



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

February 2024

BIG SIR—*Michael Sommer*



I want to share some goals that I think are achievable for Branch 7 in 2024.

1. Reach 100 or more members in the branch by the end of the year.
2. Have a user-friendly website with the following:
 - a. Easy to use URL such as SIRbranch7.org
 - b. Sign up page for the monthly luncheon and your meal selection
 - c. Annual dues payment link
 - d. Latest as well as past Horologiums page
 - e. A golf sign-up page

Speakers that pique your interest enough to invite guests/prospective members.

Schedule a Summer picnic for members, significant others and prospects

Outings to the theater, wine tasting, brewery tour etc.

Pie in the sky? Maybe but if any of these is of interest to you and you want to help with them, talk to a board member. Better yet come to the February BEC at McInnis at 11:00AM on Thursday February 15th.

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LITTLE SIR—*Tom Verkozen*



Be A Friend

What better way to be a friend than to invite a friend to meet your Branch 7 friends ...

Our Thursday, February 1st Valentine luncheon is coordinated by everybody's friend, Ted Pullen ... and Pat, Ted's fabulous friend and wife of 41 years ...

The luncheon speaker will be our very own Peter Robinson presenting, "From Broadway to Hollywood, the Golden Age of American Musicals." Peter's toe-tapping presentation will feature scenes of Ginger Roger dancing backward in 5 inch heels with her sidekick Fred Astaire, clips from The King and I, My Fair Lady, and other remarkable films from the bye-gone era when a few of us were in nickers and a few of us in their 20s.

Reservations ... Ted Pullen ... 415.499-4610 ... tedpullen@comcast.net.

Add quality to life,
Be a Friend

SUNSHINE & SHADOWS

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

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.

February 2024 Meetings

Luncheon Thursday February 1
Executive Committee Thursday February 15

February 1st Valentine's Luncheon

Salmon, Chicken or Pasta at \$45
or Prime Rib at \$55 pp
Selected and prepaid by 1/25

MEMBERSHIP REPORT January 2024

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS - 1/1/24	80
<u>GAINS DURING MONTH</u>	5
Ed Briggs Armando Castagna Fred Coito Bill McCarten Rene Sommer	
<u>LOSSES DURING MONTH</u>	0
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS - 2/1/24	85

February 2024 Birthdays

35	Nick Kerry	February 3
50	Eddie Powell	February 3
16	Ralph Sherer	February 6
18	Bill Trenam	February 16
143	Richard McKeague	February 28

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

Dick Robinson, Secretary



Executive Board Meeting January 18, 2024:

Al Wuthnow reported our cash balance is now \$6,667 due to collection of dues from some 50 members. But that leaves a number of members now in arrears for their 2024 dues. Michael will be getting a list of those who have not yet paid their dues in order to call them. We need to collect dues from all members because we are assessed quarterly dues by the state Sirs organization for each active member.

The minutes of Dec Exec Board Meeting by Secretary Dick Robinson were approved. The only change to be made is that Tom Verkozen is taking over as Little Sir in place of Dr Bob Bundy.

Kelley Reid presented the applications for 5 new members: Bill McCarten, Fred Coito, Armando Castagna, Rene Sommer and Ed Briggs. These 5 men were approved as new members. Ralph Sherer said Robby Robinson is preparing the roster booklet for Branch 7. It will be going to print fairly soon.

Scott McKown reported on the state of our website. He said we have 10 activities highlighted but he asked for photos of members participating in the various activities we have listed.

We reviewed the list of speakers lined up for the coming months. These include Peter Robinson (review of Broadway musicals) in February, Dick Spotswood (political commentator) in March, Michael St John (Marin Search and Rescue) in April, and a representative from the California Bullet Train in May. Joan Ryan (sportswriter) and Michael Pritchard are being contacted for future meetings.

Michael reported that Ted Pullen has only received 24 people who signed up for the Valentine lunch on February 1. Ladd Sievenpiper said he'd work on sending out an Evite to get more people signed up.

Michael said that Ted Pullen was Sir of the month in January and Ralph Sherer was chosen to be Sir of the Month in February. He read off a list of other worthy members to be considered for this honor in the coming months. Michael was granted the authority to pick the men for this honor.

Dave Bernardi told us he has contacted Jacuzzi winery in Sonoma about hosting a wine tasting event in April. He is working out the details for this event. Another possible outing would be beer tasting at Lagunitas brewery in Petaluma. We'll consider an outdoor event at a local park for summer.

We talked about the fact that quite a few members don't have wives to bring to parties such as the Christmas and Valentine lunches. At a future lunch Michael will ask members what they'd like to continue having meetings which include ladies as guests.

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The following was on NEXT DOOR and I thought it was worth sharing:

We, the Semi Elderly

We grew up in the 40s-50s-60s.

We studied in the 50s-60s-70s.

We dated in the 50s-60s-70s.

We got married and discovered the world in the 60s-70s-80s.

We ventured into the 70s-80s. We stabilized in the 90s.

We got wiser in the 2000s. And went firmly through the 2010s.

Turns out we've lived through NINE different decades. TWO different centuries. TWO different millennia.

We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world.

We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and WhatsApp.

From live matches on the radio to black and white TV, and then to HDTV.

We went to Blockbuster and now we watch Netflix.

We got to know the first computers; punch cards, diskettes and now we have gigabytes and megabytes in hand on our cell phones or iPads.

We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long pants. Oxfords, Bermuda shorts, etc. We dodged infantile paralysis; meningitis, H1N1 flu and now COVID-19.

We rode skates. tricycles, souped-up cars, bicycles, mopeds, gasoline or diesel cars and now we ride hybrids or 100% electric.

Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had!

They could describe us as "exennials" people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analog childhood and a digital adulthood.

We're kind of We-seen-it-all.

Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life.

It is our generation that has literally adapted to "CHANGE".

A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, who are UNIQUE. Here's a precious and very true message:

TIME DOES NOT STOP!

Life is a task that we do ourselves every day.

When you look... it's already six in the afternoon;

When you look... it's already Friday;

When one looks... the month is over,

When one looks... the year is over,

When one looks... 50, 60, 70 and 80 years have passed!

When you look... we no longer know where our friends are.

When you look... we lost the love of our life and now, it's too late to go back.

Do not stop doing something you like due to lack of time.

Do not stop having someone by your side, because your children will soon not be yours and you will have to do something with that remaining time, where the only thing that we are going to miss will be the space that can only be enjoyed with the usual friends.

This time that; unfortunately, never returns.

The day is today!

WE ARE NO LONGER AT AN AGE TO POSTPONE ANYTHING.

Hopefully, you have time to read and then share this message or else leave it for *Later* and you will see that you will never share it!

Always together,

Always united,

Always brothers/sisters,

Always friends...tell the people in your life that you love them... every day!

Pass it on to your best friends. Don't leave it for later.

SIRS VALENTINE LUNCHEON

THURSDAY FEB 1

McInnis Golf Center, 350 Smith Ranch Road, 11:30

Spouse and Guests are welcomed to
our regular February luncheon.
Bring your sweetheart and let's celebrate
Valentine's Day together.



Speaker: Peter Robinson—From Broadway to Hollywood –
the Golden Age of American Musicals - featuring clips from
Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, The King and I, My Fair La-
dy, and other toe-tapping excerpts

MENU

Choice of either Salmon, Chicken or Pasta at \$45
or Prime Rib at \$55 pp. Dessert included

RESERVATIONS

Ted Pullen (415-499-4610 or tedpullen@comcast.net) will be taking
reservations during the January luncheon. Seating will be pre-
assigned. All entrees must be pre-selected and prepaid not later than
1/25/24.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome ... Tim "Green Thumb" Biddle
Tim, retired CFO of The Segal Company, was reared in the rural farm country of northeastern Colorado.

Tim is currently putting his energy where his heart is as treasurer of the board of Ritter House ... which provides for the health, dignity, and well-being for nearly 3000 people ... Ritter House's 'Housing First!' mission statement has resulted in over 400 homeless Marinites housed to date. If you are interested in doing something significant, talk to Tim.

While he and his wife Edie were down with COVID in December they planted 1300 tulips and hundreds of other bulbs amongst the heavenly beds of roses and other flowering gems in their garden-to-die for on Mt View Avenue in San Rafael ... amazing.

Tim and Edie are also intrepid travelers ... the Biddles have been back from everywhere ... ten days river rafting the Grand Canyon ... three weeks in Croatia hiking with their two accomplished sons ... eating AND drinking their way through Spain and Portugal ... or just off traveling the country for months on end in their Air-Stream ...

We are pleased to welcome 'Retired Avenger' Tim Biddle as one of the new members of Branch

SIR OF THE MONTH

Ralph Sherer began shooting black and white photos with a Brownie in the 1940s in Indiana. He has improved his game and is the official Branch 7 photographer.

Fresh out of high school in Indiana in the 1950s, Ralph joined the navy to see the world but his ship never sailed to foreign ports ... so he left the navy and drove cross country to deliver a car to Baghdad by the Bay where, singing in a choir, he met Val, his wife and traveling companion for the past 60+ years ...

The travel bug is still with Sherers who take their camping trailer on the road ... often to Bend, Oregon to visit their son and two grandchildren ... this June there will be a longer trip to Michigan.

Two time Big Sir, Ralph is a prized partner in the billiards group, bowls every Wednesday, rain or shine, with SIRs in Petaluma, is a member of Toastmasters and is the keeper of our membership records. With more than 20 years in banking and another 20 with accounting giant KPMG Ralph gives back, sharing his tax knowledge with Tax-Trust doing taxes for low income Marinites out of the Fairfax library.

Ralph, your March lunch is on the house, as we thank you for the energy you've brought to Branch 7 for more than 20 years.

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.

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



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