



SIR Branch 4 Foghorn

	<p>SIR Branch 4</p> <p>Foghorn</p> <p>December 2023</p>	
<p>Big SIR-Stuart Ruth</p> <p>Secretary-Bob Calhoun Asst. Secretary-Jack Major</p>	<p>Little SIR-Bill Gipe</p> <p>Foghorn Editor John McGlothlin</p>	<p>God Bless Our USA</p> <p>Treasurer-Bob Golton Asst. Treasurer-George Fenech</p>

Our **Holiday Luncheon December 6th** at Oyster Point Yacht Club, South San Francisco has 68 SIRs, Family and Friends signed up. Will be great!

January Lunch, January 3, 2024. SIR Branch 4 will hold its first luncheon of 2024 at the Basque Cultural Center. Stay tuned for information!

Speaker's Bureau. Al Herpe is looking for suggestions for speakers for 2024. Know someone? Or, do you have a story or experiences to share? Contact Al: 650-992-3344.

Branch 4's 2024 Membership Drive begins in December and runs through February 12th, 2024.

Annual dues are \$25 (only \$2.08 per month). This funds our Branch operations plus expenses State SIR incurs in our behalf including insurance and taxes.

Please make your checks payable to: SIR BRANCH 4 and write "Dues" on your check's "Memo" line.

Mail your dues payment to:

Bill Gipe
2323 Galway Drive
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Deadline for dues payment is set for Thursday, February 29, 2024

Thanks for making 2023 a good one for SIRs! We enjoyed great meetings and interesting and fun activities in 2023. This wouldn't happen without a great work both visible and behind the scenes. This is the time to recognize and honor the SIRs who made this happen. **Volunteers: Plan and Conduct our Meetings** (Stu, Bill, Dave), **Arrange for our Great Lunches** and collect reservations (Bob and Paul), **Greet and Assist SIRs** coming to lunch (Dave, Bill, Elmer, Richard) , **Recruit interesting Speakers** (Al), Approve and **Track and Budget for Expenditures** required for our operations (Bob and George and the BEC), Record our Deliberations and Decisions (Bob and Jack), Conduct our **Monthly Drawings** (Rolf and Tony), Maintain our **Web Site** and contribute **Tech Support** (Jack and Paul), **Contribute Articles for our Foghorn** (Bill G., Dave, George, Jack and Tad), **Plan and Arrange** for our **Activities** (Bill G., Jack and Bill M., George, Charley and Roger), and **Advocate** in your behalf to State SIR (Stu and Bill). Lots of things done in your behalf, by a very small group. Several SIRs recycled into leadership because no one else is interested. Many officers and activity leaders keep leading year after year. Look over the list of SIRs above, their names and activities. The same names appear many times. We need more participation to keep our branch healthy. The most common reason SIR branches fold is lack of members willing to step up. Apologies if I overlooked someone.

Announcements and Information

As you read this, Little SIR Bill is busy finishing arrangements for our Holiday Event. He will be back for January's Foghorn with Attendance, Sunshine, and Birthday reports. Bill plans to recognize December's "boys" along with January's. **Bill's brief report:**

Birthdays. Branch 4 remembers the December birthdays of Peter Angelonides, Ernie Braun, Ming Chin, Gabriel Maldonado and Issac Meijia.

Membership. Membership total is 91 and 36 members & 1 guest attended November lunch.

Attendance. We had 37 SIRs in attendance for November. Again, we missed the company of Jerry Blumenthal. Best wishes to you, Jerry!

Area 13 Big/Little SIR

Roundtable. On November 24th Area 13 Big and Little SIRs gathered for their Quarterly Roundtable at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City (great choice). Your editor was invited to attend. Bill Gipe kindly provided the transportation.

We discussed common concerns for Branches; declining membership, less participation in activities as abilities

change (SIRs average age is now 80), and lack of interest in serving in leadership positions, one of the major reasons branches close.

In general, area 13 Branches are in good shape financially. Several grapple with how (and where) to operate Luncheon programs (rising costs, minimum lunch requirements, etc). One idea - pre-ordering hot and cold lunches for delivery to a meeting venue.

(Roundtable, continued) Another branch uses an “app” for members to order and pay for lunches. Branches are planning Holiday Parties. One branch uses profits from their Picnic to offset some Holiday costs.

Exchanging ideas was great and Andy Danvers is doing a great job filling Foster Kinney’s shoes.

As Dave Sees It,

Thirty-seven SIRs met at Basque Cultural Center for November’s luncheon. Big Sir Stu called the proceedings to order followed by my invocation, the “Pledge of Allegiance,” and our group’s rendition of “God Bless America.”

Announcements by Activity Chairs began with Jack reporting on golf events. Next was Bocce Ball Co-Chair Charley reporting on our Bocce games at Doelger Center and inviting interested players to join. George, “Walk for Health” leader, will cover the next event in January’s Foghorn. I made a strong “pitch” for our Holiday party and Chair, Bill, distributed registration forms. Tad described our Community Service food distribution activity, asked November participants to stand for recognition and solicited volunteers for our next distribution. Bill Gipe will lead a visit to the Pacific Pinball Museum; date TBD.

Drawings were led by Tony and Rolf. Tony’s ticket was drawn for first prize. Second winner was Jack. The Birthday “Free” lunch was won by George. Willie Uclusin won the “Geritol” vintage, while Peter won a “Free” lunch.

Speaker coordinator Al introduced Kathleen Mink of the VA who discussed benefits for Veterans. Many have heard about the PACT Act and are not sure whether care and benefits are affected. Kathleen encouraged Vets to check eligibility for benefits. An excellent and well received presentation.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year. Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024.

ACTIVITIES



Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and Bill McGee 415-806-4608. December 2023

A summary of the **local SIR golf rules** has been published is now available. Check the web site:
<http://branch4.sirinc2.org/golf.html>.

2023 Sharp Park Tournaments are scheduled for the **second Tuesday** of each month, starting at 0930. Check the website for the current schedules and past results. Signups and results will be emailed.

Results of the November 14th Sharp Park Match. - Match weather was just fine and conditions were good too. Most of the greens were in good shape (hole 16 looked like a carpet). Carts weren't a problem. Jose the starter was back too. Don't forget the breakfasts if you get there early. The bar is still lively with the denizens around, We had 16 players. Highlights: John Griffin had a 2 on par-3 #8. John Gehring had a 4 on par-5 #4. Multiple pars include Pat Stan (holes 8,15), Tony Maffei (holes 1,2,7,8,17), Don Appleton (holes 4,9,12,14), John Griffin (holes 6,7).

Next Sharp Park Tournament:
Tuesday, December 12th - first tee-off

is 0930. SIR members and their guests are invited. **Check in a half-hour before your tee time** inside the club house. Sharp Park fees are **\$30 - \$26** greens, and \$4 prize fund. Add a cart for \$20 for \$50. Breakfasts for \$13 are available per Kevin.

2023 The Remaining Poplar Creek Tournaments is 12/19 . These start at 1000 with a 40-player max. This year's contract is pay the green fee \$38, pro shop merchandise voucher fees (\$7), and optional cart fees (\$17.50 each and split a cart, \$25 singles), to the SIRs coordinator. Prize fund vouchers are for pro shop merchandise only. Check in 30 minutes prior to first tee time.

2024 Poplar Creek dates – Tuesdays
2/20, 4/16, 6/18, 8/27, 10/22, 12/17.

Results of the October 17th Poplar Creek match – see November's Foghorn.

Next Poplar Creek Tournament:
Tuesday December 19th - First tee-off is 1000.



Bocce Charley Leach 415-333-7277, Roger Kelly 650-346-9668: We meet at Doelger Senior Center Wednesdays between 1-3PM. Doelger Center is about 1/2 Mile North of Westlake Joe's. We don't meet first Wednesday of each month (SIRs Luncheon). Show up and get a game or two or maybe even 3. Beginners (very) welcome!

Bocce Report from Dave Nigel, November 8, 2023

On a beautiful fall afternoon 8 Bocce Ball competitors met, as they do 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays monthly at the Doelger Senior Center.

Players gather at 1:00 p.m and play commences. Branch 4 SIRs included Co-Chairmen Charley Leach and Roger Kelly who do a great job coordinating competition, creating teams, each having four players representing SF versus the Peninsula. In addition to the Co-Chairmen, regular players include Richard Soward, Pat Long, Bill Gipe, Jere Driscoll, Jerry Frayne, and David Nigel all enjoying exciting competition and camaraderie. We hope more SIRs will join the Bocce Ball games and look forward to many rematches in the future.

Feel free to join us as it is great fun. Interested? Contact Bocce Co-Chairs Charley Leach or Roger Kelly. They would love to include you in this fun-filled activity.

“Exceptional SIR Members”, by Dave Nigel,

Bob Calhoun joined Branch 4 in November, 2015 and currently serves on the Branch Executive Committee and as Branch Secretary. Bob is also an active golfer with our SIRS group.

Bob was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. When Bob was six months old his family moved to Long Island, New York during World War II and he grew up in Massapequa, New York.

Bob attended University of Rochester from 1960 to 1964, earning a BA in English literature. He served two years in the Peace Corps in Turkey and returned to attend Yale Law School, graduating in 1970. Upon graduating, he clerked for a U.S. District Court judge in New York before heading west to become an Alameda County Public Defender for 3 1/2 years.

Bob taught law at Hastings College of Law in SF for one year before joining the faculty of Golden Gate University Law School in 1975, teaching there until retiring in 2015. During Bob’s tenure, he received the “Outstanding Professor” Award by vote of graduating classes 14 times. Upon retirement, this prestigious award was named in his honor.

(Bob Calhoun, Continued) In 1986, Bob took a long-term leave from teaching to create and become the first Executive director of the First District Appellate Project, a private, non-profit corporation ensuring quality representation of indigent defendants on appeal in criminal, mental health, and dependency cases. In 2002, while a law professor, Bob created a summer program in International and Comparative Law as a combined program of Golden Gate Law School and Marmara University Law School in Istanbul. Bob and family spent the summer of 2002 living in Istanbul while he led the program.

Bob met Janet, in San Francisco in the early 1970's and they were married in 1980. One of their great joys is traveling together. Their third date was a hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon (and back up). They have two daughters, Erin and Hannah and three grandchildren, Tilly, Calhoun, and Douglas. While retired, Bob stays active, enjoying golf, travel, hikes with Janet, extended learning classes, more time for friends and family and membership on boards of directors, including SIRS, The First District Appellate Project, and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Branch 4 is so fortunate to count Bob as one of our fabulous leaders and members!

Want to Recognize a SIR, talk to Dave.



Branch 4's Community Service Volunteers. Tad Bogdan (tadbogdan@gmail.com, 650 863 8866). November's Foodbank event at Roosevelt @ 8th was well attended by Bob Richter, Paul Nocero, Jack Major, Bill McGee, Pam McGee, and Tad Bogdan. The weather was great and the recipients were very grateful. It was at a new location that had some chill time between spurts of activities. Jack Major may have recruited a new candidate for the SIR Esprit de Corps in the process.

Just in time to help fill Holiday tables with needed food — Here are the details for the upcoming December FoodBank event:

Wednesday, December 20 (Register by December 6).

10:30 AM - 1:15 PM

Location: James Denman @ Crocker Amazon

799 Moscow St, San Francisco, CA 94112

Email tadbogdan@gmail.com if you can participate.

Join the fun, invite friends and family — and fill your Karma Pool!

See You at our Holiday Lunch, December 6th and January Lunch, January 3rd!