



SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for SEPT 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
9/16 Lunch is \$30.00

Windsor Winds Edition

Sept 2026
Volume 33 Number 9

Big SIR – Steve De La Montanya



Hello fellow SIR members, looks like the Grand Kids are back at school and summer responsibilities are waning. Good golf weather should continue for bit longer before it gets cool and wet. The Bocci group enjoys the updated courts, and it seems small improvements continue to be made. Charlie Boyd and a few other members are showing up early and helping to improve the courts surface for better play.

Fresh vegetables continue to arrive at the Tuesday coffee meetings. Please show up, the conversation is lively and you can't beat the price of the coffee or quality on the vegetables.

We had a nice luncheon in August. Welcomed a new member, (Frank DeMaio), and paid tribute to (Gary Jensen), a long-time member and friend to many. Frank did a terrific job handling this duty with some pleasant reminders and Ringing of the Bell for Gary.

Frank also presented the Ruptured Rooster to Harold Minkin', marking his antics on the golf course. Harold will be the caretaker for the next month and return it at the next meeting.

I would like to remind everyone; ***we do need a Little Sir Candidate to step up soon, like now please.*** These executive positions can be fun and rewarding. There are several past Big and Little Sirs that continue to step up and provide tremendous support and many useful templates are available to assist with the duties involved.

Lastly, I want to let everyone know that through the hard work and diligence in working with the Sonoma Fire Organization, Frank has secured an AED for our Sir Branch. We will set up procedures and a training program soon.

I Look forward to seeing everyone at coffee and at our next BEC and Luncheon meetings on September 16th.



Little SIR – Bruce Okrepkie



*Battalion Chief Michael
Sacheli, Cal Fire*

In August we had the Battalion Chief for Cal Fire speak to us. Michael Sacheli provided information on what Cal Fire faces and how they work together with other districts fighting fires. Michael wasn't too happy to be associated with the TV series Fire Country. They don't hire criminals.

In September we have Olivia Lemen the Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Windsor as our speaker.

October we will have Nolan Sullivan here who is the Director of Health Services for the County of Sonoma. Nolan will give us an update on Measure O which deals with Mental Health, addiction and homeless services in the County of Sonoma. I have seen this presentation and it is extremely informative.

November - Sonoma Clean Power will be here.

Lastly, December is the Christmas party.

It's time to look for the next Lil Sir. if you have someone in mind that you feel would be a good candidate let me know.

Lil Sir
Bruce Okrepkie

Chris Roach – Friendship Report



Sent a get well card to Allen Cunningham and a sympathy card to Rich Lauck's wife.

Finally, if you need a ride to the monthly SIR Lunch meeting, we have volunteers to drive. Also, we can probably get you to or from just about any activity. If you don't know who a volunteer driver might be, then just text or call me at 707-490-8510.

MEMBERSHIP –LARRY D.



HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

Steve Clifford, Paul Hanson, Bill Hogan, Brett Lee, Shawn Spiegle.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER:



Frank DeMaio

Quite a few years ago Frank was a member of SIRS. For various reasons he let it go. Now he is retired and returning. He was born and raised in San Francisco and is a veteran, US Marine Corps. He spent his years working as an electrician and was a foreman for PG&E. Frank enjoys bowling and fishing. So when you see him, say hello.

LUNCHEON NEWS



After discussion between Steve and Jimmy, there are changes to our menu. In August, there was an exchange of coffee and cookies for dessert instead of the Salad. In September we should look forward to a Salmon lunch.

TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE 8:45-9:45

Good attendance at the Tuesday Morning 8:45am coffee session at the Senior Center continues. Most of our new members' first visit was to coffee time. So Please don't forget to invite a friend.



3PM Friday Happy Hour



SEPTEMBER'S SCHEDULE:

- 9/4: The Publican
- 9/11: Jimmy's
- 9/18: Russian River Brewery
- 9/25: Barley and Bine

Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan:



Both Courts and playing well and turnout is good. It's a lot of fun and you are welcome to play. Please come join us.

Golf: Paul Hanson & Frank Treanor



19th Hole on 8/26

On Sept 2, the golf club is having its annual scramble at Windsor GC. Participation is closed as we have 16 players. Then, right after the contest, **paid** members of the club will meet at Mary's Pizza for a hosted lunch. All members of the club are welcome even those who were unable to play that day. Otherwise, there's sure to be plenty of good golf weather in September. If you want to play, sign up by texting Paul at 707-291-4347.

SIR Branch 176 Bowling Report

The Monday and Tuesday morning Mixed Senior Bowling Leagues begin their 2026-2027 Fall - Winter leagues this week. If anyone would like to join, please let me know. Dave Harrison, Bowling Chair (harrisod@sonic.net).

THE RUPTURED ROOSTER HAS RETURNED



Harold Minken accepts the reward for driving his cart into a sand trap while looking for his golf ball near the green. It took some time for Harold to hit his ball out of that sand trap followed by driving the cart through it to the other side, followed by a lot of raking. Obviously, begging Bruce Okrepkie not to tell anyone, fell on deaf ears. Notice above, Minken's beach created by our talented Frank Treanor.

LIKE TO PLAY POOL, DARTS, SHUFFLEBOARD?

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



It's been a bit slow the last few weeks, but things are picking up again. This is a non-serious pool player's haven. If you think you're not good enough, you're probably very wrong. Most of us are lucky to make 3 balls in a row...it's all just for fun and fun it is. So come on out and join us.



NEXT OPPORTUNITY IS 9/3 @2PM*



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 September 3rd, if you haven't been getting my foodbank sign-up emails and wish to volunteer, please email me immediately at: palmer.ts@gmail.com**

Couples Dinner
Jim Vick

The September Sirs dinner will be Wednesday Sept. 23 @ Folia, at the Appellation hotel in Healdsburg 12 couples are signed up. If you wish to attend future ones, but haven't been getting the emails about them, please email Jim at: jvick1497@gmail.com	TThe August Sirs dinner was August 13 @ salt and stone. 12 couples attended. The food and conversations were GREAT!! 
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IN PROFILE:



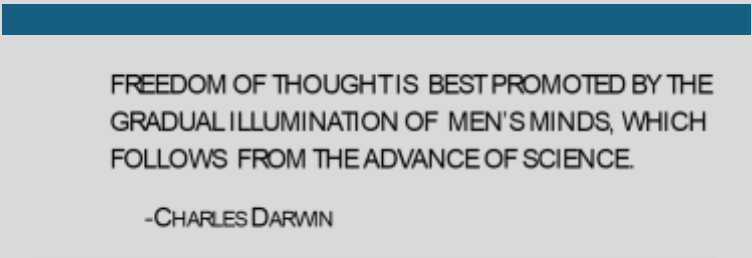
Peter Vigil

Some people retire once. Peter Vigil has retired twice—and both times he treated retirement less as an ending than as an open door to the next subject that captured his curiosity. If Benjamin Franklin had been trained as a biochemist, he might have looked a lot like Peter: a man who moves easily between disciplines, builds new systems wherever he goes, and never stops asking the next question. When asked if he had a hero, Peter didn't hesitate: **“Yes—Charles Darwin.”** It fits. Like Darwin, Peter has spent a lifetime observing, cataloging, analyzing, and connecting ideas across fields most people never think to connect.

Roots in the Bay Area—and in Science

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Roots in the Bay Area—and in Science

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A Career Built on Curiosity—and Reinvention

Peter’s first professional role was as **Science Librarian at Sonoma State University (1975–1979)**, where he first fell in love with Sonoma County. From there he embarked on a remarkable, multi-chapter career in **medical librarianship, technology analysis, competitive intelligence, database development, and corporate research**—a path that was a first- hand tour through the scientific and technological revolutions of the last 50 years. Across roles at **University of California, Davis; Caltech; the University of Illinois Medical Center; Information Access Company; IBM Global Services; and finally PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)**, Peter became the person organizations turned to when they needed someone who could master a complex domain quickly and then build the systems to make that knowledge usable. At PwC alone, he spent **17 years**, working on everything from economic analytics to mobile technology forecasting to global industry studies. “2008–2014: PwC Thought Leadership Institute... Economic and Financial Analytics; Survey Analytics; IT Forecasting... Multi-industry studies.”

The “Un-Retirement” Years

Peter officially retired in 2014—but curiosity has never been something he could turn off. In 2017 he “un-retired” to join **UCSF’s Appropriate Imaging Coalition** as the **Clinical Literature Coordinator**, where he supported physicians across five UC medical schools by organizing and synthesizing the medical literature behind imaging guidelines. “The Clinical Literature Coordinator’s primary role was to search, screen, and organize the medical literature for the coalition.”

He finally retired—for *real this time*—in January 2026.

A Life Anchored by Family and Global Connections

Peter and his wife **Sybil**—herself a global citizen born in Naples, raised in Buenos Aires, and immigrated to the U.S. at 17—have two daughters whose careers reflect the same international, intellectually curious spirit.

- **Adriana**, in Miami, is a corporate flight attendant and mother of three.
- **Analia**, in Brazil, is a neuroscience professor at the University of São Paulo, living with her neurosurgeon partner and their precocious daughter, Mila.

“Our younger daughter, Analia, is a neuroscience professor at the University of Sao Paulo, and their 9-year-old daughter, Mila (going on 19!).”

Peter and Sybil moved to Windsor in 2019 and have been part of the community—and SIR Branch 176—ever since.

A Polymath’s Mindset

What ties Peter’s story together isn’t a single field or job title. It’s a mindset:

- **Follow the question.**
- **Master the tools.**
- **Build the system that helps others understand.**
- **Move on to the next frontier when the work is done.**

It’s the same spirit that animated Darwin, Franklin, and every lifelong learner who sees the world as an endless landscape of ideas waiting to be explored.

Peter Vigil didn’t just build a career—he built a life powered by curiosity. And that engine is still running.

PRIVACY & THE WEBPAGE

WWW.WINDSORSIRS.ORG

Having your photo and some background information about you on the web page is completely voluntary. If you don’t want it there for either privacy or security reasons, tell or email Jim at drdelta91@gmail.com. He will remove it; otherwise if we don’t hear from you **we are assuming consent**. Please review the web page <https://windsorsirs.org/> and what is there, and if you want something added, deleted or changed, again let Jim know.

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.

TRAVEL FROM STATE SIR:

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

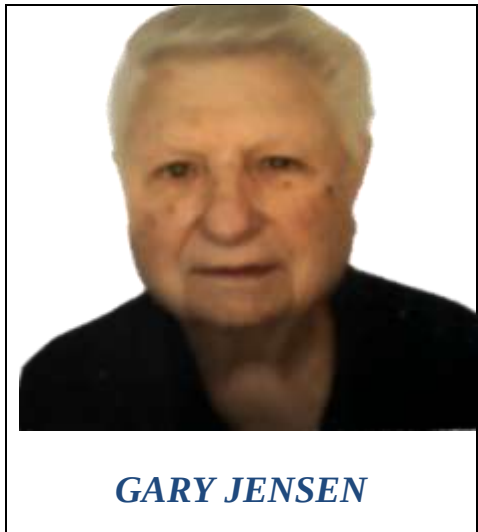
LINK: <https://sirinc.org/uploads/travel/2026HawaiiCruise.pdf>

Crossroads of the Adriatic with Overseas Adventure Travel: Departure date: May 4, '27 return May 21. There is a pre-trip available to Albania. Until it fills single traveler supplement is free. This will be a great trip exploring Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Slovenia. Prices, including airfare start at \$7,750. This is a small group of no more than 16. We need to get 12 from SIRs to keep our group. Deadline is end of July. Signing up now can also result in some good discounts. When you sign up be sure to use our group code: G7-23630 SIR 146 and let me know. If you have any questions of any kind please contact me ASAP by email, phone or text...I do all three. CrossroadsadriaticSIR146.pdf Milt Smith Branch 146 925-285-2897c miltsmith549@gmail.com

Christmas on the Danube with an extra 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, dbl. occupancy. Contact: Bill Britton Br. 101. bill.britton@comcast.net (925) 200-1062. LINK: <https://sirinc.org/wp-content/uploads/Christmas2026OnTheDanubeCollette.pdf>

IN PASSING:

As mentioned above, Frank rang the bell said some very nice words about the passing of our dear friend Gary Jensen. In our September luncheon the bell will be rung for the passing of another one of our departed Sir member, Rich Laugh. Below are their "Profile" pieces publish quite some time ago.



I was born in Gardena, California and was raised by my mother and father with my younger brother. Sadly, we lost my father in a car accident when I was 12 years old. My mom raised us two boys from this point, on her own while working and owning a variety of businesses. Upon graduation from high school I enlisted and served six years in the Army reserve and six months active duty.

In 1963, I married my wonderful wife Linda. I was working for Anheuser Busch in beer sales, when I was fortunate to have to opportunity make the move to Santa Rosa with the company in 1966. In February 1967, I went to work for RCA Distributing Corporation as a territory manager and sales rep calling on TV and stereo stores covering eight counties from Santa Rosa to the Oregon border. We also started our family this year welcoming our first daughter, Karen, in June and then just 12 months later in the following June, we welcomed our second daughter, Valerie.

I always had a desire to be an entrepreneur and be independent by owning my own business. So taking my knowledge of the electronics industry, in 1977, I moved my family to Clearlake where I purchased Lakeside TV & Appliance. While in Clearlake, I also opened up a coin-op laundry and then in 1984 ventured in a new direction in the electronics industry, rent-to-own, opening my first Home Rental Center store. In 1985, I sold the appliance store to focus on the rent-to-own business and its expansion. We moved back to Santa Rosa and as we started opening stores in other cities and counties growing to a chain of 9 stores. In 1997, a large corporation made us an offer to purchase all our stores and so began our retirement.

We ventured to Sun Lakes AZ where we enjoyed 17 years in the desert. But Sonoma County drew us back in 2016 when we moved to Windsor to be closer to our daughters and their families, one living in Windsor and the other in San Jose. Unfortunately, I lost my wife Linda in 2020. We were married for 57 years and I miss her very much. Today, I enjoy doing some woodwork mainly on the wood lathe. I have been very active in the Sirs Organization and have enjoyed every minute of it and the friends I have made.



Rick Laucks

I started out as a child in Sault Sainte Marie Michigan, which is located in the Upper Peninsula across the Saint Mary's river from Canada. When I was born, my dad was on Guam in the Pacific in the USMC. With only one trip back to the states during the war to do some to serve as an instructor at camp Lejeune. It was when my mom was able to join him that I was conceived. While he was gone, mom took care of family logistics while dad spent quality time in the Pacific garden spots like Guadalcanal. My dad was a talented, funny guy. For example, while in the Pacific he would write my mother letters with a native woman enter on the back, she started out as an old ugly woman. However, with each letter she got better and better looking until she was a raving beauty. He had the opportunity to stay in the core postwar, but opted to return to our hometown and his old job of working in a bakery.

We were basically a poor family, but I never knew it because I had cloths to wear and we never went hungry. I do recall that we didn't have a car until I was eight years old. After high school I joined the Naval Reserve. It was easy to get in as it was pre-Vietnam and the Navy was glad to sign up a kid who wanted to escape his hometown. No one in my family had ever attended college and I was determined to get a degree, so I slowly worked my way through Michigan State while working nights in a Fisher Body assembly plant. The 60s were a big time in my life as I did get that degree, got married, and then our first child was born.

My normal work schedule in the factory was 6 PM until 4:42 AM and after a couple hours sleep, I would head off to class. I am pretty certain that I must've set the all-time Michigan state record for sleeping in class. After many years of this I graduated with a BS in criminal science. I took the graduate business school admissions test, scored well and decided to get an MBA. I got a job at the business school as a graduate assistant and life was good. I could sleep all night in my own bed and I even had a parking spot. My main job was grading undergraduate papers, and it seemed that many of my students knew more than I did.

After finishing at MSU, I was ready to go to work. I received what seemed like a great job offer from JL Hudson Company, Detroit's largest retailer. He wanted me for a new management position to investigate and provide solutions for their inventory shrinkage problems. The job wasn't formalized yet so they said I could work in their security department until it was ready. After several delays over many months, they informed me that they had decided not to add the new position. I ended up with two valuable years of experience in crime prevention. In Detroit's inner city, every day was it an adventure. Our security department had an injury list like an NFL team. We prosecuted an average of 300 thefts a month and many of the thieves were quite unfriendly.

It was then time to move on to my next job with Forrest City Enterprises in Cleveland Ohio. I became the Director of loss prevention for the retail division. I really enjoyed my time there and stayed with that company for ten years. While almost everybody's job in a corporation is to create profit, mine was to keep the profit by pursuing wrongdoings, running investigations, and resolving cases. My last career stop was in Green Bay Wisconsin with ShopKo stores Inc. where I spent almost 20 years. I was mainly a management organization guy and my main task was developing a great work staff. During my last several years I switched from loss prevention to store operations. My very last job was as a Regional Vice President. I got the job as the two employees who had it before me, both have nervous breakdowns. I recall a friend saying "you don't get a nervous breakdown you just give them".

Life here is good. Last year my wife, Jennifer and I bought in Brooks Creek, an over 55 community, in Windsor. We especially like that it's a close walk to several other businesses. We have two daughters Rebecca in San Diego and Amanda in Seattle, so we're kind of splitting the difference between the two of them. I also enjoy sports, although I don't seem to have the same enthusiasm I had when I lived in Green Bay as a Packer season-ticket holder/stockholder. I've always been passionate about the game of golf and I really loved to play, but with my health issues, it's been a couple years. I'll often think that I'm going to get back to it and golf was mainly why I joined SIR's. I skipped the usual getting to know folks, and having coffee and convinced my one of my golfing partners Al Materri who was a Windsor SIRs member, to directly sponsor me. Now I do in fact go to coffee and never know, someday I just might play some golf.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY:

September 28, 1542 - California was discovered by Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo upon his arrival at San Diego Bay.

September 9, 1776 - The United States came into existence as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies.

September 25, 1789 - The first U.S. Congress proposed 12 Amendments to the Constitution, ten of which, comprising the Bill of Rights, were ratified.

September 18, 1810 - Chile declared its independence from Spain after 269 years as a colony.

September 22, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in territories held by Confederates as of January 1, 1863.

September 8, 1883 - The Northern Pacific Railroad across the U.S. was completed.

September 19, 1893 - New Zealand became the first country to grant women the right to vote.

September 2, 1923 - The first elections were held in the Irish Free State after achieving independence from Britain.

September 1, 1939 - At 5.30 a.m., Hitler's armies invaded Poland starting World War II in Europe.

September 29-30, 1941 - Nazis killed 33,771 Jews during the Babi Yar massacre near Kiev.

September 3, 1943 - Italy signed an armistice with the Allies during World War II in Europe as the British Eighth Army, commanded by General Bernard Montgomery, invaded the Italian mainland from Sicily.

September 21, 1949 - The People's Republic of China was proclaimed by its Communist leaders.

September 24, 1957 - President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the National Guard to enforce racial integration of schools in Little Rock, Arkansas.

September 26, 1960 - The first-ever televised presidential debate occurred between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon.

September 5-6, 1972 - Eleven members of the Israeli Olympic Team were killed during an attack on the Olympic Village in Munich by members of the Black September faction of the Palestinian Liberation Army. Israeli jets then bombed Palestinian positions in Lebanon and Syria in retaliation on September 8, 1972.

September 12, 1990 - A treaty was signed by East and West Germany and the Allies of World War II allowing for the restoration of sovereignty to a re-unified Germany.

September 27, 1995 - The Israeli cabinet agreed to give Palestinians control of much of the West Bank which had been occupied by Israel for 28 years.

September 11, 2001 - The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

Decka 9 House Concerts Summer Schedule

AUGUST 7, 2026 - MAX GOMEZ



AUGUST 30, 2026 - SAN LYON

OCTOBER 2, 2026

**FLAGSHIP ROMANCE
&
THE ROUGH & TUMBLE**



HOST DETAILS

If you are interested call: Barbra & Sir Charlie Boyd
(707) 529-4093

HOST NOTE

Please join us for a house concert featuring the above performers.
Potluck beginning at 5:00pm, with the show starting at 6:00pm. We will provide water, juice, sodas and dessert. BYOB

The artist suggested donation for these shows is \$25, in cash or Venmo (@Barbra-Boyd) at the door.

Address will be sent a week prior to confirmed guests.



The Windsor Kiwanis Club & Town of Windsor Present

Windsor Day Parade

Saturday, September 26, 2026



PARADE
BEGINS AT 10AM



**STARTS AT WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL
AND ENDS AT THE TOWN GREEN**

PARADE THEME : Fly me to the Moon

PARADE ENTRY APPLICATIONS: www.kiwaniswindsor.org

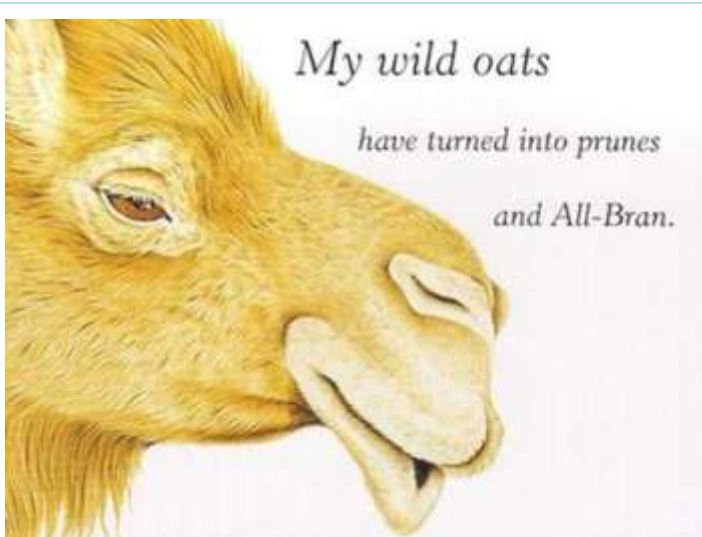






FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO
WWW.TOWNOFWINDSOR.CA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS





2026 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	
2026 Directors					
<i>1 Year Term</i>			<i>2 Year Term</i>		
Jerry Culver	Ron Nordstrom	Jim Tubb	Bob Wallace	Phil Bartels	Harold Minkin
2026 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 Tubb 707-484-7890		COFFEE COORDINATOR John Fineren 707-838-3686
SIR State President Fred Serena			SIR Area 13 Representative Chris Nelle 916-205-1717		

