

# Recruit, Revitalize and Retain



## The Link



Website: [www.branch13.sirinc2.org](http://www.branch13.sirinc2.org)

Branch Number 13

A Non-Profit Organization for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement  
Twentyfirst Year January 2023 Bulletin No. 1

### -- NON Coronavirus Protocols --

In compliance with the current SIR State Board directives, we have resumed the membership requirement that all members must attend 50% of branch meetings (luncheons). The May and December "Ladies' Day" lunches are not counted as meetings, and therefore the requirement for 2023 is to attend at least 5 lunches.

We continue to require a liability waiver signed by all members and visitors.

[Editor – I hope this will be the last "red letter" top-of-the-newsletter alert due to COVID]

### January LUNCHEON (at Catta Verdera)

The January luncheon will be on January 17.

You will need to pre-select from a choice of Pork Tenderloin or Chicken Caesar Salad (see the invitation for details): Our speaker will be former Lincoln Mayor Holly Andreatta.

Contact Jay Southard ([jay.r.southard@gmail.com](mailto:jay.r.southard@gmail.com)) if you have not received your invitation by January 4.

# Messages from outgoing and incoming BIG SIRs

**BIG SIR 2022: David Cesio**  
925-899-2193    [dccesio@gmail.com](mailto:dccesio@gmail.com)

As we wrap 2022 up it's not only time to look to the past year but to the reality of 2023.

COVID appears to be weakening in the damages to our physical bodies. The economy has been severely damaged in almost every sector. Each of us has felt the impact in our daily lives. Unfortunately, it appears that 2023 some of those issues will be still with us.

Your branch's BEC and Jay James, (your new Big Sir ) are an outstanding dedicated group of sirs well qualified to resolve the challenges in 2023.

Thank you for your support over this past year. Stay safe, and continue to enjoy the company of your fellowship.

David.

**BIG SIR 2023: Jay James**  
408-533-3132    [jayj332@gmail.com](mailto:jayj332@gmail.com)

Greetings to the new year, 2023, and all members of Sir Branch 13. We're going to be faced with several challenges in branch 13 in the new year.

1. We are raising our dues from \$20.00 per year to \$25.00 a year. This increase is necessary to cover shortages in our branch cash flow. For instance, we pay Catta Verdera for our lunches before your checks to the branch can clear. We cannot have a negative balance, and so must maintain cash in our account greater than our most expensive lunch. We expect a large increase in lunch costs next year, and need a correspondingly increased balance.

Another reason for the increase is that the state Sir dues for each branch went up about 12%. This is definitely a cost that our bank account would not cover without a dues increase.

2. A change that won't have a direct cost to the branch is the state Sir's decision to return to a policy that was set aside for COVID. That is the policy to require members of each branch to attend 50% of the branch's lunches. In our branch, that would be five(5) lunches. We don't count the May or December lunches as regular lunches since we invite our wives or significant others to those lunches.

Our BEC will be very diligent in handling these concerns.

I hope, in the coming year, we as a branch, will grow and add activities we can all enjoy. To that end, if any of you know a retired man who is not a member of Sir, please let him know about us. Send me or SIR Phil Sanderson (our membership chairman) his name and contact information. We will contact him to see if he's interested.

As far as adding any new activities, again let me know and I will see if we can set up the activity so we can all enjoy it.

**PLEASE SEE SIR Leonard Kaufer's more detailed write-up of our situation and what we are doing about it (below).**

Please call or email me with any concerns or questions you may have.

## **Change is Coming! We want to hear from you!**

**SIR Leonard Kaufer (Branch 13 Secretary)**  
**916-258-6489     [leonardkaufer@aol.com](mailto:leonardkaufer@aol.com)**

Let's start right off with the biggest change. We have negotiated a new luncheon price with Catta Verdera, and we will be charging \$30 per lunch. This will include the customary non-alcoholic beverages, salad, and dessert. This increase is due not only to the inflationary pressures we all face, but also to a change in Catta Verdera policy. SIRs has historically paid significantly less for our lunches than Catta Verdera's dues-paying members are charged in their restaurant. Catta Verdera wants to address this perceived inequity.

We can have a lively discussion about the motives underlying this change in policy. We can have a lively discussion about the value of the luncheon compared to a price tag of \$30. Rest assured the BEC has had these discussions both amongst ourselves and in negotiations with Catta Verdera. Remember that this price includes tax, tip, and soft drink/coffee/tea service. If you were to pay \$26 for a plated 4 course meal - salad entree, sides, dessert - in a country club setting and then added \$4 for soft drink/coffee/tea and then added 25% for tax and tip, you would be at \$37.50 all in.

However interesting all of the discussions and analyses may be, they won't change the underlying reality. This change is going to happen.

The BEC has spent a lot of effort evaluating other options. There are very few venues in the Lincoln area that can accommodate our luncheons. Those that can offer the same quality of environment, service, and food are more expensive than the new price. Other options would be a significant downgrade - who remembers the Strikes bowling alley?

The best alternative option the BEC found to keep the prices down is to change from lunch to breakfast and remain at Catta Verdera. The BEC felt that even at a price of \$20, this did not balance the undesirable changes in schedule and food.

Now, on to the other changes that are coming in January.

First, the state board is reinstating attendance requirements. The attendance requirement was waived in the COVID era. As a reminder, members are required to attend 50% of the regular branch meetings. For Branch 13, this does not include the December and May luncheons. So we are only asking you to attend 5 luncheons other than our two Ladies' Day affairs.

Second, the BEC has voted to increase our annual dues from \$20 to \$25. We are very sensitive to the fact that we are coupling a dues increase with an increase in the meal cost. There are two reasons for the increase. First, the normal cost increases everyone is facing, including in our case the increased per-member amount charged to us by the SIR organization for insurance and overhead. Second, because the BEC has focused on keeping your costs down and maintaining as small a branch bank balance as possible, we have experienced temporary cash flow crunches where we were required to pay for lunch before the lunch receipts from you cleared the bank, and the bank balance would not support this! This will only get worse with any increase in the cost of lunch. The increased dues will allow us to maintain a slightly higher bank balance to avoid future cash-flow problems.

Don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the BEC with your concerns or suggestions. We want to hear from you!

## **New Year's Greetings from 2023 SIR State President** **Dave Gonzales [yogonzo@yahoo.com](mailto:yogonzo@yahoo.com)**

We are planning a New Era for State SIR. In 2023 Your State Board will:

- Listen more to Branches
- Serve Branch needs as Branches define them and
- Be a Good Friend to Branches

How will we do this?

- We will act as a consulting resource to Branches, not an authority figure
- We will no longer place compliance above service
- We will actively seek out Branch needs and offer solutions that make sense to Branches
- We have changed the position descriptions of State leaders to reduce interference in Branches, and to emphasize service to Branches.

I am looking forward to working with all of you. In subsequent messages I will describe the specifics of the reorganization required to make all this happen.

Let's have a great 'Come back from Covid' year.

**CATCH-A-RIDE: <OPEN>**

We need an organizer for our “catch-a-ride” program for ride-sharing to the monthly luncheons at Catta Verdera.

**MEMBERSHIP: Phil Sanderson**  
916-408-4764      [philbridge9@gmail.com](mailto:philbridge9@gmail.com)

No new members were inducted in December. Colin Macintyre is still expected to transfer to our branch in January.

If you know anyone who is interested in joining SIR, please direct them to call or email SIR **Phil Sanderson**.

**LINK: Jay Southard**  
510-585-8445      [jay.r.southard@gmail.com](mailto:jay.r.southard@gmail.com)

Want to keep getting the *LINK*? How about getting other important messages and/or updates from your SIR buddies. Make sure to keep your email address up-to-date.

If you do something with any of your fellow SIRS, or have some good photos of SIRS doing stuff, please send it to SIR Jay.

Also, if you are willing to edit the LINK, please let SIR Jay know, as he would like a replacement so he can take over the webmaster position ...

**WEBMASTER: <OPEN>**

Branch 13 has a Website. Please view it at: [www.branch13.sirinc2.org](http://www.branch13.sirinc2.org).

**SUNSHINE: Neal O’Boyle**  
916-434-5674      [nfoboyle@yahoo.com](mailto:nfoboyle@yahoo.com)

It’s important to recognize our members who need a little “sunshine”. If you know of a fellow SIR who deserves our support, contact SIR NEAL or BIG SIR.

**DATABASE: George Hubbard**  
916-253-9612      [gehubb1@aol.com](mailto:gehubb1@aol.com)

**IMPORTANT**, Please let SIR GEORGE know of your e-mail, phone, and/or address changes.

**TREASURER: Jack Buffington**  
916-390-0192

<b>December 2021 Balance</b>	<b>\$3,295.39</b>
<b>November 2022 Balance</b>	<b>\$3,556.54</b>
<b>December 2022 Balance</b>	<b>\$3,123.39</b>

**BREAKFAST CLUB: John Higgins**

1-916-543-6215 [jhiggins1940@yahoo.com](mailto:jhiggins1940@yahoo.com)

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month at Waffle Farm at 9:30. Next meeting is January 11. No need to call in advance.

We were sorry to hear that SIR John was medically unable to join the breakfast last month, and hope to see him this month

**BOCCE: <OPEN>**

Bocce ball is no longer being organized as a SIR activity until we get another volunteer coordinator.

**DINING OUT: Bruce Herold**

1-916-409-5677 [bgherold@gmail.com](mailto:bgherold@gmail.com)

Still on hiatus.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES: BIG SIR**

925-899-2193 [dccesio@gmail.com](mailto:dccesio@gmail.com)

The BEC is concerned about the low level of activities in our branch.

Our neighbors, Branch 98, appear to have a large number of activities ... [Here is a link](#) to their activity page. Do we have members willing to act as coordinator for any of these activities in our branch? Have any other ideas for activities? Contact the BIG Sir.

**Doings at the December Luncheon**

Your reporter was unprepared to perform reporting duties. But from his perspective, a good time was had by all. The lunches were certainly of improved quality as compared to recent ones (of course we paid much more).

And our entertainers, Encore at Christmas, was well received. Their willingness to come to every table and sing Christmas Carol requests was impressive.

**BRIDGE: Phil Sanderson**

1-916-408-4764 [philbridge9@gmail.com](mailto:philbridge9@gmail.com)

All of our December games were held on Wednesdays at Raley's. Starting again in January, there will be a mix of locations.

Sign up with SIR Phil & watch closely for information from him!

Winners in December:

- December 7:
  - 1st Mark Green
  - 2nd Byron Hansen
  - 3rd George Hubbard
- December 14:
  - 1st Harry Collings
  - 2nd Ed Thomas
  - 3rd Phil Sanderson
- December 21:
  - 1st Frank Kamienski
  - 2nd Mark Green
  - 3rd Ray Henry
- December 28:
  - 1st John Butler
  - 2nd Phil Sanderson
  - 3rd Chet Winton

**ADAPTIVE GOLF: Phil Browning**  
530-604-2088 [philbro\\_7@yahoo.com](mailto:philbro_7@yahoo.com)

If you are interested in playing golf with your SIR golfing buddies, we are up and running now. We had a recent set-back. We lost our coordinator, Jim Yates. However we will still be playing on Tuesdays with the exception being the third Tuesdays when we have our SIR's lunch. If this is something you might be interested in please contact Phil Browning at 530-604-2088 or [philbro\\_7@yahoo.com](mailto:philbro_7@yahoo.com).

We usually play at Lincoln Hills Golf Club right there in Del Webb Lincoln Hills, however, because of the heat we've been playing at other courses where we can get earlier tee times in order to beat the heat. We'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

**The Vet's LINK: Bob Hansen**  
916-764-2330 [hansenbob95@gmail.com](mailto:hansenbob95@gmail.com)

Information of interest to our veterans:

SIR Bob Hansen, USMC, was a 20-year counselor working with veterans services in a variety of ways in Northern California and Northern Nevada. He may not know all the answers but he can direct you to those that can answer them. Give him a call or talk to him at the luncheon. Also let us know of any activities in the area of interest to veterans.

**[Editor – lots more room here for new activities!]**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

George Hubbard  
Jay James  
Stanley Kisbey  
Thomas Mack  
Gerry Taylor  
Jim Wolf



## STATE OFFICERS

State President	Dave Gonzales
Region 1 Director	TBD
Area 3 Governor	TBD

## PAST BIG SIRS

2003-2005	Bob Crum
2005	Ron Ross
2006	Chet Winton
2007-2008	Ralph Madsen
2009-2010	John Noon
2011	Chet Winton
2012-2013	Phil Sanderson
2014	Chet Winton
2015	David Cesio
2016	Leonard Kaufer
2017-2019	Ralph Madsen
2020-2021	Chet Winton
2022	David Cesio

## 2023 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Big SIR	Jay James
Little SIR	Tom Mack
Secretary	Leonard Kaufer
Assistant Secretary	Jim Ripley
Treasurer	Jack Buffington
Ass't. Treasurer	Chuck Dietz
<b>LINK</b> Editor	Jay Southard
Database	George Hubbard
Webmaster	<open>
Membership	Phil Sanderson
Attendance	<open>
Sunshine	Neal O'Boyle

**NON-RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:** All activities arranged for, or by, or sponsored by SIR'S Inc. and its branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. SIR'S 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 events or activities.

Check out the SIR Statewide web site at:

[http:// www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/](http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/)

Peruse this page and also be sure to select "SIR Happenings"

Also, there is a lot of good information about the SIR organization and how it functions. Check it out.