



The Chanticleer

New 159 website - www.branch159.sirinc2.org

Program : **PROGRAM CANCELLED**

Date May 14, 2020

Place Pardini's Restaurant
2257 W. Shaw Avenue

Social Hour 11:00 AM

Luncheon: 12 Noon

\$16 per person

Activities Calendar for APRIL

Date	Event	Contact
APR TBD	Whitmer's Warriors Golf	Steve Chase
APR TBD	Model Railroading	Robert Sexton
APR TBD	SIR Golf	Duke Marshall
APR TBD	Dine Out Night	??
APR TBD	SIRS Bowling	Duke Marshall
APR TBD	SIR Bridge	Vic Froehmer
APR TBD	SIRs Luncheon	Pete Openshaw (RSVP)
APR TBD	History Roundtable	Gary Lemaster
APR TBD	9 Hole Golf	Charlie Barrett
APR TBD	Pinochle	Duke Marshall
APR TBD	KornHole	Dell Kerns
APR TBD	Horseshoes	Rich Lewis
APR TBD	Poker	Vic Froehmer
APR TBD	Book Exchange	Paul Gabrielson

2020 Speakers

	Thursday, April 9, 2020	CANCELLED
Thursday, May 14, 2020	Eric Owen — Inspector General Office of Social Security	
Thursday, June 11, 2020	Stella De La Pena — Alzheimer's Association	
Thursday, July 9, 2020	Michael Carbajal, City of Fresno Utilities Director	
Thursday, August 13, 2020	David Rodriguez – Pinedale Historian	
Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020	Fresno Mayor Lee Brand	
Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020	Steve Menchenella former pro at Sunnyside CC	
Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020	Michael Lella - Beneath the Scarlett Sky	

You are invited...

Perry Huffman's is being honored through May with a Retrospective Art Show of his art career.

- Third-Thursday evenings 5:00 To 8:00 in The Fresno Armenian Museum in the U.C. Merced building is on 550 E. Shaw Ave. across from Fashion Fair and east of Fresno St.

SEE ATTACHED FLYER FOR MORE INFORMATION.

LITTLE SIR BRUCE CORWIN'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

Hello Roosters and Happy Easter

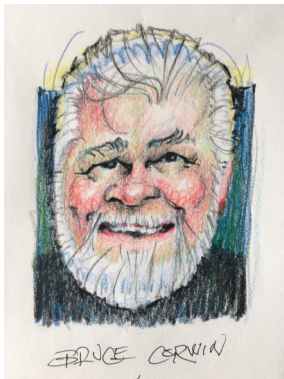
Our Big Sir Dell is still in the hospital as I write this note and we are hoping for his recovery. Keep him in your thoughts.

Our lunch for April 9 is CANCELLED due to COVID-19 concerns. The State SIR leadership also advised that we **cancel all activities** until this threat is over. So for now we are all to stay home as much as possible. Your Board will meet in April to decide the future for our lunches and activities so stay tuned and stay well.

Pardini's is suffering as well due to the closure, but they are offering you the chance to buy meals and make a direct donation via the Pardini's catering site. Let's show them our appreciation by at least donating our individual April lunch costs. See below:

Beginning Monday March 23rd Pardini's will be offering prepared meals for families of all sizes, filled with our classics that you know and love. When you visit our website, you can order family-style meals for pickup, with free delivery for orders of \$50 or more within a four-mile radius of our Pardini's Banquet location.

The best part? 30% of all orders goes to our Employee Relief Fund, to financially benefit our staff. You can also donate at any time through our website.



To order or donate to the Employee Relief Fund, [CLICK HERE](#) or call us during normal business hours at (559) 224-3188. Stay tuned for menu updates and more information to come. We thank you for your contributions and look forward to serving you.

[See Bruce's history on viruses farther down the newsletter.](#)

PINOCHLE NEWS

In March we had to Cancel the game scheduled for the 27th due to the coronavirus. However on the 13th we managed to pull 3 players together to play a game of 3 handed cut throat pinochle. Bill Laudig and Steve Chase and myself resumed where we left off last month, I ran away with the first game and Bill squeaked by in the second. We are wishing our teammate, Big Sir Dell Kerns a speedy recovery. We will meet if SIR state recommends we resume normal activities.

The Pinochle group meets every 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, 1 to 3:30 pm and meet at my place for now at 3434 W Menlo , just off of Sierra & Valentine. When playing double deck partners we manage to get in one game to 500 and if we have three players single deck cut-throat to 100 allows for three games. Just about everyone comes out a winner on the month. As November turns the corner our play dates should be the 8th & 22th. We are now inviting wives and SOs to join in. We currently have 10 Sirs members in our group. More are welcome. Contact me, Duke Marshall @ 447-5388 if you would like to join us.

Branch 159 Officers, Directors

2020 BRANCH OFFICERS

BIG SIR: Dell Kerns 559-277-3971
LITTLE SIR: Bruce Corwin 559-375-1689
SECRETARY: Vic Froehmer 559-270-4354
ASST. SECRETARY: Robert Scott 559-696-2158
TREASURER: Brian Nicholson 559-285-8928
ASST. TREASURER: Brett Bayley 619-507-0357

2020 BRANCH DIRECTORS

Roger Deal (HLM) 559-297-7022
John Crawford [2020] 559-779-2484
Thomas Simpson (2022) 559-432-2787
Gary Morgan (2020) 559-277-1249
Ron Wilson (2020) 559-960-8294
Steve Chase (2021) 559-252-2600
:
Pete Openshaw (2021) 559-674-7211

The Golden Rule

Therefore, all things whatever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets. [Mt.7-12]

2020 BRANCH SUPPORT PERSONEL

ATTENDANCE CHAIRMAN: Ken Lindsay 559-284-6486
CHAPLIN: Charles Barrett 559-439-8388
HISTORIAN: Gary Becker 559-251-7408
LIBRARIAN: Paul Gabrielson 559-269-2030
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: John Crawford 559-779-2484
MEMBER RELATIONS: Bob Moore 559-322-6909
NEWSLETTER: Fred Martinez 559-432-1864
ROOSTER: Gary Morgan 559-277-1249
SUNSHINE: Charles Barrett 559-439-8388
TELEPHONE CALLERS: Pete Openshaw 559-674-7211
WEB MASTER: Gary Morgan 559-277-1249



Picture of 2020 SIR 159 officers.

February's Best Bowling

Just like all of our SIR's sponsored events our bowling came to an abrupt halt the week following the luncheon. Until further notice we are on hold and we will resume asap.

I say to those of you that are not making it **COME ON DOWN and HAVE SOME FUN!** Statistics our kept and posted to the SIR 159 website on the bowling page. We invite any and all SIR members to come join us – Tuesday afternoons, 1 PM at Bowlero Lanes (formerly Sierra Lanes) at the corner of Blackstone & Sierra. Anyone interested, please contact Duke Marshall @ 447-5388 or just show up and we will get you started. See you there.

Here are a week by week best scoring of the week.

DATE		NAME	SCORE
Mar 03	Hi Scratch Series	Ed Beier 159	585
	Hi Hdcp. Series	Bill Laudig 159	720
	Hi Scratch Game	Hector Leyva 159	223
	Hi Hdcp. Game	Joe Huizar 159	261
Mar 10	Hi Scratch Series	Ed Beier 159	578/222
	Hi Hdcp. Series	James Noriega 159	737
	Hi Scratch Game	Dennis Rich 159	221
	Hi Hdcp. Game	Duke Marshall 159	252

Sons In Retirement, Inc Branch 159 Financial

	Month:	March 2020
Beginning Balance (Checking + Cash)		\$10,183.09
Expenses	\$	2,767.44
		\$7,415.65
Revenues	\$	2,170.00
Month Ending Balance (Checking + Cash)		\$9,585.65
	\$	-
TOTAL		\$9,585.65
Checking 9135.65 + Cash Drawer 450.00=9,585.65		
Net Gain / Loss		(\$597.44)

Submitted by Brian Nicholson - Treasurer

SIR Minutes of Branch 159 Executive Committee March 12, 2020

The meeting opened at 9:45 am at Pardini's Restaurant. BEC members present were Little Sir Bruce Corwin, Secretary Vic Froehmer, Assistant Secretary Robert Scott, Treasurer Brian Nicholson, and Assistant Treasurer Brett Bayley. Directors present were Roger Deal (Honorary Director), Gary Morgan (2020), Ron Wilson (2020), Steve Chase (2021), Pete Openshaw (2021), John Crawford (2022), and Thomas Simpson (2022). Excused from the meeting was Big Sir Dell Kerns. Secretary Vic Froehmer announced that a quorum was present (12 of 13).

The minutes of the February 13, 2020 luncheon meeting were presented. Assistant Treasurer Brett Bayley moved that the minutes be accepted as submitted, the motion was seconded by Director Steve Chase, and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.

Director Pete Openshaw announced that the anticipated attendance for the luncheon this day would be 131 roosters. However, Pardini's was told to prepare for 120. Our speaker for the day would be Dr. Chelsey Juarez, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, CSUF.

Next, Treasurer Brian Nicholson reviewed the Monthly Cash Report (Form 28). Cash on hand was pronounced to be \$9,733.09. It was noted that the club actually loses \$.50 for each lunch served during our monthly luncheons. Steve Chase moved that we accept the report as submitted, Director Ron Wilson seconded the motion, and the vote to accept the Monthly Cash Report was unanimous.

In regard to membership information, Director John Crawford reminded us that today's meeting would be the 300th meeting of Branch 159. Next, our March Membership Report was examined. The report indicated that we had inducted 2 new members and terminated 11 members. The terminations occurred because members had failed to pay their annual assessment. Also, 6 potential members were to be accepted pending the approval of this report. Steve Chase moved that we approve the report, Ron Wilson seconded the motion, and the February Membership Report was approved 11-1 with Vic Froehmer voting "No" because members being terminated had not been sent a letter. John Crawford then reviewed the Monthly Branch Membership Report (Form 27). The report showed that as the result of adding 2 new members while dropping 11 members, our membership total at the end of February 2020 was 206. Brett Bayley moved that we accept the report, Steve Chase seconded the move, and the Monthly Branch Membership Report was approved unanimously.

Former Big Sir, Rich Lewis, stated the luncheon count for February 2020 was 123 club members and five visitors.

Little Sir Bruce Corwin then announced that the RAMP committee would be having a meeting immediately after lunch.

Little Sir Bruce Corwin then asked who would want microphone time during the meeting. Members Fred Martinez, Duke Marshall, Ron Wilson, Howard Zinn, and Reg Rosander said they needed to speak during the luncheon.

Old Business was next on the agenda. John Crawford stated that Branch 159 was celebrating its 30th year. In recognition of the event, a SIRs pin has been produced that will be available to each member.

Regarding New Business, Ron Wilson suggested that we consider not having a luncheon meeting for the next three months because of the coronavirus. After a discussion, it was decided that we would have a BEC meeting at the normal time in April, but not have a club luncheon meeting. At the April BEC meeting, it will be determined if a May 2020 luncheon will be held. Ron Wilson moved that we adopt this recommendation, Vic Froehmer seconded the motion, and the proposed action was unanimously approved.

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SIR Minutes of Branch 159 Executive Committee March 12, 2020

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Next, Bruce Corwin led a discussion regarding the SIR State Town Hall Notes. He emphasized the responsibilities of SIR membership and each SIR doing their part to make the club successful. He also presented a new SIRs brochure, "Free Lunch Cards", and website www.WeAreSIR.com. In addition, a conversation about SIR insurance coverage for the branch and members occurred. Bruce stated he would research the topic and report his findings to the BEC.

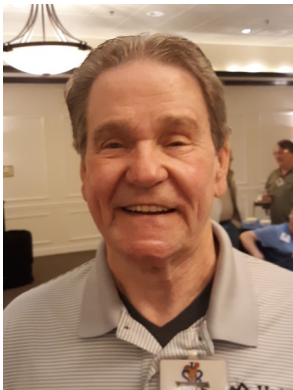
The next agenda item involved the March cruise. It was announced that Carnival had canceled the cruise. However, the April Princess Cruise is still scheduled.

Recently the Porterville library was destroyed by fire and 77,000 books were destroyed. Reg Rosander suggested that we examine our Branch 159 library and personal libraries and donate some of our books to the Porterville library. He said there was a special need for children books. Steve Chase moved we adopt these actions, Ron Wilson seconded the motion, and the item passed unanimously.

Finally, Bruce Corwin played a video about the fiduciary responsibilities of the BEC.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Secretaries Vic Froehmer and Robert Scott



Bill Royer



Bill Scharbach



Neil Stockton



Kevin Coughlon



Kenneth Chancey

NEW MEMBERS

From the Desk of our Area Governor LEE MOY

SIR 2020 Strategic Direction

Stopping Membership Loss
by increasing SIR Net Membership
Improving Volunteerism

“President Benson reported on past efforts on membership building. A partial solution requires a buy-in of communication, collateral material, recognition, and incentives.”

What Branches Can Do Publicize

“I’m Doing My Part” program; requires BEC buy-in Order the State-supplied lapel reward pins from RD Rick Kindle (see above)* Recognize members: “SIR Volunteer Recognition Month” (May) Initiate a Recognition/Incentive program Member retention needs more focus in many branches Acquaint BECs with their fiduciary responsibilities Offer member surveys; feedback sessions; more activities

What Can Members Do

Distribute the new SIR recruiting brochures Distribute the revised SIR card Provide an introductory free meal to guests Volunteerism has become a critical SIR problem Membership expectations are included in branch initiation oaths Create member awareness of the issues throughout SIR

Issues

Approximately 90% of our members come from current members bringing guests; Approximately 15% of our members are responsible for bring the bulk of our guests. Newer members are more likely to bring guests and volunteers. A vast majority of our members are not fully aware of the problem.

State Videos to be shown at Branch Monthly Luncheon

Fiduciary Responsibility

2020 Strategy

* on order



MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Fresno Branch #159, March 12, 2020

ALL DATA AS END OF FEB.

New Members Inducted: 2 Branch 159
Terminated: 11 Meeting # 300th
Members: 206

YTD New Member (4) YTD Net Membership Change (-9) Ref.215 on 12/31/19

Members to be Terminated (Transferred, Resigned, Deceased) Pending BEC Approval

- #318-Rod Ashley – Failed to pay Assessment
- #4-Richard Bailey- Failed to pay Assessment
- #260-Don Blosser - Failed to pay Assessment
- #57-David Crow - Failed to pay Assessment
- #74-William Hadcock - Failed to pay Assessment
- #173-Dinitri Kostiw - Failed to pay Assessment
- #206- Parra-Gutierrez - Failed to pay Assessment
- #86-Dan Pitta - Failed to pay Assessment
- #156-William Ranells - Failed to pay Assessment
- #80-Clark Thompson - Failed to pay Assessment
- #137-Earl Mederios - Failed to pay Assessment
- #258-Ted Feasel - Failed to pay Assessment
- #125-Mark Graham - Failed to pay Assessment
- #302 – Al Baez – Failed to pay Assessment
- #207 – Manual Nunez – Failed to pay Assessment
- #76 – August Short – Failed to pay Assessment

New Members to be Inducted pending BEC Approval

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---------------------|
| #126-S Louis Shuemake | Sponsor: | Returning |
| #147-Bill Scharbach | | #169-Harry Kutumian |
| #17-Bill Royer | | #23-John Crawford |
| #48-Ken Chancey | | #107-Rick Ransom |
| #88-Neil Stockton | | #97-Fred Martinez |
| #106-Douglas Wisener | | #130-John Hayes |

Respectfully Submitted by,
John Crawford

Membership Chairman

Candidates approved by board to be “sworn in” when they attend their next Luncheon

- #19 – Kevin Coughlon Sponsor: #102 – Gerald Peloian :

NEWS in the Golfing Community

Like all of our activities golf is at a standstill with a hope of starting soon. I am hoping and praying every one of you are well and avoiding this Covid 19 virus. We also need special prayers for our Big Sir Dell Kerns who has a few complications. Get back to us soon, Dell. We did manage to complete a couple of rounds before the stoppage. We started the month playing an Individual stroke play round at Pheasant Run. We had only two flights based on whether one was playing the Ron Rich Match play or not. In the Ron Rich flight Pete Openshaw shot a net 64 to out pace the field of 28, while in the non RR field Roger Anthony won in a tie break over Doug Nowlin with a net 66.

Next we played a 4Man 2best balls game at Lemoore GC where the team of Rich Glover, Larry Hodges, Gary Lemaster and Bill Leavitt shot an 18 under par to lead the field. The year's calendar is posted on our website. Remember events are subject to change. Once again I would like to thank all of you who volunteered in 2019 and 2020. SIR is a volunteer organization and so is our associate golf club. All these weekly tournaments could not run effectively without YOU. The March monthly chairman is Joe Hushek at 438-5343, or husheks@comcast.net, assisted by Brett Bayley.

2-Apr	Thurs.	Sunnyside CC 255-6871	CANCELLED	Individual or Scramble
8-Apr	Wed	Airways GC 291-6254	CANCELLED	4Man2BB
9-Apr	Thurs.	Sir 159 Luncheon	CANCELLED	Pardini's on W. Shaw
16-Apr	Thurs.	Belmont CC 251-5078	9:00 AM	4ManScramble
23-Apr	Thurs.	Madera Muni GC	675-3504 9:00 AM	2ManBB
30-Apr	Thurs.	Ridge Creek GC	591-2254 9:00 AM	Novelty

9 HOLE GOLF

“Hey! Charlie Barrett here to remind you about how very pleasant (and inexpensive) it is to stroll (or ride) around nine holes of golf at Airways on a fall morning. It is positively charming, satisfying, and wholesomely relaxing (unless you chunk every swing like I do).

“Join us! The boys moved it up to 9:30 each Wednesday morning of the year, to give us a bit more time in the clubhouse. Affordable golf with invaluable wholesomeness, a doable pace, and priceless camaraderie.

“I will see you there!”

Whitmer's Warriors

We have good news from the IT department. The IT boss says our IT team has finally figured out how the Email List works and that we can Now add players to the weekly mailing list. If that less than competent Steve Chase told you in the past that he would add you and yet you didn't receive our mailing, we now can add you. Please [email Steve at steve.chase@att.net](mailto:steve.chase@att.net) and we will get you hooked up. Thanks for your patience.

Down the middle,
Whitmer's Warriors Team

APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST

Nickname First Last

Rick Henry Aranjó SR
David Barredo
Allan Baxter
Ed Beier
Steve Stephen Beveridge
Armen Dervishian
Paul Gabrielson
Chico Garcia
Mark Hoffmann
Hector Leyva
Fred Alfred Martinez
Kenny Melkonian
Sal Salvador Morales
Brian Nicholson
James Noriega
Shane Petersen
Dennis Rich
Reg Reginald Rosander
Stacey Thomas

April Anniversaries

Wife Nickname First Last

Karen Gerry Fields
Carol Mike Horsley
Vera John Leal
JoAnn Jerry Najarian
Julie Pooch Jerry Poochigian
Christine Bill Sahatdjian
Sharon Bob Robert Scott
Helen Bob Robert Sexton
Carolyn Mike Tinnin
Susan Robert Yin

JOKE

**I'M GIVING UP
DRINKING FOR A
MONTH.**

**SORRY, BAD
PUNCTUATION.**

**I'M GIVING UP.
DRINKING FOR A
MONTH.**

JOKE

A psychiatrist was conducting a group therapy session with four young mothers and their small children "You all have obsessions," he observed. To the first mother, (from Toronto) Mary, he said, "You are obsessed with eating. You've even named your daughter Candy He turned to the second Mom, (from Montreal) Ann: "Your obsession is with money. Again, it manifests itself in your child's name, Penny." He turned to the third Mom, Joyce (from BC): "Your obsession is alcohol. This too shows itself in your child's name, Brandy." At this point, the fourth mother, Carol, quietly got up, took her little boy by the hand, and whispered, "Come on, Dick, this guy has no idea what he's talking about. Let's pick up Peter and Willy from school and go get dinner.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

LITTLE SIR BRUCE CORWIN'S HISTORY ON THE VIRUSES.

Now for a bit of history – This COVID19 is for most of us the first major pandemic we have experienced, but have you ever heard of the H1N1 Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918 (over 100 years ago). Well here is a bit of that history that was written before the onset of COVID19:

The 1918 influenza pandemic was the most severe pandemic in recent history. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. Although there is not universal consensus regarding where the virus originated, it spread worldwide during 1918-1919. In the United States, it was first identified in military personnel in spring 1918. It is estimated that about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States.

Some interesting facts follow that may be of interest to you and explain what happens when there is no information campaign by then President Wilson and no vaccine. It may also help us understand the importance of quarantine and what is occurring today. Below is some timeline data as well as historical pictures.

· **March 1918**

- o Outbreaks of flu-like illness are first detected in the United States.
- o More than 100 soldiers at Camp Funston in Fort Riley, Kansas become ill with flu. Within a week the number of flu cases quintuples.
- o Sporadic flu activity spreads unevenly through the United States, Europe, and possibly Asia over the next six months.

· **October 1918**

- o The 1918 flu pandemic virus kills an estimated 195,000 Americans during October alone.
- o In fall of 1918 the United States experiences a severe shortage of professional nurses, because of the deployment of large numbers of nurses to military camps in the United States and abroad, and the failure to use trained African American nurses.
- o Chicago chapter of the American Red Cross issues urgent call for volunteers to help nurse the ill.
- o Philadelphia is hit hard with the pandemic flu viruses—more than 500 corpses await burial, some for more than a week. Cold-storage plants are used as temporary morgues, a manufacturer of trolley cars donates 200 packing crates for use as coffins.
- o Chicago, along with many other cities across the United States, closes theaters, movie houses and night schools and prohibit public gatherings.
- o San Francisco's Board of Health requires any person serving the public to wear masks and issues strong recommendation to all residents to wear masks in public.
- o New York City reports a 40 percent decline in shipyard productivity due to flu illnesses in the midst of World War I.

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· **November 1918**

- o The end of World War I enables a resurgence of influenza as people celebrate Armistice Day and soldiers begin to demobilize.
- o Salt Lake City officials place quarantine signs on front and rear doors of 2,000 homes where occupants have been struck with flu.
- o By the end of World War I the U.S. military grew in size from 378,000 soldiers in April 1918 to 4.7 million soldiers.

· **December 1918**

- o Public health officials begin education programs and publicity about dangers of coughing and sneezing; careless disposal of “nasal discharges.”
- o Committee of the American Public Health Association encourages stores and factories to stagger opening and closing hours and for people to walk to work when possible instead of using public transport to prevent overcrowding.

· **January 1919**

- o A third wave of influenza occurs in the winter and spring of 1919, killing many more. Third wave subsides in the summer.
- o In San Francisco, 1,800 flu cases and 101 deaths are reported in first five days of January.
- o Many San Antonio citizens begin complaining that new flu cases aren't being reported, and that this is fueling another influenza surge.
- o Seven-hundred and six cases of influenza and 67 deaths are reported in New York City, triggering fear of a recurrence of severe flu activity.
- o Trustees of the Boston City Hospital ask mayor for a special appropriation of \$3,000 to study the treatment of influenza.

· **April 1919**

- o At Versailles Peace Conference, while negotiating the end of World War I with other world leaders, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson collapses. Some historians speculate he was weak from influenza, which was still rampant in Paris.

The virus' unique severity puzzled researchers for decades, and prompted several questions, such as “Why was the 1918 virus so deadly?”, “Where did the virus originate from?”, and “What can the public health community learn from the 1918 virus to better prepare for and defend against future pandemics?” These questions drove an expert group of researchers and virus hunters to search for the lost 1918 virus, sequence its genome, recreate the virus in a highly safe and regulated laboratory setting at CDC, and ultimately study its secrets to better prepare for future pandemics.

Since 1918, the world has experienced three additional pandemics, in 1957, 1968, and most recently in 2009. These subsequent pandemics were less severe and caused considerably lower mortality rates than the 1918 pandemic.^{2,3,4} The 1957 H2N2 pandemic and the 1968 H3N2 pandemic each resulted in an estimated 1 million global deaths, while the 2009 H1N1 pandemic resulted in fewer than 0.3 million deaths in its first year.^{3,4} This perhaps begs the question of whether a high severity pandemic on the scale of 1918 could occur in modern times.

Many experts think so. One virus in particular has garnered international attention and concern: the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus from China. The H7N9 virus has so far caused 1,568 human infections in China with a case-fatality proportion of about 39% since 2013. However, it has not gained the capability to spread quickly and efficiently between people. If it did, experts believe it could result in a pandemic with severity comparable to the 1918 pandemic. So far, it has shown only limited ability to spread between people. Most human infections with this virus have result from exposure to birds.

When considering the potential for a modern era high severity pandemic, it is important; however, to reflect on the considerable medical, scientific and societal advancements that have occurred since 1918, while recognizing that there are a number of ways that global preparations for the next pandemic still warrant improvement.

Besides the properties of the virus itself, many additional factors contributed to the virulence of the 1918 pandemic. In 1918, the world was still engaged in World War I. Movement and mobilization of troops placed large numbers of people in close contact and living spaces were overcrowded. Health services were limited, and up to 30% of U.S. physicians were deployed to military service.

In addition, medical technology and countermeasures at the time were limited or non-existent. No diagnostic tests existed at the time that could test for influenza infection. In fact, doctors didn't know influenza viruses existed. Many health experts at the time thought the 1918 pandemic was caused by a bacterium called "Pfeiffer's bacillus," which is now known as *Haemophilus influenzae*.

Influenza vaccines did not exist at the time, and even antibiotics had not been developed yet. For example, penicillin was not discovered until 1928. Likewise, no flu antiviral drugs were available. Critical care measures, such as intensive care support and mechanical ventilation also were not available in 1918.⁴ Without these medical countermeasures and treatment capabilities, doctors were left with few treatment options other than supportive care.

In terms of national, state and local pandemic planning, no coordinated pandemic plans existed in 1918. Some cities managed to implement community mitigation measures, such as closing schools, banning public gatherings, and issuing isolation or quarantine orders, but the federal government had no centralized role in helping to plan or initiate these interventions during the 1918 pandemic.

Today, considerable advancements have been made in the areas of health technology, disease surveillance, medical care, medicines and drugs, vaccines and pandemic planning. Flu vaccines are now produced and updated yearly, and yearly vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. Antiviral drugs now exist that treat flu illness, and in the event of virus exposure, can be used for prophylaxis (prevention), as well. Importantly, many different antibiotics are now available that can be used to treat secondary bacterial infections.

Diagnostic tests for identifying influenza are now available and they are improving over time. Current rapid tests for flu, also known as RIDTs, provide results within 15 minutes and have sensitivities ranging from 50-70%. Recently, new "rapid molecular assays" have become available that are timely and much more accurate than RIDTs. Just as important as these advancements in diagnostic tests are the improvements that have been made in laboratory testing capacity both within the United States and globally.

The World Health Organization (WHO)'s Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) is a global flu surveillance network that monitors changes in seasonal flu viruses and also monitors the emergence of novel (i.e., new in humans) flu viruses, many of which originate from animal populations. Through animal and human interactions and environmental exposures, these viruses can cause human infections. CDC in Atlanta is one of WHO's six Collaborating Centers for Reference and Research on Influenza (joining others in Australia, China, Japan and the United Kingdom). The WHO collaborating centers collect influenza viruses obtained from respiratory specimens from patients around the world, and they are supported by 143 National Influenza Centers in 114 WHO member countries.

Expanding laboratory testing and flu surveillance capacity around the world has been an important focus of pandemic preparedness efforts. In 2004, CDC began an international surveillance capacity building initiative that entailed a 5-year period of financial support to improve laboratory diagnostic tests and surveillance of influenza like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) in 39 partner countries.

In 2008, CDC established the International Reagent Resource (IRR), which provides reagents to laboratories around the world to identify seasonal influenza A and B viruses, as well as novel influenza A viruses. During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the IRR distributed a new CDC developed 2009 H1N1 PCR assay to domestic public health laboratories and laboratories around the world less than 2 weeks after the 2009 H1N1 virus was first identified. This considerably enhanced the ability of the global flu surveillance community to track spread of the virus.

As part of WHO's International Health Regulations (IHR), countries must notify WHO within 24 hours of any case of human infection caused by a novel influenza A virus subtype. This requirement is designed to help quickly identify emerging viruses with pandemic potential.

Since 2010, CDC has used its Influenza Risk Assessment Tool (IRAT) to evaluate and score emerging novel influenza A viruses and other viruses of potential public health concern. The score provided by the IRAT answers two questions: 1) What is the risk that a virus that is novel in humans could result in sustained human to human transmission? and: 2) What is the potential for the virus to substantially impact public health if it does gain the ability to spread efficiently from person to person? Results from the IRAT have helped public health experts target pandemic preparedness resources against the greatest disease threats and to prioritize the selection of candidate vaccine viruses and the development of pre-pandemic vaccines against emergent viruses with the greatest potential to cause a severe pandemic.

When pre-pandemic vaccines are made, they are stored in the Strategic National Stockpile, along with facemasks, antiviral drugs and other materials that can be used in case of a pandemic.

All of these resources, tools, technologies, programs and activities are excellent tools for pandemic planning, and pandemic planning itself has improved significantly since 1918. In the United States, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) maintains a national Pandemic Influenza Plan, and this plan was updated in 2017. The World Health Organization (WHO) has published instructions for countries to use in developing their own national pandemic plans, as well as a checklist for pandemic influenza risk and impact management.

Planners have access to other materials as well. For example, in 2014, CDC published a pandemic framework with six intervals that fall within a pandemic curve. Each interval helps with prioritizing data collection, government resources and interventions, and other important activities during the pandemic. In addition, CDC experts have devised a Pandemic Severity Assessment Framework that uses data to assign severity and transmissibility scores to pandemics. The tool is useful for planning purposes and for determining appropriate mitigations based on the severity of a pandemic. In addition, guidelines for non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as closing schools and large social gatherings, have been established and revised, for use during a pandemic.

While all of these plans, resources, products and improvements show that significant progress has been made since 1918, gaps remain, and a severe pandemic could still be devastating to populations globally. In 1918, the world population was 1.8 billion people. One hundred years later, the world population has grown to 7.6 billion people in 2018.³ As human populations have risen, so have swine and poultry populations as a means to feed them. This expanded number of hosts provides increased opportunities for novel influenza viruses from birds and pigs to spread, evolve and infect people. Global movement of people and goods also has increased, allowing the latest disease threat to be an international plane flight away. Due to the mobility and expansion of human populations, even once exotic pathogens, like Ebola, which previously affected only people living in remote villages of the African jungle, now have managed to find their way into urban areas, causing large outbreaks.

CHECK OUT THIS PARAGRAPH – FUTURE FORECAST FOR SURE

If a severe pandemic, such as occurred in 1918 happened today, it would still likely overwhelm health care infrastructure, both in the United States and across the world. Hospitals and doctors' offices would struggle to meet demand from the number of patients requiring care. Such an event would require significant increases in the manufacture, distribution and supply of medications, products and life-saving medical equipment, such as mechanical ventilators. Businesses and schools would struggle to function, and even basic services like trash pickup and waste removal could be impacted.

The best defense against the flu continues to be a flu vaccine, but even today, flu vaccines face a number of challenges. One challenge is that flu vaccines are often moderately effective, even when well matched to circulating viruses. But perhaps the biggest challenge is the time required to manufacture a new vaccine against an emerging pandemic threat. Generally, it has taken about 20 weeks to select and manufacture a new vaccine.

During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the first doses of pandemic vaccine did not become available until 26 weeks after the decision to manufacture a monovalent vaccine.³ As a result, most vaccinations in the United States occurred after the peak of 2009 H1N1 illness. The HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan has a goal of reducing the timeframe to make a pandemic flu vaccine from 20 weeks to 12 weeks but accomplishing this is challenging.

One possible solution is to create more broadly protective and longer lasting vaccines. Creation of a "universal vaccine" continues to elude the world's top scientists, but in the future, it could become a reality. In the meantime, health officials seek to get the most out of new and existing flu vaccine technologies, such as cell based and recombinant vaccines, which are not reliant on a supply of chicken eggs, like traditional vaccines, and have the potential to be produced faster.

One other vaccine issue is the inadequate global capacity for mass producing flu vaccines. Global pandemic flu vaccine capacity was estimated to be 6.4 billion doses in 2015, but this is not enough to cover even half of the world's population, should two doses of a pandemic vaccine be required for protection.

Other challenges at a global level include surveillance capacity, infrastructure and pandemic planning. The majority of countries that report to the WHO still do not have a national pandemic plan, and critical and clinical care capacity, especially in low income countries, continues to be inadequate to the demands of a severe pandemic.³ In 2005, milestones were created in the revised International Health Regulations (IHR) for countries to improve their response capacity for public health emergencies, but in 2016, only one-third of countries were in compliance.

All of these issues show that more work needs to be done, both here in the United States and internationally, to prepare for the next pandemic. On May 7, 2018, The Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hosted a one-day symposium on the 100-year anniversary of the 1918 influenza pandemic. The event involved experts from government and academia discussing current pandemic threats and the future of pandemic preparedness, influenza prevention and control. U.S. and global influenza experts who attended the meeting agreed that we still face great challenges to prepare for future flu pandemics, but part of the solution is recognizing these challenges and working together with the rest of the world to address them.

Interesting reading that basically shows that staying home and separation distance are the right things to do now. I remember getting the "Hong Kong flu" in 1968 and I thought I was going to die even though I was a young lad. So stay home and enjoy the time with your families.

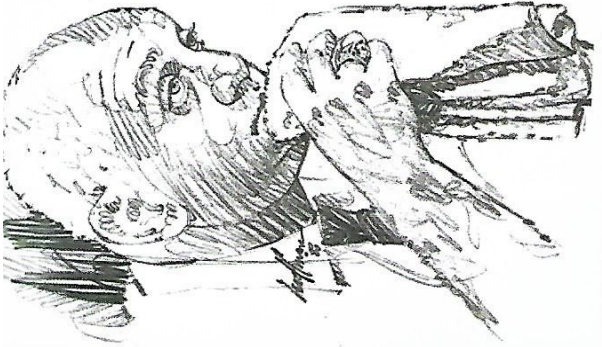
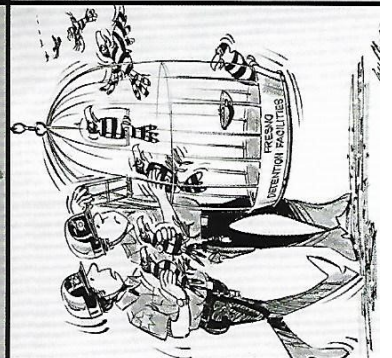
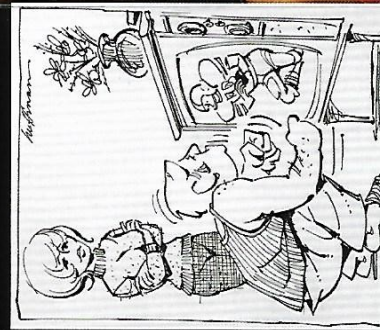
We are always looking for new volunteers and, if you are interested, please seek out members of our nominating committee Rich Lewis, Brett Bayley and Richard Glover.

Also, if you have any thoughts, ideas or concerns: I ask that you let me know so that

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

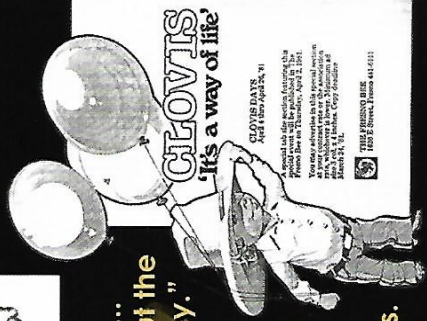


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Perry Huffman

contributed whimsical, serious, and satirical illustrations to the Fresno Bee from 1963 - 1995. For over 60 years he provided original art on topics ranging from sports, to global and local politics, from civic and social issues to film, music, entertainment, agriculture, and nature.

He illustrated celebrity and political figures such as Will Rogers, Flip Wilson, Ronald Reagan, James Garner, and the extensive list can go on. Prior to working for the Bee, Huffman submitted covers for the Saturday Evening Post. Nationally recognized and award winning artist, Huffman has made signed prints of his artwork available to the public for fundraising. Various sizes of your choice are available for purchase.



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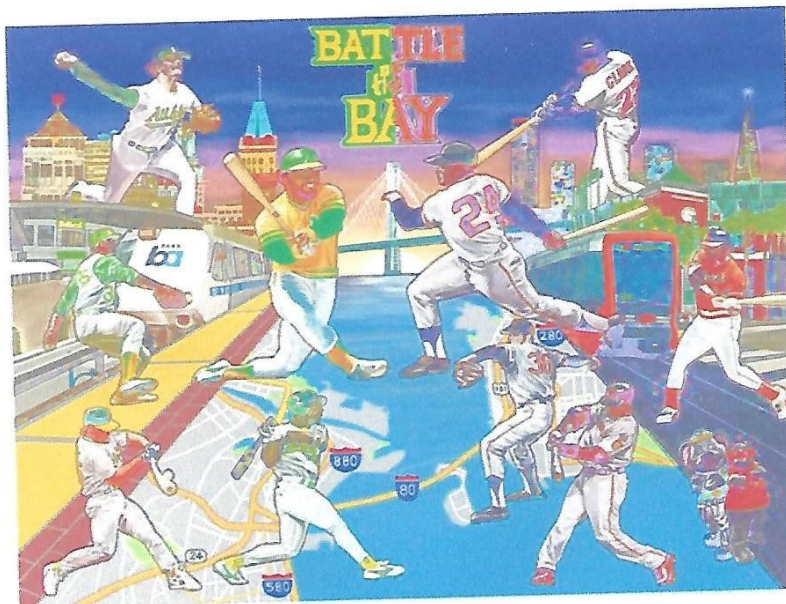
June 7, 2020, Sunday, 1pm

Oakland Coliseum, Section 106 (shaded)

Cost: \$55/ticket

FRESNO Members:

Transportation is on your own; consider carpooling. We have taken Amtrak to the Coliseum each year.



W. Lee Moy
State SIR Sports
LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com
(559) 709-9851

INSTRUCTIONS: Make a \$55/pp check to W. Lee Moy. Include a selfstamped return addressed envelope to W. Lee Moy, 127 N. Helm Ave, Clovis, CA 93612. Deadline May 5, 2020. W. Lee Moy State SIR Sports LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com

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Thanks all, Hector and Karyn Leyva