

Due to the upcoming holidays in November and December, we decided to have an event starting in January, 2023.

The plan for January is to visit the award-winning Savage and Cooke Distillery on the historic Mare Island Shipyard. After the tasting, we will have lunch at one of the fine new eating establishments on the island. Hopefully, the Mare Island Museum will be open for a visit.

More details will follow in the December BARK newsletter.

For more information contact either below:

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.

## Calendar of SIR Events for Nov., 2022

- Golf at BVGC every Monday morning
- Nov 4 Hiking/Walk at 2080 Kawana Terrace, Santa Rosa at 8:00 am
- Nov 9 Boys' Night Out, Los Molcajetes Bar & Grill.
- Nov 10 Coffee Club, Cypress Point area in Howarth Park, 9:00 to 10:00 am
- Nov 10 Poker, Epicenter Trophy Room, 12 noon
- Nov 11 Global Forum **in-person** meeting, 10:00 am at the home of Marvin and Pat Mai
- Nov 17 SIR BEC** meeting, Epicenter, 9:45 am
- Nov 17 SIR Luncheon/Meeting**, Epicenter, 11:00
- Nov 24 Coffee Club, **CANCELED** this time only
- Nov 25 Global Forum **Zoom** meeting, **CANCELED**
- Jan ?? Couples' Night Out,
- Jan ?? Wine, Beer & Spirits,

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

**SIR HAPPENINGS**

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 pages 12 and 13 which are reprints of some articles from our Branch 17, featuring how we are recruiting for new members and pictures of the latest new members. Near the end of the 67 pages, 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!



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