

SENIOR TIMES

**“ OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR MEMBERS THROUGH
FUN ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS WHILE MAKING FRIENDS FOR LIFE”
DECEMBER 2021 Newsletter - Turlock Branch 143**



BIG SIR SAYS...

BY ROCK LIBBY

At long last we are bidding farewell and perhaps good riddance, to 2021. Our SIR Chapter intends to do that with our last gathering of the year and one of our few in-person get togethers this year. We will enjoy our December Christmas Luncheon, a Ladies included gathering, on Wednesday December 15th at the Denair Community Center commencing at 11:30. Doors open at 10:30. **Ladies' meals are complimentary and the Gentlemen's meals are \$15 each. Tickets for this event may be purchased from Doug Brinkley. He may be reached at 209-620-8096 and you may pick up your tickets at his home. If for some reason you can't pick them up either Doug or myself will deliver them to you.** We will be enjoying a meal catered by Crust & Crumb. Expect a call from our phone tree callers to remind you. Stags are welcome and we have several, including myself who have purchased tickets (must be purchased beforehand) so if you come alone you won't be alone.



are in for a treat. If you have, you know what I mean. While this has been a trying year, I have enjoyed serving as your Big Sir for 2021. I am appreciative of the assistance of the BEC (Board Executive Committee), made up of some very hard-working members who have served our Chapter with energy and enthusiasm. There were many intense and at times stressful discussions making decisions to help us keep our membership safe and to navigate through these difficult times. Gentlemen, I thank you all.

I extend thanks to the membership as well. They have done all we asked of them to see us through this. It has been inspiring to watch the members enjoy each other's company and fellowship in spite of our current political polarization. We are fortunate that one of the SIR rules is "No Politics". We have done remarkably well in that area.

Our BEC has Covid protocols in place and you may be sure we have done everything possible to provide the safest event that we can. These safety measures include proof of vaccination and the signing of our Covid Waiver. We want to make everyone as comfortable as possible and we will provide masks and hand sanitizer upon entrance.

Lastly, I hope you all will remain vigilant where Covid is concerned. Be safe. Above all, be kind.

Rock

We have invited Scott Atherton, of the Turlock Historical Society to provide the program. Scott will give an account of the history of the "Roaring '20s" in our area. I believe he means the 1920's. Hopefully, he will be accompanied by his lovely wife, Nancy. Those of you who have not heard Scott speak

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS:
JANUARY 1-2 and 3 of 2022**

JOIN US IN DECEMBER

11:30 am - CHRISTMAS lunch meeting December 15th - WILL BE HELD AT DENAIR COMMUNITY CENTER and is being catered by Crust and Crumb.

**8 am - BEC meeting December 17th - Will be at MY GARDEN CAFE
8 am start time.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83965148832?pwd=RFh5dFBobFR1c2lWZjBpRURMTFp1Zz09>



SIR TRAVEL

BILL STIRES
TRAVEL CHAIRMAN



**Top of Switzerland and
Oberammergau, Germany
and the Passion Play.**
**August 27 -
September 7, 2022**

Price: \$4,725 double occupancy (Land only)
Airfare to be added in October 2021.

ONLY 2 SPOTS LEFT FOR OUR GROUP

Highlights:

- 2 night stay in Zurich, Switzerland.** Tour of city and leisure time on own to explore this great Swiss city.
- 1 night stay in Interlaken, Switzerland.** A trip to the "Top of Europe" with a Panorama 360 Degree Experience of viewing France, Germany, and Italy.
- 2 night stay in Brienz, Switzerland.** Visit a Woodcarving Museum, walk through the romantic Brunnigasse, once awarded the title "Most Beautiful Street in Europe."
- 2 night stay in Lucerne, Switzerland.** A tour of the city and a farewell dinner to Switzerland. Travel through Innsbruck, Austria and on to the picturesque city of Oberammergau, Germany.
- 2 night stay in Oberammergau and the Passion Play.** The Passion Play takes place only once every 10 years and is performed by people that live in Oberammergau.
- 2 night stay in Munich, Germany.** Orientation featuring Olympic Stadium, Olympic Tower and Marienplatz.
- 17 meals, Headsets throughout the tour, and much more.**



**Call Bill at 209-988-5445 or
209-544-2684
to reserve your spot.**

**MORE TRIPS ON
NEXT PAGE**

This trip was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 and is rescheduled.



Holland Tulip Festival Tour



**Featuring
Mackinac
Island's Grand Hotel
May 12-19, 2022**

Price: \$4,045 Per Person Double Occupancy

PRICE WILL INCREASE ON FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Deposit \$650 per person - Final Payment January 10, 2022

This trip is sold out and now there is a wait list.

Deposit will be charged when the trip opens back up.

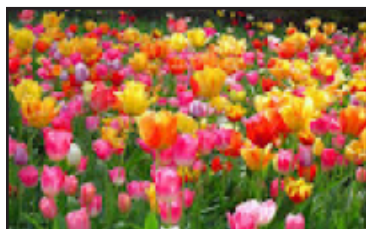


Trip Highlights:

- Transportation to and from airport
- Airfare into Chicago, returning from Detroit
- Gratuities for Tour Manager and Bus Driver
- Spend 1 night in Chicago with a guided tour of the city
- Attend the annual Tulip Festival in Holland, Michigan
- Visit Veldheer-DeKlomp Musiekparade (Music Parade)
- Spend 2 nights at the Grand Hotel, the crown jewel of Macinac Island
- Tour Macinac Island via a horse-drawn carriage
- Take the River Rouge Ford Factory Tour
- \$40 in Mayflower Money
- Much, much more



As this trip was cancelled it will fill up fast with all those that did not get to go on the trip in 2020.



**Call Bill at 209-988-5445 or 209-544-2684
or email at bstires46@gmail.com to receive a
brochure and reservation form for any of the trips.**

BEC MINUTES

BRANCH 143 - SIR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Held on - NOVEMBER 19, 2021

BEC Meeting Agenda

Call to Order: 8:05 AM

Guests: Rick Kindle, State President Elect.

Attendance: Rock Libby, Greg Back, Leonard Zumstein, Mike Sakaguchi, Fred Courter, Bill Stires, Larry Hughes, Kenny Edwards, Gary Toombs, Kevin Byrne and Bob Holly.

Treasurer's Report: Leonard Zumstein.

Check book balance **\$4,221.32**

Cash on hand **\$325,**

Total **\$4221.32**

Funds received in the amount of \$15.00 from Andy Elder to be donated to Salvation Army.

Funds received from Berry Vincent to be refunded in the amount of \$30.00 due to his passing.

Approved with a 1st by Gary Toombs and 2nd by Bob Holly.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were approved as emailed with

1st by Greg Back and 2nd by Mike Sakaguchi.

Committee Reports:

- Membership Report indicates: Current membership is 110 with today's BEC approval of the reinstatement of Wayne Ricky and Charles Greer. All approved with a 1st by Bob Holly and 2nd by Greg Back.

- Golf report

- Bowling

- Travel Bill: Stires trips are still planned as scheduled

- Bocce Ball:
- Dine in/Dine out
- Travel/RV
- Sunshine
- Newsletter
- RC Flying
- Fishing
- Chess
- Card Games
- Program

Unfinished Business: Phone Tree, need feedback from contacts in a more efficient manner to allow time to make reservation on food and all activities

New Business: Review Branch Covid protocols for admission to events. A review was completed and no changes were made.

Help is needed at the sign in table for the Christmas luncheon.

A suggestion was made to invite widows of late members to Christmas luncheon.

The Topic of what to do when members ask to have a meal reserved and do not show for the event and do not pay a decision was not made.

The ideal of purchasing poinsettias for the center pieces for the Christmas luncheon was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 AM

Respectfully submitted by
Ken Edwards,
Secretary, Branch 143



THIS MONTH:
FREE LUNCH
for spouses or significant others
at our December
Christmas Luncheon
at the Community Center in Denair

Tickets for this event may be purchased from Doug Brinkley. He may be reached at 209-620-8096 and you may pick up your tickets at his home.



WINE TASTING

By Russ Winton



Wine Investigation for Novices and Oenophiles (W.I.N.O.)



Our Journey to Sicily

The Phoenicians did it, so did the Carthaginians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Arabs, the Normans, the Spaniards and even the Allied Forces. Now it was our time to invade Sicily. The Navigator and I spent 15 days with eight other travelers and a crazy/energetic guide exploring the island of Sicily. With a small group we were able to connect with local people through visits to farms, wineries, workshops, artisans' studios and homes.

We visited Greek and Roman temples and theaters, an elaborate Roman villa, castles and more cathedrals than you can shake a stick at. We visited museums, street markets, took a joy ride in vintage Fiat 500's and climbed Mt. Etna on fresh lava sand. We enjoyed sampling street food, home cooked meals and traditional Sicilian restaurants, even some with Michelin stars. And we sampled Sicilian wine.

Sicily is home to more than 50 indigenous grape varieties. The island is ideal for grape growing with rich soils, sea breezes and hilly topography. The lush and fruit-forward Nero d'Avola is Sicily's most popular red. It is their number one export to America. And Grillo, (gree-lo) a fresh aromatic white grape, is number two.

I found a nifty Sicilian Wine Cheat Sheet online, produced by the Wines of Sicilia DOC. It stated that if you like

Sauvignon Blanc or Pinot Grigio, then try Grillo, a grassy-sassy cousin to Sauvignon Blanc. If you like Chenin Blanc or Albarino, then try Lucido, with aromas of ripe citrus, melon and herbal flavors, with a full body and healthy acidity. If you like Cabernet, Grenache or Syrah, try Nero d'Avola. This big red, though accessible when young, has the capacity to evolve over time. If you like Gamay or Pinot Noir, try Frappato. It is ruby colored, with aromas of violets, spices, red cherry, with ripe tannins and lingering freshness. Sicily has 23 DOC wines and one DOCG, the Cerasuolo di Vittoria, a blend of dark Nero d'Avola and Frappato.

Invading Sicily was the perfect escape we desperately needed after two years of being house-bound. Here's to Sicily, our eight new friends and our sweet zany guide, Cheers!

What's On Our Table

The steal this week is Costco's 2020 Avalon Cabernet Sauvignon from Lodi for just \$7.99 and with \$3 off, its just \$4.99! The deal, from the Grocery Outlet, is the 2017 Boom Boom Syrah from the Columbia Valley in Washington, priced at \$6.99. The Lodi 2019 Mohr Fry Ranch Old Vine Zinfandel from St. Amant Winery lists for \$20. Costco's price is under \$14. For a 93 point wine, this is a steal and a deal. Cheers!

Find me on Facebook or at rgwinton@yahoo.com.



BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

Manuel Drumonde, Duane Larson, Tom Mickelsen, Sam Pulido,
Mark Taylor, Frank Watts, John Chance,
R. Jay Faughn, Ron Martella



ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

Joe Adams, Ed Boyle, Marvin Larson, Toby Masterson,
Jack Miller, Don Petersen, Sam Pulido, Anthony Silva

Please Support our Branch Sponsors

DON'S MOBILE GLASS advertisement with contact info and image of a truck.

THE GREENERY Nursery and Garden Shop advertisement with phone number and website.

Neto's Catering advertisement with menu items and contact information.

Rigo Arteaga Cars ETC advertisement for auto body and paint.

JAYS Tires advertisement with address and phone number.

PMZ REAL ESTATE advertisement for Tracee Storms.

Edith's CRUST & CRUMB Artisan Pizza & Bakery advertisement with address.

PMZ REAL ESTATE advertisement for Kevin Storms.

TURLOCK BRANCH NO. 143 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN OFFICERS FOR 2021

Big Sir.....	Rock Libby	634-6508
Little Sir/Web Master.....	Greg Back	585-6862
Secretary	Ken Edwards	620-9532
Assistant Secretary	Larry Date	632-7287
Treasurer.....	Leonard Zumstein	634-8878
Assistant Treasurer.....	Mike Sakaguchi	602-5740
Membership.....	Larry Hughes	578-1194
Assistant Membership.....	Ted Thorne	874-2249
Recruiting.....	OPEN	
Bowling	Tony Ferro	634-8377
Travel	Bill Stires	544-2684
Roster/Mailing	Larry Hughes	578-1194
Golf.....	Joe Adams	632-8197
Assistant Golf	Ray Walker	606-9889
Sunshine	Ted Thorn	535-8696
Newsletter Editor/Photo	Fred Courter	226-1173
Bocce Ball	Tom Bundy	668-5163
Program	Gary Potter	667-8516
Assistant Program	OPEN	
Catering/Hall Set-Up	Earl Hamilton	606-4525
Chaplain	Earl Hamilton	606-4525
Wagon Master.....	Ken Kajjoka	602-8351
Trail Boss	OPEN	
Dine-In ~ Dine-Out.....	Gary Toombs	604-8406
Nominating Committee Chair.....	Greg Back	585-6862
Directors:	Gary Toombs, Kevin Byrne, Bob Holly, Larry Hughes, Fred Courter, Mike Sakaguchi	

STATE OFFICERS

State President: Stu Williams - 510-865-5000
 State Vice President: Rick Kindle - 209-652-8608
 Regional Director: Dale Decker - 209-533-0455
 Area 18 Governor: Richard Provost 209-222-1910