



SIR BRANCH 171

March 2019

<http://branch171.sirinc2.org/>

A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation for Retired Men Devoted to the
Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement



Our next meeting will be Wednesday, **March 6** Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Hall

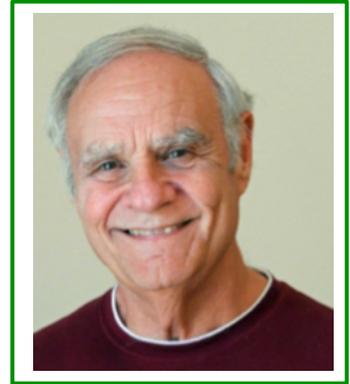
1700 School St., Moraga
Social time begins at 11
Meeting begins at 11:30

BIG SIR MESSAGE: BARRY LESKIN

My Fellow SIR 171 Members,

There is much that is new with the SIR 2019 State organization, and it will affect our Branch.

- There is a new logo with wording that now describes our organization as “Social Activities for Men”. The word “retirement” has been removed from the new logo, as the SIR Board of Directors believes that some men who work part-time may not see themselves as retired and would not consider joining SIR. The SIR Board did not unanimously accept the logo change and thus the decision reached was that each Branch can decide to use either the new logo or continue using the old logo in its communications. *Please note one version of the new logo at the top of this newsletter.*
- SIR Statewide has been losing 5% of its members per year - a decline that the new SIR leadership group finds unacceptable. A further concern is our average age is about 80. We hope to better balance the group with new and younger members and thus reduce that average age. The focus is to stabilize membership and hopefully increase our membership.
- There are a large group of men who we call “stay-at-home” men. Research on aging indicates that health, longevity and happiness are positively affected when individuals are active physically, mentally and socially. SIR provides many choices where these types of activities are available to our members. If you or your spouse/partner know individuals in this situation, please invite them to a luncheon meeting or to join an activity that aligns with their interest.



The SIR State Board identifies the Branch Nominating Committee Chairman as the 2nd most important role in our Branch organization. The Chairman is responsible to identify our future Branch leaders. Tom Marnane and his team have done a great job with successor candidates for our key positions, but we need to identify a new Chairman and members. Please let me know if you would like to be part of this very important team (925-284-5500).

We are considering a new venue for our annual Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon that we hold with Branch 174. We have had the luncheon for many years at Saint Mary's College; however the cost has become a factor. We are looking at options but no decision has been made at this point.

The greeters at the March 6 luncheon meeting will be Chris Lyne and Tom Roberts. I look forward to seeing you there.

Barry Leskin, Big SIR

LITTLE SIR MESSAGE: RICK FEND

The speaker on March 6 will be **Budd MacKenzie**, past Lafayette Citizen of the Year and founder of Trust in Education, a nonprofit organization, to help Afghans rebuild their lives and country. Information about Trust in Education can be found at www.trustineducation.org.

The topic of Budd's talk is:

“The War for Hearts and Minds”

Budd began Trust in Education in 2004 after after raising money to build a school in Afghanistan and discovering how U.S. involvement in the country had affected its people. He considers his mission to include sharing what he's learned and persuading others to “get off the couch” and go to the aid of those less fortunate. He knows that if they do, it's likely to become the most rewarding work they've ever done, as it has been for him.

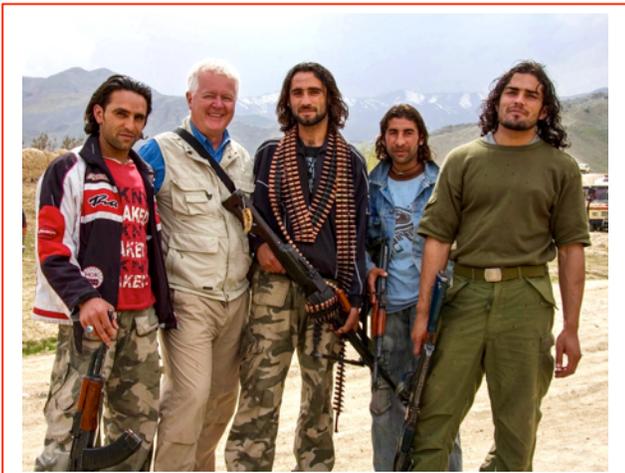
MacKenzie was recognized by HH Dalai Lama as an “Unsung Hero of Compassion.” He has traveled to Afghanistan 20 times over the past 16 years, and has spoken extensively about his work, observations, and insights concerning the country and its people.

This is one you won't want to miss.

Budd MacKenzie's book, *Getting off the Couch and into the War for Hearts and Minds*, relates what literally happened to him. Khalid Hosseini, award-winning author of *The Kite Runner*, wrote a favorable review of Mackenzie's book, saying, “It is a “chronicle of extraordinary humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan by an ordinary person... A passionate cry against apathy and its insidious power... A call to action to give something of ourselves to those who suffer the most.”



*Rick Fend,
Little SIR*



ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

SIR DAY AT THE RACES

A reminder that the Golden Gate Fields outing for SIR members, spouses, and guests will be on March 29. The package includes parking, entrance, admission to the Turf Club, trip to the Winner's Circle, program, and Prime Rib Buffet. All for \$41/person.

Bring your check for \$41 per person, payable to SIR Branch 171, to the March 6 meeting or send to:

Jim Kline
27 Fieldbrook Place
Moraga, CA 94556

Jim must receive the moneys by March 11. Tickets will be mailed by March 25.

Jim will be at the March 6 meeting for checks and questions. The flyer that was sent is included at the end of this newsletter.

OUR SIR 171 CLUB WEBSITE

Hopefully you have all viewed and used our club's website -- <http://www.sirinc2.org/branch171/> Lots of club information, current and past newsletters, particulars about club activities, photos of our members, and so much more. And great to share with a **PROSPECTIVE MEMBER**.

In addition, there is a **Member site** within the club website that contains our Organization Chart and member roster. If you do not have and would like to have the password for accessing this information, you can get the password as follows:

- Go to the club website -- <http://www.sirinc2.org/branch171/>
- Select the "Members" popdown
- Select "Password Request"

WELCOME TO SIR VIDEO

There is a new SIR Introductory video, hosted by SIR State President Ed Benson, which is great to quickly inform visitors of what SIR is all about. It is available via the following link -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA2GnBpuwfg&feature=youtu.be>

View the video by copying and pasting the above link into your internet browser. Excellent to share with prospective members.

FEBRUARY MEETING PHOTOS & COMMENTARY – by club photographer Russ Aubry
(with intended typos)



MARCH LUNCHEON

MARCH LUNCHEON MENU

Corned Beef & Cabbage; Carrots; Potatoes
Green Salad; Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad; Dessert

FEBRUARY SIRS BIRTHDAYS

*Laszlo Bonnyay – Brad Dewey – Harold Knudson
Steve Patton – Steve Write – David Zeimer*

One of the above members with a birthday in March will win a free lunch if he attends the March meeting. Members whose birth month is in March, and who do not see their name in the above list, should contact the Big SIR prior to the meeting to ensure that their names are included in the drawing. **NOTE:** Members 90 years of age or more will receive a free lunch on their birth month each year, but they must notify the Big SIR prior to the meeting. Big SIR Barry Leskin can be reached at barryleskin@gmail.com.

GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

\$15 Luncheon fee for first time guest

The first time a guest attends a meeting the lunch fee is \$15. The regular luncheon fee of \$25 will be charged for subsequent visits as a guest.

If you are inviting a guest don't forget to call the hotline at 925-377-5880. Calls need to be made by 1:00pm the Saturday prior to the meeting. Provide the name of your guest and let us know if he is a first time guest.

BRANCH REPORTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG

There were 104 attendees at the last meeting, which included 99 members, one speaker, one visitor (from Branch 8), and three guests (including one walk-in returned guest). There were no inductees. There were five no-shows and 37 excused sign-outs.

70% of our membership attended, which was up from January. However, we missed our newly negotiated minimum number of 110 lunches.

PLEASE CALL THE SIR 171 "HOT LINE" at 925-377-5880 BEFORE 1:00PM ON THE SATURDAY BEFORE THE MEETING IF YOU WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE MEETING OR IF YOU ARE BRINGING A GUEST. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE WILL SUBJECT THE MISSING MEMBER TO THE \$25 NO SHOW CHARGE. It is not necessary to call the HOT LINE if you have placed your name on the "Absence Notification" sheet at a prior meeting. Leave a message as soon as you can if the absence is due to a medical reason. **Please note:** If you are requesting a SIR membership status change, contact Stew Chalem, Membership Chair (377-0698) rather than calling the SIR 171 HOT LINE.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Krompholz

	<u>JANUARY 2018</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 2019</u>
Beginning	6,369	5,670
Receipts	2,527	2,655
Disbursements	(3,226)	(2,618)
Ending	5,670	5,707

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT: STEW CHALEM
JOHN SCHICK**

ACTIVE

Prior Month:	142
Inductees	None
From Inactive:	None
Deductions	(1) Bill Bondy (#137), deceased 1/17
Total, This Month:	<u>141</u>

INACTIVE

Prior Month:	33
Additions:	0
Deductions	None
Total, This Month:	<u>33</u>

APPLICATIONS AWAITING INDUCTION

Richard N. Brosio, Sponsor, Tom Smigielski (#25)

APPLICANT LIST

Bob Schwab (Former member), Sponsor, Karl Droese (#108)
Pending

Membership Application Forms are always available at the desk at the meetings, or from Stew Chalem.

ROSTER CORRECTIONS: STEW CHALEM

NOTE: Please contact Stew Chalem whenever your personal information changes (i.e. email address, home address, and/or phone number) or whenever you wish a membership status change (i.e. to request inactive status or to resign). Stew will in turn update the master Roster.

SUNSHINE REPORT: MONTE LOGAN

Branch 171

- A memorial service has been set for **SIR Bill Bondy** for Wednesday, March 13th from 9:00am -11:00am at the Moraga Country Club. **Bill's daughter, Denise Bondy, would like an RSVP telephone call at (415) 877-0113 if you plan to attend, so she can get a count.**
- It is very sad to report the passing of **SIR Fred Schlichting** on Feb. 11th. He was under hospice care. Fred joined the SIR Branch 174 in 2009 and transferred to Branch 171 in 2011. There will be no services.
- **SIR Stew Chalem** is recovering from his surgery at Moraga Post-Acute, 348 Rheem Blvd. (formerly the Rheem Convalescent Hospital). He enjoys visitors. We wish him the best in recuperation.
- We also keep the following SIR's in our thoughts and prayer, and look forward to their continued healing and return to good health:

Chuck Healy, Jack Flanagan, Gene Bell, Dudley Braun, & Tom Kiele

Branch 174

- It is with deep sadness that **SIR Jorge Brown** passed away on February 9, following complications arising from a fall. Jorge's ancestors came to Argentina from Scotland in 1825. He was born and raised in Argentina, attended the University in La Plata, where he obtained a Master's degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. He married Nancy Jongens, also from Argentina, whom he met in San Francisco. There are three daughters and four grandchildren. They lived in Orinda since 1963. Services have been held.
- Bob Prindle recently passed away. Bob was inducted into Branch 174 in 2009. A service was held for Bob at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Lafayette on Feb. 13.

•••Please try to contact SIR's with illnesses to offer your support and encouragement and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. A friendly call is welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you are aware of an ill SIR, please let Monte Logan know by e-mail or phone.

KNOW YOUR SIRs

No bios this month

Know Your SIR is edited by Dave Humm dmh2@silcon.com 376-5895. We would like to have all of our members, who wish to do so, be included in this directory. Please write down the salient points of your life (1/2 page) and provide it to Dave (via e-mail if possible). It will then be written up in a future newsletter. Dave has copies of all past "Know Your SIR" reports. Access to them is available via e-mail; or a hard copy can be had for the cost of printing.

BRANCH 171 NEWSLETTER: Editor **STAN HOLCENBERG.** The deadline for receipt of Newsletter material by the Editor is the 15th of the month. E-mail to sir171-news@comcast.net is preferred.

Also enjoy reading SIR Happenings, our State Newsletter, and find out about all the fun things that are going on throughout our organization. You can find the most recent edition of SIR Happenings on our SIR State website -- click on the following link, or cut and paste the link into your browser to view -- www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/ Some very interesting articles highlighting news of interest from other SIR branches including several of our branches in Area 2. Send comments and article to jlsabo2@comcast.net or HappeningsEditor@gmail.com

BRANCH ACTIVITIES (BRANCHES 171 & 174)

ACTIVITY LIST *(items in blue are informational; items in red have updated information)*

Apple Users Activity	Astronomy
Barbershop Harmony	Bocce Ball
Book Club	Bowling
Bridge – Social	Bridge – ACBL Duplicate
Computers & Technology	Couples Dining Out
Dominos	Fishing
Golf – 18 Holes	Golf – 9 Holer
Historical Adventures	Investment Group
Pinochle	Poker
Stamp Club	Table Pool
Tennis	Travel
Walking – Original Group	Walking – Senior Strollers
Walking – Big Hikers	Wine Tasting

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN: SAM ZORICH (BR. 171)



The Activity Chairman's role is to keep in close contact with each of the chairmen of the branch activities in order to understand what they are doing and how things are going, to determine if they are planning any special activities that they want to communicate to the rest of the Branch, and to determine if there is anything special that requires assistance. Also, the Chair keeps in communication with the other branches in the area to determine if there are additional activity announcements that should be made to our branch.

The Chair is always looking for suggestions for additional activities (e.g. Chess, Cooking, Current Events Discussions, etc etc), and is the focal point to communicate with if you would like to chair any of the open activity groups.

APPLE USERS ACTIVITY: DICK MACY (Br. 171)
JOE TRACY (BR. 174)



Meetings are held bi-monthly on the 4th Monday of odd number months from 10:00 a.m. to noon. **Our next meeting will be held on March 25.** The meetings are held in the conference room of the Contra Costa County District 2 Supervisor's Office at 3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, adjacent to the fire station and across from El Charro restaurant. Enter through the left side door at top of steps.

The meetings focus on Apple/Mac computers, iPhones, iPads, and other Apple devices. Meetings include a roundtable on products, applications, rumors, issues, problems, and Q & A. Special discussions will occur after major product announcements and developer conferences.

Novices and advanced users are welcomed. Come and be a part of the group.

ASTRONOMY: (OPEN) Br. 171
GEORGE COBB (Br. 174)
BILL HUNTER (Area 16 - Br. 8)



We meet the **second Monday of each month** in the Tilden Room at the Concord Hilton Hotel on Diamond Boulevard. Our meetings commence at 1:30. Please join us for an entertaining meeting. All are welcome. Call or e-mail George (GECBlue@aol.com) for details and further information.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY: BRAD DEWEY (Br. 171)
RICK AVATERO (Br. 174)



The SIRpremes are a barbershop octet, composed of members from both 171 and 174, that sing songs in four-part harmony. By having two people on each part, the problems caused by absences are greatly reduced – obviously. The group’s self-determined purpose has been to periodically add a little variety to the monthly luncheon meetings of Branches 171 and 174.

The group meets every Tuesday at 3:00 pm at Brad Dewey’s. Contact Brad Dewey, Sam Zorich, or Rick Avatero for additional information.

BOCCE BALL: STEVE PATTON Br. 171
ED PROTIVA (Br. 174)



BOCCE PLAY IS CLOSED FOR THE SEASON.
WILL BEGIN NEXT APRIL OR MAY

When in season, Bocce is played every Tuesday and Friday. The group meets at 10 am, just beyond the bandstand at the Moraga Commons, located at the corner of Moraga Road & St Mary’s Rd (next to the bandstand). The cost is all of \$2; the game is really easy to learn and is great fun, including a lot of good chat. You can be a part of this great group of guys, and can play on either or both days.

The Bocce game consists of 4 players on each court, creating 2 teams of 2 members each. Each team has one player at each end of the court. It is quite easy to learn.

BOOK CLUB: BOB KROMPHOLZ (Br 171 co-chair)
AL DESSAYER (Br 171 co-chair)



The group develops a twelve month calendar of agreed upon book selections with each member hosting a book review where we will discuss his book. An attempt is made to vary the selections to include the latest best sellers as well as some classics and non fiction.

Each member selects a book he has read or would like to read and suggests it to other members, who will then read the book and be ready for discussion at subsequent meetings. This is a great way not only to diversify your reading enjoyment, but also to discuss your comments and ideas with other intelligent, curious, cerebral fellows like yourself.

Book reviews are usually scheduled on the last Wednesday of the month @ 7-8pm. There are currently 12 members of the club. Contact Bob or Al if you are interested in joining.

BOWLING: (OPEN) Br. 171
AREA 2: MIKE CROFF (Area)



Area 2 Tournament and league bowling is held at Clayton Valley Bowl every Wednesday. Be there at 9:30 am. More members are welcome. Call for more information.

BRIDGE -- SOCIAL: JOHN SCHICK (Br. 171)



The group meets at the Moraga Hacienda on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Please arrive by 9:50 am. Play starts promptly at 10:00 am. Bring \$5 and a bag lunch. Call John for further information

Over the years attrition has taken its toll, so at this time we are looking for new players. If you have ever played bridge in your life or are still playing, please consider joining us, regardless of what level you play at.

We play for fun and though we may give advice, we never criticize. Some of us play conventions, many play mostly basic bridge. Please contact John Schick if you are interested and we will get you signed up. (see *Organization chart for contact information*).

If transportation is an issue, let us know and, if possible, we can arrange rides. The group meets at the Moraga Hacienda on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Please arrive by 9:50 am. Play starts promptly at 10:00 am. Bring \$5 and a bag lunch. Call John for further information.

BRIDGE – ACBL DUPLICATE (OPEN) Br. 171
TOM HENRY (Br. 174 & Area 16)



Area 16 duplicate bridge is held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the American Contract Bridge Center (First Christian Church Fellowship Hall), 3039 Willow Pass Rd, Concord (phone: 925-935-2273). Guests of SIR members are welcomed. [Interested players please contact Tom Henry in advance of date of play – tomhenry925@gmail.com](#)

[The next gathering will be held on March 5.](#) Registration begins at 9:15 a.m.; play begins at 10:00 a.m. Lessons from Ravi Bhalla will be offered commencing at 9:30. This activity is fully sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League and, as such, ACBL Master Points will be awarded to the top three pairs

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY: (OPEN) Br. 171
Dick Curry Br. 174
NEIL SCHMIDT (Area - Br 116)



The Area 16 Computer and Technology Group meetings are fun and informative where we discuss applications for computers and technology. At each meeting we have a presentation on a topic covering everything from antivirus programs, ways to back up your data, digital photography, genealogy research, smart phones and many other topics. It's a great way to learn about new technology and to also get answers to your computer questions or problems.

[The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21.](#) The presentation will be “Windows 10 Applications”. There will be a discussion of several interesting and useful Windows 10 applications that have been identified by our members or have been presented in some recent Windows 10 tech articles. Many of these applications are free

Presentation notes should be available on the CAT Web page (a2cat.sirinc2.org) several days prior to the meeting. We look forward to seeing you around 9:15 AM, Thursday September 20.. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. See you there.

Information about the group, including current and past presentations, is available on the SIR Area 2 Computes and Technology website -- <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org/> Make sure you are on the CAT mailing list by sending an e-mail request to: sir.area2.cat@gmail.com

COUPLES DINING OUT **SAM ZORICH** (Br. 171)



[The group dines out every other month](#) at a fine location in the East Bay. The next gathering will be on March 20 at Zio Fredo's. Planning for the venue rotates among the various members of the group.

DOMINOES **TOM WESTHOFF** (BR 171)

The SIR 171 Domino group meets every Thursday at Moraga Royale from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Contact Tom Westhoff for further information.

FISHING: **KARL DROESE** (Br. 171) **HARRY SHERINIAN** (Area 16)



All SIR members and guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Next meeting will be Thursday, March 28th at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord, starting at 8:30am. You can order breakfast and have it served in the meeting room.

Whether you fly fish, spin fish, troll or bait fish there will be events of interest. If you are new to fishing or are interested in trying a different type of fishing we have experienced and knowledgeable members happy to share their expertise, and even their equipment. With over 100 events scheduled throughout the year, some type of fishing is available almost every week.

February Results: Wind and rain kept most of us off the water. However, 5 did venture to San Pablo Reservoir and were rewarded with plenty of nice trout up to 7 1/2 lbs. A trip to Lafayette Reservoir provided mixed results.

Activities Scheduled for March and April: Our March meeting will be devoted to our annual fund-raiser auction of fishing gear. We have scheduled several SF Bay and Delta trips on member boats, and six packs for stripers and sturgeon. Other activities include trout fishing (shore and boat) at Shadow Cliffs and at San Pablo, Lafayette, Los Vaqueros and Contra Loma Reservoirs; a trout outing on members boats at Lake McSwain; a pot luck pier fishing expedition followed by a Chili luncheon, a shopping trip to Fishermen's Warehouse and Bass Pro shop followed by a luncheon; a kokanee and trout trip to Collins Lake; a striper trip on the Sacramento River and the Fred Hall Fishing show in Long Beach.

GOLF – 18 HOLES: **GENE BELL** (Br. 171)
 BILL WADSWORTH (Br. 174)



Our official March outings are to Boundary Oak in Walnut Creek on Monday, 3/4 and to Metropolitan near the Oakland airport on Monday, 3/18. In addition Steve Wright has scheduled two foursomes for the Monday Fanatics informal outings on alternate Mondays: Peacock Gap in San Rafael on 3/11 and The Reserve at Spanos in Stockton on 3/25.

In addition, we have scheduled a series of three Thursday events with four other SIR branch golf clubs. They will be held on April 25th, May 16th, and June 27th at Franklin Canyon with a buffet lunch afterward. The cost is \$48 per event and that includes golf, lunch, and prizes. It will feature a 2-man scramble team competition. We may be limited as to the number of teams so partner up and contact Bill Wadsworth at [925-963-0442](tel:925-963-0442) to put your names on the list.

The SIR 171/174 golf website (www.sirlamorindagolf.com) includes the membership application, a list of current members, the 2017 schedule, the results of prior events, and other pertinent information for members and prospective members.

GOLF – 9 – HOLER: **TIM FREEMAN** (BR. 171)



For those that don't want to play 18 holes, or want to play a shorter course on occasions, there is a 9 hole group that meets each Friday morning at Diablo Hills Golf Course in Walnut Creek. Tim Freeman coordinates this and sends out a note to all members on his interested party list each week, a few days before the game, to see who is interested in playing. Lunch follows at the Diablo Hills clubhouse. Contact Tim (timfre@comcast.net) if you would like to be added to the interested party list.

HISTORICAL ADVENTURES: **JIM KLINE** (Br 171 co-chair)
KEN FISCHER (Br 171 co-chair)



The group focuses on highly popular and educational tours. The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Port Chicago National Memorial, Computer History Museum, and Oakland Aviation Museum are some of the sites that have been included in the past.

Please inform Jim or Ken if you have requests or suggestions for additional adventures.

INVESTMENT GROUP: (OPEN) Br. 171
TOM HENRY (Br. 174)
DAVID SUTTON (Br-8)



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\$UMS in Retirement meets at the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 27, at 8 a.m. The speaker will be Rich Knowles. President of the CCC Grand Jury Association. He will discuss waste, fraud and abuse in localities and how the Grand Jury fights these problems. Poor money management overshas led to unsustainable pension liabilities for local governments.

The Legends opens at 7 AM. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Ladies are welcome.

BTW, we ask that everyone donate \$2 each month to cover expenses. We pay the restaurant \$40 each time in lieu of tips and rent. If everyone pays, we break even with 20 attendees. But not everyone pays and we're going in the hole. Please remember the donation box.

Information about the group, including past and current presentations, is available on the \$UMS website -- <http://a2sums.sirinc2.org/> ___

POKER: OPEN) Br. 171
DICK MEDEL (Br. 174) & **BILL WIEGMANN** (Br. 174)



Our low-stakes poker group meets the **fourth Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 4:30pm**. We meet at various locations. To join us please contact Dick or Bill for information.

STAMP and COIN GROUP: **LARRY BEANS** (Br. 171) STAMPS
BRUCE BERMAN (BR 171) COINS



We usually meet on the **Friday following the Branch 171 monthly meeting at 9:30 am**. The group meets at Larry Beans' home at 20 Carr Drive in Moraga. Please call Larry questions and a possible change of meeting schedule.

TABLE POOL: (OPEN) Br. 171
AREA 16: **BILL WEINBERG**



We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet **each Monday at 11:30 am** at Masse's – 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5.00 for as long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us. All SIRs are welcome.

TENNIS: (OPEN) (Br. 171)
RALPH THORNICROFT (Br. 174)



The Tennis Group plays at St. Mary's College **every Tuesday and Thursday**. **Times vary between 8:00am and 8:30am, depending on the weather**. Players are at varying skill levels, mostly around the 3.0 range. Members' wives are invited to join us, so let them know they are welcome. Call Jim or Ralph for information.

TRAVEL: (OPEN) Br 171
JOE TRACY Br 174)
TOM MOLINARI (Area 16), stmolinari@sbcglobal.net



Trips currently scheduled in 2018-19 and sponsored by our SIRs Area 16 follow:

May 2-13, 2019: 12 Day Cruise and Land Tour. Including a 8-day Mediterranean Cruise aboard the Crystal Serenity sailing from Athens to Rome with a one night pre-cruise stay in Athens and two night stay in Rome. Port stops include Navplion, Santorini, Valletta, Taormina and Sorrento. Cost is \$5350 to \$7595 which includes all beverages restaurants, room service, entertainment, gratuities, fitness center, and enrichment classes. Milt Smith, Br 146, 925-285-2897.

June 1-18, 2019: Machu Picchu & the Galapagos. Small ship adventure to Lima, Cuzco, Machu Picchu Quito and 4 night Galapagos Cruise. Cost is \$6,995 including airfare, transfers and taxes, 38 meals, 21 small group activities, 2 local Trip Leaders, gratuities for local guides, drivers, ship crew and luggage porters. Milt Smith, Br 146, 925-285-2897.

Aug 23-Sep3, 2019: 12 Day Land and Sea Scenic Alaska Adventure. 4-day pre-cruise Denali Tour followed by an 8-day cruise from Anchorage to Vancouver on the Crystal Symphony. Ports of call include Seward, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, and Tracy Arms Glacier. Cost of \$5250 to \$6425 now includes everything. Milt Smith, Br 146, 925-285-2897

The quarterly **State SIR Happenings** travel web page at http://www.sirinc.org/new_site/travel.html offers additional SIR travel options. Upcoming tours include a tour of San Antonio Spring Fiesta (Apr 24 – 28), Princess Cruise of Iceland and Norway (Aug 23 – Sept 9), and a Taste of Bordesux (Sept 7 – 22). Be sure to check these tours out!!

WALKING: *There are three walking groups. There is a group for each of us based on our needs and abilities*

WALKING – ORIGINAL GROUP

AL DONNER (Br. 171)
LYLE DECK (Br. 174)



Rain rules now in play. That is, if it is raining on Tuesday mornings when we walk, our default exercise drill is to meet in front of **Nation's** in the Rheem Shopping Center. We walk the full length of the Rheem Center back and forth a couple of times, then coffee in Nation's. The idea is to stay under the ample overhangs of the shopping center and stay dry while we get exercise. Usually we announce it in advance, but changing weather conditions occasionally prevent us from notifying the herd, so if it is raining and we are not at the usual Tuesday meeting place, Rheem is where you will find us.

If you feel left out of something good, come join the group. Just show up across from the Serbian Church by **9 am any Tuesday** and you are good to go. No initiation fees, hazing or other sophomoric rituals, just walking and talking and coffee after. The group walks for about three miles.

And if you want a slower pace, try the SENIOR STROLLERS group. If you want to try a faster pace, try the BIG HIKERS group.

WALKING -- SENIOR STROLLERS: (OPEN) (Br 171) Al Donner oversees the activity.



Meets **every Wednesday** at 9:15 AM for a casual slower-paced, shorter distance, level-land, sidewalk group of walkers. No plans ahead. Just meet in front of SiSi's at 9:15 every Wednesday morning to walk and then have coffee.

If you want a longer walk, try the WALKING group. For an even longer walk, with some elevation, try the BIG HIKERS group.

WALKING -- BIG HIKERS: **AL DONNER** (Br. 171)



One of three SIRS walking groups, the Big Hikers aims to engage SIRS who want some longer and stronger routes than our two around-town walking groups. The **"Big Hikers"** offer opportunities to do some hikes more than 3 miles in length and sometimes do a little more elevation. They can be further afield, Mt. Diablo or other regional parks, such as Vasco Caves. The Big Hikers operate on a varied schedule, trying to do a couple hikes each month. They go to interesting places as the spirit moves us. Contact Al Donner (to get the on the Big Hikers notice list. If you want a slower pace, try either the WALKING or the SENIOR STROLLERS group. **BIG HIKER walks are scheduled periodically.**

WINE TASTING: **GENE BELL** (Br. 171)
JON LEUTENEKER (Br. 174)



There are now two wine tasting groups. Both are couples events and normally held in-home starting about 7:00 p.m. with a cost per person averaging about \$15. Jon Leuteneker is chairman of the group that meets on the **second Tuesday of each month** - this group has a full roster. Gene Bell is chairman of the group that meets on the **third Tuesday of each month** - membership in this group

Activity Calendar -- March 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Apple Users Activity	Next meeting Mar 25				
Astronomy	2nd Monday of month				
Barbershop Harmony		Every Tuesday of month			
Bocce Ball	Closed for the season. Will begin next April or May. Tuesdays and Fridays				
Book Club			Last Wednesday of month		
Bowling			Every Wednesday of month		
Bridge		2nd & 4th Tuesday of month			
Bridge - ACBL Duplicate		2nd Tuesday - next is March 5			
Computers and Technology				Next meeting March 21	
Couples Dining Out	Next gathering is March 20				
Dominoes				Every Thursday of month	
Fishing				4th Thursday of month	
Golf	Each Monday				
Golf - 9 Holers					Each Friday
Historical Adventures	None scheduled				
Investment Group			March. 27		
Poker			4th Wednesday of month		
Stamp & Coin Club					First Friday after Club Meeting
Table Pool	Every Month of month				
Tennis		Every Tuesday of month		Every Thursday of month	
Travel	No meetings scheduled. Only trips				
Walking - Original Group		Every Tuesday of month			
Walking -- Senior Strollers			Every Wednesday of month		
Walking -- Big Hikers	As scheduled				
Wine Tasting		2nd & 3rd Tuesday of month			

SIR DAY AT THE RACES



Who: SIR Members, Spouses and Guests

What: Horse Races and **Prime Rib Buffet**

When: Friday, March 29, 2019. 11am gate; noon buffet

Where: Golden Gate Fields, Berkeley -- **Turf Club**

Why: Join with Other Branches for **SIR Day at the Races**

Cost: \$41 per person (tax & gratuity included).

Includes Turf Club entry, trip to the Winner's Circle, free parking & entrance, Racing Program, and Prime Rib Buffet.

Bring your check for \$41 per person to the March 6 meeting or send to:

Jim Kline
27 Fieldbrook Place
Moraga, CA 94556

Make check payable to "SIR Branch 171" -- Jim must receive the moneys by March 11. Tickets will be mailed by March 25

Jim will be at the March 6 meeting for checks and questions.