

SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for February 2026

SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life. Visit our [Branch Webpage](#), or [State Webpage](#):

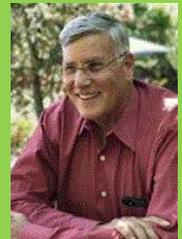
Windsor Branch 176

Monthly Luncheon Meeting Every 3rd Wednesday
Jimmy's Lakeside Grill, 130 19th Hole Dr. Windsor CA
2/18/26 Lunch is \$30.00

Windsor Winds Edition

February 2026
Volume 33 Number 2

Big SIR – Steve De La Montanya



Hello fellow SIR members, The January BEC meeting and Luncheon went well with only a few minor issues.

At the BEC we completed the swearing in of the board members for 2026. The Board also voted to continue the current \$20.00 annual membership fee for the year 2026. With the understanding it is likely dues will be raised to \$25.00 for next year.

The Audit committee completed its review of the financials for 2025. As expected, Gary has everything in perfect order.

A set of goals for SIR Branch 176 were established for 2026:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Improve Safety for our membership | AED, First Aid Kits, |
| Training | |
| 2. Improve experience at existing activities | Food Quality, More Bocce |
| Courts | |
| 3. Add more Activities | Support or committee |
| 4. Maintain and Grow Membership | Get the word out, Welcome |
| members | |

At the Luncheon we enjoyed a very nice Meat Loaf entrée and sides served to your table.

A new applicant has been introduced, and we will be voting on his membership at the next meeting, William (Bid) Wallace. His background is in Music and Education. His main interest is Golf. Bid Resides in the Covelo area but plans on making the trip to Windsor to participate with our group. Another probable applicant is Tom Van Camp of Windsor. He stopped in at coffee and plans to complete the second visit at another function this week.

We should have his application and be prepared to vote for him at the next meeting. A very nice gentleman

Our guest speaker, Susan Clark, put on an extended power point presentation. She provided details of installing a rainwater percolation and catchment system, with a low maintenance, pollinator friendly garden.

We did have a couple of glitches to work through as the microphone system was not properly set up. Because the microphone was not charged when we arrived, we did not determine this in advance. Lunch was served right away and did affect our ability to get the membership participation we were looking for. We will work on resolving these issues prior to the next meeting.

I Look forward to seeing everyone at the Monthly Luncheon on Feb 18th. If you have concerns, please attend the meeting so your voice is heard.



Little SIR – Bruce Okrepkie

Happy New Year and hope you had a memorable one. Our speaker this month was Suzanne Clark, master gardener who changed her Victorian home into a wildlife habitat - very interesting.

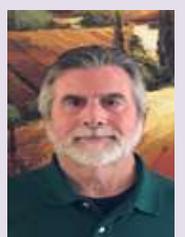
This month we have the Internet King – Mr. Web Master – Jim Tubbs. He will fill us in on our website and what is new.

In March we will have the Town Manager (John Davis) and the Economic Development Manager (Tim Ricard) talking to us about the new sales tax the Town is trying to implement and the reasons why.

Lastly, I will try to bring you timely and interesting speakers. If any of you have someone you would like to speak to our group, please let me know.

at bruceokrepkie@gmail.com, See you at our next meeting.

Chris Roach – Friendship Report



I'm sorry to have to inform you that Steve Greer has passed away. We followed up with Jim Branscomb and John Hackenberg to wish them both a speedy recovery. A Get Well card was sent to Dave Schleeter.



MEMBERSHIP –LARRY D.



So much for the month of January. Almost time to put up those Christmas trees.

With the passing of Steve Greer, we now have 91 members.

Please don't forget to send your \$20 (or bring it to any event Garry is there) for this year's dues. We voted to keep it the same price as last year but next year it will cost \$25. The dues help to cover our cost with SIRs insurance through the state.

IMPORTANT WEBPAGE UPDATE -JIM TUBB

WWW.WINDSORSIRS.ORG

All the member bios we have are now available on our website
<https://windsorsirs.org/members.html>

Our members have led fascinating lives and you may have more in common than you think. So here is a chance to find out a little more about that guy you've been having coffee with.

Having some background information about you on the web page is completely voluntary. If you don't want it there, email Jim at drdelta91@gmail.com Please review, and if you want something added or changed, do the same.

Finally, if you've never provided a bio. for the newsletter/webpage and would be willing to do so, please contact Gary Good at gary.good@comcast.net. Gary is helping Tom Palmer with that segment of the newsletter.

OUR DUES ARE DUE

At the BEC Meeting a vote was taken to keep the **2026 membership dues** at \$20 (despite an increase of payments to state). Many at the luncheon have already paid. Thank you. For members under 90 who would like to renew SIR membership, you can **send a check** to the home address of **Garry Trojanowski**: 9575 Wellington Circle, Windsor, CA 95492. Alternatively, Garry can be found at coffee on Tuesday's and you can **pay him there by cash** or check.

TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE The time has changed to 8:45-9:45

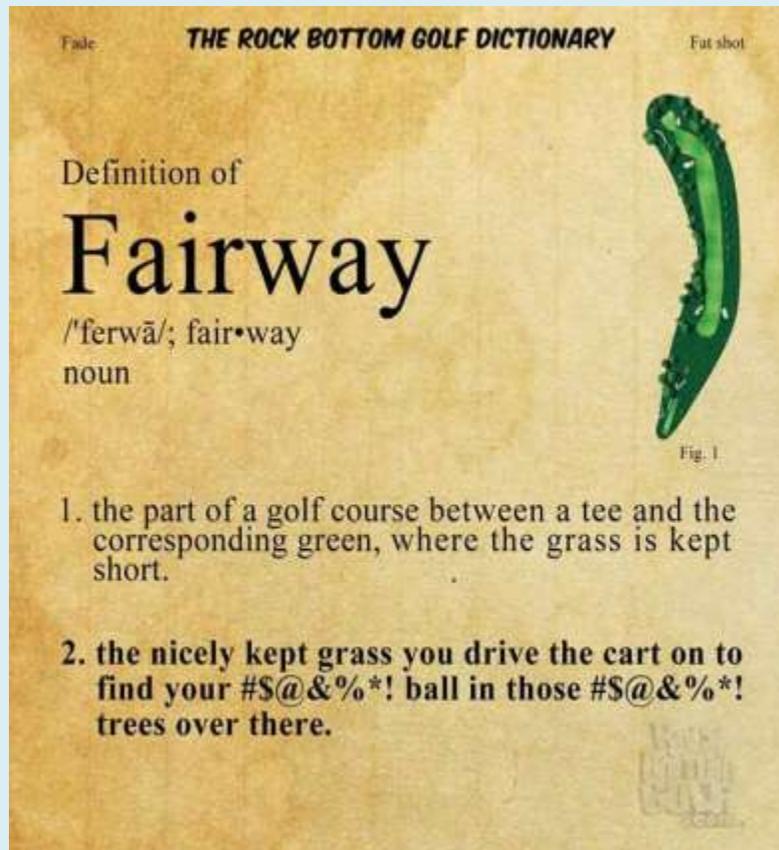
High attendance at the Tuesday Morning 8:45am coffee session at the Senior Center continues. Now in 2026, the Senior Center has a new time schedule which slightly affects us, hence the time change. Please don't forget to invite a friend.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FEBURARY TO:

Tom Hasco, Tom Lalli, Michael Germani, Terry Newkirk, Tom Palmer, Bruce Okrepkie, Ken Tomsen, Nelson Weller, Chris Roach,
Tony Rossi

Golf: Paul Hanson & Frank Treanor



The signups for 2026 have gone well. We have 16 full club members and three, part members. All have paid their dues

After the rain and the cold we are looking for a great and fun year of golf

If you want to join, shoot me an email at bcft11@comcast.net

Couples Dinner Jim Vick

The couple's dinner on January 15th was a fun evening and 12 couples attended. There was lots of good food and conversation at Qimura Sushi & Ramen.



For February, the Sirs dinner will be **Thursday February 12th** at the Himalayan Restaurant, 810 McClelland Drive at 5:30pm. If you wish to attend, please email Jim immediately at:

jvick1497@gmail.com



SIR Branch 176 Bowling Report

The Monday Morning Mixed Seniors Fall-Winter bowling league has reached the half-way point in its nine month season. Our twelve teams remain highly competitive, with no team running away with the second segment high score. Branch 176 bowlers being recognized for high personal scores include Sir Al Fiori, Sir Lou Commendatore, and Sir Mark Nelson.

WE have four more weeks of competition before the second phase roll off event.

Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan



The Dead Ball Rule: If a ball hits the backboard first, it is removed. If it strikes the backboard and then hits other stationary balls, those balls must be replaced to their original positions.

All welcome every Thursday 10am at the Senior Center Bocce Ball Court.

LIKE TO PLAY POOL, DARTS, SHUFFLEBOARD?

Game time is every Tuesday from 3pm to 5pm. at Racks-N-Cues
88928 Lakewood Dr.



3PM Friday Happy Hour



If you are free, come and enjoy a cold beverage and lively conversation. **The schedule for February is:** 2/6 The Publican; 2/13 Barley & Brine; 2/20 Lupe's; 2/27 CuVers;



NEXT OPPORTUNITY IS 2/5 @2PM*

This is a message received from the foodbank after our last volunteer effort from 17 of us.

Your group packed 15,609 lbs of groceries that went into 484 senior boxes!

- Equivalent to 484 meals for our neighbors in need!

To clarify, this is not a "Sir's Activity", it's a foodbank activity in which we assist, therefore, women/friends are absolutely welcome and encouraged to participate.

Continuing on, we will have a group going over once a month on the 1st Thursday of the month from 2-4pm. **The next service opportunity will be on February 5th, if you haven't been getting my foodbank sign-up emails and wish to volunteer, please email me immediately at:**

palmer.ts@gmail.com

SPECIAL PROFILE:



Mike Quilici

Recognizing a budding opportunity to strike out on a new venture, Mike Quilici demonstrated astuteness, entrepreneurial instincts and good timing when he made a bold pivot from pharmaceutical sales into real estate. In doing so, he began to create a more dynamic and diversified career – one that would define his professional life for decades to come.

Mike is a Northern Californian native, born in Oakland and raised in Alameda. After graduating from California State University East Bay (formerly CSU Hayward) with a B.S. degree in Business Administration and Marketing, he began his career in pharmaceutical sales, calling on physicians, hospitals, and pharmacies throughout California's East Bay.

He met his wife Janice in Oakland in 1973, and in 1974 his employer asked him to change territories, prompting the couple to relocate to Sonoma County—specifically, Santa Rosa.

In 1976 they purchased their first home in Santa Rosa while it was under construction. “It was during that time that I became very interested in both real estate and construction. The Broker Owners of Fireside Realty & Feature Homes asked us to consider coming to work for them selling new homes. We took classes and obtained our Real Estate Licenses in 1977 and accepted the job offer.” Mike sold new homes and residential lots in subdivisions developed throughout Sonoma County, while Janice focused on existing home sales.

They obtained Brokers' Licenses in the mid-80's, and their entrepreneurial spirit led them to open Benchmark Realty in Santa Rosa in 1986. The Benchmark Value Awards, introduced at the annual Benchmark EXPO, honor agents who exemplify the company's core values and community impact. “We keep and still operate Benchmark Realty,” said Mike.

“I went to work for Christopherson Homes in 1997, selling new homes in subdivisions they develop in Sonoma County,” he said. The firm has earned local honors such as Best Builder in community and Reader's Choice awards for its high-quality craftsmanship and customer service and has been recognized for incorporating energy-efficient and sustainable building practices – earning certifications and accolades in green home design.

Working for Christopherson Homes Inc. in 1998, Mike sold homes in the Shiloh Greens subdivision at the Windsor Golf Club, and he and Janice decided to buy and move into that new golf course community. "We both enjoy golf greatly – on most days, that is!" They lived in Windsor until 2010 and then relocated a bit farther north to Cloverdale.

Mike and Janice have three daughters and five grandchildren living in Northern California or Texas. What keeps them exploring and learning is their RV travels throughout various states and national parks.

Despite being retired, Mike and Janice have kept their real estate licenses active. "It's all about applying what we learned in building our business from the ground up," Mike said. "Helping family, friends, and previous clients meet their real estate needs is our way of giving back."

TRAVEL FROM STATE SIR:

Cuba – March 12- 2026. It is legal to travel once again, open the a link and check it out, if interested contact Glenn Breslin
glennbreslin@gmail.com ASAP as he is putting an online Q&A together. LINK:
Cultural Cuba Experience | Mayflower Cruises and Tours

South Korea & Japan: Temples, Shrines & Seaside Treasures. Korea: Seoul, Japan: Tokyo, Toba, Kyoto. April 1 - April 26, '26. Starting from \$7,495 including air. Pre-trip Mongolia: Ulaanbaater & the Gobi Desert. 9 nights from \$1,495. OR...Vietnam: Hanoi & Halong Bay Cruise 5 nights from \$1,495. SIR Group Code G5-30339 For more information contact Glenn Breslin glennbreslin@gmail.com Branch 146. LINK:
South Korea and Japan | Travel to East Asia | Overseas Adventure Travel

Explore the Great Lakes and Niagara Falls, May 3-11, 2026: From urban skylines to uninhabited islands, discover North America's wilderness alongside renowned cultural attractions aboard a small expedition ship. 378 passengers. Led by experts. Balcony staterooms \$6170-8295pp. Contact Michael & Kathi Gervais Br. 98.
Kathig@shipsandtripstravel.com 916-337-1623. LINK:
Great Lakes and Niagara Falls on the Viking Octantis

Christmas on the Danube with a 2 day Christmas Markets of Prague extension. Nov. 27-Dec. 8, 2026

Six night Danube River Cruise including Christmas Markets in Vienna, Wurzburg, Rothenburg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Wachau Valley, Gluhwein Party. Pricing: \$5896-\$7497 pp, double occupancy. Contact: Bill Britton Br. 101 bill.britton@comcast.net (925) 200-1062. LINK: Christmas on the Danube | Collette

OTHER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(Non SIR Activities)

Once a month (date varies) all SIR and their spouse (SIR+) are welcome to start the “work” week with **Mexican Monday** – a chance for SIR couples to gather. Starts sharply at 4PM Castaneda’s Marketplace. This month **16 February** is Mexican Monday. The frozen margarita machine that transformed into frozen horchata machine that has been “resting” -- may be revived by this date? If not, bottled beer and soda are an option, but most just come for the lively conversation.

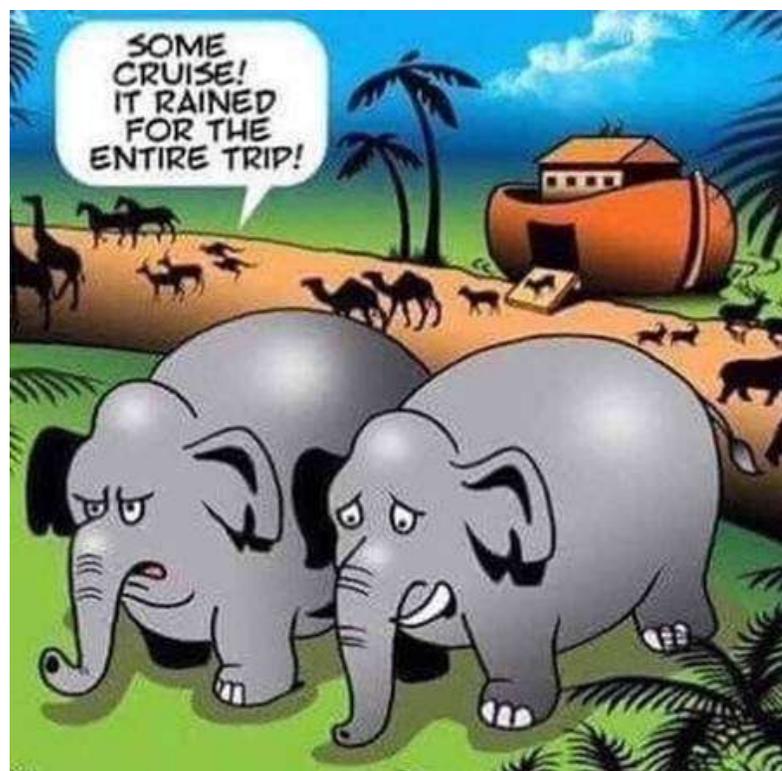


Every Saturday morning starting at 8AM Jose Castaneda serves a free breakfast for veterans, i.e. “Castañeda’s Breakfast Brigade,” he provides veterans a place for connections, camaraderie & friendship.

DID YOU KNOW?

Supermarket apples can be a year old. Farmers often pick apples in the fall, cover them in wax, hot-air dry them, and then put them in cold storage. This keeps them edible and ready to sell for 6 to 12 months

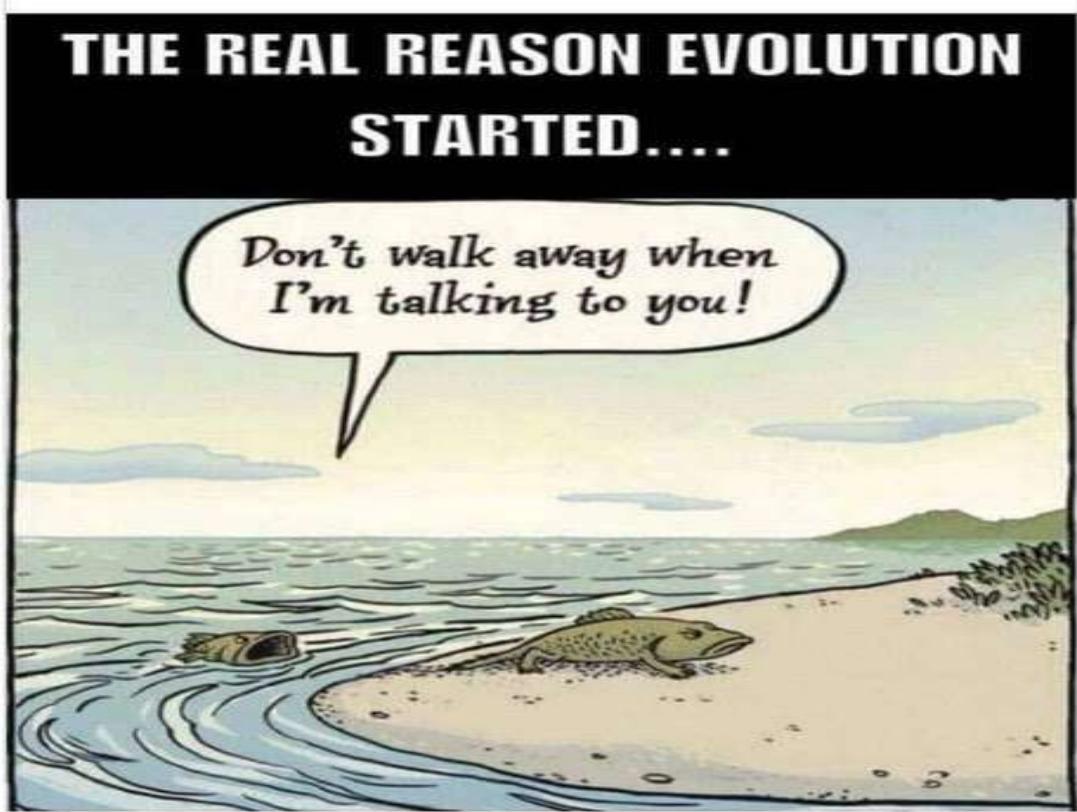
FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:



**A police officer
came to my house
and asked me where
I was between 5 & 6.
He seemed irritated
when I answered:
"Kindergarten"**

**I am starting
to think
I will never
be old enough
to know better.**

**It's a good
day. The bulb
finally burned
out on my
check engine
light.**



2025 SIR Branch 176 Officers:

Big SIR Steve De La Montanya 707-529-7522	Little SIR Bruce Okrepkie 707-484-0869	Secretary Larry Doherty 707-484-5308
Assistant Secretary Thomas Palmer 619-920-9175	Treasurer Garry Trojanowski 203-988-5366	Assistant Treasurer Howard Blethen

2025 Directors

<i>1 Year Term</i>			<i>2 Year Term</i>		
Jerry Culver	Ron Nordstrom	Jim Tubb	Bob Wallace	Phil Bartels	Harold Minkin

2025 Activity Coordinator

Pool-Game Night Bob Wallace 707-849-2345	ATTENDANCE Ron Nordstrom 707-338-6363	MEMBERSHIP Larry Doherty 707-484-5308	FRIENDSHIP Chris Roach (707) 490-8510
TRAVEL Stewart Morgan 707-545-4957	GOLF Frank Treanor 707-322-7217	BOWLING Dave Harrison 707-638-8155	COFFEE CLUB John Fineren 707-838-3686
COUPLES DINNER Jim Vick	BOCCE BALL Stewart Morgan 707-545-4957	RECRUITMENT Gary Jensen 707-337-8380	GREETER John Fineren 707-838-3686
SONG LEADER Tom Hasco 707-544-4445	NEWSLETTER Tom Palmer 619-920-9175	WEB PAGE Jim Tubbs	COFFEE COORDINATOR John Fineren 707-838-3686

SIR State President Fred Serena	SIR Area 13 Representative Chris Nelle 916-205-1717
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