



SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for October 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](#), or [State Webpage](#):

Windsor Branch 176

Monthly Luncheon Meeting Every 3rd Wednesday
Charlie's Restaurant 130 19th Hole Dr. Windsor CA
Charlie's lunch is \$23.00 (plus \$1 table tip if you wish)

Windsor Winds Edition

October 2024
Volume 29 Number 10

Big SIR – Larry Doherty



Wonderful luncheon this past Wednesday. If you weren't there, you were missed, including the three birthday boys. I know, it is still summer and a lot of us are traveling. I just pray you are all well.

The Executive Board voted to provide our Bocce players with \$350 to improve their court. Likewise we gifted Erin Stroud, at the senior center, \$200 for everything she has done for us over the years. Her last day was September 20. Also, due to the lack of attendance, we are no longer playing cribbage on Wednesdays however on the first and third Tuesday of the month, a group has decided to play pool. Watch for your weekly events.

Thank you Tom Hasco for being our song leader. This month we sang "This land is your land." Tom gave us a little background about the song, which was written in the 1940s by Woody Guthrie. The song has been cherished since then and we did our best rendition of singing it.

Likewise, Frank Treanor had a wonderful presentation ("bell ringing") in regards to our chance to give a moment of silence to those who gave their lives on 9-11. I never realized the significance of the bell.

This month I honored Garry Trojanowski with some raffle tickets as he was the closest to NY on that date. In fact, Garry was there the night before with his son

as they watched the Yankees and the Red Sox play.

Next month, I am going to honor those members of our club who have been with Windsor SIR's for 20 years or more. So if you are one of those make sure you make it as there will be some raffle tickets for you.

Those present also voted to approve next year's Executive Board, so those of you in hiding, afraid to show up as we might ask you to volunteer, can now start coming back to the luncheons.

See next month on October 16.

Little SIR – Tom Palmer



Thanks to those who stepped forward to be a part of the BEC, most without a great deal of pressure. However, let's not forget that there are numerous other folks who contribute in big ways; and that they are appreciated. The remainder of 2024 and 2025 should be very successful and good times for our branch.

Speaking of the future, I indicated that as soon as I learned anything from the state that I would share and keep you informed. So in that spirit, I went to their meeting in Lafayette on 9/24. There were about 100 folks there from numerous branches. A very quick officers' election was held and then there were a few different speakers including our President Rich Carlston. Prior to that, Andy Danver gave a very interesting talk about the history of SIRS concluding with where we are now...in a steady decline, basically aging out. This board felt that had to do something and came up with some ideas/proposals. They then spoke about the last "town hall" meeting at which they had voiced these proposals. As I mentioned in the August Newsletter some of those proposals included:

- * A name and logo change. Take away the word "Retirement" and possibly "Sons";
- * Transition to 501(c)3 nonprofit, soliciting donations, and hiring an executive director, a digital marketing firm, and an IT firm.
- * In order to obtain desired donations, the Inclusion of women.

In the following months, the state board heard from many branches who were generally not impressed with most ideas. The bottom line is that they've gone back to the drawing board, but were happy to have heard from the branches. The state speakers made it clear that they fully understand that not all branches are the same, and what fits for one, may not fit for another...but doing nothing isn't a real option either. So here's what is going to happen. President, Rich Carlston is forming a "SIR Branch Advisory Council to "help the Board of Directors

establish the strategic direction and develop the implementation plans to sustain SIR". They will probably start their zoom meetings in about October; perhaps 2-3 meetings per month. If no one from a branch volunteers, then that Branch's wishes will not be considered. Hence, since I am the incoming Big Sir, and changes may be coming in 2005, I volunteered. It is clear that we should NOT expect any changes during the next six months.

I believe it important that if I am going to represent this branch, then I must understand our members' opinions. Please expect controlled short discussions at our monthly meetings with perhaps a show of hands as to opinions....Another good reason not to miss the monthly meetings/luncheons.

Chris Roach – Friendship Report



Get Well card to: Larry Doherty

OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR NEXT YEAR:

Thanks to those of you who will be on next year's Executive Board. As Larry indicated, all these folks were voted in at the Luncheon meeting. The new board, very similar to the old board, will include the following folks:
Big Sir: Yours truly, Tom Palmer. Little Sir: Steve De La Montanya; Secretary Dave Harrison; Assistant Secretary, Jerry Culver; Treasurer Garry Trojanowsky; Assistant Treasurer, Howard Blethen; Two-Year Directors include: Jim Tubb, Larry Doherty, and Ron Nordstrom. One-Year Directors are: Chris Roach, Wayne Lindahl and Ward Thompson.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS SEPTEMBER TO:

Steve Backman, Allen Cunningham, Larry Doherty,
Stewart Morgan.

Golf: Jerry Culver & Frank Treanor



The Golf group is going well. We have 12 to 16 players each week. On September 4th, we played a scramble and then had lunch at Mary's in Windsor.

If you would like to participate, email Jerry Culver at sodone56@yahoo.com and show up at 0730 if you have a confirmed spot, to start at 0800.

The goal is to have a great time and get some exercise and then perhaps have an adult beverage.

BTW, the recipient of the last Rooster, Paul Hansen, please bring it back. Others will soon be deserving.

See you there, Frank



DON'T MISS OUR LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER ON 10/16:



CALVIN SANDEEN

There's an emergency & cell service is down...Now What? Calvin Sandeen is the executive director and founder of WiConduit. He is passionate about broadband expansion (especially helpful in fires and other emergencies) and is involved in setting up emergency communication systems throughout the county. Calvin graduated from California Polytechnic State University with a degree in Economics and Financial Management. He previously worked at the Sonoma County Economic Development Board as a Broadband Analyst. Calvin is also a volunteer firefighter with the Sonoma County Fire Protection District.

YES, IT'S ALREADY TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE HOLIDAY PARTY:

This year's Holiday Party is set for **December 12th** at Charlies Restaurant in Windsor. After discussing the proposed menu, and the use of buffet-style service for entrees, and noting rising costs, on motion the BEC approved a ticket price of \$55.00 per attendee. Please mark your calendars and print/fill out the flyer which will be sent in a separate email. Please mail the check to Frank if at all possible and if not, he will be at the next two Luncheons, and you can bring it there.

TRAVEL OUTING



On Saturday September 21st, we rode the SMART train to San Rafael and had lunch. In spite of some initial confusion, we made it there and back and had a good time. The group included myself (Stewart Morgan), Phil Bartels and Jim Vick with their wives, and Gary Jensen with his brother. We might consider doing it again if anyone expresses interest.

THANKS TO OUR August LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER:



HANA AYMAR

Our guest was from Redwood Credit Union and spoke about fraud avoidance. Her information was very valuable as a few days later someone (pretending to be Larry) tried to use Larry and Gaary's names to try to get me to send them money.

GOOD BYE ERIN



Erin Stroud, the long-time coordinator at the Windsor Senior Recreation Center, has left her position to accept a new position in Calistoga, CA. Since Erin has been such a significant and effective supporter Branch 176, particularly with regard to the Tuesday Morning Branch 176 coffee held at the Senior Center, on motion the BEC approved a gift to Erin of \$200.00 as a thank you. Good Luck Erin.

Couples Dinner (Not an official SIR Activity)

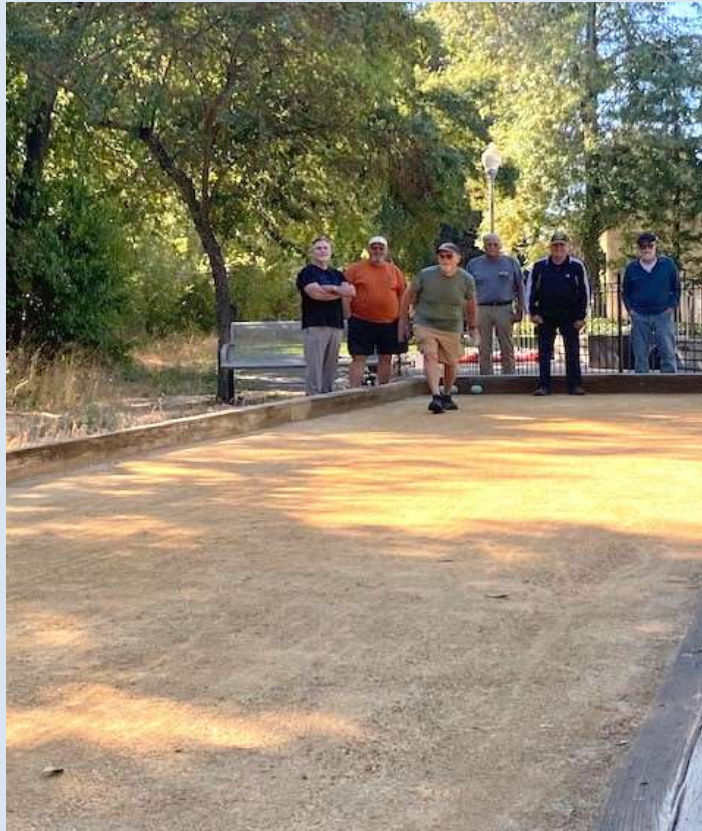
Couples Dinner- Wayne Lindahl & Jim Neal

On Wednesday, September 25th, Maryl & I were delighted to host a thank you BBQ for the couples that had supported and attended the most dinners during my tenure as Couples Dinner Co-coordinator. Due to the Covid pandemic, the dinners were put on the back burner, but that didn't stop the members of SIRs 176 when the ban was lifted.

It was another evening of good conversation, laughs and enjoying each others company. A fine way to end my time as co-coordinator.

Jim Neal has done a great job in taking on the reins of the position, setting up the August and October Couples dinners. The job is in good hands.

Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan



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

The BEC approved funds for the improvement of the Bocce Court. Steve De La Montanya has been very instrumental in making sure we have a nice court. Thanks Steve.

Gary Jensen – Recruitment

Recruitment: We still have a goal of at least 80 members by year's end, 3 more to go, so let's spread the word.

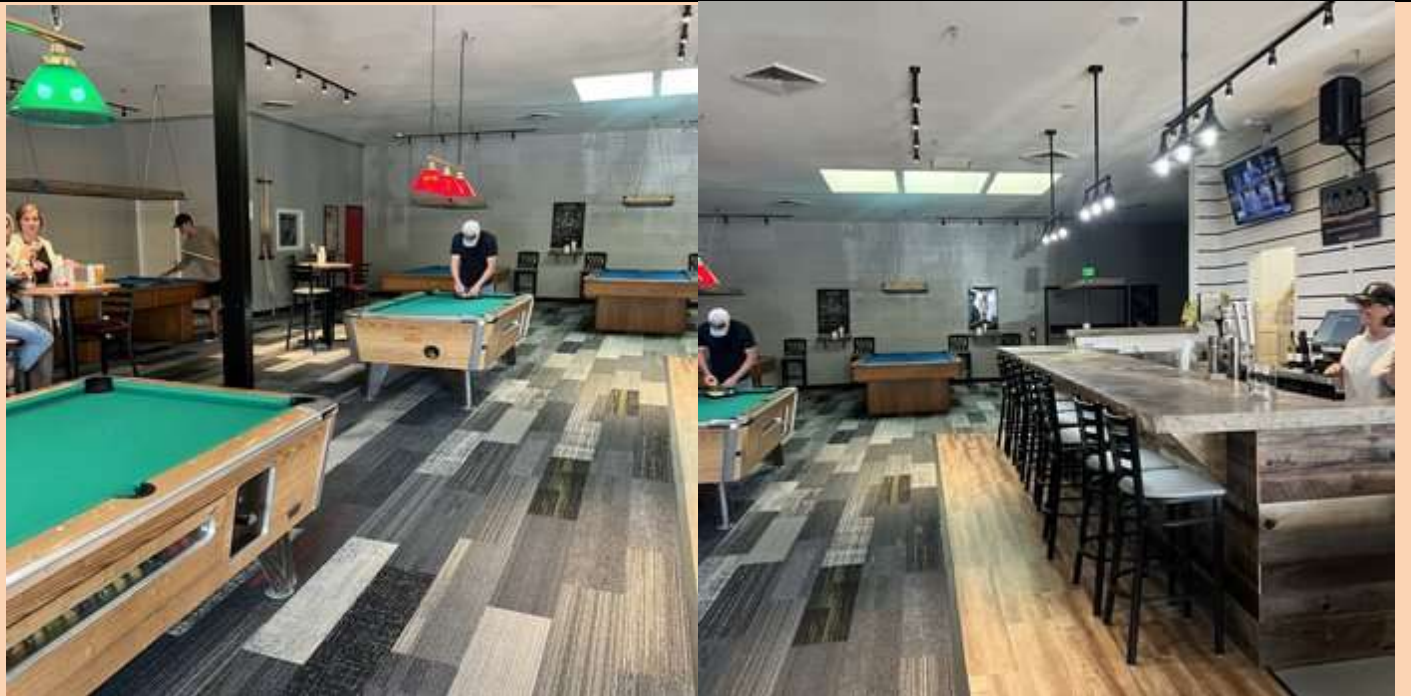
For Coffee (John Fineren): Interest in the Tuesday Morning 9am coffee session is very busy. Please don't forget to invite a friend.



Coffee at the senior center

LIKE TO PLAY POOL, DARTS, SHUFFLEBOARD?

We tried cribbage, but that quickly lost member interest. However, we now have a new thing going.....thanks to Bob Wallace, who introduced some of us Happy Hour folks to the fairly new Windsor establishment of **Racks-N-Cues**. (<https://www.racksncues.com>) There appears to be sufficient interest by some in that group along with other members (who raised their hand at the luncheon), to try to make this a new “non-official” SIRS activity. As such, please feel free to bring a friend/wife/neighbor and let’s have a fun game time. **Starting October 1st, It will be twice monthly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 3pm to 5pm.** (Cost of renting the pool tables go up after 5pm).



Like anything it takes consistent participation to make something fun for all. I know of at least 14 SIRS who have indicated an interest. So I look forward to seeing at least that many folks on Tuesday, October 1st. Even if you just want to come and have a drink/snack and visit, that’s good too. See you there.

Dave Harrison: Bowling Report for SIR Branch 176

Our Fall-Winter Monday Morning Seniors Mixed Bowling League has started. We will be bowling for 30 weeks this season, rapping up on April 14, 2025. Presently, there are vacancies on some of the teams. For the first time bowlers who join us, the fee is \$21.00, including \$17.00 for the weekly fee and \$5.00 for the prize fund to be distributed at the end of the season,. Also, the first day a new bowler bowls with us will be to establish a handicap. Handicaps are based on the difference between 220 and your average over the first three games. In other words, 220 minus your first three game average equals your handicap. Handicaps are adjusted down or up throughout the season to keep track of your weekly average scores above and below your handicap. If you are interested in joining our league either as a regular or as a substitute, please let me know at harrisod@sonic.net and I will forward your request with your contact information to our league officials.

DID YOU KNOW?



This is Jonas Salk (1914 - 1995) who decided not to patent his 1955 Polio Vaccine so that it would be affordable for millions of people who couldn't afford it. As a result, he lost out on an estimated 7 billion dollars.

MEMBER PROFILE:



BRUCE OKREPKIE

I was born on February 20, 1950 in Johnson City New York. I have an older brother Gary and younger sister Ardith. I grew up in a small town called Newark Valley. Being a small town, my graduating class had 89 kids. In High School I would have been referred to as a Jock. I was the quarterback of the football team, captain of the basketball team, the all-star third baseman and ran track ending up with 11 varsity letters.

After high school I went to Akron University- Go Zips! I graduated with a degree in marketing and a minor in accounting. I returned to my hometown and started out as an educated bartender. That is where I met my wife, Diantha. Di was the Village Justice and held court on Mondays and would come into the restaurant after court for a drink. We have now been married for 46 years.

Right after we got married, we decided to go to California. Her brother lived in Santa Rosa so we decided to go there. We sold the house put the furniture in storage and left for California with two kids, no job and no home. Go west young man go west. We lived in Santa Rosa for 22 years in Bennett Valley and then moved to Windsor. We lived in Oak Creek for 18 years and moved to Lakewood Hills and have lived there for 6 years.

I started out working for the Rohnert Park Cotati Clarion selling advertising. I next went to work as a management trainee for San Francisco Federal Savings and loan, I worked my way up to manager of the regional office in Coddington. I left the banking industry and started my 36-year career as an insurance broker. First working for Ellingson and Jones which became ABD then Wells Fargo. I later worked for George Petersen Insurance. I ran the surety department and construction division.

I have three children, Tiffany, Beth and Jeff. Six grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Tiffany is a nurse, Beth a Chief at the Federal Court in Sacramento and Jeff is an insurance broker like me and sits on the City Council for the City of Santa Rosa.

I also was in politics when I moved to Windsor. I first was a planning commissioner for the Town of Windsor and then ran for Town Council. I was on the Council for 8 years and Mayor three times. I have served on various boards. Starting with President of the Booster Club at Montgomery High School, President of the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Rosa,

President of 20-30 Club of Santa Rosa, Chair of Sonoma Clean Power and sat on a variety of other boards. Presently, I am chair of the Board of Directors of Providence Hospital.

During my retirement I enjoy playing golf and following our grandchildren around to their soccer, baseball and football games. Di and I like to travel and enjoy family events. Lastly, I am enjoying SIRS and the fellowship with our members.

3PM Friday Happy Hour

If you are free, come chat and enjoy a cold beverage. The schedule for October is: CuVer: 10/4; Charley's 10/11; Superburger 10/18; Mountain Mikes 10/25.

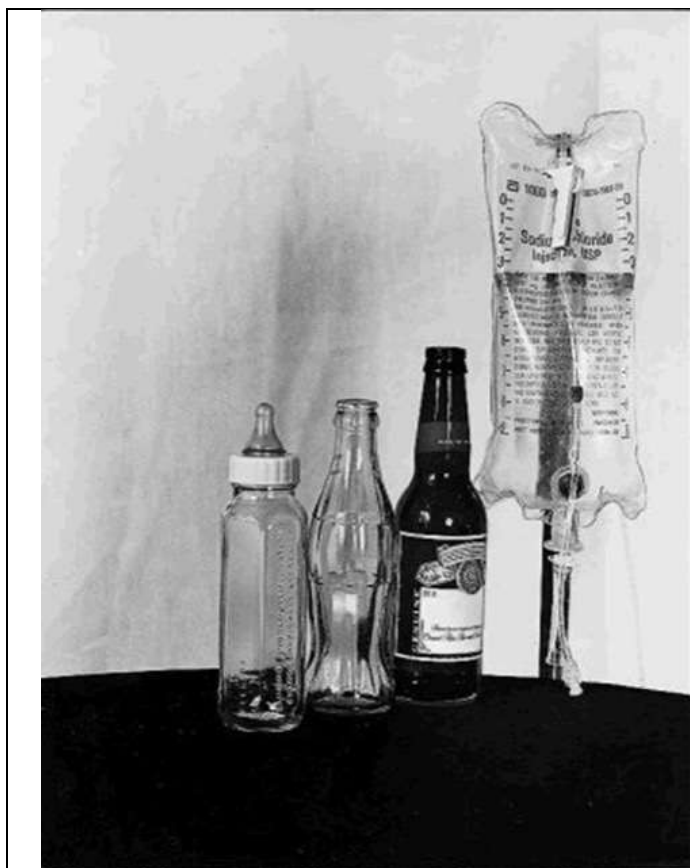
FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:



I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

I sent that 'Ancestry' site
some information on my
Family Tree.

They sent me back a pack
of Seeds,
and suggested that I
just start Over.



Halloween in Florida





**My wife asked if she
could have a little
peace and quiet
while she cooked dinner...**

**So I took the battery out
of the smoke alarm!**



**Rare footage of my parents on
their way to school**



OTHER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(Non SIR Activities)



Youth and seniors can still ride free on SMART trains throughout Sonoma and Marin counties under a new pilot program that started April 1.

According to a recent announcement, the program runs through June 30, 2025, and allows youth 18 and younger and seniors 65 and older to board any SMART train, any day of the week and ride fare-free. Youth and seniors are not required to have a Clipper Card or to use the SMART eTickets app, to reduce any barriers to entering the transit system.



Once a month, date varies, this month it is **AUGUST 12th**. All SIR and their spouse are welcome to start the “work” week with Margherita Monday – a chance to sample the best frozen margheritas in Windsor. Starts sharply at 4PM Castaneda’s Market Place.

SEPTEMBER 5th– The first Thursday of every month, April through October, is “Hot Dog Thursday” hosted by the Pacific Coast Air Museum at the Sonoma County Airport. **Cost: \$8.00** will get you into the museum, a hot dog, a drink, and chips. Extra hungry? Ask for the Big Dog for \$10 or add an ice cream for \$2.

<https://pacificcoastairmuseum.org/hot-dog-thursday/>



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>



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 stwrvmorgan@gmail.com



2024

Fall Mexican Riviera Getaway Oct. 15 – 26, '24 11 Days. Branch 98 Cost \$844 - \$944 - \$1074 - \$1424 -

\$6083pp. depending on cabin. Highlights: Departs from and returns to San Francisco, ports of call Cabo San

Lucas, Mazatlán, Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo. **Contact Katherine Gervais Branch 98. 916-337-1623**

Kathig@shipsandtrips.com

Prague to Budapest River Trip November Dates: 11/6/24 thru 11/20/24

Serenade A: \$3995 / Serenade B: \$3895 /Sonata C: \$3795 Sonata D: \$3695/Cantata E: \$3595 /Cantata F:

\$3495/Prelude G: \$3395/Prelude H: \$3195/Air from SFO: \$1100. **Ports and cities:** Prague, Linz, Krems,

Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest. **Pre-trip US departure date: 11/1/24. Post-trip to Budapest return date:**

11/23/24

Dresden and Berlin: \$995pp PRE-TRIPM - Warsaw and Krakow: \$1095 PRE-TRIP. Budapest: \$745

POST-TRIP. **Contact Milt Smith 925-258-2897 ASAP for more info. miltsmith549@gmail.com or book**

directly Group Code G4-23630 call 1-800-221-2610

Panama Canal Cruise San Francisco to Ft. Lauderdale. Jan. 20 – Feb. 5, 2025 17 days. Cost from \$4,185 -

\$6,295 depending on cabin choice. Ports of Call: Puerto Vallarta Mexico, Puerto Quetzal Guatemala,

Puntarenas Costa Rica, Fuerte Amador Panama, Full Transit through the historic locks, and Cartagena

Columbia. Includes transfers from Modesto to Port of San Francisco and airfare from Ft. Lauderdale to

Sacramento. For more information **contact John Cordoza 209-483-7722**

johncordoza@hotmail.com Branch 143

2024 SIR Branch 176 Officers:					
Big SIR Larry Doherty ldohrebl@mindspring.com 707-484-5308		Little SIR Thomas Palmer Palmer.ts@gmail.com 619-920-9175		Secretary Dave Harrison harrisod@sonic.net 707-838-8155	
Assistant Secretary Jerry Culver so.done56@yahoo.com		Treasurer Garry Trojanowski wskigarryski@att.net 203-988-5366		Assistant Treasurer Howard Blethen HT552@yahoo.com	
2024 Directors					
<i>1 Year Term</i>			<i>2 Year Term</i>		
Ed Peoples	Tim Senkir	Gary Jensen	Chris Roach	Wayne Lindahl	Ward Thompson
2023 Activity Coordinators					
Pool-Game Night Tom Palmer (temp) 619-920-9175	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 Wayne and Maryl Lindahl 707-837-2816	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 drdelta91@gmail.com	COFFEE COORDINATOR John Fineren 707-838-3686		
SIR State President Dale Decker			SIR Area 13 Governor Chris Nelle nelleval@hotmail.com 916-205-1717		

