

Facebook: Pony Express SIR Branch 69



The Pony Express Branch #69 August - 2024 Edition





John Popadak, Editor



#### **CONNOR'S LUCK OF THE IRISH**

In the month of August, there are several exciting events taking place -The Summer Olympics and NCAA and NFL Football are starting up.

One member has resigned and four other members have been dropped due to non-payment of dues. The annual dues fund the payment of branch operational expenses and some of the branch outside activities. A letter of final intention has been sent to these four members on their membership status.

We need to get a better member response & attendance status to the Ten Dedicated Volunteer Phone Callers. For the months of May, June and July, we had a high number of members that said "Yes", but they did not show up at the luncheons. Their missing appearances has caused an added expenses to the monthly Dante Cub Luncheon Payment. At the July BEC Meeting, a policy of back charging these non-attending members has been approved for reimbursement of these nonattended meals.

Note that effective August 1st with new 2024 annual contract with the Dante Club, the cost of the membership luncheon has gone up by \$2.00 to \$27.00. The previous contract price for 2022 and 2023 was \$25.00. Blame it on the cost of inflation and the higher wage cost of the staff.

Planning for the SIR 69 December 12th Christmas Party has begun. The Christmas Party is a great social time and fun loving for the membership. Tickets will be available to purchase at the October and November Luncheons.

Hopefully, everything has been healthy and enjoyable for your family. Looking forward to see everyone at the SIR Branch 69 Luncheon on August 8th Luncheon.

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

#### COOP'S CORNER

It's time for the Olympics. Although I may not understand France's opening controversial ceremony, I do recognize the narrative. Most times the theme for openings are for the visual extravagant effect, that is usually related to the spirit of the Olympic games. But anytime you mix social issues





making a blazing entrance into the stadium!"

with athletic competition, it seldom goes well. I wasn't pleased with the message that France put on display in their opening ceremony. However, I know there is a narrative that those behind the scenes wants us to accept as the New Normal. Don't be coward when others stand up for what they believe to be true. acknowledged it, and the re-

spond with what you believe to be true. After all, you didn't start this, but it's okay to disagree. Then kindly remind them that, this is America, and you have the same rights as they do.



month's gram will presentation by Wild THINGS Things. Wild Things

provides a home for over 60 species of wildlife. Many of these animals are shared in their wildlife education presentations. Their hope is that through meeting these animals and hearing their stories, future generations will gain a greater appreciation for the natural world.







Lieutenant Coopwood, Little SIR

### **August Birthdays**

Tony Straton	08/02	
Dan Calcagno	08/06	
Conrad Cookman	08/07	
Bill Auch	08/09	
Warren Senegal	08/12	92 Years
Chris Wicks	08/13	
Heman Smith	08/20	95 Years
<b>Bob Dant</b>	08/21	94 Years
Robert Kiehne	08/24	
Ernie Flores	08/31	
Joe Riley	08/31	



### **August Anniversaries**

Stu & Liz Nussbaum	08/01	
Nate & Nica Gauff	08/09	
Greg & Norma Schweitzer	08/10	50 Years
Ross & Susan Martin	08/12	57 Years
George & Karen Langford	08/12	52 Years
Mark & Jan Kraut	08/14	
Dan & Kathy Calcagno	08/16	
Joseph & Sharon Cain	08/21	
Michael & Shelly Brassil	08/21	
Dan & Cheryl Nelson	08/23	55 Years



## **CONGRATULATIONS!**



Special congratulations go out to Heman Smith on his 95th birthday!

And special congratulations to Greg and Norma Schweitzer on their 50th wedding anniversary!





"I'll have a cheeseburger and a root beer."



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

#### SIR James Garror

500 Crocker Road Sacramento, CA 95864 (916) 804-9006 james.garror@yahoo.com Sponsor: Dan Nelson



James was born in Mobile, Alabama, and grew up there. After high school, he moved to Vallejo, California, where he worked in the Oakland Naval Hospital, met his future wife, Lajuan, and got married. They soon moved to LA and then back north to Elk Grove, where they have lived for 26 years. James was then employed by the Army Corps of Engineers as a contract specialist, overseeing work for buildings, levees and other major projects. James spent 30 years with the Army Corps of Engineers before retiring in 2021.

James and his wife have three children and three grandchildren. He enjoys golf, travel and family activities.

Birthday: July 28, 1964

Anniversary: to Lajuan, February 15, 1986



Little SIR Lieutenant Coopwood welcomes our two new members (NM), seen here with their sponsors (S). From the left: LS Coopwood, Ken Sawitzki (NM), Joe Bowers (S), James Garror (NM), and Dan Nelson (S).

#### SIR Ken Sawitzky

1309 Sonora West Sacramento, CA 95691 (916) 857-4364 kensaw4@gmail.com Sponsor: Joe Bowers



Ken was born in San Diego but grew up in the Downy area of Los Angeles. After high school, he immediately joined the Army and served for three years in a paratroop unit; he continued this activity in later years as a sport parachutist. Following his military service, Ken attended Compton College and later Sacramento State, where he earned a BS in management. He next went to work for the Broderick Fire Department. As the cities just west of Sacramento formed and re-formed, Ken had the unique experience of serving in three fire departments without ever changing stations! He ultimately retired from the fire service after a heart attack but returned to work as a fire inspector for another 8 years. At this point he retired from the fire department for good.

An avid golfer, Ken honed his game and was successful in passing the PGA performance aptitude test, which qualified him to teach as a professional. He taught at the now-closed Lighthouse golf course and later at Wildhorse course in Davis. Now he stills plays a bit but only does a small amount of teaching.

Ken has a total of 5 children and 12 grandchildren. He and his wife Galina participate in many family activities. They love traveling, too, and Ken goes to the Fire/Police International Games with his friend and sponsor, Joe Bowers. Ken is very interested in the stock market, so he is looking forward to our SIR Branch 69 investment meetings.

Birthday: December 2, 1942

Anniversary: Galina, April 15, 2004

#### 2025 BEC SLATE OF CANDIDATES **FOR SIRS BRANCH 69**

The Nominating Committee recommends:

#### **OFFICERS**



Big SIR Lieutenant Coopwood Robert Schrumpf



Little SIR



Secretary Bernie Moreno



Asst. Secretary Alan Weinel



Treasurer Hal Copperberg



Asst. Treasurer Jim Sprifke

#### **DIRECTORS**



Connor Chin Term: 2025



**Doug Bailey** Term 2025-27



Blake Thomson Term 2025-26



Ron Peters Term 2025



**Bob Baker** Term 2025-27



**Bob Clanton** Term 2025-27



Little SIR Lieutenant Coopwood presents last month's speaker, Jack Reefer, SIR Area 4 Rep with a bottle of wine. Jack discussed some of the changes to the SIR prigram contemplated by State SIR. Among these: changing the name of SIR, changing the logo, and changing the IRS Code status of SIR, Inc.

#### **BRANCH 69 MEETING ATTENDANCE IN 2024**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Members</u>	Attendees	<u>Percent</u>
January	133	99	74%
February	134	96	72%
March	134	78	58%
April	135	90	67%
May	137	75	55%
June	139	86	62%
July	136	82	60%

State SIR sets the goal at 70% attendance.

To maintain membership, a member is required to attend one-half of the regular Branch monthly luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period, unless the Branch BEC has approved different attendance requirements (State SIR Policy 25; Bylaw 18).

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

## NEXT MEETING

#### **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday August 8, 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

## The cost of the lunch is now \$27.00

#### **YOU'RE ALL INVITED!**

All members are also invited to attend the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) Meeting: 10:00 am

#### THE NAMES OF THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW

- 1. The space between your eyebrows is called a glabella.
- 2. The way it smells after it rains is called **petrichor**.
- The plastic or metallic coating at the end of your shoelaces is called an aglet.
- 4. When your stomach rumbles, that's a wamble.
- 5. The cry of a new born baby is called a vagitus.
- 6. The prongs of a fork are called tines.
- 7. The sheen of light that you see when you close your eyes and press your hands on them is called **phosphenes**.
- The tiny plastic thing placed in the middle of a pizza box is called a box tent.
- 9. The day after tomorrow is called **overmorrow**.
- 10. Your little toe or finger is called the **minimus**.
- The wired cage that holds the cork on a bottle of champagne is called an agraffe.
- 12. The 'na na na' and 'la la la', which don't really have any meaning in the lyrics of any song, are called **vocables**.
- 13. When you combine a question mark with an exclamation mark (?!), it is referred to as an **interrobang**.
- 14. The space between your nostrils is called columella nasi.
- 15. The armhole in clothes, where the sleeves are sewn, is called **armscye**.
- 16. Finding it difficult to get out of bed in the morning is called **dysania**.
- 17. Illegible handwriting is called griffonage.
- 18. The dot over an "i" or a "j" is called tittle.
- 19. That sick feeling you get after eating or drinking too much is called **crapulence**.
- The metal thing used to measure your feet at the shoe store is called Bannock device.



#### **SUNSHINE**



Please keep the following folks in your prayers:

Thomas (Train) Walton (Recovering from Cancer) - Thomas has been fighting with diabetes and the doctors have been actively trying to save his foot. The latest approach has been to encase his foot in a box temporarily while treating it. (My guess this is to aid in circulation)

**Tim Salada** (Complete Knee Replacement) - Tim is still recovering and it was good to see him out and about at the last (June) luncheon.

Otis Benning (Burst Vein in the area of his Knee) (Pneumonia) - I received a report in early June that Otis had burst a vein that pushed his knee out of shape and while he was in the hospitol he picked up a case of pneumonia. He was last reported resting up and recovering at home.

**Allen Weinel** (Full Knee Replacement) - Allen is scheduled for surgery on July 2, 2024.

James Aylett, Sunshine Chairman penholder19@gmail.com







# GOLF [

Rick Hom—Regular Course



#### Terry Block—Progressive Golf Club



#### **UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS**

August 1 - Teal Bend - \$60 - 2nd Rnd CC

August 15 - Wildhorse - \$57

August 29 - Ancil Hoffman - \$65 - 3rd Rnd CC

September 5 - Diamond Oaks - \$56

September 19 - Wildhawk - \$36

September 26 - Bartley Cavanaugh - \$38

#### **JULY RESULTS**

#### Empire Ranch (07/18) - Stroke Play

A toasty day for sure, I could feel my mind wandering toward the end of my round. But we had a good turnout on a course in very good condition.

1st Loew Net, 2nd Low Net, 3rd Low Net

1st Flight: Nate Gauff, Rick Hom, Joe Riley

2nd Flight: Terry Block, Gry Lukins, Dan Nelson

3rd Flight: Jim Svobodny, Bill Mullen, Jerry Schroeder

CTPs: Russ Prophet, Carl Hefner, and Mark Machado

#### Cherry Island (07/25) - 4-Man Scramble

Tough course, warm day, but some of us had putters that were well-chilled.

1st Place Team: Bob Baker, Mark Machado, Bill Mullen, and Dan Nelson

2nd Place Team: Gary Lukins, Rod Lukins, Jim Oblizalo, and John Valdes

3rd Place Team: Terry Block, Jerry Buhlert, Sandy Davis, and Fred Smith

4th Place Team: Alex Canada, Bob Clanton, Jack Osborne, and Richard Stratton

CTPs: John Valdes, Alex Canada, Sandy Davis, Pat Quinn, and Rod Lukins

#### **UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS**

August 5 - Swenson Park - \$50 - 3rd Rnd CC

August 12 - Cherry Island - \$55 - 4-Man Shamble

September 23 - Antelope Greens - \$32

September 30 - Bing Maloney - \$38

#### **JULY RESULTS**

Mather (07/22) - 2nd Rnd Club Championship Low Gross, Low Net

1st Flight: Jim Oblizalo, Jerry Buhlert

2nd Flight: Terry Block, Dan Nelson

3rd Flight: Bill Mullen, Marty Miller

CTPs: Mark Steffens and Jerry Buhlert

Bing Maloney (07/29) - Stroke Play Low Gross, Low Net

1st Flight: Jim Oblizalo, Jim Svobodny

2nd Flight: Mark Steffens, Alex Canada

3rd Flight: Bill Mullen, Tom Castello

CTPs: Jerry Buhlert, Tom Page, Tom Costello, Mark Ma-

chado, and Mark Steffens





#### Two important dates for our bowling members:

Wednesday, August 14, 12 noon at Country Club Lanes. This will be our annual bowling meeting where we announce the 10 teams for the coming season, vote on officers and proposed rules changes, if any. As far as I know now, the National dues will remain at \$30, so bring your checkbook or cash for this expense. Bring all your bowling gear, too—after the meeting, we will go downstairs and have fun (free) bowling for 3 games.

Wednesday, August 21, 12 noon at Country Club Lanes. This is the start of our regular bowling season. We're starting a week early this year because we will lose two weeks due to Christmas and New Year's falling on Wednesday.

I'm working to put our 10 teams together, hoping to get all 10 as evenly matched as possible. I plan to release the teams at the August luncheon. I'm looking forward to the new season; I hope all you bowlers are, too.

As previously mentioned, we will be bowling at 12:30 pm each Wednesday during the season. That time could move up to 12 noon, but either way, our bowling will start later than it has in the past. Also, the weekly bowling fee will increase to \$11 (still a bargain!).

#### 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 \$.50/game, an increase from the previous \$.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.

Tom Page, League Secretary 916-488-6465

#### **RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY**

Once again we had another good recruiting month in July with two new members—James Garror and Ken Sawitzky. 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. Also, be sure to read the bios for our new members; they both have lead interesting lives and continue to do so now.

On Friday, August 16, Alan Weinel and I will be staffing a table at the Renaissance Society's Open House at Sac State. We're hoping that this effort will result in getting our recruiting message out to a new group of guys. We'll give it our best shot and hope for good results. As I have mentioned before, this venture comes from Blake Thomson, who belongs to both our branch and the Renaissance Society.

As I've mentioned previously, if any members have ideas about possible recruiting measures, please let me know. We have a couple new outreach efforts to explore in the coming months, but we can always use new ideas. Let me know if you have a brainstorm to share!

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

Tom Page, Recruiting & Publicity
Director

#### **SIR Membership Application Form**

If you know of someone who would like to join Branch 69, download an application form to give them by clicking on the form at right:



# BRANCH ACTIVITIES

#### **ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN**

#### **NEXT DINE-OUT:**

## August 19<sup>th,</sup> 6:00 PM at CATTLEMAN'S



12409 Folsom Blvd Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Cattlemen's is owned and operated by a ranching family that offers old-fashioned True Western Hospitality - great food served with a smile in an authentic environment. There's no substitute for the best. The Cattlemen's' Pete Sr. and Pete Jr. and the Cattlemen's team are "mighty picky" — personally selecting the best ingredients for decades. Aging beef used to be a common practice, but in today's busy world it's become a lost art. At Cattlemen's we age our beef in a carefully controlled environment until it's just right. Simply put, pre-cut steaks just don't taste as good. So at Cattlemen's, we have experts on-site to hand-cut our steaks, the same day that we serve them! To make your dining experience distinctive, we've re-created the "feel and flavor" of the Old West, using authentic antiques and incorporating local color whenever possible.

Please RSVP to PBS Mark Steffens by or emailing steffens.mark@gmail.com or calling 916-214-8650

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mark Steffens, Activities Chairman



#### **BOCCE BALL**



SIR Branch 23 plays Bocce Ball on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 9:00am at the Carmichael Park Bocce Ball courts. They welcome players from all branches.

Bob Schrumpf, Bocce Ball Chairman 916-897-7114

#### **LAST MONTH'S DINE-OUT**











# BRANCH ACTIVITIES (Continued)



#### **CARD CLUBS**

#### **CRIBBAGE**

The Cribbage Group will meet August 7th and 21st this month at the Country Club Bowling alley in the back room.



The cribbage Cards start time will change from 2:00pm to 3:00pm in August and going forward on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. This change is to coordinate with the end of the bowling at the Country Club Lanes where we also play cards.

See you there and bring your friends.

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



#### **TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER**

TEXAS ers ces

Hello Texas Hold'em poker players. Our July game was a big success as we had 15 poker players.

This time we will try hosting a game during the daylight hours.

Our next game will be Tuesday, August 20 at 1:30. Hopefully this works well between people's lunch and dinner, and allows for driving to and from our house during the daylight hours.

The cost is still \$10.00 and we will provide soft drinks and snacks. There is a limit of a maximum 16 people.

Please RSVP me at rschrumpf@hotmail.com, or (916) 897-7114.

**Robert (B0b) Schrumpf** (916) 897-7114



#### **PING-PONG**

Ping-ping is still available to all at Swanston Rec&Park on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11am to1pm; and at Gibbons Rec&Park on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3pm top 6pm.

Robert Schrumpf, Ping-Pong Chairman (916) 897-7114 rschrumpf@hotmail.com



### INVESTMENT GROUP

The investment group meets (via ZOOM) on the 4th Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on

August 28. Information and materials will be sent out a few days before the meeting. Please contact Joe Cain for more information.

Joe Cain, Investment Group Chairman (530) 219-3709 jlcain45@yahoo.com







State SIR is sponsoring a Day at the Ballpark (Oakland Coliseum) on August 18. The Oakland A's will host the San Francisco Giants See the attached flyer for details.





#### BRANCH 69 CALANDER OF EVENTS AND ACTIVIES FOR AUGUST

August 1 - Golf-Teal Bend

August 5 - Golf - Swenson Park

August 7 - Cards - Cribbage

August 8 - Branch Executive Committee (BEC) Meeting (10:00 am)

August 8 - General Branch Meeting and Luncheon (12:00 noon)

August 12 - Golf - Cherry Island

August 14 - Annual Bowling Meeting

August 15 - Golf - Wildhorse

August 19 - Dine-out - Cattleman's

August 20 - Cards - Texas Hold'em Poker

August 21 - Bowling Starts

August 21 - Cards - Cribbage

August 28 - Investment Group Zoom Meeting

August 29 - Golf - Ancil Hoffman

#### 2024 ROSTER CORRECTIONS

Please send Roster Corrections to my personal Email account Alan\_Weinel@ATT.Net with subject "Roster Correction"

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



7N71	Officers
4047	Ulliceis

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 SPRIFKF	(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	N (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

#### **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
Picnic	PBS Jerry Schroeder	(916) 801-2530
Ping Pong	Robert Schrumpf	(916) 897-7114
Poker Night	Robert Schrumpf	(916) 897-7114
River Cats	Dennis Kramer	(530) 312-3896
Wine Tasting	Dennis Kramer	(530) 312-3896

Branch Apprl https://sirinc.org/apparel-and-signage

#### Honored Members

#### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

PBS TOM PAGE
PBS JIM PORTERFIELD
PRD WARREN SENEGAL
PBS LENNIE SILVA
PBS RON HUTCHESON

#### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

PBS PAT QUINN

#### **SENIOR CERTIFICATES**

PBS WARREN SENEGAL SIR KEN TOWNS SIR VERNON FREEMAN SIR HEMAN SMITH SIR CHARLES DANT PBS ARNIE KELLER SIR SIDNEY NEWMAN

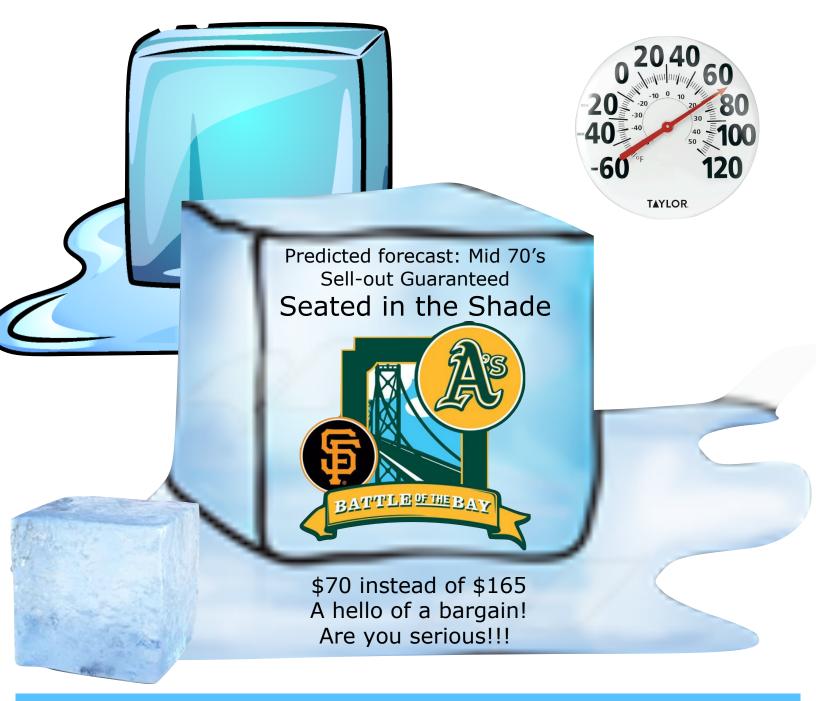
Check out the State SIR newsletter "**Happenings**" for information about statewide SIR activities and other branches by clicking on the Rooster at the right.



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).



Bay Bridge Series—SIR Day at the Ball Park—End of an Era Oakland A's hosting San Francisco Giants—8/18/24—1pm Coliseum—Field Level—Shaded Area—Section 105R

Mail \$70 check made out to Lee Moy, 127 N. Helm Ave., Clovis, CA 93612 Include a returned addressed & stamped envelope; include your phone# & e-mail address.

