



SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for April 2025

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
Charlie's Restaurant 130 19th Hole Dr. Windsor CA
Charlie's lunch is \$23.00 (plus \$1 table tip if you wish)

Windsor Winds Edition

April 2025
Volume 30 Number 4

Big SIR – Tom Palmer



Greetings Sirs: It's now spring and as my wife says... "Time for a change". So off comes the beard...which now that I think about it seems backwards because things grow in the spring; and yes, I certainly realize that I spend way too much time thinking about such puerile things. Anyways, all I really want to say....is what a great job everyone is doing. I sat in on the picnic committee meeting and they really know what they're doing. I talk to Steve about speakers and he has it wired. I talk with Chris about trying to make a rideshare list and he has nothing but good ideas. Larry D. is helping in so many ways that I think he's busier than when he was the Big Sir. Jerry is also a busy man but has an idea for helping out at the food bank. Jim Vick, when needed, quickly stepped up to head the couple's dinner. Bob Wallace started us going to Rack N' Que and then said yes to becoming the leader of the new pool/game activity. Jim Tubb continues to improve the web page, and Garry keeps immaculate accounting of everything. Len, is heading up the Vegetable garden group (Len, Steve & Charlie) and the starter plants are growing. Wayne formed an activities committee and Charlie volunteered to lead with any needed marketing. Other important leaders like Gary Jensen, Steward Morgan & John Fineren keep doing a great job. There are also other committee members who keep on rolling. I can't forget our morale booster, bonhomie Frank, who has gone out on a limb and promised the golfers that it someday it be dry enough to once again play. Also,

luncheons attendance has been increasing and there has even been a few folks coming forward asking what they can do to help our club. We've had 9 new members so far this year and that's because guys are out there sharing a good thing. So thank you all; keep up the good work and don't forget to have fun.

Little SIR – Steve De La Montanya



Hello Fellow Windsor SIR Members. It was nice to see a break in the weather and be able to get a round of golf in before we go back under the clouds and into the rain.

It's been a plus to have weekly Billiards available at Racks N Cues. This has really helped balance out available activities with the poor weather affecting the Golf and Bocce.

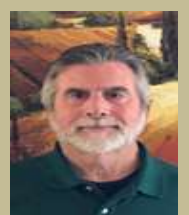
If you are not participating you're missing some good times.

Charlie and I did start quite a number (200+) and varieties (13) of Tomato plants. They are out of the greenhouse and outdoors under fabric hardening off and growing.

We have been working to have them ready for distribution the second week of April, and it looks like the schedule will hold weather permitting.

Our speakers have really appreciated the warm receptions they have been receiving. Our next speaker is Debra Fudge. She will be here to talk about the Smart Train arrival to Windsor. Let's have a good turn-out to welcome her.

Chris Roach – Friendship Report



Get well Cards sent to Greg Smith and John Hakenbury

MEMBERSHIP –LARRY D.

We are currently at 84 members, a healthy number for our branch. If you have not paid your dues, please do so by either bringing in a check at coffee or during our next luncheon (April 16) and give it to Garry, our treasurer. If you would like to mail it, get ahold of me (ldohrebl@mindspring.com or at 707-484-5308) and I will provide you with an address to mail it into. In addition, if it is a financial difficulty at this time, also get ahold of me.

Gary Jensen – Recruitment

Recruitment: Gary Jensen;

For Coffee (John Fineren & helpers): Interest in the Tuesday Morning 9am coffee session continues to be busy. Please don't forget to invite a friend.



Coffee at the senior center

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS APRIL TO:

Denny Amantite; Philip Bartels; Mike Berry; Lou Commendatore; John Cookus; Jim Duvander; Al Fiori; Roger North; Frank Treanor; Garry Trojanowski; Roger Wiese.

THANKS TO OUR MARCH GUEST SPEAKER, KATIE DEL SANTOS:

Katie talked about our wonderful Redwood Empire food bank and their efforts to ensure no one goes hungry. A very worthwhile project. So worthwhile, that some of us are thinking about helping out there (See below).

Golf: Jerry Culver & Frank Treanor



Golf is waking up with the return of good weather (soon). We have 16 members. More next month. Remember if you wish to play, please answer Jerry's email and if you want to break out the clubs and start playing, please contact Jerry at so.done56@yahoo.com or Frank at bcft11@comcast.net

OUR LUNCHEON SPEAKER ON APRIL 16 IS :



Debora Fudge

Many of you recall Deb Fudge the 1994 town planning commissioner or perhaps the seven-term council member or even as the six-term Mayor of Windsor. What you may not know is that she has been a SMART Train Commissioner for nearly 20 years including the chair of the board. Although she is an amazing historian concerning so much about Windsor, she is here to discuss the SMART Train and its arrival to our town. Bring your questions, but most of all please join in and welcome her.

JUNE 18TH PICNIC **(Larry D. Coordinator)**

Our picnic is scheduled for the third Wednesday in June, on the 18th, at noon, at Charlies. The cost for this year will be \$45 a person, which will include lunch, beer, wine, soda, water, coffee, and desert. It is a little more expensive than last year but we have to include Charlie's fees (which we did not do last year). We are **looking for** *items to be raffled*, those of you who can *bring a*

pop-up, and those who would be willing to show up a bit early to *help us with set up*. We really had a great picnic last year and we, the picnic committee, would love to ensure that everyone has the same great experience this year. And yes, we will have Bingo again this year as Jenny (at the Senior Center) has been kind enough to volunteer. If you have something that can be raffled (spouse's excluded), *get ahold of me* (ldohrebl@mindspring.com or at 707-484-5308) or Greg Smith (elihusmith1@yahoo.com).

DRIVERS NEEDED

As everyone knows, your Big Sir been trying to strongly encourage attendance at our monthly Luncheon, which is an activity at the heart of this organization. We want to ensure that everyone has a way to make it there. Hence, Chris has devised a method to assist. The first step is to provide possible drivers and then we'll see who might need them. So far, Jon Babich and Bob Wallace has volunteered. So if you regularly attend the Luncheon and are willing to go a little out of your way to help, please let Chris know by contacting chrisroach@sbcglobal.net

LETS GET A FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER TEAM GOING

We already have a number of folks who contribute/volunteer at the food bank. However, after Katie's presentation a few guys (Jerry, Steve & then me) sat around talking about how great it would be to have a Branch 176 group to go over there about once a month and assist for a couple of hours. Say on a Monday afternoon. Nothing set in stone yet, just a serious discussion. **I'm wondering who might be interested.** So I referred this idea to our newly formed "activities committee" (see below). If you are interested, please contact any one of them.

SIR Branch 176 Bowling Report

The 2024-25 Fall and Winter Monday Morning Seniors League will end on April 14 with a final roll off to determine season winners and individual high scorers. The 2025 Summer No Tap League is set to begin on April 28th. Signups to join the Summer 2025 Monday Morning No Tap League are presently being solicited. Anyone interested in participating in should make their interest known to one of us or to workers at the Windsor Bowling Center.

Dave Harrison, Bowling Chair
harrisod@sonic.net

VEGETABLE GARDENING:

Steve DLM (Little SIR) and Charlie Boyd have been starting plants from seed. Steve's tomatoes are now about 6" high. Steve said "When they are ready, I think we will bring a selection of plants to Tuesday morning coffee. Or if someone would like to come by the house and pick some up, they can contact Charlie Boyd or me. We are also working on some other vegetable starts, scheduled for release at the appropriate time for planting. Squashes, Basil and a few Peppers. If anyone has an idea for plants.... they can again get with Len, Charlie, or me".

The "Rooster Garden" at the Senior Center, alongside the bocce court, is under considered for revival and much need renewal. This will also provide an opportunity for a few Members with an interested in gardening, but lacking space (soil), to have a plot to grow/tend. It may be used (in part) as a gift to the senior community, who can just come and pick what they want. So we plan to use a few at home & the rest at the Senior Center to share W/SIR and others.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST FOUR MEMBERS:



Jon Babich

I am a retired computer programmer living in Windsor. I enjoy motorcycle rides, travel (I've traveled much of the world), scuba diving, and going to live music venues. For Sirs, I occasionally attend coffee, happy hour and play pool. I also enjoy the luncheons.



Howard Daniel

I go by two first — or last — names. My wife Sandra and I live in Windsor thanks to having a daughter in Santa Rosa. Our two other kids live in Michigan and D.C.; we have five grandkids. Having grown up in Snowy Winter/Sweaty Summer Zones, moving here 11 years ago after Sandra's retirement from teaching was a no-brainer.

Sometimes tired but not yet RE-tired, I'm a business writer/editor — Pen-for-Rent.

I grew up in New Jersey and went to college in New England. There I majored in Russian Area Studies, earned a master's ... but decided against an academic career. I worked as a Peace Corps volunteer with wheat farmers in India, 1968-70 — the second-most-interesting two years of my life. I then joined the U.S. Foreign Service, with posts in Brazil, the USSR and Japan plus several Washington assignments. I can still fake it in rusty Portuguese, Russian and Hindi in local restaurants.

My 1976-78 posting at our consulate in Leningrad, USSR, provided THE most interesting two years in my life. In 1985 I left the Foreign Service for an entrepreneurial opportunity in Hawaii. That's where I met Sandra and landed my first full-time writing gig, as the governor's speechwriter. I then went into PR, focusing on writing for clients and strengthening colleagues' drafts. I love writing/editing's creativity. I've posted tales from my international career on my blog (<https://pen4rent.com/braindrops-a-blog>).



Brett Lee

I was born and raised in Sacramento. I met my wife, Kathy in Arizona. We've been married for 36 years and have lived in Sonoma County for the past 25 years. I am a retired finish carpenter. We love Windsor and the community that we're building. Our hobbies are travel and hiking, both domestic and international.



Mike Quilici

I have been a Sonoma County Resident since 1974. Real Estate Broker and General Contractor working in construction and development. I've owned Benchmark Realty and Construction here with my wife Janice since the mid 80's and moved to Windsor in

1998 while working for a local Developer who built the Shiloh Greens New Home Subdivision adjacent to the Windsor Golf Course.

I Currently living in Cloverdale but have maintained an office presence in Windsor. My hobbies include RVing, some golf and spending time with my wife gardening. Since moving farther North I wanted to stay connected and involved here and around the Windsor Community.

Couples Dinner
(Not an official SIR Activity)
Couples Dinner- Jim Vick

We had our March couples dinner at the Kin. There was good food, good company and a good time. Please watch for my email for news and sign-up for the April dinner. If you are not sure you are on my email notification list, or are new and need to be added, please let me know by email at: jvick1497@gmail.com





Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan



Bocce Ball at the Senior's Center Thursdays at 10:00am. All are welcome.

The Campo di Bocce in California hosts an annual event with over 1,000 players, making it one of the largest bocce tournaments in the world.

LIKE TO PLAY POOL, DARTS, SHUFFLEBOARD?

Game time is every Tuesday from 3pm to 5pm.



Most aren't great at pool playing, but all have a great time. The cost averages about \$5.00 to \$8.00 for 2 hours, so a great value for the buck. If you just want to sit back, have a cold one and enjoy the conversation, that's good too.

3PM Friday Happy Hour



3/21 at CuVer Brewery

If you are free, come and enjoy a cold beverage and lively conversation and so-so jokes. **The schedule for April is:** 4/4 Flavorburger (near Home Depot); 4/11 Mt. Mikes; 4/18 Flagship; 4/25 Publican. Note: Flavorburger and the Flagship are outdoor venues and if the weather is incompatible, look for an email from me regarding a change in locations.

NEW ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:



The recently formed New Activities Committee is made up of members Wayne Lindahl (photo above), Chris Roach, Dave Harrison and Phil Bartels. This group will have the responsibility of checking with our members for the level of interest in the new activity, identify the local resources available for that activity and if there is a member willing to step up and chair the activity.

Here are some of the activities that other SIRs groups participate in;

- Bridge
- Computers
- Genealogy
- Hiking
- Horseshoes
- Investments
- Ping Pong
- Foodbank volunteers

If you have an idea or want to start an activity, please contact any of these committee members.

Wayne: wlindahl@sonic.net

Chris: chrisroach@sbcglobal.net

Phillip: pcbartels@aol.com

Dave: harrisod@sonic.net

SPECIAL PROFILE:



OUR SONG LEADER: TOM HASCO

It's said that a person is shaped by both his genetic heritage and his environment: nature and nurture.

My ethnic background is Polish, German and Slovak. In the western Pennsylvania steel town in which I was raised, all three ethnic groups worked hard to maintain the ties to the old country, but in my family it was the Polish culture which was celebrated.

I was born in 1954 in Monongahela Memorial Hospital in New Eagle, Pennsylvania. About two years later at the same hospital, a Mrs. Montana would give birth to her son, Joe. You may have heard of him.

I was baptized at St. Hyacinth church in my hometown of Monessen. While other religious sects had churches in Monessen, Catholicism was the dominant religion in Monessen. Each ethnic group had its own Catholic church in Monessen; St. Hyacinth was the smallest, but it celebrated its Polish roots.

Monessen also had a really good library, a large new building stuffed with books and magazines. While growing up, each week my Mother would take me to the library and I would check out a stack of books. The following week I would return the previous week's books and check out another stack. That wonderful library made me the avid reader I still am today.

After attending kindergarten at the local public school, I was enrolled at St. Hyacinth school. It was a three room schoolhouse. First, second and third grade shared one room, fourth and fifth grade another, and sixth, seventh and eighth grades were stuffed into the third room.

I enjoyed my time at St. Hyacinth well enough, but I was picked on a great deal. I had three things working against me: I was smart, I was tall, and I had red hair. Those qualities made me different and a target. My Dad told me that I would have to fight to stop the bullying (don't forget that Monessen was a tough mill town), but it took a while for me to take his words to heart.

Still, we felt as though we were all a part of a family tucked into our small abode, but after sixth grade I attended seventh and eighth grade at the newly consolidated Monessen Catholic School (MCS). While I walked to St. Hyacinth, it was too far to walk to MCS so I was driven there each day. My Aunt Evelyn worked at the nearby City Treasurer's office, so it was easy for her to drop me off each day.

I fell in love with basketball at MCS. I was captain of the school team and the bullying stopped because I became confident in my own body and I finally did fight for myself.

Monessen High School (MHS...home of the greyhounds) was my next stop. I took the hardest courses the school had to offer (no Advanced Placement courses were offered) and got involved in all aspects of the school.

I played varsity basketball for all four years at MHS. Unfortunately, yet another fight was in my future, and this one was very serious. After an away game my senior year, as we got off our bus and headed to the locker room to put away our equipment, a sophomore who had just transferred to MHS from Detroit didn't like the fact that I wouldn't let him off the bus ahead of me. As we were walking to the locker room, he called me out and came after me with a large knife saying "this is how we settle things in Detroit." I took off my large wool winter coat and wrapped it around my right arm and used it to fend off his attacks. Finally, someone ran into the locker room and got one of the coaches who stopped the fight. My attacker was suspended from school, and much was made, by some members of the community, of the fact that I

wasn't. After many discussions with my father and mother, I decided not to press criminal charges against my assailant. That fact ended any remaining controversy.

I wouldn't wish those moments of terror on anyone.

I left MHS having been elected Junior and Senior Class President, and I graduated with highest honors.

I matriculated at Yale in September of 1972 and graduated with a B.A. in English Literature. While at Yale, I was elected vice-president of the Yale College Council (student government), was sports director of WYBC radio station and worked a bursary job all four years. I was also nominated for two post-graduate fellowships, winning a Keasbey Memorial Fellowship for two years study in the United Kingdom. I studied economics at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

I made the University of Wales select team and was captain of the team my second year.

I returned home three of the four summers during my college years to work at the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel plant in Monessen (the fourth summer I worked as an intern for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in Harrisburg). I worked as a laborer at the Coke Plant making coke which was used to make steel. The job was backbreaking and dangerous, but I earned enough money to help pay for my education (and for my sister's too).

My first real job after returning home from the UK was for LTV Corporation as a Labor Relations Analyst. I assisted operating supervision at a large steel plant in interpreting contractual matters relating to the daily operation of the plant. I also represented the company during arbitration hearings.

It was while I was working at LTV that I met my first wife and the mother of my two daughters. We were married and I attended Suffolk University Law School and earned my J.D. degree. I was on the Dean's list and was active in moot court programs. After law school, I passed the bar in the state of New Hampshire and joined a firm in Manchester.

As an attorney, I specialized in real estate and land use matters and business law. During the course of my practice, I realized that my true calling was in putting the real estate deals together. I was invited to join a commercial brokerage firm where I sold office buildings, shopping centers, warehouse facilities, and apartment complexes. I lived and worked in New Hampshire for twelve years until we moved to California in order to better educate our daughters.

Sadly, it was while we lived in San Jose that my marriage broke up. My daughters finished their education at Cupertino Union schools and Lynbrook High School. Both of my daughters graduated from the University of California, San Diego while spending their junior years abroad at the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom.

I met my wife Hilary in 1999 and we were married in 2002. Hilary and I lived and worked in Saratoga until we retired and moved to Windsor where we love our life and friends.

DID YOU KNOW?



Ben Franklin left \$2,000 to the cities of Boston and Philadelphia in his will to help young tradesmen, but they could not draw the balance for 200 years. In 1990, it was worth \$6.5 million. The money has been used to fund scholarships, women's health, and help firefighters and disabled children.

PICTURE COURTESY: PUBLIC DOMAIN

@ HISTORYALLDAY

FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:



Top Ten Senior Pickup Lines

10. Come here often? If so, could you tell me where I am?
9. Do you have an oxygen tank? Because you took my breath away.
8. Like to come by and see my medicine cabinet?
7. Make like a compression sock and give me a squeeze!



6. Ever had a lap dance in a wheel chair before?

5. Do you play bingo, because I swear I've seen you B4.

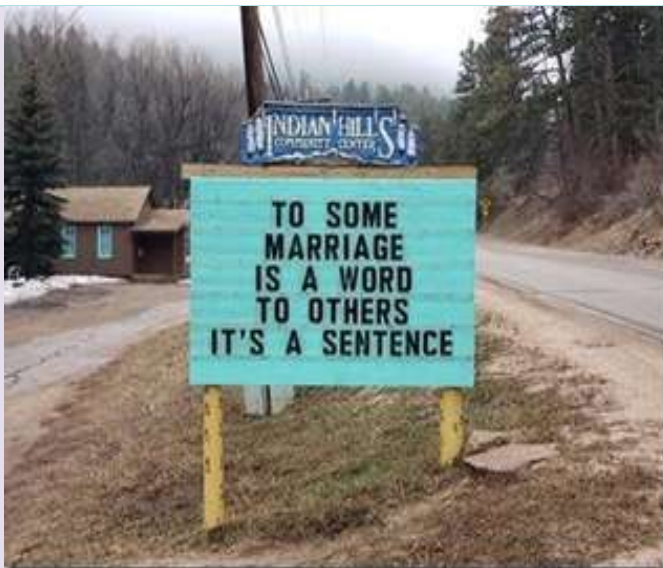
4. Hey, baby. Wanna help me test my new hip replacement?

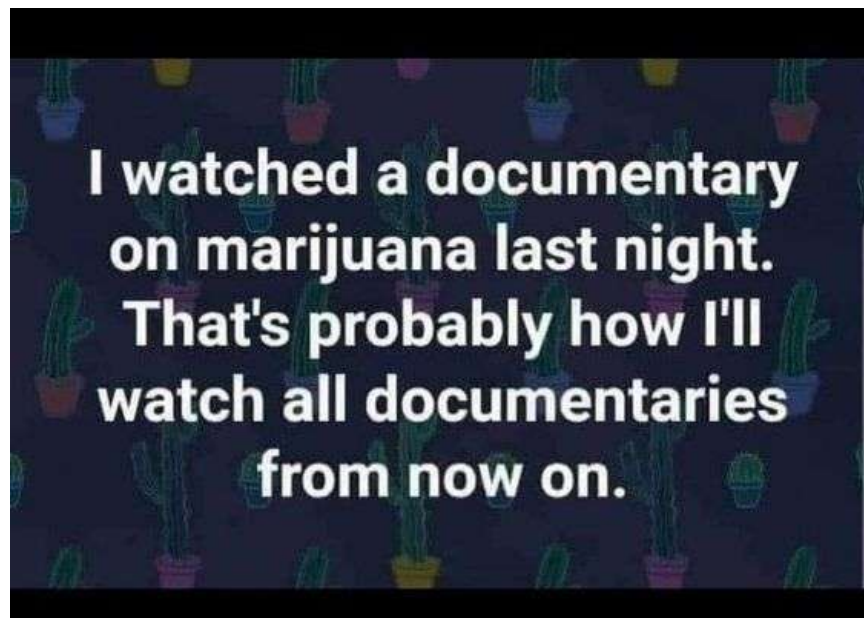


3. That pretty smile of yours would sure look good in a glass on my nightstand!

2. You're not dead yet either? We have so much in common!

1. Your heating pad or mine?





OTHER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(Non SIR Activities)



Once a month (date varies) all SIR and their spouse (SIR+) are welcome to start the “work” week with Margarita Monday – a chance to sample the best frozen* margherita in Windsor. Starts sharply at 4PM Castaneda’s Market Place. This month **21 April** is Margarita Monday. [*The frozen margarita machine is in hibernation until warm weather beckons its return. The replacement is a margarita on the rocks or perhaps a beer.]



Youth and seniors can still ride free on SMART trains throughout Sonoma and Marin counties. The program runs through June 30, 2025, and allows youth 18 and younger and seniors 65 and older to board any SMART train, any day of the week and ride fare-free. Youth and seniors are not required to have a Clipper Card or to use the SMART eTickets app, to reduce any barriers to entering the transit system. Note: There is hope that the train stop in Windsor will be operational in April.

Every Saturday morning starting at 8AM Jose Castaneda (at Castaneda Marketplace; 8465 Old Redwood Highway) serves a free breakfast for veterans, i.e. “Castañeda’s Breakfast Brigade,” he provides veterans a place for connections, camaraderie & friendship.

<https://www.facebook.com/CastanedasMarket>



Keep an Eye Out for notices from Len Schwer about Margarita Monday and other community events. For additional information contact Len Schwer.

STEWART MORGAN –TRAVEL

If you are interested or have questions please contact Stewart
at stwrnmorgan@gmail.com



2025

Panama Canal Cruise San Francisco to Ft. Lauderdale. Jan. 20 – Feb. 5, 2025 17 days. Cost from \$4,185 - \$6,295 depending on cabin choice. Ports of Call: Puerto Vallarta Mexico, Puerto Quetzal Guatemala, Puntarenas Costa Rica, Fuerte Amador Panama, Full Transit through the historic locks, and Cartagena Columbia. Includes transfers from Modesto to Port of San Francisco and airfare from Ft. Lauderdale to Sacramento. For more information **contact John Cordoza 209-483-7722 johncordoza@hotmail.com** Branch 143

29 Day Northern Lights Grand Adventure South Hampton (London) to Ft. Lauderdale Sept. 27 – Oct. 26 2025. Prices range from \$3797 - \$8264 pp. depending on cabin. Is seeing the Northern Lights and visiting Norway on your bucket list? This is the trip for you join us on the Emerald Princess for a 29-day cruise. Five stops in Norway, additional stops in France and Spain. Additional costs, airfare, trip insurance & \$285 port taxes. **Contact kathig@shipsandtrips.com**

2025 SIR Branch 176 Officers:					
Big SIR Thomas Palmer 619-920-9175		Little SIR Steve De La Montanya		Secretary Dave Harrison 707-838-8155	
Assistant Secretary Larry Doherty 707-484-5308		Treasurer Garry Trojanowski 203-988-5366		Assistant Treasurer Howard Blethen	
2025 Directors					
1 Year Term			2 Year Term		
Chris Roach	Wayne Lindahl	Ward Thompson	Jerry Culver	Ron Nordstrom	Jim Tubb
2025 Activity Coordinator					
Pool-Game Time 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 Neal	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		COFFEE COORDINATOR John Fineren 707-838-3686	

SIR State President
Rich Carlston

SIR Area 13 Representative
Chris Nelle
916-205-1717

