



A Non-profit Organization For Retired Men

HOROLOGIUM

Monthly Newsletter - Est. 1963

North Bay Branch No. 7, San Rafael

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch7

61st year

Br. 7

March 2024

BIG SIR—*Michael Sommer*



The annual dues payment deadline is March 7.

Our membership is growing, and I encourage our current members to put on their thinking caps. Is there anyone within your sphere of friends and circles of influence that would benefit from the comradery and the activities that we as members of SIR Branch 7 enjoy? Reach out and invite them to our luncheon. Prospective members receive one complimentary lunch and are asked to join at that time.

Scott McKeown and I have been spearheading a committee to remake our website and we really need additional members to assist us. I have solicited assistance from Branch 134's website creator but can only ask him to do so much gratis. If you have any computer skills, or would like to learn some, then we definitely could use your help on our committee. Contact me or Scott.

On the agenda for our March meeting will be the thought of discontinuing our annual Valentine luncheon with significant others as guests. We could possibly replace it with a catered summer picnic at a local park such as McNear's Beach in San Rafael or Stafford Lake in Novato. This would include significant others and give us an activity spaced more than 2 months from our Holiday luncheon with guests.

LITTLE SIR—*Tom Verkozen*



Be A Friend

A great way to be a friend is to listen ...
 so buy a friend a cup of coffee ...
 And listen ...
 as he responds to your three questions ...
 (any three questions will do
 (it matters not what you ask
 (as long as you listen ...

When your friend's story has been told
 give a mention to our fabulous March 7
 speaker ...

Baghdad by the Bay born and reared
 father of two IJ columnist, political junkie
 3 time MV mayor

... Dick Spotswood ...
 whose political takes are intended to in
 form and challenge

Do come, listen and Bring a Friend

2024 DUES

The dues for 2024 are \$40. Bring to the luncheon or mail to Al Wuthnow at 214 Melrose Avenue, Mill Valley CA 94941. Thank you for your prompt payment.

EVITE LUNCHEON SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS

Remember to type your meal preference in the comments section when you say "yes" and will attend. The meal choices are shown nearby. If you are not coming, please say "no" to the Evite so we won't miss anyone.

SUNSHINE & SHADOWS

Ken Kauer, Chairman, 472-2334
 (No e-mail)

March 2024 Meetings

Luncheon Thursday March 7
 Executive Committee Thursday March 21

March 7th Luncheon

Corned Beef & Cabbage,
 Bay Shrimp Louis,
 or Vegetarian

MEMBERSHIP REPORT February 2024

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS - 2/1/24	85
GAINS DURING MONTH	0
LOSSES DURING MONTH	0
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS - 3/1/24	85

Call Don Beers at 332-3926 if you can't attend a luncheon

March 2024 Birthdays

29	Win Black	March 7
104	Spencer Brainard	March 11
31	Fred Coito	March 11
17	Ed Kurz	March 19
91	Ron Schafer	March 21
48	Jim Land	March 25
66	Mark Wexman	March 30

A Welcome to new member Fred Coito

Five years post-retirement, this Stockton-born ... long-time San Anselmo resident delights in hitting the road in his camper ...

From his travels Fred has amazing stories from near and far about performances at Bay Area jazz haunts Yoshi's, California Jazz Conservatory, SF Jazz Center ... work in Saudi Arabia, El Salvador and the Barbados

Our always-hiking Fred is proudly known as 'Lia's Father' (Branson, Princeton, George Mason) go ahead, ask Fred about ... kids and sports, jazz or energy efficiency ... then sit back and enjoy the jazz

Dick Robinson, Secretary



Minutes of the Branch Executive Committee Meeting February 15, 2024:

Treasurer Al Wuthnow reported that our current cash balance is \$6,658. That's down considerably from last year due to members who haven't paid annual dues. Al passed out a list of those 26 delinquent members and board members volunteered to call them as a reminder. For next year, annual dues will be increased to \$50 but those who pay by December 31 get a \$10 discount. Al also said he paid the State Sirs organization the quarterly assessment based on 77 members on our rolls in December. Dick Robinson said minutes for last month's meeting were sent out in the February Horologium. Kelly Reid said our current membership is 85 members after several new members were accepted. Ken Kauer reported that Bob Rigler's wife had passed away at the end of January. Tom Verkozen (our new Little Sir) said he'd like information on people backing up officers in their duties.

Speakers lined up for the coming months include Dick Spotswood for March, Michael St John for April, a representative from California High Speed Train Project for May and a galactic astronaut for June. Kelly Reid is trying to contact sportswriter Joan Ryan and Michael Pritchard for later months. For the March 7 meeting, Ted Pullen will handle lunch tickets and Ken Kauer will sell raffle tickets. Michael said he and Tom Verkozen plan to go to the State Sirs meeting in March. Some discussion was made about the accessibility of our website. About half our board members have used the website. Ted Pullen submitted a report on the Branch 7 trip to SF to see the Lion King in December. 56 persons paid to attend this show at a total cost of \$6,608. Lucky 7 golf is starting weekly play on March 6. Ladd Sievenpiper is leading a walking group that meets each week at 9 am on Thursdays at Hamilton Field. Some ideas for future trips were proposed including: visiting the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, the Liberty ship Jeremiah O'Brien, the Buck Institute, Fort Ross, and Lagunitas Brewery in Petaluma. Dave Bernardi is working to set up a wine tasting date at the Jacuzzi winery in Sonoma.

Al Wuthnow reported the February Valentine lunch was only attended by 35 members and 25 ladies plus a few other guests for a total of 63 persons. He wondered if we should continue having this event which includes ladies as guests since the turnout was rather low. The cost of \$55 for prime rib and \$45 for salmon or pasta was mentioned as a possible reason. Michael Sommer said he'd ask the members at our March lunch meeting whether they want to continue holding the Valentine luncheon with ladies invited. A different type of event would be a summer picnic at a local park with guests invited.

YOUR BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT WORK



LUCKY 7 GOLF



The 2024 golf season starts
March 13th.

SIR OF THE MONTH

Don Beers is a true one-off ...
Our Official Greeter was BIG Sir in 2003 ...
Don has dozens of friends
who he greets ...
and dines with monthly
(the average 88 year old male has 1 or 2 friends)

Organic & locally sourced, Don ...
(born in Sausalito) remains un-transplanted ...
lives in the \$M VIEW home in which he grew up
married his Cal sweetheart, Gerry
with whom he raised 3 children
worked for the Bay Area's own Standard Oil/
Chevron
from graduation til retirement

Don, you carry a big smile, are lots of fun ...
in recognition of the joy you have brought and
the service you have provided at Branch 7 for over 30
years ... 84 guys say, Thank You ... your March lunch
is our treat!

2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Big Sir: Michael Sommer **Little Sir:** Tom Verkozen
Secretary: Dick Robinson **Asst Secretary:** Vacant
Treasurer: Al Wuthnow **Asst Treasurer:** Dick Robinson
Directors: Dave Bernardi, Ken Kauer, Ted Pullen,
Kelly Reid & Ralph Sherer
Advisor: Bob Bundy
Publisher: Kirk Beales — 415-492-2686,
bear38@outlook.com
Webmaster: Vacant

NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All activities arranged for, or by, or sponsored by, Sons in Retirement, Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the 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 to said activities.

MARCH SPEAKER

Dick Spotswood is the politics and government columnist for the *Marin Independent Journal*.



A San Francisco native, Dick is a graduate of the University of San Francisco and its School of Law.

Spotswood is a former council member (1980–1992) and three-term Mayor of the City of Mill Valley. He served for ten years (1982–1992) as a Director of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District representing Marin's eleven cities and towns. In 1992–1993 he served as chair of the Doyle Drive Commission and previously served on the 101 Corridor Committee.

Dick Spotswood is the former president of the Rotary Club of Mill Valley, Mountain Play Association, Marin Forum, and College of Marin Foundation.

In the political spectrum, Spotswood is a registered independent and he has been described as a "militant centrist" which is the name of his blog on marinij.com.



SIR ON THE INTERNET

www.sirinc.org
www.sirinc.org/wearesir-2/

Gives SIR history, organization, locations, activities, travel programs etc.. Also the State newsletter, SIR Happenings. Suggested for those thinking of joining for an early orientation.

AREA 8 MONTHLY MEETINGS

Branch 7 McInnis Park 1st Thursday
Branch 22 McInnis Park 1st Tuesday
Branch 47 McInnis Park 4th Tuesday
Branch 58 Elks Lodge Petaluma 3rd Tuesday
Branch 134 Marin Golf & Country Club 1st Tuesday
Branch 147 Elks Lodge Petaluma 2nd Tuesday