



THE MAIL POUCH

Concept and Creation by Frank Franzago



The Pony Express Branch #69
December — 2020 Edition



Alan Weinel, Editor



Jimmy's Gems

Welcome SIR members. We have had a very tumultuous year. Thank you Branch 69 members for your support during my term as your Big Sir. Some of the items I had planned to accomplish were severely impacted by the restrictions of the COVID pandemic.

At the start of my term, some positions weren't filled. Many members have gone above and beyond by continuing in positions that they have held for several years in support of Branch 69. I am very grateful for your support. You have made my job much easier.

I want to recognize some of them here: Pat Quinn PBS, Paul Sickert (LS), Ron Hutcherson, Hal Copperberg. Lennie Silva, Greg Schweitzer, Alan Weinel, Tom Page, Bill Nichols, Bernie Moreno, Ross Martin, John Popadak, Directors, and callers. There are many others not mentioned that have provided support. I've enjoyed working with you and thank you very much for your help.

Although we aren't having luncheons, the leaders of Branch 69 have embraced the use of ZOOM, a video conferencing tool. We have made ZOOM available to not only the BEC but to all members of Branch 69.

The Branch is actively seeking members that are willing to serve as Branch officers. Volunteers are needed to provide leadership for the year 2022 and beyond. This action will help with succession planning.

There are still tasks we need to accomplish even during the pandemic. I implore you to support Paul Sickert and his team during the upcoming year.

One more thing don't forget to set aside your yearly voluntary \$20.00 contribution.. This contribution pays for such branch expenses such as the publication of the Branch roster, office expenses, and State SIR assessments, etc.

Hope to see you in the new year.

Happy Holidays,

Jimmy Buckley, Big Sir



Sickert Says

Pat Quinn, Steve Haakenson, and Alan Weinel each won a \$25 Amazon gift card for attending the November 22, 2020 BEC meeting. Recall that everyone attending the November meeting using Zoom was entered into a drawing for one of three gift cards. Big Sir Jimmy Buckley conducted a blind drawing from among all of the BEC attendees names and selected the above three winners. Join us at the next BEC meeting via Zoom where we will do this again and you can have a chance at a gift card just for attending the meeting. You might also find it interesting to see how the branch is continuing to function during the pandemic.

A moment in time. That is what I kept saying to myself as the word came down in March that Sir branch luncheons were cancelled in order to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus. It will be just for this moment, a little while, I thought and then we will get back to having our luncheons and speakers. My wishful thinking.

We will finish the year as we began with California severely restricting public in-person gatherings. The Sir State Board has cancelled all in-person SIR sponsored activities of any kind until further notice. As the State reopens so will the branch. Let us hope for all our sakes that **the new Covid-19** vaccines that have been developed are safe and effective and that we will be able to gather together again soon

Enjoy your family and friends over the holidays. Stay safe. Thanks

Paul Sickert, Little Sir

THANK YOU!!

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Newsletter editor for the past four years. When I took over this job from Pat Quinn in 2017, I had never used Microsoft Publisher and had only minimal experience working with “text boxes” and the other tools needed to put this to print each month. It has been a wonderful learning experience. I guess the old saying about old dogs learning new tricks is wrong: We CAN learn new things.

During this time I have had the opportunity to become much better acquainted with a number of our members. That might just be one of the best side benefits of the job. I have come to know a number of really fine men—sincere gentlemen. That is a wonderful thing. (I shan’t start naming names out of fear of missing someone and thereby inadvertently offending someone—but YOU know who you are!) I have had GREAT support from the various Big SIR leaders, along with the various Little SIR, and the other men who faithfully produce most all of the articles you read each month. THEY are the backbone of this effort. My minor task was just to fold, spindle and mutilate their efforts and then shoehorn it into the space allotted.

I hope my efforts have been at least marginally OK. I know I have made a number of errors—especially with regard to the birthday and anniversary sections — wrong ages and the WORST is that on several occasions I listed the wrong spouse’s name! Oh my! I can just IMAGINE what THAT would have been like... if I had listed, say “Jennifer” instead of Michele in my OWN case, I can hear her asking... **“Just who is this ‘Jennifer’ woman? Are you living a double life? **I** am you wife!!”**. Doghouse time for sure. SO ... my sincere apologies for those who suffered from my typos!

In some ways I will actually miss doing the NL—it has been a lot of fun, but it is time to move on and let someone else enjoy the process. John Popadak has graciously agreed to take over as NL editor next month. I know everyone will support him as well as you have supported me. Contributions to the NL should still be addressed to Branch.69.Sir@gmail.com. No change.

ROSTER corrections should now come directly to ME at my home email-address: Alan_Weinel@ATT.Net and I will coordinate the updates. (Although I have given up the NL, ****for now**** I am still doing the ROSTER).

Thank you all for the opportunity to be of service. I truly appreciate it!

Alan Weinel,



December Birthdays

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Mark Kraut | 12/01 | |
| George Langford | 12/06 | |
| Ed Linn | 12/14 | 84 Years |
| Greg Schweitzer | 12/14 | |
| Ron Hutcheson | 12/16 | |
| Horace Holmes | 12/25 | 86 Years |
| Gary Lukins | 12/25 | |
| Rich Taylor | 12/25 | 84 Years |



2021 SIRS Branch 69 Roster

The 2021 Roster is coming and will soon be ready for distribution. Please send your \$20.00 voluntary contribution (check made payable to SIR Branch 69) to our branch Treasurer, Hal Copperberg at his home address: 8015 Garry Oak Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95610 and he will mail your roster to you. The contribution for 2021 is reduced by \$5.00 due to reduced expenses. Call it a COVID bonus!

Your \$20.00 voluntary contribution is critical for the branch. Among other things, it goes towards publishing of the branch roster and newsletter as well as to pay for obligations including mandated State SIR dues for each member, the Ladies Day Luncheon and SIRS Day in the Park events, appreciation gifts to our speakers and various office supplies consumed during the year. Remember, the Branch provides the umbrella under which our Golf and Bowling programs operate: No Branch, No Activities.

Your help towards branch expenses is appreciated.

December Anniversaries

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Bill and Betty Mullen | 12/07 | |
| Rod and Cheryl Lukins | 12/08 | |
| Floyd and Helen Scott | 12/16 | 59 Years |
| Conrad and JoAnn Cookman | 12/20 | 54 Years |
| Paul and Carolyn Ogden | 12/21 | |
| Larry and Nancy McLeod | 12/23 | |
| Lloyd and Joyce Plank | 12/28 | 57 Years |



Your 2020 Golf Directors



Lennie Silva—Regular Course



Greg Schweitzer—Progressive Golf Club

DECEMBER GOLF:

ALL SIR ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY



Just when we thought that there was some progress in the fight against Covid-19, suddenly the infection rates have skyrocketed, and the isolation levels have gone back up all around the country.

Our own SIR activities have been shut down completely, even golf, in a rather strange decision by the State SIR office. We're hoping that they will reconsider that decision in time to resume our golf activities for the new year's schedule.

In the meantime, keep thinking of potential members who might want to join our branch when some activities begin again.

I keep in touch with my contact person at Morton Golf; Golf Expo next year is possible but certainly not assured. Like so much in our lives now, it's a wait and see situation. I'll keep you posted on news there.

Stay safe and healthy .

Tom Page Recruiting & Publicity Director



BOWLING NEWS



All the bowling news is discouraging right now. Sacramento County, along with almost all other counties in the state, has moved to the highest level of Covid-19 restrictions. This move lessens the chances of bowling venues opening any time soon. Even worse, the State Sir office has suspended all SIR activities, even golf. That move further decreases the possibility of a return to SIR bowling in the immediate future.



I have been in regular contact with Bobbi Nicholson at Country Club Lanes. She has not heard anything from Sacramento County about a timeline for re-opening bowling alleys. As I mentioned last month, we will have to make some decisions about how to manage our season:

- start late and run longer into May or June
- start late and have a shortened season
- start late and do a combination of the above choices

We also have to face the possibility that we won't have any bowling season at all this year. If it gets into the start of 2021 with no reopening of the lanes, we will have to consider that question. I hope that will not happen, but the most important issue will be the safety of our bowlers. It looks like we may be running out of time for a safe return to our bowling league.

Tom Page, League Secretary 916-488-6465

HOW ARE WE DOING?

11/30/2020

| INCOME | ACTUAL | BUDGET | DIFF |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Contributions | \$3,620 | \$3,750 | \$ 130 |
| Other | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$3,620 | \$3,750 | \$ 130 |

| EXPENSES | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Printing & Postage | \$ 283 | \$ 350 | \$ 67 |
| Officers' Expenses | \$ 214 | \$ 200 | \$ 14 |
| Guest Expenses | \$ 0 | \$ 100 | \$ 100 |
| State Assessment | \$ 779 | \$1,100 | \$ 321 |
| Other, Golf Expo | \$ 0 | \$ 200 | \$ 200 |
| Other, Misc. | \$1,104 | \$2,175 | \$ 1,071 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$2,380 | \$4,125 | \$1,745 |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| CASH BALANCE AT END OF 2019 | \$3,489 |
| CURRENT CASH BALANCE | \$4,731 |
| PROJECTED BALANCE 12/31/2020 | \$3,114 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| PROJECTED 2020 YEAR END MEMBERSHIP | 155 |
| PROJECTED CASH BALANCE PER MEMBER | \$ 20 |



Hal Copperberg, Treasurer



SUNSHINE



Gentlemen: Hello everyone, as your sunshine chair it is my heartfelt wish and hope that you are finding your way through the smoke and fending off the virus, there are always things to celebrate but finding it can sometimes be difficult, don't give up.

FRED SMITH: Lost his wife, Janette, on October 5th, and is now struggling with multiple cancer surgeries.

MARK MACHADO: Is having hip trouble and needs additional surgery

TAD SIMMS: Passed on November 4th. He was preceded in death by his wife.

Neither my computer nor phone allow me to take part in Zoom, so I will depend on the follow up input to keep abreast.

Stay safe my fellow SIR members...

kindest Regards,

Bill Nichols, Sunshine Chairman

916-844-9382 | Notaford64@gmail.com

| 2020 Officers | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| BIG SIR | JIM BUCKLEY | (916) 284-2364 |
| LITTLE SIR | PAUL SICKERT | (916) 396-6230 |
| SECRETARY | RON HUTCHESON | (916) 897-2807 |
| ASST SECRETARY | PAT QUINN | (916) 201-5262 |
| TREASURER | HAL COPPERBERG | (916) 722-2606 |
| ASST TREASURER | ALAN WEINEL | (209) 843-1804 |
| Directors | | |
| PBS PAT QUINN | (916) 201-5262 | STEVE BRANDENBURGER (916) 765-0585 |
| STEVE GOODMAN | (916) 521-6546 | JOHN POPADAK (916) 662-0695 |
| ERNIE BERRYMAN | (916) 723-2148 | BUD ROGERS (916)991-2611 |
| State Officers | | |
| STATE PRES: | | ED BENSON |
| REG. 1 DIRECTOR: | | MARK STUART |
| AREA 4 GOV: | | DAVE GONZALES |
| Recruitment, Activities, Member Relations & Publicity (RAMP) | | |
| RECRUITING/PUBLICITY/BIO | PBS TOM PAGE | (916) 488-6465 |
| ACTIVITIES | PBS JERRY SCHROEDER | (916) 801-2530 |
| MEMBERSHIP | JOHN POPADAK | (916) 662-0695 |
| Committee Chairs | | Honored Members |
| Programs | Paul Sickert (916) 396-6230 | HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS PBS RON HUTCHESON PBS TOM PAGE PBS JIM PORTERFIELD PRD WARREN SENEAL PBS LENNIE SILVA |
| Newsletter | AlanWeinel (209) 843-1804 | |
| Chaplain | Bill Nichols (916) 844-9382 | |
| Roster | Alan Weinel (209) 843-1804 | |
| Golf (BR69/RC) | PBS Lennie Silva (916) 487-9812 | |
| Golf (PGC) | Greg Schweitzer (916) 687-8629 | |
| Bowling | PBS Tom Page (916) 488-6465 | |
| Audit | Don Neufeld (916) 863-5228 | |
| Nominating | PBS Pat Quinn (916) 201-5262 | |
| Attendance | Ernie Berryman (916) 723-2148 | |
| Orientation | Steve Goodman (916) 521-6546 | |
| Branch Apparel | Mike Ratzlaff (916) 768-6348 | |
| Meeting Review | John Popadak (916) 662-0695 | |
| Sunshine | Bill Nichols (916) 844-9382 | |
| Lunch Reception | Ron Bacher (916) 422-5583 | |
| Web Site | Ross Martin (916) 427-0559 | |
| Book Club | Bernie Moreno (209) 245-6313 | |
| RV | Bob Houghton (916) 487-1190 | |
| NCGA Ambassador | Jim Huffman (916) 468-8197 | |
| RAMP | PBS Jerry Schroeder (916) 801-2530 | |
| | | SENIOR CERTIFICATES SIR JIM PAGE SIR KEN TOWNS SIR VERNON FREEMAN SIR HEMAN SMITH SIR DON BALDWIN |

TREASURER'S REPORT – November, 2020

Cash Balance 1/1/2020= \$3,489

| | November | YTD |
|------------------------|----------|---------|
| Beginning Cash Balance | \$4,763 | N/A |
| Contributions | \$ 50 | \$3,620 |
| Expenses | \$ 82 | \$2,379 |
| Ending Cash Balance | \$4,731 | N/A |

MEMBERSHIP

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|
| Membership, Gain/Loss | +0/-1 | 146 |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|

NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION: ALL ACTIVITIES arranged or sponsored by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of its members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement Inc, and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property in matters pertaining in to said activities.

Checks, money orders or credit cards for Travel for one day or less (no overnight), where a bus/busses is/are used as the primary means of transportation, may be made payable to the Branch sponsoring the event. All other checks, money orders or credit cards for travel must be made payable to the travel agency. (Rule 420 & 421).

Members are obligated to attend all regular luncheon meetings unless prevented by illness or absence from the Branch locale. (Rule 60). REQUIRED ATTENDANCE – A member who misses three (3) consecutive luncheon meetings without having been excused by contacting the designated Branch Attendance person prior to the meeting date, and giving a valid reason, or did not attend one half of the regular luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period. may be notified, by letter, of the pending termination of his membership in SIR. (Rule 60, 100 & 107).

