

Topics

rampas

SIR Branch 116 Newsletter January 2022

Enhancing the lives of our members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making Friends for Life

Message from Fred

Happy New Year to one and all and **Welcome to 2022** as we continue our efforts in returning to normal Branch operations.



Thank you for the opportunity to serve our Branch as your Big SIR in 2022 and a special thank you to **Big SIR Sam Beret** for an outstanding job in 2021. Covid challenged us with a number of major decisions and Sam was able to keep us rolling despite the challenges we faced.

Currently, we are planning to have an in-person Luncheon Meeting on January 17th at Boundary Oaks and you have probably already seen a brief invitation and RSVP link to attend. We will need to wear face masks unless we are eating per the recently updated County Requirements.

Please RSVP by Jan 3rd so that we can confirm the count with Boundary Oaks.

Our Speaker will be **Jeff Davidson** who will be speaking on "Walking the Camino de Santiago", the shrine of the Apostle, St James. Thousands of people have made this pilgrimage from France and Northern Spain to Santiago de Compestela Cathedral in Galicia, Spain. This will be a great talk for travelers, adventurers, and historians alike.

At this point the most current Contra Costa County Health Order for indoor masking is summarized by the County Health Department as follows:

"This Order of the Health Officer rescinds specified exceptions to Health Officer Order No. HOCOVID19-51, the face coverings order applicable in public indoor spaces, that allowed fully vaccinated public speakers and performers, and fully vaccinated groups of 100 or fewer persons, to remove their face coverings under controlled conditions, effective at 12:01 a.m. on December 29, 2021"

Our County is currently in the Orange Tier with a 78% vaccination with 60 folks hospitalized. Cases per day are currently the lowest for seniors who are vaccinated with boosters. Check out the CC County Dashboard for details at: Home | Coronavirus (cchealth.org)

Also, **Paul Russell** is looking for Bocce Players so let him know if you are interested in this activity which includes spouses and friends. <u>peruz@att.net</u>

Our Dine-O-SIR group met for a great dinner and evening on 15 Dec at the Luna Italian Restaurant in Concord. Great job **Alex Lutkus**. Members really enjoyed getting back together.

Fred Wachowicz, Big SIR

Next Meeting Jan. 17 @ Boundary Oak -11:30 AM

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PLEASE CALL
925 322-1318
or email to
luncheon116@gmail.com
before 1PM the Monday prior to the
meeting to cancel
your reservation

2022 SIR Branch 116 Officers



Big SIR Fred Wachowicz



Little SIR Roger Craig



Treasurer Alan **Fitzgerald**



Asst.Treas. David Ferm



Asst.Treas. Al Satake



Secretary Paul Ramacciotti



Asst. Sec. Alan Pope



Member.Sec. Phil Goff

Asst. Chairman

Harry Sherinian

Joel White

Steve Bort

Alan Pope

Bob Wolf

Phil Goff

Marty Katz

Tom Henry

Terry Miller

Jim Johnson

D. Mclaughry

JJ, Harris, Eller

Harry Oberle

Jeff Johnson

Alex Lutkus

Gary Bonfiglio

Dick Kauffma

Branch 116 Directors



Don Benioff



Sam Beret



Kevin Donahue



A1 Farbman



Darrell McClaughry



Dave Williams

2022 Support Chairmen

RAMP Department Heads:

Recruitment

Activities

Member Relations

• Publicity

Branch Support Chairmen:

• Audit Committee

Nominating Committee

Sunshine Committee

Computer Support

Webmaster

• Newsletter Editor

New Member Orientation

• Membership Roster Prep

Diversity Support Team

• Team Leader

Team Member

Team Member

Team Member

Team Member

Team Member

Team Advisor

Luncheon Support Team:

• Attendance

• Audio Visual

Chaplain Committee

Greeters Committee

• Raffle Committee

Storytellers Committee

Speakers Committee

Team Member

Team Member

Team Member

Team Member

Team Member

Don Schroeder

Mike Ward

Tom O'Brien/Roger Craig

Allan Farbman

Ron Armijo

Michael Barrington

Matt Arena

Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff

Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff

Neil Schmidt

Dave Williams

George Pryhuber

Fred Wachowicz

Sam Beret

Terry Sherman

Al Satake

Jerry Hicks

Jim McCormick

Lee Moy

Mike Scheneider

Neil Schmidt

Terry Sherman Terry Grummitt

Ben Bryce

Mac McLoughlin/F. Schafer

Fred Wachowicz Jeff Johnson

Allan Farbman Paul Freitas Roger Craig

2022 Activity Chairmen

Activity Amiable Amblers Bocce

Book Group 1

Book Group 2

Book Exchange

Bridge

Computer & Tech.

Dine-O-SIR

Duplicate Bridge

Fishing

Golf—18 Hole Golf—9 Hole

Golf-Treasurer

Golf-Carmel

Golf-Carson City

Golf-Clinic

Mexican Train

Parties

• Pickleball

Poker

Saturday Tours

\$ums in Retirement

Travel

• Wine-O-SIR

Chairman

John Riordan

Paul Russell

Rich Black

Scott Clark

John Fraser

Jon Dickson

Neil Schmidt

Alex Lutkus

Conrad Robertson Harry Sherinian

Bernie Wroblewski

Dick Chaffee

Alan Pope

Jim Barstow

David Harris

Chris Doan

Richard Madden

Marty Katz Ed Solomon

Lou Sandor Greg Hughes

Ben Smith

TBD Lou Mevlan

A Thank You to all Br. 116 SIR Who Volunteer to be Leaders

Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities

Apple User Group	Dick Macy (Br.171)	376-1180
Astronomy	Bill Hunter (Br.8)	947-6947
Bowling	Dan Weller (Br. 8)	935-5510
Digital Photo.	Bill Phelon (Br.8)	254-8338
Pocket Pool	Jerry White (Br.8)	944-9068
Tennis	Ralph Thornicraft (174)	376-8140

Monthly Activities Calendar

January 2022

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
						1
2	3 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak) Book Group 1 (10:15 via Zoom)	4	9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pleasanton GC)	6	7 Pickleball (9:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	8
9	18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	11	9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills GC) Mexican Train (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)	13	Amiable Amblers (8:15@ Inspiration Pt., Tilden) Pickleball (9:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	Golf Clinic 12
16	SIR Br. 116 Meeting (11:30 @ Boundary Oak)	18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Franklin Cyn GC)	9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Buchanan Fields GC)	Book Group 2 (11:00 via Zoom)	Pickleball (9:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	22
23	18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Canyon Laked GC)	25	9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Dublin Ranch GC) \$ums Investment (1:30 via Zoom)	Fishing Group (8:30 via Zoom) Wine-O-SIR (4:00@ Dave Havlik) House)	Amiable Amblers (8:15@ Stone Valley Rd. West, Alamo) Pickleball (9:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	Golf Clinic 62
30	18-Hole Golf (10:00@ San Ramon GC) Book Group 1 (10:15 via Zoom)					



Branch Administration



Treasury Report

Alan Fitzgerald, Treasurer

January 1, 2022					
		Dec. 24	2021 YTD		
Contributions	\$		\$	29,210.28	
Disbursements	\$	0.00	\$	(30,774.63)	
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ 0.00		\$	(1,564.35)	
November Cash Balance				9,711.79	
Outstanding Checks				0.00	
Bank Acct Balance			\$	9,711.79	



Branch Membership

Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Current Membership: 198

- Peter Beldon passed away in Nov. 2021
- Neil Desmond passed away on Nov. 26, 2021

Trampas Topics Submissions



We need your contributions and suggestions for Trampas Topics. Please send photos, news items, SIR activities, and Letters to the Editor:

Neil Schmidt, Trampas Topics Editor trampastopics@gmail.com

SIR HAPPENINGS

Checkout the new and improved State SIR Happenings Newsletter. With a new editor the newsletter February 2021 has been radically expanded with lots of information about fun things that are going on in our branches.

You can find it at: https://sirinc.org/newsletters

SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site branch116.org

Branch 116 Golf branch116golf.org

Branch 116 Shopping Cart

sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site

Area 16 Computer and Technology

sirinc2.org/a16cat/

SIR Happenings State Newsletter sirinc.org/newsletters/

In Memoriam

Cornelius (Neil) Desmond

January 5, 1934 - November 26, 2021

In Memoriam

Peter Belden

March 27, 1932 - ??, 2021

January Birthdays

When you see these members, wish them a Happy Birthday!

- 1. Ken Binning
- 2. Dick Conger
- 3. Tom Eller
- 4. Jack Fucik
- 5. Bill Ginter
- 6. "T" Legler
- John Maerzke

- 8. Andy Myhr
- 9. Jim Nickels
- 10. Lou Sandor
- 11. Dick Savage
- 12. Dennis Snarr
- 13. Dick Socolich

Luncheon Speaker

Speaker for January Meeting at Boundary Oak "A Pilgrimage Trail in Spain" Jeff Davidson

Helping us kick off the new year, our speaker for our January meeting is Jeff Davidson. Jeff will talk about his experiences walking the El Camino de Santiago in northern Spain.

This roughly 500-mile trek through Spain has been a pilgrimage for 20 million people over the past 1,000 years. According to tradition, the remains of the Apostle James are buried at the final

destination of the walk-- the Cathedral of Santiago

de Compestela in Northern Spain. While there are many reasons people engage in this effort--the challenge, religious, or other reasons--it has been said that many come away with a variety of emotions upon completion of the pilgrimage. As we are beginning a new year, what better way to start our own journeys than to hear about Jeff's pilgrimage.

Please join us for this uplifting talk.

Branch Administration



Little SIR Report

Roger Craig

Ahoy as I embark on my maiden voyage as Little Sir. I was hoping to welcome everyone back to a January in person luncheon meeting at Boundary Oaks. We may not know at press time if member response will be sufficient to have the meeting at Boundary Oak. Let's hope so.

Big Sir Fred Wachowicz and I see 2022 as the year of R&R. Retain and Recruit. COVID has certainly

dampened the spirit of many existing members and heightened the need for new members. We can all play a role in both endeavors by encouraging activity among members and of course seeking new members to join our branch.

In the meantime , I wish you and yours a very HAPPY and HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Mask Requirements for January 17th SIR Luncheon at Boundary Oak

Contra Costa County—Dec. 28, 2021: "With the highly contagious COVID-19 omicron variant circulating in Contra Costa, Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) announced a health order requiring everyone to mask in all indoor public settings.

Previously, there were limited exceptions to the indoor masking order. Public speakers and performers, and fully vaccinated groups of up to 100 people were allowed to remove their face coverings under controlled conditions.

The order, which goes into effect on Dec. 29, now requires all people in the county, regardless of vaccination status, to mask in public indoor settings."



Activities Report

Mike Ward, Activities Head

The status of the INDOOR AND THE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES remain the same as reported in the December Newsletter.

Our Branch 116 currently has 12 indoor and 12 outdoor activities for your use.

If you have a interest in participating in any of our 24 activities, please check this month's calendar for the date and time.

Also, please call the ACTIVITY LEADER to confirm your attendance.

In the second quarter of 2021, a summary of the First Quarter survey for new activities was issued. The most popular new activities from this survey are listed below:

- COOKING
- CPR TRAINING

- THEATER/OPERA
- SMALL DINNER GROUPS
- TRAVEL (DOMESTIC / FOREIGN)
- WINE/BEER MAKING
- BOWLING
- COMMUNITY SERVICES
- STOCK INVESTMENT
- TABLE TOP TENNIS (MAYBE SHARED WITH OTHER BRANCH)
- PHOTOGRAPHY

If any Branch members have an interest in participating or becoming an Activity leader in any of the above new activities, please email me

at Michael.Ward64@comcast.net.

Please Note: Activity leaders have already volunteered for the TRAVEL (DOMESTIC / FOREIGN) and the TABLE TOP TENNIS.



Mexican Train Dominos

Rechard Madden

Mexican Train" is a domino game which uses a set of Double Twelve Dominoes. From 2 to 8 can play. Each player draws 11 to 15 dominoes. The number of dominoes each player draws depends on the number of players. The object of the game is to play all your dominoes. When you draw your hand, you set it up so that the adjacent dominoes match. During the play of a round there are things that can derail your train so that you cannot play. This can make the game very interesting and a lot of FUN!

We had five in attendance at our December meeting. To show that we are still flexible to change we had the meeting a week late since there were conflicts for several of our regulars. Richard Madden

came in with a score of 195 with runner-up position going to Alex Lutkus at 244. The next participants, Harry Sherinian and Brent Chaney were very close respectively having scores of 313 and 331. Gary Bonfiglio rounded out our group with 409.

We meet at 10:00 AM on the second Wednesday of each month at the Church of Christ located at 500 Minert Road, Walnut Creek. Our next meeting is January 12th. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Please email me and if you would like to talk and I can give you a call. I will be sending out notices. Let me know if you would like to be put on our list.

\$ums Investment

Tom Henry (Br. 174)

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their Zoom meeting—back to our normal schedule - on Wed January 26 at 1:30 PM.

Is it good to Buy on Dips?

--if so, how do you identify what is dipping and what to Buy?

Is it good to Buy low and Sell high?

--if so, how do you identify what is now low but will eventually be higher?

What is a Value Stock?

--how do you identify what is a Value Stock?

Participants should try to identify examples of each for our discussion and indicate why they have selected that company as an example.

A Zoom invitation will be sent out later for those on the email list.

Email Dave Sutton to be included.at: davesutn@comcast.net



Dine-O-SIR

Alex Lutkus

Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2022 New Year from the Dine-O-SIR Committee to all SIR Branch 116 members, their family and friends.

Last month, the Dine-O-SIR Dinner Group held its first dining event since January 2020. It was a splendid evening for SIR members and guests to once again get together to socialize and dine in a jovial atmosphere. The affair was a sellout with 56 guests

in attendance at the Luna Restaurante (See photos on page 12)

Future Dine-O-SIR events are dependent upon the pandemic situation. Nether-the-less, the Dine-O-SIR Committee is planning a tentative schedule of dining events for 2022. Stay tuned for future announcements.



Fishing

Harry Sherinian

All SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are Bob Lively 925-383-5193 and Harry Sherinian 925-846-7067, Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on **Thursday**, **January 27th at 8:30am**.

Now is the time to put the woes of 2021 behind us. I wish you all calm water, light winds, and good

friends in 2022. Boats are out crabbing using new rules that seem to be working. Bob Stein, Gordon Linebaugh, Lee Clark, Brion Beetz, Carl Moyer, Stan Wong and others are returning with limits of the tasty crustaceans. Stan Wong, Harry Sherinian, Tom Kostik, and Mike Corker worked the delta for some slow striped bass fishing. Stan Wong, Brion Beetz, Ken Belinder, and Carl Moyer caught Rock Cod and Ling Cod from the ocean blue. Stan Wong caught some salmon from shore.



Book Group 1 Rich Black

Book Group #1 will next meet at 10:15 on **Monday**, **January 3, 2022** by Zoom unless unseasonably clear weather allows us to meet in Arbolado Park (lower parking lot) to discuss "The Presidents Club" by Gibbs and Duffy. Prospective new members who wish to join our +/- one-hour discussion (not a class) should contact Richard Black at Blackrw41@comcast.net

Book Group #1 will also meet on **Monday, January 31** to discuss "The Spy and the Traitor" by Ben Macintyre. This also will be a 10:15 meeting, no doubt by Zoom.

Book Group #1 last met on December 6, 3021 discuss "The Bomber Mafia" by Malcolm Gladwell, which

discussed precision bombing and area bombing in WW II. Curtis LeMay implemented incendiary bombing in Japan while Hayward Hansell advocated precision bombing in Europe. Mac McLoughlin recommended the book and added his personal experiences as a navy pilot in the Viet Nam war while Richard Black led the discussion with Mike Schneider, Steve Bort, Richard White, Joel White, John Kopchik, Dick Kaufman, Richard Rossland, John Riordan, Al Farbman and Art Donaldson. Most of us found "Bomber Mafia" an enjoyable and instructive read although not a particularly well fashioned book while awarding it 3.6 stars.



Book Group 2

Scott Clark

Our December book was Strange Stones, by Peter Hessler. The book comprises the authors previously reported stories in the New Yorker Magazine while working and living in Beijing. Many of the chapters in this wide-ranging collection of journalism come from that period. Profiled are a global basketball star, Yao Ming, eats at a rat restaurant, and walks on the Great Wall of China. You will learn that the Great Wall of China cannot be seen from space. That falsehood springs from Chinese propaganda. With

curiosity and enthusiasm, Hessler writes about Chinese politics and Chinese history.

Six members joined our discussion. We rated the book 4/5.

Our next Book Club 2 meeting will be on **Jan.20**. The group will discuss Eat The Buddha, by Barbara Demick.

All are welcome to attend. Contact Scott Clark to be added to our Zoom invitation.



Wine-O-SIR Lou Meylan

The last Wine O Sirs tasting was November 18,2021 at the home of SIR Dick Breitweiser. The wines he presented were from Indian Rock Winery of Murphys, California.

Our next get together will be on **January 27,2022** at the home of Sir Dave Havlik from 4pm to 6pm. If yu are interested in attending please rsvp to Dave at jdhavlik2sbcglobal.net.



Amiable Amblers

John Riordan

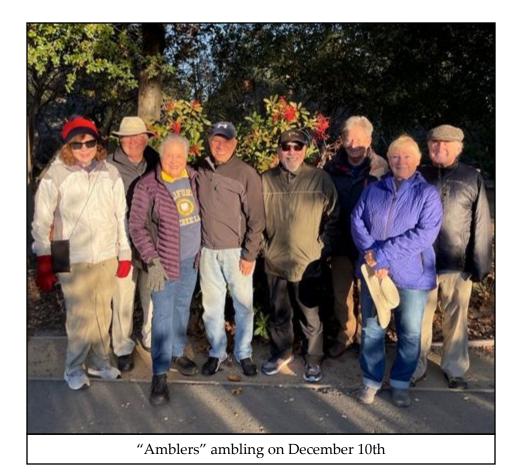
Dick Frankel led a cold December 10 walk on the Iron Horse Trail north from Walnut Creek Civic Park. Dick was accompanied by Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Al Farbman, Paul & Anna Freitas, Dan & Andrea Green, and Joel White. Walkers gathered afterwards at nearby La Scala for coffee, food, and conversation outdoors.

Amiable Amblers at a cold morning walk on the Iron Horse Trail

The **January 14** walk will commence at 8:15 at Inspiration Point in Tilden Park. We will walk north along the Nimitz Trail. The **January 28** walk will commence at 8:15 at the trailhead on Stone Valley

Road West in Alamo. We will walk north along the Iron Horse Trail. RSVP to me at jriordan730@gmail.com .

These walks are for individuals or couples, as spouses and significant others are encouraged to participate. The significant other/spouse is also invited to participate even when the member is unable to. SIR members, including those from other branches, wishing to join this mellow group or to be added to the email contact list should contact me at jriordan730@gmail.com or 925-284-3394. Also contact me if you wish to be removed from the list for future emails.





SIR Golf Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

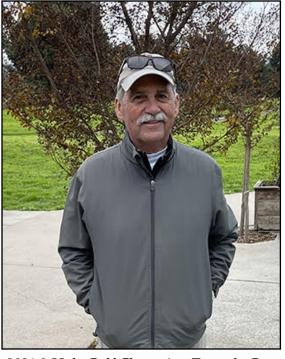
The Golf Website is: branch116golf.org

Please bookmark it in your "Favorites" list of websites to access information on the following:

 2018 Golf Schedule: Dates, times, and courses as well as detailed information on costs, payment information, deadlines, and special event facts.

<u>18-Hole Pairings:</u> Shows captains, teams, starting times & handicaps for next event.

- <u>18-Hole Leaders and Results:</u> Shows results from recent events and leaders in each group.
- <u>Paid-In-Advance Sign-Ups:</u> Shows checks that have been received for the next 3-4 pre-paid outings.
- Boundary Oak Sign-Ups: Shows who has signed-



2021 9-Hole Golf Champion Tony de Grass

Latest SIR 116 Golf Info Available on Our Golf Web Site

January: 9-Hole Schedule

Juliudi y v z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z						
	Date	Time	Location	Organizer		
	Wed. 05	10:00	Pleasanton GC	Marty Katz		
	Wed. 12	10:00	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry		
	Wed. 19	10:00	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee		
	Wed. 26	10:00	Dublin Ranch	Marty Katz		

January: 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 03	9:40	Boundary Oak	Fred Schafer
Mon. 10	9:40	Boundary Oak	Fred Schafer
Tue. 18	9:30	Franklin Cyn.	Fred Schafer
Mon. 24	9:30	Canyon Lakes	Fred Schafer
Mon. 31	10:00	San Ramon	Fred Schafer

18-Hole Pay In Advance Deadlines

Event Date	<u>Location</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jan. 18	Franklin Canyon	Jan. 10	\$42
Jan. 24	Canyon Lakes	Jan. 6	\$43
Jan. 31	San Ramon	Jan. 13	\$24 Walk / \$36 Ride
Feb. 22	Blue Rock West	Feb. 14	\$39

Sign-up via Branch 116 Shopping Cart System at: sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site



Golf Clinic Chris Doan

This is a good time to get on the Golf Clinic mailing list to take advantage of clinic offerings in 2022. Send an email to Chris Doan (cdoan99@gmail.com) requesting to be added.

Golf Clinic sessions are conducted at Diablo Creek Golf Course in Concord. The cost is a very reasonable \$30 per one hour session with instruction from golf pro Pete Asselin. Feedback continues to be quite positive about the session structure and approach. Only 3 or 4 participants are assigned to a single session so there is a good amount of individual attention provided.

In 2021, a total of eight clinic sessions were offered with 34 members and spouses participating. Both high and low handicap players have taken advantage of the tune-up opportunities so it is geared for all golf levels.

A new curriculum is being developed for 2022.

There has been a great deal of interest in the topic of "Course Management" so the first session in January (15th) will specifically address this subject. Pete is gathering feedback from those currently on the mailing list as we refine other areas of focus for the balance of the first quarter.

Members interested in getting involved, please contact Chris at cdoan99@gmail.com or (602) 908-0292 to be added to the Clinic mailing list or to explore additional questions that you might have before you decide. Notice for the specifics of the January Clinic, along with sign-up details, will be distributed in early January. Come join in!

FORE!!

For the calendar:

Golf Clinic dates in January ... 15th and 29th.







Save the Dates: Sept. 6-9 2022 Reno Golf Outing

This year we plan to go back to Reno for golf. The dates will be Tuesday September 6 to Friday September 9. We will arrive Tuesday, play golf on Wednesday and Thursday, and come home on Friday. Group dinners will be on Tuesday and Thursday.

day evenings. There will be activities for the men and woman who do not play golf. Save the dates.

There will be more details about the outing this spring. If you have any questions, contact David Harris.

Branch Photos

"Luna Restaurante" Dine-O-SIR Dinner on December 15, 2021



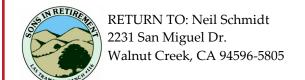












FIRST CLASS MAIL

Sons In Retirement: A non profit Organization for Men Enjoying Active Retirement

Rules of Attendance & Membership for SIR Branch 116

RULE 100. A member shall be notified in writing and/or telephone by his Branch of the pending termination of his membership should he be responsible for any of the following:

- Miss three (3) consecutive regular luncheon meetings without having been excused by contacting the designated Branch Attendance person prior to the meeting date.
- Did not attend one-half of the regular luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period. NOTE: Excused meetings cannot be included to achieve the minimum attendance.
- All legitimate alternatives to termination shall be explored. The member's response may suggest an alternative to termination such as inactive status.

RULE 101. Certification of attendance by a member at another Branch meeting will be considered as a credit to his attendance record. Individual Branches may limit the number of make-ups during a 12-month period.

Non Responsibility Declaration

RULE 345: All activities arranged for or by, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

Checks for Trips

Trips of 2 days and 1 night or less may be made payable to the Branch conducting the trip. Trips in excess of 1 night must be made payable to the travel agency involved.