



# THE MAIL POUCH

Concept and Creation by Frank Franzago



The Pony Express Branch #69  
September — 2020 Edition

Alan Weinel, Editor



## Jimmy's Gems

Fellow SIR Members:

My hope is everyone and their families are doing well. Along with COVID-19, we must battle the smoke and ash from these fires.

State SIR and your Branch are continuing the business of SIRS. It is felt that we will not have any luncheons for the remainder of the year.

Much of the SIR business is being conducted using ZOOM, a video conferencing tool. ZOOM has been adopted as an official communication tool and State SIR encourages all branches to use it.

Since April our branch has used ZOOM to conduct monthly BEC meetings. Last month we asked the callers to survey our members as to the use of ZOOM and its applicability to our Branch. While the survey concluded that there some interest in conducting a Luncheon meeting via ZOOM, the majority weren't interested. All responses are much appreciated and will be used for future planning. Special thanks to our Callers.

All board members should set aside a few minutes to join the ZOOM Meeting. All branch officers, directors, and committee chairs are strongly encouraged to attend. Committee chairs should provide status during the BEC or in the form of an email. If committee chairs can't attend, send an email with status to Ron Hutcherson, or Jimmy Buckley.

When was the last time you visited the State website? The State SIR website is [www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org). It has changed with more drop-down menus with updated information. It includes information on how to join a ZOOM meeting.

On our branch's website, we have added a few pictures from 2019 Ladies Day Luncheon to Branch 69's website. To view, [www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org)> branch info>branch web-sites>branch69>special events.



## Sickert Says

I attended the SIR State annual meeting with BS Jimmy Buckley via ZOOM on August 19. After the business of electing new Officers for 2021 and adopting changes to the by-laws, about half of the meeting time, was devoted to a presentation on the responses to the survey that was circulated to members several months ago. The median age of survey respondents was 76 years old and 15% were greater than 81. Membership is continuing to skew older.

Attracting new membership to SIR is next year's goal, as it has been for the last several years. To survive SIR needs to continue attracting new members, particularly younger men. For help to do that SIR Inc. hired MCO Associates to create a marketing plan to increase general public awareness of SIR, increase guest counts at luncheons, and attract younger members. The basic message will be that SIR helps men, mentally and physically, through activities, making friends, and having fun. That sounds like us.

The survey also revealed that the most popular SIR activity is golf, which is currently Branch 69's only available program. While the branch, like most, has lost some members this year we have also welcomed six new members and total membership is very close to where we began the year.

September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness month. I know this has personally affected some members of the Branch and nationally 1 in 9 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year. Get your annual physicals, learn about diet and lifestyle steps that you can take to help prevent prostate cancer, make sure you are having annual physicals, and pay attention to your Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test results, particularly over time.

*Paul Sickert, Little Sir*

*Continued on page 2...*



### Jimmy's Gems

*Continued...*

As part of your membership orientation into SIR, there are four expectations of every SIR member, these include volunteerism and bringing/inviting guests with the potential of becoming members. SIR can't continue to exist without new members. Amid COVID-19, for SIRS and our branch to remain vibrant and relevant, we need your ideas and support. Your ideas and suggestions are needed now. Contact any BEC member to share your thoughts and volunteer.

#### Annual Meeting

State Annual Meeting was held on August 19, 2020, via ZOOM with more than 140 members in attendance. In attendance were State Officers, Big & Little Sirs. Paul Sickert and I represented Branch 69.

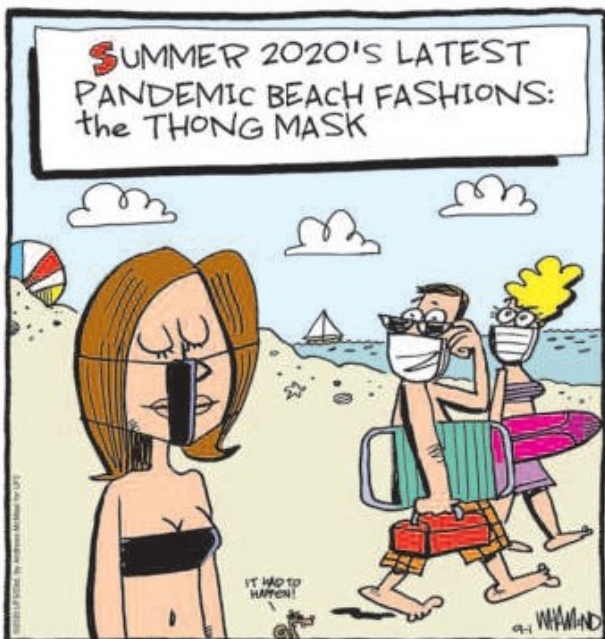
During the meeting, several changes were adopted to Bylaws and Policy and Procedures will be posted on State SIRs website.

Based on recently adopted State Bylaw, **Directors shall not vote by proxy, therefore must attend and vote.**

State SIR is encouraging all branches to adopt/strongly consider mandatory dues with a cutoff date. The number of SIR members helps when dealing with the insurance company.

Pat Quinn (916 201 5262) has volunteered to help any member having trouble with login.

### *Jimmy Buckley, Big Sir*



# WELCOME!!

**SIR Jim Sprifke joined in June, but we didn't have a picture... here is his bio WITH a picture!**  
/ Alan W., NL Editor

### SIR Jim Sprifke

2610 Tejon Street  
Lodi, CA 95242  
(209) 200-2107  
[sprifo@gmail.com](mailto:sprifo@gmail.com)

Sponsor: John Popadak



Jim was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and grew up there. After high school, he attended the University of Wisconsin for a short while before enlisting in the Army. His Army training took him to the Language School at Monterey, CA, where he studied Serbo-Croatian, followed by a posting at Ft. Devens near Boston. He spent his final year in the Army in Bavaria.

Jim had met his wife while in Monterey, so after his military service, they moved back to her home area in Davis, CA. Jim went to UC Davis and earned a degree in International Relations. He also worked as a Davis police officer while going to school, but for his career choice he became an insurance broker, specializing in insurance for non-profit organizations. He retired in 2011 but later worked in the insurance field as a consultant.

Jim has two sons, likes to play golf and also is a ham radio operator. He used to do a lot of sailing, too, but now stays on dry land. He is already signed up for our branch golf tournaments.

Birthday: May 22, 1944

*Please welcome him!*

#### PICKLES by Brian Crane



# WELCOME!!

**SIR Terry Block joined in May, but we didn't have a picture... here is his bio WITH a picture!**  
/ Alan W., NL Editor

## SIR TERRY BLOCK

9287 Orange Crest Court  
Elk Grove, CA 95624  
916-686-0797 terryblock@comcast.net  
Sponsor: Dan Nelson



Terry was born in Glendale, California; he grew up there and in nearby Eagle Rock. After high school, Terry went to Glendale City College, where he gained an AA degree and LVN certification. He then attended Cal State Los Angeles and earned a BA in Health & Safety with a teaching credential in Health Education. He also worked at St. Joseph's Hospital in Burbank as a nurse and joined the California Army National Guard in 1976 after high school.

Terry served in the National Guard Reserve from 1976 to 1983. He was on active duty from 1983 to 2003, serving primarily in medical services units. He finished his long military service in 2017 having attained the rank of Sergeant Major. He worked for the California Military Department from 2003 until his retirement in 2018.

Terry and his wife Emese have two sons. They enjoy traveling together; Terry also enjoys golf, racquetball and fishing.

Birthday: February 18, 1938

Anniversary: Emese July 11, 1981

*Please welcome him!*

**Please Join me in wishing**

**Special Birthday**

**Congratulations to:**

**Jim Smalling**

**&**

**Bill Rhoe**

**On their 70th Birthdays**

**and**

**Jim Porterfield on his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**And best wishes for many more!**

## September Birthdays

Lieutenant Coopwood	09/05	
John Popadak	09/09	
<b>Jim Porterfield</b>	<b>09/09</b>	<b>80 Years</b>
E.K.Wade	09/12	
Don Neufeld	09/14	
Patrick Fintel	09/15	
Steve Brandenburger	09/18	
<b>Arnie Keller</b>	<b>09/18</b>	<b>87 Years</b>
Larry McLeod	09/20	
<b>Ron Bacher</b>	<b>09/21</b>	<b>82 Years</b>
Danny Payne	09/23	
Eddie Caviel	09/25	
<b>Rick Lee</b>	<b>09/25</b>	<b>84 Years</b>
<b>Jim Smalling</b>	<b>09/25</b>	<b>70 Years</b>
<b>Bob Turner</b>	<b>09/25</b>	<b>82 Years</b>
<b>Lorren Jacobs</b>	<b>09/25</b>	<b>85 Years</b>
<b>Bill Rhoe</b>	<b>09/30</b>	<b>70 Years</b>



## September Anniversaries

Jim and Linda Morehouse	09/03	
<b>Dave and Judy Yorston</b>	<b>09/05</b>	<b>55 Years</b>
<b>Ritchie and Glenda Carlson</b>	<b>09/10</b>	<b>58 Years</b>
Jimmy and Velma Buckley	09/12	
<b>Otis and Willa Benning</b>	<b>09/21</b>	<b>58 Years</b>
Phil and Linda Olavarri	09/27	
<b>Tom and Donna Costello</b>	<b>09/59</b>	<b>58Years</b>

*Editor Comment; 1962 must have been a GREAT year to marry: This year the Carlsons, Bennings and Costellos are all celebrating 58 years! Congrats! / Alan W.*



## Your 2020 Golf Directors



**Lennie Silva—Regular Course**



**Greg Schweitzer—Progressive Golf Club**

**SEPTEMBER GOLF:**

09-03 Thurs Dry Creek Low Net  
 09-17 Thurs Turkey Creek Low Net  
 09-24 Thurs Diamond Oaks Low Net

**OCTOBER GOLF:**

10-01 Thurs Teal Bend Low Net  
 10-15 Thurs Alister Mac Vintage Tourney  
 10-22 Thurs River Oaks 4 Man; 2 Best Balls

**SEPTEMBER GOLF:**

09-21 Mon Alistair Mac 4 Man Shamble  
 2 Oaks

**OCTOBER GOLF:**

10-05 Mon River Oaks Stroke Play, Fwd Tees  
 10-19 Mon Cavanaugh Stroke Play, Black Tees



### BOWLING NEWS



Our bowling centers continue to be closed. Obviously, our 2020-2021 bowling season will not be starting on time in late August. I just have no way of predicting when will get back to bowling again. At some point in the future, we will have to make some decisions about how to manage our season:

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

I have contacted almost all of our bowlers from previous seasons to see who is interested in bowling in the league next fall **IF** we are able to have a league. I haven't tried to put together any team combinations for next season because the situation seems so fluid right now. Also, some bowlers who previously said that they intended to bowl have changed their minds and now don't seem so sure about their intentions.

So, for right now, it's wait and see. I'll try to keep everyone updated on the bowling situation, but just listening to the evening news and reading the paper will give us a pretty good idea of where things stand.

Let's keep a good thought in our minds and hope for a bowling season later in the fall.

**Tom Page, League Secretary 916-488-6465**

### RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY

Branch 69 is still in the initial phase of our restart plan—golf is the only activity that has started up again. It's great to have golf back; as always, thank you Greg and Lennie for your hard work managing the tournaments. The rest of our branch activities seem to be further away rather than closer due to a regression in the country's ability to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.



For now, we can play golf and hope for better times ahead.

I hope to see you all at our next luncheon, whenever that will be. Stay safe.

**Tom Page Recruiting & Publicity Director**

**FRANK & ERNEST** by Thaves



## 2021 BRANCH 69 OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

**PBS Pat Quinn** pointing to a hole in one on August 17<sup>th</sup>, on the 8<sup>th</sup> hole at Bartley Cavanaugh —125 yards with an 8 iron.

Congrats!

*(ED: Do we NEED verification? Or do we just trust Pat?)*



### OFFICERS:

Big Sir, Paul Sickert



Little Sir, Mark Steffens



Secretary, PBS Pat Quinn



Assistant Secretary; PBS Ron Hutcheson



Treasurer; Hal Copperberg



Assistant Treasurer, Alan Weinel



### DIRECTORS:

PBS Jimmy Buckley  
Term: 2021



Ernie Berryman  
Term: 2020-2022



Steve Brandenburger  
Term: 2020-2022



Bud Rogers  
Term: 2020-2022



Jack Mehl  
Term: 2021-2023



Jim Oblizalo  
Term: 2021-2023



### **How are you coping during the pandemic?**

How are you coping ~~being under house arrest~~ ...oops ... “sheltering in place” this year? I would like to share a story next month about how we are doing... what we are doing and so forth.

I will start... It has been a quiet year in Lake Woebe-gon... Michele and I had to cancel an Elder Hostel (Road Scholar) trip to West Virginia. I was going to take a week long Wood Turning class. As far as “outings” we DID get up to Big Trees State Park and are soon heading up to Apple Hill. I got an RC airplane and have had it out one time so far. Otherwise, we have been hanging around the house.

If you have any adventures, or even just gripes to share, I would welcome them! Reply to Branch.69.Sir@Gmail.com or you can drop me a note if you don't have e-mail: Alan Weinel; 321 Perazul Circle, Sacramento, CA 95835.

Thanks for sharing We WILL get past this thing.

*Alan Weinel, Editor*

**Thank you gentlemen for serving Branch 69!**

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

8/31/2020

INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFF
Contributions	\$3,445	\$3,750	\$ 305
Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$3,445</b>	<b>\$3,750</b>	<b>\$ 305</b>

EXPENSES			
Printing & Postage	\$ 275	\$ 350	\$ 75
Officers' Expenses	\$ 174	\$ 200	\$ 26
Guest Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 100	\$ 100
State Assessment	\$ 518	\$1,100	\$ 582
Other, Golf Expo	\$ 0	\$ 200	\$ 200
Other, Misc.	\$1,029	\$2,175	\$ 1,146
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,996</b>	<b>\$4,125</b>	<b>\$2,129</b>

CASH BALANCE AT END OF 2019	\$3,489
CURRENT CASH BALANCE	\$4,939
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.

**Bob and Ruth Dant:** Both are having health issues. I reassured then that they are both in our thoughts and prayers.

**Dave Yorston:** Suffered from a Hip Flexor Muscle Pull and is facing a difficult rehabilitation. His dermatologist also discovered a malignant growth above the elbow which required surgery. He misses everyone and hopes to be back on the golf course soon!

*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	<b>HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS</b> 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	
		<b>SENIOR CERTIFICATES</b> SIR JIM PAGE SIR KEN TOWNS SIR VERNON FREEMAN SIR HEMAN SMITH SIR DON BALDWIN

### TREASURER'S REPORT – August, 2020

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

	August	YTD
Beginning Cash Balance	\$4,999	N/A
Contributions	\$ -0-	\$3,445
Expenses	\$ 60	\$1,996
Ending Cash Balance	\$4,939	N/A

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership, Gain/Loss	+0/-0	149
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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).

