



THE MAIL POUCH



Website: branch69.org

Facebook: Pony Express SIR Branch 69

The Pony Express Branch #69
February - 2024 Edition

John Popadak, Editor



CONNOR'S LUCK OF THE IRISH

In the month of February, there are several exciting events taking place: the Asian Lunar Year of the Dragon on February 10th, Super Bowl Sunday on February 11th, Valentine's Day on February 14th, and the 15th Anniversary of my 60th Birthday on the 16th. There is also Groundhog Day on the 2nd, President's Day on February 19 and Mardi Gras on the 13th. Plus February is also Black History month.

There is a committee head, as mentioned in the 2024 Roster Book, for all of the various branch activities. Please see the attached listing on page 8 of this newsletter. By staying active in our branch activities, it helps to strengthen the mind and exercise the body to new levels of activity. Contact these committee heads for time and place of their respective events.

We had a good January Luncheon response for the \$25.00 Annual Membership Dues Payment. One can make your dues' payment at the February 8th Luncheon or mail it to our Treasurer: Hal Copperberg, 8015 Garry Oaks Drive, Citrus Heights Ca 95610. The annual dues fund the payment of branch operational expenses and some of the branch outside activities.

Hopefully, the start of the New Year has been healthy and enjoyable with family and friends. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the SIR Branch 69 Luncheon on February 8th.

Connor "Lucky Irish" Chin, Big SIR
Cell Phone: 1 (916) 601-1854
Email: cjjschin@gmail.com



COOP'S CORNER



CUSTOMER SERVICE CAN BE FUN

Given the opportunity to serve SIR's was difficult to turn down. I am habitually inclined to help out when asked. Saying no isn't something I do easily. This way of thinking has served me well in the military and as a state I.T. manager. I have risen to elevated positions because I went the extra mile when called upon. Being of service to your fellow man is one of the primary tasks that God has called us to do. Love your brothers as much as you love yourself. And do unto others as you'd have them do unto you.

Well, this mind set has led me to an awkward evening about 3 years ago. This is where my story becomes kind of funny but very enlightening. I was at a Toastmasters' conference at the Hard Rock Café in Lake Tahoe. I was scheduled to meet a group of friends after the conference across the street at Montbleu Casino for dancing and socializing. We met there, arrived early, and found out, although seating was plentiful, you'd have to pay extra for a seat. So we stood.

A young man approached me and asked me where the restrooms were. I replied, "I believe they are just out the door to right". Not an unusual request, so I went back to roaming around the club "people watching" since I was solo, and I wasn't dancing or drinking. A guy approached and asked me the same question, "Where are the restrooms"? I told him the same thing I'd told the young man. *Hmmm*, I thought, *what is going on here?* Later, a guy that was somewhat tipsy, told me how much he liked the club and how much he was enjoying himself at my club. **My CLUB?!?** I told him that I was glad to hear he was enjoying himself let me know how we can improve. Now it's time for me to relocated before he comes back. Time to find a new observation point because this is starting to get a little uncomfortable. That's when a guy comes over and tells me that the security guard won't let his entourage in. *You've got to kidding me, is there an "I WORK HERE" stamped on my back?* I turn and look in the direction of the door and the next thing I knew, I was being pulled by my arm toward the

(Continued on Page 2)

February Birthdays

Charles (Brian) Denico	2/4	
Connor (Irish) Chin	2/16	
Lennie Silva	2/19	86 Years Old
Jim Happs	2/21	
Richard Slocum	2/21	
Ross Martin	2/25	
Jim Luttig	2/27	
Allen Riker	2/28	



February Anniversaries

Tony and Marilyn Stratton	2/2	
Dan and Sarita Turner	2/3	56 Years
Ron and Diana Hutcheson	2/4	
Don and Patricia Neufeld	2/9	62 Years
Carl and Robyn Hefner	2/14	
Victor and Barbara Scott	2/14	
Bob and Loretta Turner	2/18	63 Years
Jim and Lavina Smalling	2/23	



NEXT MEETING

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thursday **February 8th, 2024**

Dante Event Center, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento
95825

Check-In and Social Hour: 11:00 am to 12:00 noon
General Meeting, Lunch,
and Speaker: 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm

YOU'RE ALL INVITED!

COOP'S CORNER

(Continued from Page 1)

security guard by the troubled patron. Instead of telling this guy, "I don't work here, and you need to find the guy in the blue suit that I saw earlier" (I think he was the manager of the club.) Instead, I allow myself to be towed to the door by the leader of the group toward the security guard. The whole time thinking, this is going to be awkward. When we arrive, I asked the guard, "Where is the guy in the blue suit?". He told me and I pointed the distressed patron in that direction. Whew! That could have been very awkward. Oh well, crisis avoided, and customer satisfied. A young girl came up behind me later from the street and asked me, "How much do you charge for your table"? *WHAT IN HECK IS GOING ON HERE?* Now where is that blue suit guy again? I spotted him, approached him, relayed the question as well as the assumption that half the club was thinking. He laughed, asked how many in her party, then told me that it would cost \$500 dollars for a table. I suppressed the shocked look on my face, then informed the girl it was \$550. Might as well get paid if I'm going to work here. Her shock was not hidden, and she declined. She and her party of 4 decided to just stand. By now I'm getting a little full of myself and thinking, I could do this job they've handed me. I even directed the uniformed security guards to break up an altercation on the dance floor. I pointed and they jumped on it. Such power, *mu-hah, hah, hah!* Fun times.

So, for one night, I ran the dance club, because of customer service. I never turned down any request that was asked of me that night. It was a blast. Therefore, you never know what you're missing if you say no to serve. Try saying yes, you might just enjoy yourself in the process.

The **February 8th Speaker** will be Alan Baker - The State SIR Board Webmaster and the SIR 93 Membership Chairman

His presentation will be on Electric Cars. Alan will talk about driving, performance, range, charging, maintenance, and their environmental impacts of Electric Vehicles.

Lieutenant Coopwood, Little SIR

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

SIR Bill Cozine

3633 Thornwood Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95821
(916)483-9993
No email.
Transfer from Branch 33



Bill is originally from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, but grew up in Sacramento after his family moved here when he was 6. After graduating from Grant-Union High School, Bill joined the Navy for three years, serving in the Beach Master Unit. His Navy service took him all over the globe, including Japan, Iwo Jima and other Pacific isles. Back home in 1958, he attended American River College for two years and then Sac State, from which he earned a degree in sociology. Also while at American River College, Bill met his late wife and started a marriage that lasted for 59 years until she passed away five years ago.

Bill's working career was centered around the Sac County Probation Department. He worked in all kinds of caseloads, from juveniles to Folsom Prison inmates. He also gained a master's degree in counseling while a member of the department. Even after retiring from the Probation Department, Bill stayed active with employment. He worked as an usher at the Arco/Sleep Train arena for twenty years for all kinds of entertainment events, including Kings' games and big-name concerts. He, also, still works with the thoroughbred horse racing at the State Fair. He continues to serve as a union trustee for the service union at the Arco Arena.

Bill was a skilled bowler for years, and is still the president of the Tuesday SIR bowling league at Country Club Lanes even though he has had to give up the sport due to bad knees. He won the championship in that league three times and top league bowler several times. Bill still goes to the gym several times a week to keep fit. He has a son and a daughter and three grandchildren.

Birthday: October 5, 1936

SIR Romano Luchini

5837 O St.
Sacramento, CA 95819
(916)739-6193
romano.luchini@yahoo.com
Sponsor: Rod Lukins



Romano was born and raised here in Sacramento. After his graduation from Christian Brothers High School, he went to Sac State and earned a BA in history and social sciences. After college, now with a wife and young son, he got certified in electronics and went to work for Lawrence Livermore Labs. That job didn't last too long, so he went back to Sac State and gained his teaching credential. Romano started teaching history at Encina High School in 1989 and taught there for 21 years. He finished his teaching career at Arcade Middle School for another eight years, which brought him to retirement in 2019.

Many of his post-retirement plans had to be postponed by surgeries to his back and neck. He is pretty much recovered now and hopes to resume travel and other activities. Romano has been active for years at the East Portal Park bocce ball club. He has served as the President of the group and continues to be the facilities manager there. He also likes reading books about history and geography; he is hoping to get back to bowling and fishing. Romano and his wife Cristine have a son, a grandson and a granddaughter.

Birthday: January 16, 1955

Anniversary: July 30, 1977 to Cristine

SIR Howard Nielsen

9156 Cecile Way
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 366-6488
janiee59@att.net
Transfer from Branch 33



Howard's bio will appear at a later date.

RETURNING MEMBER

Ron Hutcheson
9325 Colliston Dr.
Elk Grove, CA 95624
(916) 897-2807 (Home)
(916) 952-6285 (Cell)
rhutches@surewest.net



Ron first joined Branch 69 in June 2007 and resigned in February 2023. Ron was Big SIR of Branch 69 in 2014. He was Secretary from 2017 through 2019

Welcome back, Ron!

RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY

Our year is off to a good start: we had three new members who joined in January and one returning member. I want to welcome back our returning member, Ron Hutcheson. For those who don't know Ron, he has been extremely active in leadership positions within our branch. He has been Branch Secretary at least twice, Past Big and Little Sir, not to mention a great friend on the golf course and bowling alley. Ron has been awarded Honorary Life Member for his service to our branch. Glad to have you back with us, Ron!

For all our members, keep up the good work—keep those friends and golf buddies coming as guests to our meetings. We are blessed with a strong, healthy SIR Branch 69, thanks to the continued efforts of our members to volunteer their time and skill for the various leadership positions. Share our success with potential new members.

The key element to continuing our success is recruiting. We have seen other seemingly healthy SIR branches wither and fail, and the reason is always the same: failure to recruit.

Don't let this happen to our branch! Please dedicate yourself to keep working on your buddies who might be interested in our various activities. Each Branch 69 member should give some thought to friends, golfing and bowling buddies who might have an interest in our branch. We know how much fun our golf and bowling programs are, not to mention new activities, such as dinner outings, ping pong, walking group and card playing—we have to share this information with prospective members.

If anyone has ideas about other types of recruiting steps, please let me know. I always love to hear new thoughts on how we can improve our branch and its recruiting program.

We are also continuing our work to place our advertising posters in the local golf courses. This work has been done primarily by our Golf Committee chair, Rick Hom. Many of the courses seem very willing to let us display our posters.

I'll look forward to seeing everyone at the February luncheon.

**Tom Page, Recruiting & Publicity
Director**



BS Connor Chin welcomes new members Bill Cozine, Romano Luchini, and Howard Nielsen to Branch 69.

FOOD MENU

For February 8th Meeting

Dante Winter House Salad, Herb Marinated Angus Flank Steak with Creamy Mushroom Sauce, Creamy Scallop Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Dinner Rolls with Sweet Butter, and Chef's Choice Dessert





GOLF NEWS



Rick Hom—Regular Course



Terry Block—Progressive Golf Club



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

February 22 - Ancil Hoffman - \$62

March 21 - Empire Ranch - \$56

March 28 - The Reserve - \$64

JANUARY RESULTS

River Oaks (01/25) - Stroke Play

It turned into a pleasant sunny day and a good time. The course was understandably wet in many places, a few holes were cart-path only, but not for most of the rest of the course. Not much roll, though! Thanks to everyone who participated, Congrats to our Winners!

Low Net, 2nd Low Net, 3rd Low Net, 4th Low Net

1st Flight: Mark Machado, Dan Calcagno, Conrad Cookman and Pat Quinn (tied)

2nd Flight: Terry Block, Alex Canada, Jim Svobodny

CTPs: Jerry Buhlert, Dan Calcagno, Sandy Davis, and Jim Svobodny

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

February 5 - Bartley Cavanaugh - \$38

February 12 - Wildhoirse - \$57

March 11 - Alister Mackenzie - \$42 - contracted for 24, need at least 20 golfers

March 19 (Tuesday) - River Oaks - \$56

JANUARY RESULTS

Davis GC (01/15) - 2 Person Net Best Ball

Nine two man teams enjoyed a round of golf at Davis Golf Course; though it was cold there was no rain and wind was minimal which resulted in some decent scores .

1st Place Team: Dan Nelson and Bab Baker

2nd Place Team: Mark Machado and Jim Oblizalo

3rd Place Team: John Mestek and Alex Canada

4th Place Team: Paul Wood and Jim Sprifke

5th Place Team: Terry Block and Marty Miller



"MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY BOWLING, DAD... AT LEAST THEY HAVE A BALL RETURN!"



BOWLING NEWS

The second half of our bowling season is several weeks old; like the first half of the season, this half is a close battle between most of the league teams. I expect this battle to last for the remainder of the year.

We've had some fine individual bowling, too. Robert Schrupf rolled a great 614 scratch series in January, while George Langford shot a 267 scratch game a week later. That game had 10 strikes and 2 spares—great shooting, George. For the season, Jim Smalling continues to lead in the scratch category with a 299 game and 710 series. Mark Steffens has the high handicap game with 325 and Steve Haakenson has the high handicap series with 815.

Our branch is hosting the State SIR Bowling Tournament at Country Club Lanes on Thursday and Friday, February 15 and 16. If you want to bowl in this event, call or email Tod Davis right away at 916-722-3575 and flypilot@surewest.net.

Other bowling information:

If you want to practice bowl, identify yourself as a SIR league bowler at the front desk at Country Club Lanes and you can bowl for \$.25/game. I had thought that evenings and weekends were excluded, but several guys have told me that they practiced then at the same low rate. Also, if you still have some of those old free bowling coupons from making splits, Country Club Lanes will continue to honor them during the weekdays.

Stay healthy,

Tom Page, League Secretary
916-488-6465



The winners of the first half of the 2023-2024 bowling league are the Pin Pushers. The Pin Pushers, seen here with the Bowling Chairman, Tom Page, (second from right), include Wing Tse, Captain Alex Canada, Bernie Moreno, and Neal McCoy.



Little SIR Lieutenant Coopwood presents a Certificate of Appreciation to last month's speaker, Gregg Lukenbill, former owner of the Sacramento Kings. He now represents the Sacramento Historical Foundation and gave us some insights into the beginnings of our fair city.

BRANCH 69 MEETING ATTENDANCE IN 2024			
<u>Month</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Percent</u>
January	133	99	74%

This was our best attendance at a meeting in years!

Forgot the luncheon's speaker details? Want to read back issues of the Mail Pouch? Get all of this and more on our Web Site at <http://branch69.org>

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

DINE-OUT

NEXT DINE-OUT will be at EL TAPATIO, on February 20th AT 6:00 PM, located at 5637 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA (<https://www.yelp.com/map/el-tapatio-citrus-heights-3>)



For menu information: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/el-tapatio-citrus-heights-3>

Enjoy time with your SIR buddies, bring a guest & make a new friend!

For more information & RSVP text or call Sir Mark Steffens at steffens.mark@outlook.com or (916) 214-8650.

Mark Steffens, Activities Chairman
(916) 214-8650 /
steffens.mark@outlook.com



January's **Dine-Out** at Vince's Restaurant and Bar in West Sacramento



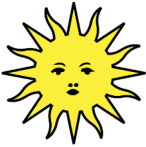
CARD CLUB

The Card Club will meet February 7th and 21st this month at the Country Club Bowling alley in the back room. Remember it starts at 2:00 pm.

See you there and bring your friends.

Dan Nelson, Cards Chairman
(916) 895-5673
Dan.8733@yahoo.com





SUNSHINE



Please Keep the Following Folks in Your Prayers:

Thomas (Train) Walton took a turn for the worse and is back in the hospital as of January 10th.

Bob Sanchez is recovering from a stroke.

Ritchie Carlson is scheduled for shoulder replacement surgery soon.

Reach out to someone and let them know we care and they are not alone.

If you know of any of our members or immediate family with health problems give me a call at (650) 240-6019, or call Big SIR Connor Chin.

**James Aylett, Sunshine
Chairman
penholder19@gmail.com**



All you married members: Don't forget February 14!

**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY** ♥

2024 ROSTER CORRECTIONS

Please note that **Jack Reefer** (916) 531-2551 is still our Area 4 Rep – not Lee Lamp

Greg Powell's e-dress is gregorykpowell3@gmail.com (the roster omitted the "3")

Howard Nielsen's (new guy) correct email address is janice59@att.net.

Be sure to add the new members to your copy of the roster.

**PBS Alan Weinel, Roster Chairman
(209) 843-1804
Alan_weinel@att.net**



2024 Officers		
BIG SIR	CONNOR CHIN	(916) 601-1854
LITTLE SIR	LIEUTENANT COOPWOOD	(916) 206-2732
SECRETARY	BERNIE MORENO	(209) 245-6313
ASST SECRETARY	ROBERT SCHRUMPF	(916) 897-7114
TREASURER	HAL COPPERBERG	(916) 722-2606
ASST TREASURER	JIM SPRIFKE	(209) 200-2107
Directors		
PBS ALAN WEINEL	(209) 843-1804	JOHN POPADAK (916) 662-0695
BLAKE THOMSON	(916) 922-5227	RON PETERS (916) 847-7196
PBS TED PATTERSON	(916) 607-3050	PBS PAUL SICKERT (916) 396-6230
State Officers		
STATE PRESIDENT:		DALE DECKER
AREA 4 REPRESENTATIVE:		JACK REEFER
Recruitment, Activities, Member Relations & Publicity (RAMP)		
RECRUITING/PUBLICITY/BIO	PBS TOM PAGE	(916) 488-6465
ACTIVITIES	PBS MARK STEFFENS	(916) 214-8650
MEMBERSHIP	JOHN POPADAK	(916) 662-0695
Committee Chairs		
Program	Lieutenant Coopwood	(916) 206-2732
Newsletter	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Chaplain	James Aylett	(650) 240-6019
Roster	PBS Alan Weinel	(209) 843-1804
Audit	George Langford	(650) 823-5493
Nominating	PBS Alan Weinel	(209) 843-1804
Attendance	Mark Kraut	(916) 929-3494
Orientation	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Information	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Sunshine	James Aylett	(650) 240-6019
Web Site	Ross Martin	(916) 427-0559
Picnic	PBS Jerry Schroeder	(916) 801-2530
Activities	PBS Mark Steffens	(916) 214-8650
Honored Members		
<u>HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS</u>		
PBS TOM PAGE		
PBS JIM PORTERFIELD		
PRD WARREN SENEGAL		
PBS LENNIE SILVA		
PBS RON HUTCHESON		
<u>DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS</u>		
PBS PAT QUINN		
<u>SENIOR CERTIFICATES</u>		
PBS WARREN SENEGAL		
SIR KEN TOWNS		
SIR VERNON FREEMAN		
SIR HEMAN SMITH		
SIR CHARLES DANT		
PBS ARNIE KELLER		
SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN		
Golf (RC)	Rick Hom	(916) 395-7433
Golf (PGC)	Terry Block	(916) 686-0797
Bowling	PBS Tom Page	(916) 488-6465
Book Club	PBS Alan Weinel	(209) 843-1804
Cribbage	Dan Nelson	(916) 895-5673
Dine-Out	PBS Mark Steffens	(916) 214-8650
Investmnt Gp	Joe Cain	(916) 219-3709
Pickleball	Terry Block	(916) 686-0797
Picnic	PBS Jerry Schroeder	(916) 801-2530
Ping Pong	Robert Schrumf	(916) 897-7114
River Cats	Dennis Kramer	(530) 312-3896
Wine Tasting	Dennis Kramer	(530) 312-3896
WALKING	PBS Mark Steffens	(916) 214-8650
Branch Apprl https://sirinc.org/apparel-and-signage		

Check out the State SIR newsletter "Happenings" for information about statewide SIR activities and other branches by clicking on the Rooster at the right.

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).