

The

# ECHO

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sierra Branch #175 of **Sons In Retirement** • <http://175.sirinc2.org>

## ***New Big SIR Takes the Helm***



Greetings Gentlemen,

I would like to thank and congratulate Immediate Past Big Sir, George Pisching, for his hard work and dedication this past year. I also want to thank the officers, directors, and committee chairmen for their efforts in support of our branch.

I look forward to serving SIR Branch 175 and meeting the challenges ahead.

My goal for this year is to stabilize and grow our membership. It is imperative that we continue to add new members and I encourage all of you to extend an invitation to friends and associates. I hope to foster a branch atmosphere where our fellowship creates friendships and a lot of fun. I can only achieve this with your support.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge my golf buddies; Stan Nappe, Charlie Pepper, Jerry Long, Mike Castle, Ron McLain, Wayne Schwartz and especially Rick Grigsby, for "convincing" me to accept the office of Big Sir !!!

I hope to see you all January 28<sup>th</sup>, Tom

## ***New Job for Past Big SIR – Newsletter Editor***



Past Big SIR, George Pisching, has completed his year and has agreed to become the Editor of the ECHO bulletin for us. However, this is his first issue and as with any new job he has some procedures and practices to grow into. So, help him out with getting your materials and stories to him without him asking for them and be patient. Your first issue is late for the mailing, however your telephone caller reminds you of the next luncheon and the bulletin tells you other "stuff." We will do better each month. Sorry for the late delivery of this Echo.

# January Guest Speaker

## Department Reports

### Membership Department: A Message from the Manager



Happy New Year SIRs. Starting a great New Year off with our January 28<sup>th</sup> luncheon with a Proud To Be a Sir month so be sure and wear all your Sir's paraphernalia.

*There is such a thing as a free lunch?*

Now down to the business at hand. We need to recruit new members. It should be our priority for 2016. I received a letter from Don Dill our State 2016 President. He has put together a strong well designed program called **RAMP** in an effort to help us recruit new members.

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|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>R</b> ecruiting | Goals for SIR and each Branch                          |
| <b>A</b> ctivities | Promote interest in our members and new members        |
| <b>M</b> embership | Promote participation in our members                   |
| <b>P</b> ublicity  | Generate for our recruiting efforts and our activities |

The letter is self explanatory if anyone would like a copy I will make it available to you. There are some great ideas on how to recruit new members from the four categories above.

Our Secretary Sir Paul Dehn and or data base Sir Mike Lebda have worked very hard to complete a 2016 Roster book to be as up to date as possible along with addition of Badge numbers and email addresses when applicable, as well as the existing information of our members. Please take one to keep in touch with your fellow SIRs.

It is NO secret our branch 175 is losing membership as well as a number of branches in the state. Most of our attrition is due to age related issues and members '*Getting out of Dodge.*' Our medium age is known to be the highest of any branch in the organization, As a result if we want to stay viable we have to recruit new members. Let's make an effort to bring a friend or relative or neighbor to our luncheon to show them our friendship and activities available as well as the quality of our luncheon and the interesting speakers we have lined up.

Secondly, We need members to volunteer as officers in our Branch, Our present compliment of officers and board members have been doing a fine job and most would like to be replaced to allow others a chance to contribute to the betterment of the Branch, If you would like to help just see any of the current officers. You know who they are and ask them about their job and what it entails, They will say; "mostly not much, just one day a month, some jobs a little more but surely not burdensome." Have a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sir Howard Jones Membership Chairman.

## ***Birthdays This Month: January 2016***

Joe Barbis

Jim Clark

Bob Cleveland

Harold Horg

Harry Karle

Jerry Miller

Stan Knapp

Ron Pistachio

Tom Schab

Roger Wade

Don Williamson

Bill Winslow

## ***Secretary's Minutes Recap:***

### ***Sunshine Report:***

In Memoriam:

## ***SIR Organization wide Announcements:***

### **President's Letter**

**December 2015**

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On January 1, we will have a new SIR President named Don Dill. My responsibility will shift to head of the nominating committee. It will be the job of my committee to help continue SIR by choosing good leaders.

I need the help of all of our members to do the job properly. There are Sirs who think they do not have time or that the job is too hard. Are these the same men who had successful careers?

I have had nothing but support and encouragement from the leaders I have worked with in SIR. Every position I held from branch director, Little Sir, Big Sir, Area Governor and on through State President has been a small price to pay for the fellowship and fun and brotherhood I have received in SIR.

We are all volunteers in Sons in Retirement. Our leaders come from our members. To paraphrase a famous President, "Ask not what your organization can do for you; ask what you can do for Sons in Retirement."

I am waiting on your call.

Bob Hairston • 707-252-0252 • forebjeeppers@yahoo.com

## ***Pictures:***

Clovis Buchanan High School Choir performed for our Christmas Luncheon



Clovis Buchanan High School Music/Choir Director lead the Choir in a delightful presentation of Christmas Season songs. The students performance was outstanding and they are all excellent academically as well.

Yes, the future is bright with these young people becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

## ***Schedule for the Year:***

Luncheons are monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday from 11:45am to 2:00pm at Pardini's Party Center on West Shaw Ave. The luncheon cost remains \$17.00 for 2016.

We must also charge a \$2.00 per month operating assessment which we would like to receive the \$24.00 in one payment at the beginning of the year. The assessment is due whether you attend the luncheon or not.

## Library Status Report:

The Library contains over 800 paper back books for your reading delights. You can peruse the list online at the SIR web site. Select your choice of books and contact me to bring them to the luncheons for you to pick up. Please return them when you finish so we can loan them out to the other members.

When you finish reading a book, why not visit the Book Club and review your book with them. They meet at 10:30am before the monthly luncheons. You can arrive any time before 11:00am to join in.



## Activities Departments:

### Travel:

The SIR 'Chocolate and Wine Tasting' Trip is February.  
This Luncheon is the last chance to sign up!  
A great time will be had by all!



### Golf:

Still swinging it out in the rain and mud.



*OK, who stole all the orange golf balls?*

### Bridge:



### Bowling:

RESULTS - December 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>High Game</u>		<u>High Series</u>	
Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Harlan	201	Tom Harlan	500
Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Harlan	158	Tom Harlan	439
Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Merle Knapp	203	Merle Knapp	528

No bowling over the holidays. Bowling resumes Jan. 8, 2016.

### Woodworking:

*The Santa Team is on break until March.*





## **SIR Diners:**

This month, January, 24 of us met at the Black Angus for a great dinner at a very reasonable price. If the volume of sound was an indicator, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.



# "SIR DINERS"

by Maitre D  
Sir Marshall Goodwin

Our next dinner will be on February 10th at Parma's which is located at the south west corner of Palm and Herndon. We meet for Cocktails at 5:30pm with Dinner at 6. Sign up at our upcoming meeting or call me at 439-5494.



## **Aviation:**

A Drone Seminar will be presented at the EAA hangar, Skypark Airport, on Friday, January 22nd. The Seminar starts at 7pm and lasts one hour with a Q & A session following. The public invited.

The guest speaker is an attorney who has been deeply involved in the evolving laws, rules and controversy regarding drone flights. The seminar is about safe and lawful operation of drones. It is not a training course in how to fly drones.

An excellent dinner buffet will be available at 6pm and while supplies last. A donation is requested.

## **Book Club:**

We meet at 10:30 to 11:30am at Pardini's – before each of the montly luncheons. We discuss the books we have chosen the month before – from the SIR 175 library or from our own sources. All readers are welcome to join us and talk about their recent books.



## **Officers ...**

SIR BRANCH # 175 – 2016 OFFICERS

Big SIR: Tom Lean 940-7084

Little SIR: Willis 'Woody' Wilks 222-9297

Treasurer: Robert Bakman 434-1975

Asst. Treas.: Andy Provost 439-3295

Secretary: Paul Dehn 292-2225

Asst. Sectry: Merle Knapp 439-3658

DIRECTORS

Rich Grigsby -2015 439-8540

Gerald Stoltenberg -2015 439-8540

George Pope -2016 434-2136

Fred Ketchem -2016 255-4041

ACTIVITIES

Book Club: Paul Dehn 292-2225

Bowling: Merle Knapp 439-3658

Bridge: Bob Cleveland 435-5773

Golf: Stan Nappe 435-6703

Travel: Richard Beers 431-3728

BARN-YARD ACTIVITIES

Attendance: Tom Thomas 284-8744

Bulletin-ECHO: George Pisching 275-0199

Chaplain: (vacant)

Database: Mike Labda 298-7993

Hardware: Jerry Stoltenberg 289-9287

Historian: Merle Knapp 439-3658

Librarian: Dennis Murane 840-1517

Membership: Howard Jones 299-5410

Model Railroading: George Pisching 275-0199

Special Events: Fred Ketcham 225-4041

Sunshine: Keith Herzog 439-0896

Telephone: Gerry Young 447-1136

Woodworking: George Pisching 275-0199

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SONS IN RETIREMENT, Inc.

2016 STATE OFFICERS

Donald Dill — President

( ) — Vice-President

Derek Southern — State Secretary

Karl Ryden — State Treasurer

Ronald Flagel — Assistant State Secretary

Harold D'Ambrogia —Assistant State Treasurer

Director, Region 8—Jerry Strain 209 551-8220

Governor, Area 29 – B.Allan Baxter 434-1037

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Where the travel literature is prepared by a travel agency, the following words shall be added to the above wording:

“Any other ‘disclosures’ or non-responsibility provisions contained herein shall not in any way incur any liability attaching to Sons in Retirement, Incorporated, or any Branch thereof.”

**“*Sir Happenings*” is the State Bulletin: [www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org)**

**Visit our Fresno SIR Branch 175 website at: <http://175.sirinc2.org/>**