



The Chanticleer

New 159 website - www.branch159.sirinc2.org

Program: The Bullard Talent

Date December 10, 2015

Place Pardini's Restaurant
2257 W. Shaw Avenue

Social Hour 11:00 AM

Meeting : 12 Noon
\$ 15 and no Buck Bucket

As our 25th year comes to a close, I can confidently say that the future looks great for SIR Branch 159.

This past year, we saluted our founders, held down costs, digitized the Chanticleer, grew the "Date Nite," and settled into a new routine by undertaking the beneficial change to the best catered food in Fresno at Pardini's.



Big SIR Charlie

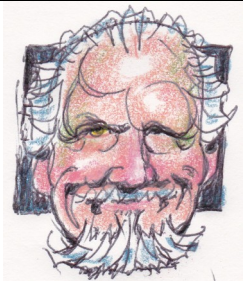
This is, however, just preliminary to the good things that are coming in 2016! It is now almost certain that all four Fresno branches will be meeting at Pardini's. An upgrade in the sound system is in the offing, and the lineup of speakers in 2016 promises to be top-notch. Best of all, more SIRs than ever before are stepping up. New board, committee and activity chairs will take ownership. They bring exciting new prospects for recruiting and retention, planting a new Visalia branch, growing the golf program, and rejuvenating the activities programs generally.

I tell you, boys, "You ain't seen nothing yet!"

I am proud and pleased to welcome the exciting new team of Perry Huffman and Gary Smith into leadership. These great guys are going to be even more terrific in tandem. Together with some outstanding new board members, I know that you will love the 2016 leadership team, with their fresh outlook and direction. I hope that I don't have to miss any of the 159 2016 season - and if I do, it will not be by choice. Be there with me!

Before the gavel is finally passed, however, there are a few more guys that I would like to thank for their individual contributions. You have heard me in the past speak of "roosters who fight above their weight. By that I mean guys who show more initiative and commitment than you would (**Big SIR continued on page 2**)

Guys, try not to be the turkey...step up and out to our annual December Ladies Day Holiday lunch. Strut, cock-a-doodle, be brightly colored and bushy tailed with your lovely lady. We will flock to SIR Pardini's fine dining for another festive celebration of the wonders of womanhood.



Little SIR Perry

We love strutting with our ladies. Shane has Mike Rumley to present The Bullard Talent to entertain us. There are lots of delightful door prizes for our honored guest.

Our Sir leadership continues to do a great job of communicating our needs with Pardini's and improving the quality of Pardini's food and service through next year for all SIR Fresno Branches.

Last month's speaker, Janice Stevens informed and riveting presentation about our Sir Veterans, was a big hit. Just one day after Veterans Day.

We respect and thank her for her dedication to preserving Veterans places in our history. I notice there was very little chatting and only a few of you blinked during Janice's touching stories. Some of you just may want to tell her your stories. We are Lucky Guys.

Christmas...way back in time and over there in a young Avenal...when I was about four and brother Basil about six... we sat by the little wood stove, each opened our small Christmas present and laid eyes on our first shiny new pocket knife.

Pop must have believed his boys should have a handy apple peeling fish-gutting and what-not pocket knife at all times.

We were sitting there admiring our treasured pocket knives when Basil opened the longer blade to check it out. He opened mine for (**Little SIR continued on page 2**)

December Menu

**Ladies Day
Christmas Menu
See page 6**

Be A Friend - Bring a Friend

(Big SIR continued from page 1) expect.” Had my situation allowed me to attend the November luncheon, I would have used the opportunity to salute Mike Moyle, Mike Rumley, and Gilbert Matossian, offering them three cheers and a “cock-a-doodle-do!” I would have then turned to Chaplain Jack Leonard, and long-time telephone chair and founding member Ron Travis, rendered a hand salute, and offered our thanks for long and faithful service. Finally, I would have noted the absence of our other founding member, unable to attend as he battles health issues, and pledge our prayers and hopes for George and Betty Culverwell

Let it be so! Further, let the bright prospect of a future filled with fun and fellowship visit Branch 159.

Gentlemen, you have pleased and honored me! I am privileged to know you, and enriched for the opportunity. The road ahead looks straight and smooth, but interesting and pleasant.

On behalf of my late friend Dennis Costello, whose term I shared, and myself: Thank you! God’s speed, and BEST OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP, BRANCH 159!

Editors Note We should applaud these 159 members who have stepped forward to assume leadership roles at the SIR State level:

Director Region 8

Governor Area 29

State Golf Policy Committee

Secretary State Golf Committee

Division 5 Golf Chairman

Area 29 Golf Chairman

Allan Baxter

Charlie Barrett

Dave Betts

Gilbert Matossian

Butch Evans

Mike Moyle

Our 159 Golf Group should also be recognized as one of the best golf groups in the SIR organization. They provide varied and interesting tournaments each week at different courses; with the schedule, sign-up sheets, pairings, and results posted on the 159 Golf Website each week. This takes a lot of effort by some to benefit the whole group. Thanks guys!!

(Little SIR continued from page 1) me and we thought we would just whittle a little on a piece of handy fire wood.

One of Avenal’s Semi-Famous Christmas-Calamities was caused when I pulled my new pocket knife toward me. It caught, then slipped and poked me in the cheek below my right eye.

I became a bloody cut-up and all that blood panicked Mom. She thought older brother Basil had stabbed me... maybe for good reason. When things were settled down...we had no handy knives.

Back here in Fresno...you can be even more of a proud Rooster when you treat your good lady to dine for a second time in one month.

Take her out to our Ladies Date Night Delight Dec. 16th. Enjoy...visit friends and get to know more new friends...just don’t be a careless cut-up, Kid.

Hey...remember to get your interesting buddy to join us for our Jan. SIR lunch. He will see how charming we are and learn of our variety of enjoyable activities. Then, let’s persuade him to join SIR #159...just for fun.

We are resuming rewards for our members in good standing who bring in new members and make our branch stronger. More info to come later on recruitment rewards.

When you bring a Jan. guest...be sure to tell your caller for the food count. We will have a fine lunch.

Remember in January...to start your SIR new year...you need to **bring your \$15 assessment check** to pay for insurance and our SIR state expenses. If you have lagged behind...you will need to catch up and be square with a clean slate.

SIR of the Month — Gary Smith

It is September of 1972, and we find Captain Gary Smith in the navigation compartment in the belly of a B-52 over North Vietnam. His instruments tell him that a SAM (Surface to Air Missile) has just been launched. He immediately checks his seat belts to make sure that they are secure, knowing that in 55 seconds he may be on a ride for his life. He doesn’t want the seat to leave the plane without him. His ejection position would be down. He then checks to make sure that he had switched the right switches to keep the aborted mission from scattering 88 bombs over Vietnam. The SAM missed his plane attesting to the fact that he will be our new Little SIR for 2016.



SIR Gary started his life in September 1945 in Cleveland, Ohio. His family consists of Mom and Dad along with 2 sisters and a brother. His first 18 years were spent in Cleveland with an ordinary childhood doing all the things an active child does growing up. He played the 4 major sports in high school. In junior high, he loved horses and a got position at Parker Ranch helping tend the ranch. As it turns out, unknown to him, the owner, Adele Von Ohl, was a contemporary of Any Oakley and Buffalo Bill. She was a trick rider with the Wild West show. He only learned of this after her death from her obituary. He left Cleveland to attend Bowling Green College

where he earned a degree in Psychology.

Following college, he joined the Airforce. Gary was a navigator from 1970 to 1972. He flew 125 combat missions Over Viet Nam. Upon his discharge in October of 1972, he returned to Ohio.

He wanted to become a lawyer, but the semester had already begun in the law school. He found that he could get into San Juaquin law school in Fresno right away, so he moved here. His wife at the time was from Sacramento, so Fresno was close enough. After arriving in Fresno, they adopted 2 children; a boy, Kyle and a girl, Devon. Both of his children still live in Fresno.

While going to law school, Gary worked as an insurance adjuster. In 1977 he became a lawyer. He practiced civil law until 1998. His specialty was subrogation law. (look it up, I had never heard of it either) He had gotten divorce in 1984. In 1986 he married Charolette, but they got divorced in 1998.

1998 found him in Antioch. He was going back into insurance, but the company he started with went bankrupt 2 months later. (Honestly, Gary had nothing to do with the company folding.) A friend then suggested that he try teaching. After a 30 minute interview, He was hired at Hillview Middle School in Pittsburg, CA. He taught Language Arts and History. During the summer he took classes to get an emergency credential.

While in Antioch, in 1994, Gary and 3 other Civil War reenactment participants go fed up with the group that was running and ruining the west coast reenactment activities. They formed their own group and formed the 20th Maine CoG. This is the group that is featured in the movie Gettysburg. There were tons of interest in their new Association. They called it the American Civil War Association. By the end of their second season, they had 500 members. They grew because of fundamental changes from the previous group and had a clear mission focus. One focus was to have fun. Everyone was welcome especially the families. He was president for 3 years and was "term of office" out. He is proud of the fact that they were the second largest club west of the Mississippi after two years, and were the fastest growing club in the country. After 20 years, the ACWA remains a thriving organization and hosts the Kearney Park reenactment. He would be happy to tell you all about the intrigue that went on with the formation of the ACWA.

Two years of teaching was enough for Gary, in June of 2000 he moved back to Fresno where he met Jeanette. She worked for Las Palmas Counseling, and Jeanette introduced him to her boss. Gary was hired to counsel prisoners who were paroled or being given probation. This allowed him to use the three disciplines, law, psychology, and teaching in which he had gained

experience. Criminals are required to participate in counseling as part of their release. Gary retired from counseling in 2010.

He became a gentleman farmer planting fruit trees. He loves planting hybrids fruits. Some that he has planted are: Plumcot, Pluot, Aprium, nectaplum, peacoeum, pluerry, and pleach. His favorites are pleach and aprium. He and Jeanette have sold their house and are moving to a house off Milburn and Hern-don. Gary is trying to figure out how to get 45 trees in a small back yard. He is thinking of starting a SIR gardening group.

Gary joined SIR in 2011. Having met Butch Evans playing golf, Butch became his sponsor. As a SIR, he participates in golf, date nights, and some travel activities. He is happy to see more women getting involved in SIR. Starting in January, SIR Gary will be at the podium introducing our monthly speaker. If you have someone you think would be a good speaker, please contact Gary. He is very approachable.

From Treasurer, Shane Petersen

The 2016 assessments are now due and will remain at \$15. Our assessments pay for: administrative meetings, state assessments, ink and paper, candy, wine and tickets for our raffles, and paying for the meals of those members who say they are going to attend but don't show up.

Please make checks for \$15 payable to SIR Branch 159; and mail to Shane Petersen 3245 E. Sample Ave. Fresno, Ca. 93710 or give him your check at the luncheon.

SIR Branch #159 Expense Breakdown

Telephone Directory and Supplies	\$2,050
BEC Expenses	\$ 500
SIR State assessments	\$1,265
Total Expenses	\$3,815

Assessments

239 Active Members X \$15 each =	\$3,585
Total Assessments If everybody pays their dues	\$3,815
Total Expenses	\$3,815
Balance	(\$ 230)

Our 50/50 Raffle helps offset this negative number, so thank you for participating in our raffles as some have not paid their 2015 dues yet.

Digital Media/Computer Group:

There will be no December meeting due to Christmas activities. Our next meeting will be on the Third Tuesday 1/19/2016 at 1PM.

Roger.Deal@Comcast.net

Golfers Corner

Hard to believe our 2016 golf season is already underway. The 2016 golf schedule will soon be posted on our golf website, however you can find our January games in the December Chanticleer.



Shane Petersen
Winner 2-Man Team Flt. #1

Some changes took place. Unfortunately, Sierra Meadows closed permanently and is no longer part of our normal game rotation. With our golf buddies from SIR 169, we tried hard to land Eagle Springs (formerly Brighton Crest), but somehow "management" did not seem interested in having SIR players. It's their loss, maybe they'll come back for 2017? But the best news is that we've added Sunnyside CC twice to our normal rotation. We also increased the number of games at Belmont CC, Madera CC and Pheasant Run.

2016 Golf Chairmen & Assistants

January:	Mike Williamson / Carl Merz
Feb:	Ron Wilson / Rich Lewis
March:	John Briceno / Paul Gabrielson
April:	Rich Zanarini / Joe Montejano
May:	Duke Marshall / Russ Hewer
June	James Noriega / Steve Chase
July;	Joe Hushek / Howard Zinn
Aug:	Steve Chase / John Briceno
Sep:	Gary Smith / Terrence Byrne
Oct:	Dell Kerns / Mike Rumley
Nov:	Alex Ramirez / Roger Mc Coy
Dec:	Open

Playing in our tournaments requires a valid GHIN handicap index. The Annual Renewal for the 2016 SIR Branch 159 NCGA GHIN membership is \$40 if paid by December 15, then it will be \$50 (same as for a new membership). If you haven't already done so, please send your check (payable to



Duke Marshall
Branch Championship Flt #3
Low Gross Runner Up

SIR Branch 159 Golf) to Rich Lewis, 573W Muncie Ave. Clovis, CA 93619.

SIR is not a golf club, although our branch is considered an Associate Golf Club with the NCGA. It's no secret that



Carl Merz
Branch Championship, Flt. #2
Low Gross Winner

Branch 159 December Golf Schedule

Chairman Jim Morgan 289-9759

Thur 12/3	10AM	SG	Pheasant Run
Wed 12/9	10AM	SG	Madera G&CC
Thur 12/17	10AM	SG	Madera Muni
Thur 12/24	10AM	SG	Riverside
Thur 12/31	10AM	SG	Airways
Thur 1/7	9:30AM	MSG	Dragonfly
Wed 1/13	10AM	SG	Madera G&CC
Thur 1/21	10AM	SG	Ridge Creek
Thur 1/28	10AM	SG	Pheasant Run

golf is by far our branch main activity and that our golfers are part of the branch continued success. It's also no secret that SIR needs to grow with new members. I believe its our duty to help our branch grow again and the best approach is by recruiting guests who will become active SIR members. We're going to start over soon with new materials and ideas to bring back the growth we need.

Grow GOLF & Grow SIR.

On the morning of a regular weekly event, when the weather conditions are bad (storm, rain, wind, fog, frost, etc ..) please call the pro shop 1 hr before you need to leave to arrive on time to find out about the event status.

Attendance Report

In November, 2015, SIR Branch #159 had 236 active members with 147 of those members attending the November 12, 2015 luncheon at Pardini's. This represents 62% of the active membership. Total attendance at that luncheon was 152 members and guests. Of the 89 members absent, 55 were excused. Members are expected to attend the monthly meeting or to notify the Attendance Chairman when the wish to be excused. Three consecutive unexcused absences or six unexcused absences in a twelve month period constitutes a jeopardy to membership. If you are unable to attend a future meeting, PLEASE call 447-5388 or send an email to DukMarshal@aol.com When you call or email please include your NAME and BADGE NUMBER

Duke Marshall
Attendance Chairman

SIR BEST Bowling for November

The Sir's bowling league is active and rolling. Come join in the fun on Friday afternoon at 1:00 pm. Cost is \$8 for 3 games. Check the data on the Sir's 159 Bowling Page. Just click on the bowler icon. We welcome SIR members from all branches. We are a non-sanctioned league, we are there for the activity, comradery and FUN. Come join the fun.

Fall/Winter league began Sept. 11. It is never too late to join in the fun. Hope to see you there.

DATE		NAME	SCORE	BRANCH
6-Nov	Hi Hdep. Series	Duke Marshall	582	159
	Hi Scratch Series	Duke Marshall	534	159
	Hi Hdep. Game	Duke Marshall	221	159
	Hi Scratch Game	Duke Marshall	205	159
13-Nov	Hi Hdep. Series	James Noriega	641	159
	Hi Scratch Series	Duke Marshall	577	159
	Hi Hdep. Game	James Noriega	266	159
	Hi Scratch Game	James Noriega	230	159
20-Nov	Hi Hdep. Series	Merle Knapp	613	175
	Hi Scratch Series	Merle Knapp	508	175
	Hi Hdep. Game	Tom Harlan	237	175
	Hi Scratch Game	Tom Harlan	201	175
27-Nov	Hi Hdep. Series	Jim Whitmer	577	159
	Hi Scratch Series	Duke Marshall	515	159
	Hi Hdep. Game	Duke Marshall	218	159
	Hi Scratch Game	Duke Marshall	202	159

Bridge Scores

11/3 1st. Gene Tognazzini,
2nd. Vic Froehmer 3rd. Bob Cleveland
4th. Fred Wrazel, 5th. George Rurik
6th. Hugh Cox
Consolation: Jim Lund
High score: 4370 Gene Tognazzini
High table: 1590
Bob Cleveland Vic Froehmer

11/17 1st. Gene Tognazzini, 2nd. Fred Wrazel, 3rd. Hugh Cox, 4th. Charles Ratliff, 5th. Jim Lund,
6th. George Rurik, 7th. Jack Leonard-
Consolation: Bob Cleveland
High score: 3720 Gene Tognazzini-
High table: 1230 Jim Lund

Anniversaries

Peggy & Henry Aranjo
Betty & Norm Bainter
Diane & Bud Burrows
Annabelle & Rick Flores
Barbara & Perry Huffman
Becky & Scott Lang
Judi & Rich Lewis
Linda & Gene Marshall
Angie & Jim Morgan
Lasara & Manuel Nunez
Debbie & Rick Pezzi
Phyllis & Michael Rumley
Karen & Gene Tognazzini

Birthdays

Don Avakian, Don Blosser, BoBolin
Don Corley, Jeffrey Curtin, Joe
D'Amico, Vic Froehmer, Frank
Kurihara, Stan Littleworth, Bob
Mattson, Carl Mhoon, Michael
Petrovich, Chuck Royse, George Rurik-
Tom Ryno, EdSmiley, Fred Stein



Don Smith is on his deathbed and knows the end is near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter and 2 sons, are with him. He asks for 2 witnesses to be present and a camcorder be in place to record his last wishes, and when all is ready he begins to speak:
—My son, "Bernie, I want you to take the Mayfair houses."
— My son, "Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the City Center."
— My daughter "Sybil, you take the apartments over in the East end. City Center."
— "Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the banks of the river."

The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they did not realize his extensive holdings, and as Don slips away, the nurse says, "Mrs. Smith, your husband must have been such a hard-

working man to have accumulated all that property"

Sarah replies, "Property ? The asshole had a paper route!"



Husband: Oh, come on.
Wife: Leave me alone!
Husband: It won't take long. **Wife: I won't be able to sleep afterwards.**

Husband: I can't sleep without it.
Wife: Why do you think of things like this in the middle of the night?
Husband: Because I'm hot.
Wife: You get hot at the darnedest times.

Husband: If you love me I wouldn't have to beg you.

Wife: If you love me you'd be more considerate.

Husband: You don't love me any-more.

Wife: Yes I do, but let's forget it for tonight.

Husband: Please...go on.

Wife: All right, I'll do it.

Husband: What's the matter? You need a flashlight?

Wife: I can't find it in the dark.

Husband: Oh, for heaven's sake, feel for it!

Wife: There! Are you satisfied?

Husband: Oh, yes.

Wife: Is it up far enough?

Husband: Yeah! that's good.

Wife: Right! Now go to sleep.

And the next time you want the bloody window open, do it yourself.

Now, what were you expecting?



THE SENILITY PRAYER :

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,
the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.



BRANCH #159 ---



Sons in Retirement

★ ★ ★ presents

The Annual Holiday Ladies Day Luncheon



Pardini's:

Thursday, December 10, 2015

11 AM: Social Hour

12 Noon: Lunch & Program



Luncheon Choices-

- Roast Turkey with Herb Dressing
- Baked Ham with Yams
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Salad, Dessert, Beverage



- FEATURING -
THE BULLARD TALENT

-- DOOR PRIZES FOR THE LADIES --

\$19 Per Person

Reserve by mailing check to:

Mike Rumley
2795 Bellaire Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

Name: _____

Guest: _____

Turkey Ham

Turkey Ham

Phone: 559-515-6129

*Make checks payable to "SIR Branch #159"

