



SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for January 2024

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](#), [State Webpage](#) and/or attend Tuesday morning coffee.



Windsor Branch 176

Monthly Luncheon Meeting Every 3rd Wednesday
Charlie's Restaurant 130 19th Hole Dr. Windsor CA
Charlie's lunch is \$22.00 (plus \$1 table tip if you wish)
Reminder: Yearly Dues (\$24) can also be paid at lunch.

Windsor Winds Edition

January 2024
Volume 29 Number 1

Big SIR – Larry Doherty



Well what an adventure it has been this year as your Little Sir. I appreciated all the help in getting speakers for the monthly luncheons. We had some great ones and a few average ones, sorry about that. I do look forward to being your Big Sir and please, if you ever need anything, don't hesitate to ask. While our numbers went down initially this year with a little house cleaning, we managed to gather 15 more members this year. Get the word out to your friends as we are indeed a fun group with a lot of different activities.

I want to thank Chris Roach for his run as Big Sir. He had some tough shoes to fill after Frank's year in power. Chris you did a great job, thank you!!! I also want to thank Tom Palmer for stepping up to take on the roll as the Little Sir next year. He already has the first half of the year filled with speakers, some whom I can't wait to hear from. I would encourage all of you who haven't come to a luncheon for some time to do so, as we have had some great turn outs this year and we will have some interesting speakers.

I want to give a shout out for Tom Hasco and to all of those of you who helped him to ensure we had a great Holiday party. Tom, really, great job!!! It was a lot of fun and I look forward to next year. It was my first as well as my wife's and she too said how wonderful it was...great way to bring in the holiday season.

So next year, instead of jokes I am going to have contests (age, longest married, most marriages, etc.), which will obviously include a lot of those of you who have been around awhile. While we always give the new guys a chance to introduce themselves while we forget about those whom have been around and I would like to be able to introduce those of you "old timers" to the new guys—including myself. So yes, if you win the contest be prepared to give a speech about yourself so us young-en's in the club learn more about those of you who have been around the sun a few times. Hard to believe it's going to be 2024.

Little SIR – Tom Palmer



Happy New Years to all. It's my pleasure to be your Little SIR and to work with Larry. Speaking of "young-ens" the above picture represents me when I had no idea what I was doing, about to do and certainly no idea that I would ever live to retirement age and be in a fun group with such good folks. So I do not take this gift (position) lightly and hope to do the best job possible to help Larry and SIR 176 branch.

Before Larry vacated his position he already had in place three speakers for 2024 (such a caring overachiever). The next one on January 17th is Heather

Campiano. She is an attorney who will talk about legal concerns for seniors. So please mark January 17th luncheon on your calendar and I hope to see you there.

My overall goal is to help keep this a fun, active, welcoming branch for those who wish good social times. Having said that, my first project is to work with Jim Tubbs, our internet genius, to have posted on the web page, a photo and name of each of us. As we continue to grow and have more members it becomes increasingly difficult to recall names/faces...at least it does for me. For example, after coffee I sometimes wonder..."now what was that guy's (I talked to for 20 minutes) name again"? Wouldn't be nice to have that information immediately available? There will be no private information on the webpage, only a photo with a name. I'll be reaching out via email to those whom I do not have a photo.

Chris Roach – Friendship Report

Get well Cards were sent to: Nancy Michnevich, Charlie Boyd and John Campbell

A Sympathy card was sent to: Lynn Gallegos, wife of George, on his passing.

Also in 2023, Jim Griffin and Alan Westergard passed. In addition, the wives of Pat McDermott and Don McCorquodale passed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS JANUARY TO:

Jim Strange

Our Newest Member:

Let's all welcome **Randy Poblitz**. Hopefully more about him and the other new members in the February newsletter.



Golf-Mike Berry

“If it isn’t rain it is fog, reminders of the frailty of golf at this time of year”.
Mike Berry

To join us you don’t need to be a good golfer, just a person who enjoys the game. We usually begin arriving at 7:45. Prior to Wednesday, use the signup sheet at the golf course or call the golf course at 707-838-7888 to sign up for SIRS golf. The starter usually gets us out by 8:00. ***If you are new*** to the golf group, please show up at 7:45 and look for us. Since we look forward to playing with new members, we will certainly make adjustments to get you in.

DON'T MISS OUR LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER ON 1/17:



Heather Campopiano

Heather Campopiano is a California Elder Law and Estate Planning Attorney. Her law practice centers on long-term care planning including: Medicare, Medi-Cal, SSI, as well as Wills, Trusts (including Special Needs Trusts), Conservatorships, Trust Administration and Probate. Moreover, she advises families and fiduciaries regarding nursing home advocacy and patients’ rights.

DUES NOTICE:

Yearly dues of \$24 has been approved. Dues should be brought to the January meeting or sent to Garry Trojanowski, 9575 Wellington Circle, Windsor, Ca. 95492

**Couples Dinner
(Not an official SIR Activity)**

Couples Dinner- Wayne Lindahl

Due to the Christmas Party scheduled in December, our next Couples Dinner will be planned for January 24th, 2024 **at Tambayan Filipino Eatery in Larkfield.** Other candidates for 2024 could be returns to Grata, Himalayan Restaurant, Diana's, Qimura Tian Yuen and Mitote food Park and Tizsa, when it finally opens. We are always on the hunt for new places to try.

In 2024, we will try to stay close to Windsor for the dark early months and revisit some local favorites and perhaps venture a little further out during the summer months. Your recommendations are always welcomed and if you are not getting notified early about our next dinner, please contact Wayne Lindahl, (wlindahl@sonic.net) to be added to the couples dinner notification list.

Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan



Bocce Ball at the Senior's Center Thursdays at 10:00am. All are welcome.

Bowling Report for SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds

The Monday Morning mixed seniors bowling league celebrated its annual holiday gathering on Monday, December 18th at the Windsor Bowl. The bowling alley set up tables which our members decorated. We were all asked to bring in a wrapped present with a value not greater than \$10.00. Those of us who responded were able to select a gift upon our first “strike” during the three games we typically bowl. We also were treated to a wide variety of “finger foods” that our members brought in as well.

We will be on a holiday break until January 8th when league play will resume. If you would like to join our league, please let me know and I will put you in touch with our league managers. Hope all have a happy holiday and bright new year.
Dave H. (harrisod@sonic.net)

Gary Jensen – Recruitment and Coffee

Recruitment: We brought in two new members last November. We may also have two or more new applications coming soon.

For Coffee: Sir Dave Schleeter who has been brewing the coffee is presently ill and unable to participate. Our thoughts are with Dave. **Sir John Fineren has agreed to be the new Tuesday Morning coffee coordinator.** Our thanks go out to him. Three weeks ago 31 Sirs attended coffee, two weeks ago 29 attended, a week ago 27 attended, and yesterday 20 attended. So interest in the Tuesday Morning coffee session remains high.



Coffee at the senior center
Please invite a friend.

Special Profile:



Steve De La Montanya

I am a fifth generation North Bay Resident, a descendant of a pioneer family that arrived in America in the early 1600 and settled in the New York area. Migrating west to the San Francisco Bay area in the mid 1800s. I grew up in Marin County in the San Geronimo Valley in a family with 2 brothers and a sister. My Father passed away while I was in middle school. My mother remarried a couple years later to a wonderful Italian gentleman. I went on to attend what was at the time Sir Francis Drake High School, I became very interested in Motocross and TT racing and spent most of my spare time engaged in riding. After my junior year a friend mentioned a summer job as a seasonal Firefighter for the County of Marin Fire Dept. Hard to believe but at 16-17 years old you would ride with a Fire Warden out to wildland fires. The driver operated the pump and tried to supervise a bunch of kids on hose lines running around fighting fire. What could be more fun. Lived at the station 4 days a week, grew 2" and gained 20 pounds in one summer. After my second summer I found the Fire Service was my calling and started classes at the Marin JC and looking around for a job. After a few job interviews with some City Depts, Marin County had an opening. I took the test, interviewed well, and was offered a full-time position.

As the guys at the Fire house predicted, I married my first wife shortly after being hired and when we were expecting our daughter, I made the move to Sonoma County and purchased a Condiotti home in the E section of Rohnert Park. During this time, we opened a small business in town and sold indoor plants and decorative items. A lot of work but not very profitable. When Payless opened in town, we were notified by our suppliers that they would be carrying many of our products, so we closed. We lived there for about 4 years, then moved to a fixer home in Sebastopol where my son was born. I did a lot of remodel work, building a garage, and also installed multiple French doors and decks, to open it up to views north to Mt. St. Helena. I further continued to seek educational opportunities working towards an AS degree in Fire Science.

I went off to Medic school during this time taking the pre-Hospital Care Paramedic program at Stanford University. Ultimately my Ex-wife and I went our separate ways with joint child custody and looking for new homes.

Shortly thereafter I met my wife Sherry while flat on my back in a dental chair. She was the attending assistant and the Dentist was teasing her because he knew she liked me. The instruments were tumbling on my bib and chest. Not

too long after we moved to Larkfield together and have been in this area ever since. With 30 years in our current home. I continued to pursue educational opportunities and attended classes across the state in pursuit of the CA State and Federal series of courses. I was able to achieve certifications as Safety Officer and Command Certifications through Operations Section Chief. At work I moved through the ranks at the Department, most notably I worked as a Senior Captain in Point Reyes station, having the entire Paramedic Staff awarded Humanitarian of the year by the County and local Community. After the Vision Fire and recovery, I was promoted to and completed my time at Marin with 10 years as an Operations Battalion Chief. Responsible for the 7 stations, 2 lookouts, A hand crew, and heavy equipment. Administratively I also handled Seasonal employee hiring and equipment and vehicle purchasing. This time included assignments to numerous large Federal and State Fires across the State of CA. with the norm to spend 4 to 6 weeks out on fire assignments during the summer.

After retiring from the Fire Dept. in 2005, I was offered a Manufacturer Representative position with an emergency vehicle manufacturing company in the Los Angeles Area. Over the years the family business was sold and absorbed into a larger corporation with multiple brands and products. I was involved in design and sales of Ambulances, Rescue Trucks, and other Special Application Vehicles and spent several years traveling between Northern, Southern Ca, Nevada, and East to production facilities in Ohio, North Carolina, and Florida. I was separated from the REV group in 2021 and have been spending my time with my brother in his bonded retail Family Wine business, and making Back Shed Red, wine produced in my back yard entered in amateur competitions with success and a fair assortment of medals. The end products are shared with neighbors that assist in the making. I also spend a lot of time occupied in my rather large yard and enjoy gardening and working on projects. We have a small greenhouse and use it to start vegetable and flower plants in the spring. We share the starts and spend quite a bit of time in the yard and enjoying our time with family and friends. My Daughter and her husband live in the Bay area. My son, his wife, and our 2 granddaughters live locally in Santa Rosa.

I have really enjoyed my time with the SIRs group and appreciate the comradery and opportunity to get out and play a little Golf and the other activities.

FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:



**Husband's
Brain**



**Wife's
Brain**



IF YOU SEE A BEER
IN THIS PICTURE



YOU MAY HAVE A
PROBLEM

**AT MY FUNERAL TAKE
THE BOUQUET OFF MY
COFFIN AND THROW IT
INTO THE CROWD TO
SEE WHO IS NEXT**

**ME: ALEXA, REMIND ME
TO GO TO THE GYM.**

**ALEXA: I HAVE ADDED
GIN TO YOUR SHOPPING
LIST.**

ME: CLOSE ENOUGH.

WWW.LOVELYDIASWAPNIA.COM.RU

My Living Will

*Last night, my kids and I were sitting
in the living room and I said to them,*

*'I never want to live in a
vegetative state, dependent on some
machine and fluids from a bottle.
If that ever happens, just pull the plug.'*

*They got up, unplugged the
computer and threw out my wine!!*

The little bastards.

**Geezer
Planet**

SENIOR PEARLS OF WISDOM:

As I've gotten older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy efficient.

I want to be 18 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.

OTHER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(Not official SIR Activities)

Every Saturday morning (8:00-10AM) Jose Castaneda hosts a **FREE breakfast for veterans** at Castaneda Marketplace; 8465 Old Redwood Highway. This "Castañeda's Breakfast Brigade," provides veterans a place for connections, camaraderie & friendship

<https://www.facebook.com/CastanedasMarket>



Once a month, date varies, this month it is **January 15th**. All SIR and their spouse are welcome to start the "work" week with Margherita Monday – a chance to sample the best frozen margaritas in Windsor. Starts sharply at 4PM Castaneda's Market Place.

Keep an Eye Out for notices from Len Schwer about Margarita Monday and other community events. For additional information contact Len Schwer at: Len@schwer.net

STEWART MORGAN –TRAVEL

If you are interested or have questions please contact Stewart
at stwrmtmorgan@gmail.com



SIR Branch Travel Chair Trips and News Milt Smith State Travel Chair miltsmith549@gmail.com 925-285-2897
December 2023

Rose Parade & New Year's Eve Dec. 30, 2023 – Jan. 4, 2024. Cost \$3,375pp. Includes air fare, lodging, New Year's Eve party, Rose Parade, Nixon Library, coastal cities, luxury bus, lodging, 9 meals. Contact Joe Salamida 408-767-2838. ascreenman756@gmail.com

Princess 11 Night Inside Passage Cruise from San Francisco Rt Alaska May 26 – June 6, 2024.

Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway AK and Victoria, Canada. Cabins start \$2590 pp to \$3322 pp double occupancy SIR 143 Contact John Cardoza 209-483-7722 or johncardoza@hotmail.com

Best of Spain and Portugal April 27 – May 12, 2024. Branch 146. Cost \$7,895pp. Madrid, Segovia, Porto, Lisbon, Seville, Gibraltar, Costa Del Sol, Alhambra, Valencia, Barcelona, round trip airfare, 15-day guided tour with Travel Director, 14 nights at centrally located 4star hotels, 5 dinners and 2 lunches including wine, all tips, transfers and baggage handling. Contact Glenn Breslin 925-288-6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

Prague to Budapest River Trip November Nov. Dates: 11/6 thru 11/20, 2024

Pre-trip to Dresden and Berlin US departure date: 11/1/24

Pre-trip to Warsaw and Krakow US departure date: 11/1/24

Post-trip to Budapest return date: 11/23/24 **\$1000 OFF PERSON PRICING IF CONFIRMED BY 12/31/23** Serenade A: \$3995 / Serenade B: \$3895 / Sonata C: \$3795 Sonata D: /Cantata E: \$3595 /Cantata F: \$3495/Prelude G: \$3395/Prelude H: \$3195/Air from SFO: \$1100 Dresden and Berlin: \$995

PRE-TRIP - Warsaw and Krakow: \$1095 PRE-TRIP-Budapest: \$745 POST-TRIP. **Contact Milt Smith 925-258-2897 ASAP for the discount and more info.** miltsmith549@gmail.com or book directly grp. Code G4-23630 1-800-221-2610 discount code: EUEM 101.



2023 SIR Branch 176 Officers:					
Big SIR Larry Doherty 707-484-5308 ldohrebl@mindspring.com		Little SIR Thomas Palmer 619-920-9175 Palmer.ts@gmail.com		Secretary Dave Harrison 707-6388155 harrisod@sonic.net	
Assistant Secretary Jerry Culver 707-953-4901		Treasurer Garry Trojanowski 203-988-5386		Assistant Treasurer Howard Blethen 707-892-2992	
2023 Directors					
1 Year Term			2 Year Term		
Ed Peoples	Tim Senkir	Gary Jensen	Chris Roach	Wayne Lindahl	Ward Thompson
2023 Activity Coordinators					
	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 Mike Berry 707-837-1792	BOWLING Dave Harrison 707-638-8155	COFFEE CLUB Gary Jensen 707-377-8380		
COUPLES DINNER Wayne and Maryl Lindahl 707-837-2816	BOCCE BALL Stewart Morgan 707-545-4957	RECRUITMENT Gary Jensen 707-337-8380	GREETER Gary Jensen 707-337-8380		
SONG LEADER Tom Hasco 707-544-4445	NEWSLETTER Tom Palmer 619-920-9175	WEB PAGE John Crooker 707-328-8748	COFFEE COORDINATOR John Fineren 707-838-3686		
SIR State President Dale Decker			SIR Area 13 Governor Bob Nadell 707-836-4123 nadellb@sbcglobal.net		