

SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for March 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](#):

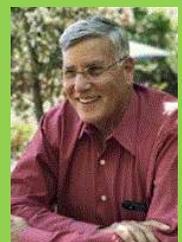
Windsor Branch 176

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

Windsor Winds Edition

March 2026
Volume 33 Number 3

Big SIR – Steve De La Montanya



Hello fellow SIR members, Hope the cool weather and rain has not bummed you out. We will get back to Golf and bocce as weather permits, only a bit more rain, and sunny days are ahead.

The February BEC meeting and Luncheon went off without the glitches of the previous month. We voted for two new members, William (Bid) Wallace, and Tom Van Camp. The BEC also entertained a very popular motion to submit David Harrison for Honorary Life Membership recognition. I have completed the paperwork, and it has been submitted to our Area Representative for consideration and approval by the State SIR.

At the Luncheon we enjoyed a very nice Chicken entrée and sides served to your table. We were joined at this month's meeting and luncheon by our area rep Chris Nelle. Also, Frank Treanor built a bell he has named "Dolly". Ringing a bell three times is a simple and respectful tribute to honor the passing of a club member. Each toll represents remembrance, gratitude, and farewell—acknowledging their contributions, celebrating their life, and marking their absence within the club. The three rings serve as a solemn moment of reflection and respect shared by all members. This action will take place as a part of our Wednesday Luncheon meeting as appropriate.

Our guest speaker was Jim Tubb, with a presentation on the layout and use of our SIR 176 Web page. It was well done and easy to follow. However after the meeting it was brought to our attention that we may need to make some adjustments to provide a bit more security for our members regarding how

our member photos are positioned. As we work out a solution the members will be informed,

I Look forward to seeing everyone at the next monthly luncheon on march 18th.

If you have concerns, please attend the meeting at 11am so your voice is heard.



Little SIR – Bruce Okrepkie

Hard to believe we are coming into March. Tis Irish eyes are upon you!! Our February speaker was our won Web Master Jim Tubb. Jim has done an amazing job with our SIR 176 website. Thank you for all the time you have put in and all the information that can be found on our website.

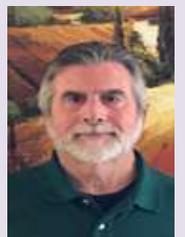
This month we will have *John Davis the Town Manager of Windsor* and *Tim Ricard the Economic Development Manager of Windsor*. They will present the new Sales Tax initiative and the reason for along with the implications. This should be very interesting.

In **April** we will have *Mark Millan of Data Instincts* who will give us a presentation on the future of water: Perception, Innovation, Resilience.

In **May** *Tom Schwethelm* will be here; he is a candidate for the District 4 supervisor position.

See you at the meetings!!!!

Chris Roach – Friendship Report



I am happy to report that no cards for new illnesses/injuries were needed in February!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARCH TO:

Nick Barretto, Charlie Boyd, John Curran, Elias Zegarra

MEMBERSHIP –LARRY D.



We now have 92 members. **23 members** still need to pay or not renew. So make sure you get your dues in asap. **Also if you are not going to be a member this year, please do me a favor and let me know (by email or phone).** ldohrebl@mindspring.com ; 707-484-5308
Otherwise, later this month, I'll have to start making calls to those I haven't heard from.

YOUR DUES ARE STILL DUE?

At the BEC Meeting a vote was taken to keep the 2026 membership dues at \$20. **23 members still to pay or not renew.** 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.

IMPORTANT WEBPAGE UPDATE -JIM TUBB

WWW.WINDSORSIRS.ORG



First, ***Thank you Jim*** for your luncheon presentation, an excellent job. The webpage is a wonderful addition to our branch. As you stated, all the member bios we have are now available on our website <https://windsorsirs.org/members.html>

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.

However we have been notified by the state that our way of saying contact us if you "don't want you information on the web page" is insufficient. State requires an actual signed waiver, or we need to password protect almost all of the webpage. What we will do will be a subject for the next board meeting on 3/18 at 11am at Jimmy's.

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

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.



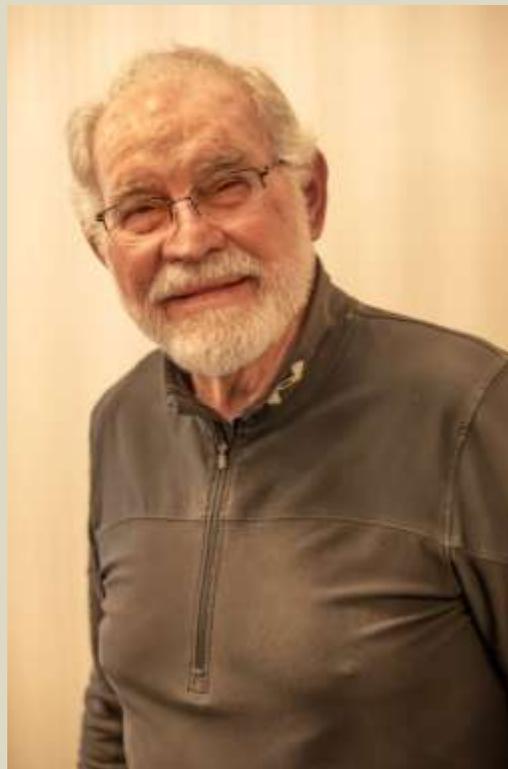
WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Tom VanCamp and Bid Wallace



Tom VanCamp

Word gets around, Tom heard about SIRS from his wife, who heard from friends of the Palmers. They do fruit tree gleaming together, which is then given to the foodbank. Tom is a Packer's fan, raised around the Appleton/Green Bay area. He has a BA from U.W. Stevens Point. Professionally he was a retail wine store manager working mostly in production; 27 years at Ferrari-Carano Winery. Tom's hobbies include bowling, pickle ball, hiking and bocce ball, camping and sports (except golf). He already volunteered with us at the foodbank.



Bid Wallace

Bid was born in Pasadena and raised in Hanford and San Jose. He is a music man. Back in 1967-1970 he was a Bandsman with the U.S. Army. He obtained his BA in music at Pasadena College. He went on to get his teaching credentials and a Master in education. Professionally, he was a teacher in music and special education. After he retired he took on home

schooling his grand daughters. He was previously in a different branch of SIRs and has chosen to transfer to our branch even though he lives over two hours away in Covelo, Ca. His main hobby is golf and is looking forward to playing a few rounds.



Lou Commendatore

Lou Commendatore was born in Buffalo, New York, where winters are long and cold. He was on the high school swimming team for several years and was scholastically in the upper third of the class of 600 graduates of Bennett High School, a college preparatory school.

He moved to the San Francisco Bay area with his parents, younger brother and sister in 1960 after graduating from high school. The move allowed his parents to find employment in a region where NFL games are seldom played in the snow!

Energy and drive mark everything he does. He joined the Navy in 1960 and became a radio operator, leaving the Navy as a Petty Officer 2nd Class in 1964. During that period, he also became skilled as an aviation electronics technician.

He married the love of his life, Diane, in Carmel, California, and they went on to have two children, Carrie and Vince. "In turn, Carrie gave us four children, two girls and two boys, and Vince added one girl to the growth of the family."

After the Navy, and with an impressive military career behind him, he went on to attend San Jose State College (1965-1972), earning a BA and MA in geography, as well as a teaching credential. Mapping his career moves with a precision that became his hallmark, he taught Social Sciences at Newark High School and, in the short term, was elevated to department chairman. Not long after, he was promoted to Assistant Principal of the school.

Never satisfied with the status quo, he became Vice Principal and Athletic Director at Fort Bragg High School in 1980. As Athletic Director he was an active member of the Timberwolf Booster Association (which has been in operation for 45 years) and a “Pit Boss” for the Black Jack fundraiser that he engineered and drove for 14 years. In 1994 he became Principal of Continuation Programs and led those programs up to his retirement in 2002.

After retiring, Lou and Diane moved from Fort Bragg to Windsor. Carrie became a second-grade teacher in Windsor, and Vince became a nurse, and eventually a chiropractor near Chico, California.

With a career marked by successes in the military, education and sports, he says he had met his life goals up to that point. “You can’t veer away from your goals – they’re a reflection of your dreams – but you can set out to achieve new dreams. I’ve looked back with pride, and now I’m once more looking ahead.”

“Throughout my adult life, I have lived the motto, ‘The best is yet to be.’ “I’ve got lots of energy left. And, you know what? It keeps me young.”

Golf: Paul Hanson & Frank Treanor



AS FAR AS I KNOW, ALL OF THOSE WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN GOLF THIS YEAR HAVE SIGNED UP AND ARE WAITING UNTIL IT DRY'S OUT AND WARMS UP TO ENJOY PLAYING.

IF YOU HAVEN'T SIGNED UP AND THINK YOU MAY WANT TO PLAY THIS YEAR, PLEASE SHOOT ME AN EMAIL AT: bcft11@comcast.net

Couples Dinner Jim Vick

The couple's dinner on February 12th was a fun evening and 10 ? couples attended. There was lots of good food and conversation at Himalayan Restaurant.



For March, the Sirs dinner will be **Thursday March 12th** at Grata, 180 Windsor River Rd. We will be outside on their heated patio. Dress accordingly.

If you wish to attend, please email Jim immediately at: jvick1497@gmail.com





Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan



The Kiss (Baci): If a ball is touching the pallino, it is sometimes called a "baci" and can be rewarded 2 points if they remain touching at the end of the frame.

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. Folks are generally happier than this picture portrays (must have been early on). **The schedule for March is:** 3/6 Jimmy's; 3/13 The Rough Draft; 3/20 Mt. Mikes; 3/27 El Gallo Negro (bar only).

SIR Branch 176 Bowling Report

As I write, the Monday Morning Mixed Seniors Fall-Winter league at the Windsor Bowling Center is quickly coming to its conclusion with only seven sessions left this year, and ends on April 12th. Spread across Twelve teams, we have seven SIR Branch 176 members participating: John Campbell, Lou Commendatore, Al Fiori, Pete Frisch, Dave Harrison, Don McCorquodale, and Mark Nelson. Teams led by John Campbell and Al Fiori have won the first and second segments of our schedule and will be in the playoffs on April 12th. Several weeks thereafter, we will be forming new teams and starting our Summer No-Tap league at which any frame having nine pins down counts as a strike as is true with ten pins down. Our scores typically go up significantly during the summer months no tap league.

Another Senior League in which we have SIR Branch 176 members participating is the Tuesday Morning "Windsor Senior Flyers" league. Sir Branch 176 members participating include Phil Bartels, Lou Commendatore, Jerry Culver, Steve De LaMontanya, Gary Good, Paul Hanson, and Rick Pike. Unlike the Monday Morning league, this league is a USBC sanctioned league and includes membership in the USBC. Members over 75 years old are entitled to a reduced amount for participation.

They also have a summer No Tap league. The team led by Jerry Culver and including Steve De La Montanya and Paul Hanson is tied with several other teams in fourth place as I speak. Their team name is "SIRS"!



NEXT OPPORTUNITY IS 3/5 @2PM*

We had a great turnout in February. Let's keep it up.



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.

We will have a group going over once a month on the 1st Thursday of every month from 2-4pm. **The next service opportunity will be on March 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**

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

Golf in Hawaii, June 1-5 (approximate dates) Maui Join us for 5 days, 4 nights at the Outrigger Kaanapali Beach Resort. We have reserved golf tee times at the Royal Kaanapali and Kaanapali Kai Golf Courses. 4 nights at the Outrigger Kaanapali Beach Resort – newly renovated facility. Deposit of \$1931.32 is due at time of booking, remaining balance is due April 17, 2026. Single rates are available. Contact Michael or Katherine Gervais, Ships and Trips Travel Agency. (916) 337 1623 or kathig@shipsandtripstravel.com

16 Night Hawaiian Island Cruise aboard Ruby Princess round trip from San Francisco: Oct. 23 thru Nov. 8 '26 From \$3,750 to \$6,055 pp. depending on cabin. Ports of call Hilo, Kahului, Maui, Honolulu, Oahu, Nawiliwili, Kauai, and Ensenada Mexico. Contact John Cardoza area 18 branch 143 209-483-7722 john@storageauctionexperts.com

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 **9 March** is Mexican Monday.

Last Mexican Monday, 16 February, Jose surprised those that turned out with a sangria and taco deal. You never know what that inventive and clever guy will do next.



SIR MENU	
2 Tacos & Sangria	\$10
Sangria	\$8
Tacos	\$4/ea



Our vanishing landscape

The Windsor Museum and Historical Society

707-838-4563 or Windsor.History@yahoo.com

Invites you to **History at the Grange**. 9161 Starr Road

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Dinner and another waltz down memory lane.

Advance sale only. Tickets will be held at "Will Call" only.

Tickets are \$30.00 and seating is limited to 100.

Purchase tickets from the WM&HS. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

Raffle, Champagne, Dinner, Dessert & History

Doors open at 5:00, Dinner at 5:30



DID YOU KNOW?

Competitive art was once an Olympic sport. From 1912 to 1952, artists could earn medals for painting, music, sculpture, and even architecture

FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:

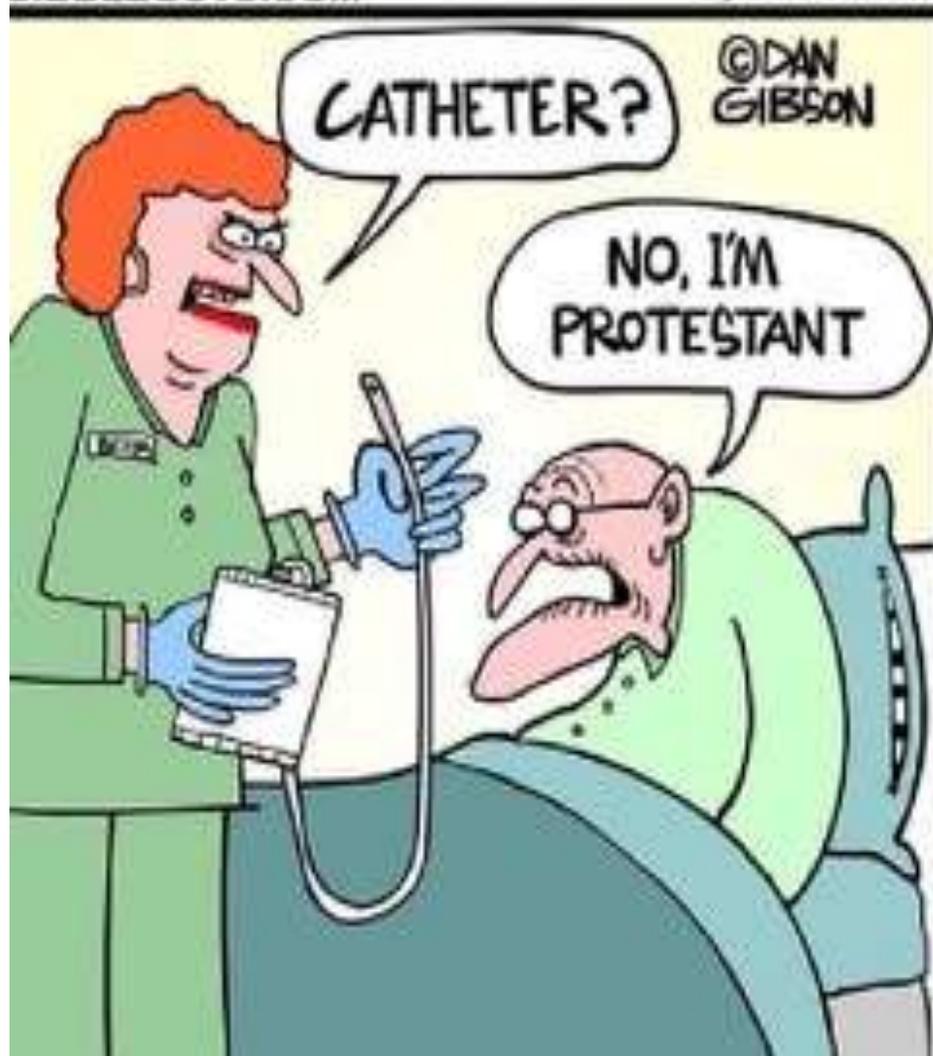


www.yesemails.com

Two things to make your day better:

- Do not watch the news.
- Stay off the bathroom scales.





TODAY I'M DOING NOTHING, BECAUSE I STARTED DOING IT YESTERDAY AND I WASN'T FINISHED



...AND I'M NO QUITTER

if you ever get an
email about pork,
ham, salt, and
preservatives,
don't open it.
it's spam

Cool Funny Quotes.com

One day, I'm going to judge
a spelling bee.

I'll ask one of the kids to
spell the word "there."

When he asks for it in a
sentence, I'll say...

"Their car is parked over
there and they're late."



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		

