



SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for April 2026

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
Jimmy's Lakeside Grill, 130 19th Hole Dr. Windsor CA
4/15/26 Lunch is \$30.00

Windsor Winds Edition

April 2026
Volume 33 Number 4



Big SIR – Steve De La Montanya



Hello fellow SIR members, we had a warm March and now we roll into a cooler April. We could lose some Golf and Bocce to rain yet. We will get back to good weather soon enough.

The March BEC meeting and Luncheon went well. The room was set up and waiting, food was good. We enjoyed a side salad and Chicken Masala entrée with sides served to your table.

The vote to not deal with a member photo release and to not overly secure the WEB site passed unanimously. That means we are not going to track everyone down to sign a waiver. If you don't want your photo or information on our web page, you need to let Jim Tubb know.

Also, the Summer picnic is on track, and we can expect a genuinely nice affair.

We are still waiting for the formal State response to the motion to submit David Harrison for Honorary Life Membership recognition. I look forward to approval by the State SIR soon and I hope to get Dave recognized at the April meeting.

Unfortunately, we were notified of the passing of Ed People in early in March. Frank did a terrific job with a bell ringing and some kind words.

Our guest speakers were from the City of Windsor and tried to bring clarity to issues around the suggested sales tax increase being brought to the ballot.

I Look forward to seeing everyone at the next monthly luncheon on April 15th. If you have concerns, please attend the meeting so your voice is heard.



Little SIR – Bruce Okrepkie

In March, our speakers were the Windsor Town Manager, John Davis, and the Windsor Administrative Service Manager, Nick Walker. They spoke about the new sales tax that the Town is trying to implement. Their talk was very informative and definitely food for thought.

This month, Mark Millan of Data Instincts will give a presentation on "The Future of Water: Perception, Innovation, Resilience". Mark has recently spoken in Iceland and Spain on this same topic.

In May, all three 4th District County Supervisor candidates will join us. I will moderate. Each will first introduce themselves and then we will have a question and answer session. Please forward any questions you have to me and I will ask them. My email is bruceokrepkie@gmail.com. Please note, SIRS does not endorse any candidate.

June is the annual picnic.

In July, we will have Jose Castaneda speak to us regarding his grocery store and the Veterans' Breakfasts he hosts.

August is still open.

September's speaker will be Olivia Lemen, the Director of Parks and Rec for Windsor.

If any of our members have a speaker they would like to share with the group, please email me your suggestion at bruceokrepkie@gmail.com.



Chris Roach – Friendship Report



A get well card was sent to Dorothy Fineren. Also get well cards were sent to Ed Peoples and John Cookus. Unfortunately, we later had to send sympathy cards to their wives.

In honor of these two members, **Ed Peoples and John Cookus' profile pieces are re-published below.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL TO:

Denny Amantite; Philip Bartels; Mike Berry; Lou Commendatore; Jim Duvander; Al Fiori; Peter, Mackreth, Roger North; Frank Treanor; Garry Trojanowski; Jim Tyler, Roger Wiese.

MEMBERSHIP –LARRY D.



We started March with 91 members and as of this newsletter we are down to 82. After the March luncheon, I contacted those members who have not paid their dues by phone, email, and/or both. Well this year there were 19 members who hadn't indicated one way or the other if they were going to continue being a member—yes, pay their dues. For a wide number of reasons our numbers dwindled as they do every year at this time.

Unfortunately, we lost three of our dear members in the first quarter as they passed. For the rest of the year there will be no more of that...got it!!!!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the April luncheon.

PRIVACY & THE WEBPAGE

WWW.WINDSORSIRS.ORG

Having your photo and some background information about you on the web page is completely voluntary. If you don't want it there for either privacy or security reasons, tell or email Jim at drdelta91@gmail.com He will remove it; otherwise if we don't hear from you **we are assuming consent.** Please review the web page <https://windsorsirs.org/> and what is there, and if you want something added, deleted or changed, again let Jim know.

Finally, if you've never provided a full **bio. for the newsletter** and would be willing to do so, please contact Gary Good at gary.good@comcast.net. Gary is graciously helping Tom Palmer with that segment of the newsletter.

SIR's Branch 176 Ladies Day Picnic

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

At Jimmy's Lakeside Restaurant (outside venue) at the Windsor Golf Course, 1320 19th Hole Drive, Windsor, California. Social Hour is at 11am and the Buffet Lunch is at Noon. This includes chicken, tri-tip, potato salad, green salad, rolls, dessert, wine, beer, soft drinks, the raffle, Bingo (tentative), Music, Conversation and Fun. And if anyone can donate wine please let us know. Many of the women seem to prefer Sauvignon Blanc or Chardonnay.

All for **Only \$50.00** Per Person

Payment accepted in person by Garry anywhere, including at Coffee, or at the April 15th or May 20th luncheons. If you cannot make the luncheons or find Garry in person, you can mail your check to Garry Trojanowski, 9575 Wellington Circle, Windsor, CA. 95492. Please make it out to "SIR Branch 176". We have no ticket sales after June 1st since we need to notify Jimmy about the number of attendees.

More Details to Follow, but remember this is a fun event for all, even if you're not bringing someone, you are likely to have fun; so everyone, please come and enjoy.

Please help if you can. **We need raffle items.** Contact Steve De la Montanya (707-529-7522) or Larry Doherty (707-484-5308) if you can help with these items. We are limiting the number of raffle items to 25 and none after June 10th. Please no two-buck chuck raffle items.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

?

Down to 82 members, please keep inviting new and old friends.

TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE 8:45-9:45

High attendance at the Tuesday Morning 8:45am coffee session at the Senior Center continues. Now in 2026, the Senior Center has a new time schedule which slightly affects us, hence the time change. Please don't forget to invite a friend.

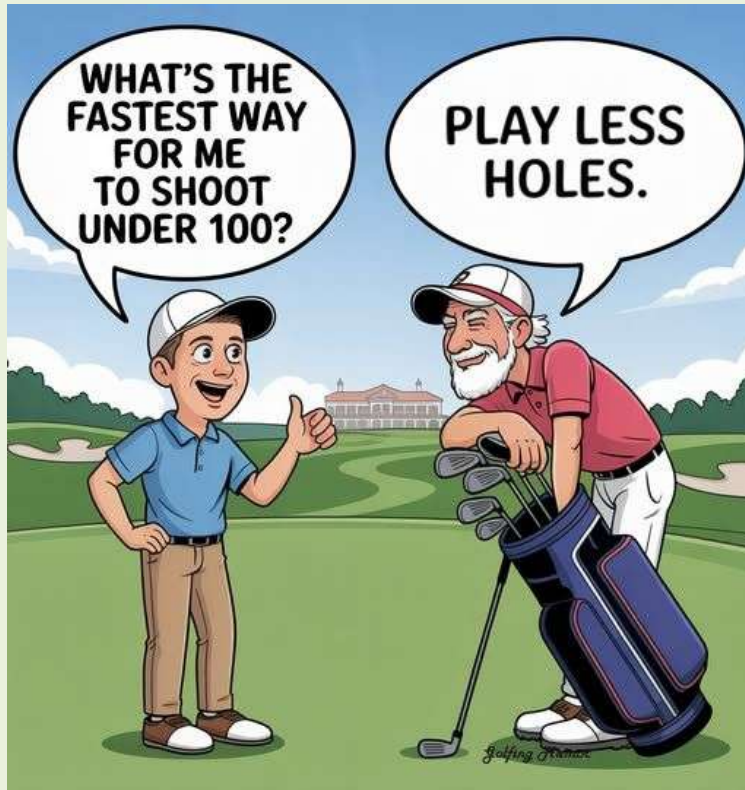


Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan:

The “Spocking shot” is played more as a powerful shot. It is rolled/thrown with great force to displace the ball/s to either gain the point by displacing the opponent's ball/s or reduce the number of points the opponent is holding.

All are welcome every Thursday 10am at the Senior Center Bocce Ball Court.

Golf: Paul Hanson & Frank Treanor



Golf Club is waking up from winter and getting 11-12 players each Wednesday. If you want to play and join the group, please contact Frank at bcft11@comcast.net.

3PM Friday Happy Hour



Join us as our Galère gathering in a snugery with the telic of badinage and raillery, inosculate with quaffing, So even if you are a hoary tyro, come and enjoy this spirit of bonhomie. The schedule this month of April is:

- 4/3: The Publican
- 4/10: Barley and Brine
- 4/17: Lupe's (outside, weather permitting)
- 4/25: Culver's

LIKE TO PLAY POOL, DARTS, SHUFFLEBOARD?

Game time is every Tuesday from 3pm to 5pm. at Racks-N-Cues 88928 Lakewood Dr.



Pool attendance is great! The much anticipated improvement in our skills is still forth coming.

SIR Branch 176 Bowling Report

Our Fall-Winter Mixed Senior bowling league is quickly reaching its conclusion. As I write, only three sessions remain, with our final day being Monday, April 13th at which winning teams will be identified and rewarded. There are three Sir Branch 176 member teams that are expected to be in the finals. They include "Barbie and the Three Bears" led by Sir John Campbell and including Sir Mark Nelson, "Up your Alley!" led by Sir Al Fiori, and "Laurel and the Hardies" led by Sir Don McCorquodale.

Rules for the forthcoming Summer No Tap Mixed Senior league will be reviewed at our April 6th session, with that league beginning on April 27th and continuing into August.

Dave Harrison
Branch 176 Bowling Chair



Couples Dinner Jim Vick

The couple's dinner on March 12th was a fun evening and 12 couples attended. There was lots of good food and conversation at the Grata.

For April , the dinner will be on **April 23rd @5:30 at the Spinster Sisters, 401 South A, Santa Rosa.** Seating (24) will be outside, weather permitting. If you wish to attend, please email Jim immediately at: jvick1497@gmail.com





NEXT OPPORTUNITY IS 4/2 @2PM*

We had a great turnout in March (16 folks). Let's keep it up.



To clarify, this is not a "Sir's Activity", it's a foodbank activity in which we assist, therefore, women/friends are absolutely welcome and encouraged to participate.

We will have a group going over once a month on the 1st Thursday of every month from 2-4pm. **The next service opportunity will be on April 2nd, if you haven't been getting my foodbank sign-up emails and wish to volunteer, please email me immediately at: palmer.ts@gmail.com**

In Memory: JOHN COOKUS:



John Cookus

You might say that John Cookus is a fountain of youthful enthusiasm. Known for his boundless energy, optimism and zest for life, he is admired for his vitality, positive outlook, and ability to inspire others, whether by staying active, engaging with friends, or embracing new experiences. He lives by mottos that reflect his outlook, such as *“Keep moving forward”* and *“Life begins with liking yourself.”*

Born in Hagerstown, Maryland, he earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Northwestern University and a master’s degree in psychology from Governors State in Illinois, foundations that shaped his thoughtful and people-centered approach to life.

John’s peers admire his positivity and drive, and he’s a reminder that age is no barrier to staying active and curious. His infectious enthusiasm encourages others to embrace life with the same vigor.

John built a distinguished career as Corporate Director of Human Resources for Bell & Howell, a Fortune 500 company. His passion for athletics began early with wrestling and cross-country running in high school, later expanding to martial arts. He proudly earned a brown belt in karate while living in the Philippines – a journey reminiscent of the Karate Kid’s!

For over forty years, John has shared life with his wife Connie, the “love of his life.” Together they raised two daughters: one retired as a brigadier general in the Air Force, and the other owns a gym and has blessed John with many grandchildren. It’s clear that family is at the heart of his joy.

John’s philosophy of living shines through in the mottos he carries with him: *“Have 100% intention in all of your endeavors but zero addiction to results,”*

and *“Always attempt to achieve an attitude of gratitude.”* These guiding principles are his playbook for life.

In Memory: ED PEOPLES



“SUMMARY OF MY LIFE FOR SIR”
(written in Sept. 2022)

My life didn't evolve in a straight line. I was born a third generation Petalumen and raised with an older sister and an older step brother and step-sister. I graduated from PHS in 1953. My wife graduated in 1952. We knew each other, but didn't date until after graduation, and then it quickly became serious, and we married the following year. I had always worked part time as far back as I can remember, and getting a permanent job was an easy adjustment.

I drove truck for five years after our marriage. First for Roy Jameson & Son for three years and then for PBM for two. We had two sons born two years apart, owned our own 2-bedroom house on which we paid \$50 per month. All was well, except I decided that I wanted a different job future. I quit my job, we sold our house and I enrolled at SRJC. We lived on campus in housing created after WW2 to accommodate returning vets. Rent was \$40, including utilities I drove a school bus before and after the local junior and senior high school for \$160 a month, and worked swing shift as a bus boy at the restaurant in the Flamingo Hotel during the summer. A film company was making Pollyanna at the time and most of the stars stayed at the hotel. I enjoyed doing room service.

After graduation, we moved to Seattle, Washington where I quickly found a job as a meat cutter for Tradewell Stores, and entered and completed the butcher apprentice program. I took evening classes the University. I had been in the

Naval Reserve since high school and was never called up. My eight-year commitment ended here and I received an honorable discharge.

After about a year in Washington, the damp weather created health problems for one of our sons, and we had to move to a dryer climate. We moved to Sacramento, where I planned to continue in my butcher's trade and attend Sacramento State part time. However, the butcher's union there would not recognize any of my work time or apprenticeship from Washington.

I needed a job, but I wasn't going to start over as a butcher. I had had a real estate sales license since I was eighteen, but hadn't use it. I took a job with Christopherson and Spickard Realty, but real estate was in one of its bad times. After about three months, I took a salaried job with Local Loan Company, one of the several consumer finance companies in the area. I worked there for three years, eventually becoming the assistant manager and collection manager for the south Sacramento office.

From time to time, the job required me to facilitate collection of bad debts, locate skips, and repossess collateral, usually cars. I was thinking about quitting twice, but each time I did we had another child and I received a monthly raise with each child. However, the negative aspect of that job tainted the work and a future in that field didn't look very appealing.

After three years, I quit my job and enrolled in day classes at Sacramento State, then began looking for a job. I took a job working the swing shift and the county juvenile hall, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I had almost completed school when the opportunity arose to take the county Probation Officer I exam. I passed and moved upstairs, as it was called, because that department was upstairs from the Hall. I worked as a deputy probation officer for three years; about eighteen months supervising a case of approximately 90 juveniles, and about eighteen months doing court investigations and recommendation to the court what disposition would be best suited to the juvenile rehabilitation, or whatever. I graduated from Sacramento State with a BA in Social Science.

As much as I enjoyed my work, it was not Sonoma County. We made trips of Petaluma as often as we could. On one such trip, I called on a friend who lived in Santa Rosa and who had lived next to us on the SRJC campus. Ironically, he was working for the Sonoma County Probation Department, and said that they were hiring. I quickly applied, interviewed and was hired to work in the adult

division of the probation department. There were no openings in the juvenile division. I soon came to be thankful of that.

We sold our home in Sacramento and moved back to Petaluma. I immediately took over a caseload of 230 adult probationers. I did that for about a year, then switched to an investigative unit and did the investigation and preparing presentence reports for the court. It was a great job. We were back in Petaluma, and all was well. Also, I had been attending Sonoma State University part time for the three years and graduated with a Master's in History.

Seemingly, out of the blue, I had an offer to teach at San Jose State College in the Administration of Justice Department, and help develop their probation/corrections program. I came home and asked my wife how she would like moving to San Jose, and she replied, "You've got to be kidding."

So, we sold our home in Petaluma and moved to San Jose, and bought a new home in the newly south valley area. We bought a new 4-bedroom house for \$32,500, with monthly payments of \$135 and we wondered how we would ever make those payments. I was hired at the Assistant Professor level for the annual salary of \$10,500 which was probably as much as I was earning as a truck driver nine or ten years earlier. We settled in and enjoyed the life. My wife went on to school in her spare time and obtained a teaching credential, and started teaching in one of the local elementary schools. As part of my agreement when hired, I had to obtain a doctorate degree. I had to go part time and the only degree program I could find was at USC with a major in public administration/ criminal justice. I began commuting from San Jose to LA and taking Saturday course. It was not long, however, when the University built two satellites campuses, one in Washington D.C. and one in Sacramento. I began attending the Sacramento campus, taking several extended hour classes that began on Friday morning and ended on Monday afternoon. I arranged my teaching schedule to accommodate those times. I finished the course work in 1975, completed the qualifying exams, and moved on to complete a dissertation, which I finally completed in 1983.

I was tenured after four years and promoted to Associate Professor the following year, and then appointed department chair the following year. At about that time, (mid-1970s) the college hired Dr. John Bunzel as president, and the school changed its name from State College to California State

University at San Jose. The focus of the University changed from teaching as its primary purpose to publish or perish. Just when I was beginning to feel negative about working there, an ad flyer turned up in the campus mail showing that the Administration of Justice Department of SRJC was hiring.

I applied, was interviewed, and started the next leg teaching at SRJC and living in Petaluma. My wife got a job teaching at Dunham Elementary School in the Roblar area at the same school that my dad and his ten brothers and sisters had attended as children.

I taught at SRJC for nineteen years, and retired when the college offered twenty-four of our senior teachers a great retirement package. It was a wonderful time teaching at the JC but I was ready to move on.

During my years of teaching, I wrote four textbooks in the field of juvenile procedures, criminal procedures, and correctional practices and procedures. My wife and I had them printed, and then sold directly under the name of Meadow Crest Publishing to various community colleges in California. Those books have been selling continually now for over thirty years. Another book titled *Basic Criminal Procedures* was published for several years by Prentice Hall. I took back the copyright on that and we now sell it ourselves. For the past five years or so, all our printing has been done by Amazon KDP. We buy from them at a very reasonable price and resell them to bookstores. Also, students may buy them directly from Amazon, which has worked well during Covid zoom learning. Over the last ten years, I wrote and added four novels which are currently available on Amazon. Also, while teaching at JC, I worked several summers for the probation department doing investigations.

After retirement from the JC, I worked for myself in various capacities: a year or more doing house appraisals and risk analysis for various insurance companies; a year and a half as a clinical hypnotist for the firm, Positive Changes; and from 2006 to 2014, I worked for myself as a notary signing agent, which means I was a certified notary public, with an additional certification as a signing agent. I would receive loan packages, usually Refi's from various lenders or title companies around the country and would attend to the signing with the borrowers at their home, office, or wherever. I then wrote a training manual explaining that process, and it has continued to sell very well on Amazon. I think it is also used in notary signing agent classes.

Both during my teaching years and into retirement, I have also worked off and on for myself as a private investigator, and at times as a real estate broker. I also had a small photo processing shop in a portion of my home, developing and processing black and white film for the town's camera and photo stores. This included product ad photography for selected companies. As a free-lance photographer, with CHP certified press credentials, I did a lot of scene photography for the Argus-Courier, the Marin Independent Journal, and on occasion, the Press Democrat.

When I grow up and decide what I want to do in life, I think I'll play piano in the lounge piano bar at the Flamingo Hotel.

TRAVEL FROM STATE SIR:

Explore the Great Lakes and Niagara Falls, May 3-11, 2026: From urban skylines to uninhabited islands, discover North America's wilderness alongside renowned cultural attractions aboard a small expedition ship. 378 passengers. Led by experts. Balcony staterooms \$6170-8295pp. Contact Michael & Kathi Gervais Br. 98.

Kathig@shipsandtripstravel.com 916-337-1623.

LINK:

[Great Lakes and Niagara Falls on the Viking Octantis](#)

Golf in Hawaii, June 1-5 (approximate dates) Maui Join us for 5 days, 4 nights at the Outrigger Kaanapali Beach Resort. We have reserved golf tee times at the Royal Kaanapali and Kaanapali Kai Golf Courses. 4 nights at the Outrigger Kaanapali Beach Resort – newly renovated facility. Deposit of \$1931.32 is due at time of booking, remaining balance is due April 17, 2026. Single rates are available. Contact Michael or Katherine Gervais, Ships and Trips Travel Agency. (916) 337 1623 or kathig@shipsandtripstravel.com

16 Night Hawaiian Island Cruise aboard Ruby Princess round trip from San Francisco: Oct. 23 thru Nov. 8 '26 From \$3,750 to \$6,055 pp. depending on cabin. Ports of call Hilo, Kahului, Maui, Honolulu, Oahu, Nawiliwili, Kauai, and Ensenada Mexico. Contact John Cardoza area 18 branch 143 209-483-7722 john@storageauctionexperts.com

Christmas on the Danube with a 2 day Christmas Markets of Prague extension. Nov. 27-Dec. 8, 2026

Six night Danube River Cruise including Christmas Markets in Vienna, Wurzburg, Rothenburg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Wachau Valley, Gluhwein Party. Pricing: \$5896-\$7497 pp, double occupancy. Contact: Bill Britton Br. 101 bill.britton@comcast.net (925) 200-1062.

LINK:

Christmas on the Danube | Collette

OTHER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(Non SIR Activities)

HOT DOG THURSDAY-APRIL 2nd

Hot Dog Thursday is a family-friendly event held on the field at the Pacific Coast Air Museum, where visitors from around Sonoma County and the Bay Area enjoy our famous PCAM Hot Dogs, refreshing drinks, and tasty chips—all surrounded by aviation history. Held the first Thursday of each month from April and October – **2 April** is the first Hot Dog Thursday of 2026.

Admission & Meal Combo: \$10.00 includes museum admission, one all-American Beef or Polish dog, a drink, and chips. Opens at 11 AM and runs until about 1 PM; or they run out of hot dogs.



Once a month (date varies) all SIR and their spouse (SIR+) are welcome to start the “work” week with **Mexican Monday** – a chance for SIR couples to gather. Starts sharply at 4PM Castaneda’s Marketplace. This month **6 April** is Mexican Monday.



SATURDAY FREE BREAKFAST FOR VETS

Every Saturday morning starting at 8AM Jose Castaneda serves a free breakfast for veterans, i.e. “Castañeda’s Breakfast Brigade,” he provides veterans a place for connections, camaraderie & friendship. [Please see below the associated article on **Veterans Table Program.**]



HONORING
ALL WHO
SERVED
THANK YOU
VETERANS

Community Action in Action

Jose Castaneda, of Castaneda’s Marketplace, has been putting “meat” behind the “Thank you for your service” and similar slogans for 15 years this summer. Every Saturday morning he welcomes any veteran to join the tables of veterans enjoy a free breakfast.

As Jose recently posted to his Facebook page “..., this was never just a meal. It was a lifeline. A place to be seen, to be heard, to sit among people who understand. Connection, camaraderie, and friendship are not luxuries in a veteran’s life, they are essential.”

Jose’s goal is keep this tradition going and to build on this existing foundation. The “Veterans Table Project” is a 501(c)(3) a Federally recognized non-profit created to expand this appreciation of veterans to other parts of Northern California.

Nothing says “thank you for your service” as sincerely as a seat at a table next to a comrade with a plate of food and a cup of hot coffee. The Veterans Table Project provides a path forward to maintain and promote this singular tradition.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Spanish national anthem has no words. The “Marcha Real” is one of only four national anthems in the world to have no official lyrics.

FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:



Realized I had to use the bathroom.

Got up and walked across the house, to the pantry.

Couldn't remember why I was in the pantry.

remembered I had to use the bathroom.

Walked across the house to the bathroom.

Sitting on the throne I remembered why I went to the pantry...

Toilet paper.

My kids and grandkids keep laughing about me losing my memory.

They won't be laughing at Christmas when there's no eggs under the tree!



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"I don't want to worry you, but the guy who delivered the pizza was your financial planner."



Thag Anderson becomes the first fatality as a result of falling asleep at the wheel.



2026 SIR Branch 176 Officers:					
Big SIR Steve De La Montanya 707-529-7522		Little SIR Bruce Okrepkie 707-484-0869		Secretary Larry Doherty 707-484-5308	
Assistant Secretary Thomas Palmer 619-920-9175		Treasurer Garry Trojanowski 203-988-5366		Assistant Treasurer Howard Blethen	
2026 Directors					
<i>1 Year Term</i>			<i>2 Year Term</i>		
Jerry Culver	Ron Nordstrom	Jim Tubb	Bob Wallace	Phil Bartels	Harold Minkin
2026 Activity Coordinator					
Pool-Game Night 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 Vick	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 707-484-7890	COFFEE COORDINATOR John Fineren 707-838-3686		
SIR State President Fred Serena			SIR Area 13 Representative Chris Nelle 916-205-1717		

