



SIR Branch 4 Foghorn

	<p>SIR Branch 4</p> <p>Foghorn</p> <p>January 2024</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>

January 2024 Lunch. SIR Branch 4 will hold its next luncheon meeting January 3rd. at the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco. Lunch is served at 12 noon. The bar will be available at 11:30AM. Entre choices are:

1. Salmon
2. Chicken Cordon Bleu
3. Steak Haché
4. Penne Pasta

Cost will again be \$30.00.

Please respond if you will be attending no later than Tuesday, December 26th, so we can make plans with the restaurant. We also need to know your choice of entrée, above. You can respond directly to SIR Paul at SIRpaul@nocero.com, or by phone to 415-254-8175.

Respectfully submitted, SIR Paul Nocero

SIR's 2024 Annual Membership Drive. As of December 19th we have 44 Dues Paying Members for 2024. Great start! Bring yours to our January luncheon or mail them to:

Bill Gipe
2323 Galway Drive
South San Francisco, CA 94080

January's Speaker-Is being finalized.

Announcements and Information

December and January Birthdays all (to be recognized at January lunch.) We remember the December birthdays of Peter Angelonides, Ernie Braun, Ming Chin, Gabriel Maldonado and Issac Meijia. We celebrate January birthdays of Rich Fraher, Tim Hazen, Peter Klein, Pablo Magat, Richard Soward, Ray Steward, Wil Uclusin and Brian Weiss.

Sunshine Report. Branch 4 sends greetings to Jerry Blumenthal, Charley Leach, Dennis Meixner, and Joe Shasky

Membership and Attendance Report. Current membership is 91. The 2024 dues campaign has begun. Your annual \$25 dues help pay Branch expenses. 70 members and guests signed up for the SIR Holiday Party at Oyster Point. Thanks to all who made our holiday party successful and fun!

Branch 4 Remembers. Our SIR friends lost in 2023: Foster Kinney and Joe Sangiacomo.

New members. Welcome to Eugene Hom sponsored by Jeff Chinn. New members in 2023 included John Blankenship, David Barnett, John Griffin, and Tim Hazen. We welcome your interest and talents.

As Dave Sees It. Seventy SIRs and guests enjoyed a our Holiday Party at Oyster Point Yacht Club in South SF. Accolades to Chairman Bill Gipe and thanks John and Joanne McGlothlin for your organizational skills and place cards. At the gathering, thanks to Leslie Wilson and Lynn Williams for helping with decorations and at the registration table.

Big Sir Stu Ruth and Little Sir Bill Gipe warmly greeted all and set a festive tone. Our delicious meals were served with many positive comments regarding the quality of the food; topped off with scrumptious cream puff desserts.

Our accomplished entertainer, Marilyn Cooney, sang and played the keyboard for favorite and familiar Holiday songs, accompanied by the dancing of Clarita Lippincott. Those attending enthusiastically accompanied the singing. This was truly a lot of fun!

Drawings included: 2 tickets for future luncheons, a very special bottle of wine donated by Dan Herran. (won by Bob Richter), Holiday Chocolates donated by Bill Gipe (won by Norma Etzler), and a large container of pedigreed Walnuts donated by Stu Ruth. Sir Elmer Eckart won, guessing 279 walnuts.

Folks bringing gifts participated in our gift-exchange. Gifts on the table were beautifully decorated. Marilyn Cooney returned to the stage to lead a wonderful "Sing-a-long."

Bill Gipe concluded the party, again thanking all in attendance and especially all who worked for the success of this marvelous event. Bill wished everyone Happy Holidays, Good Health, and a joyous New Year!

ACTIVITIES



Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and Bill McGee 415-806-4608. January 2024.

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

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The **2024 Sharp Park Tournaments** are scheduled for the **second Tuesday** of the month, starting at 0930. Check the website for the current schedules and past results. Signups and results will be emailed.

Results of the December 12th Sharp Park match. - The weather was just fine and the conditions were good too. Most of the greens were in good shape, with some splotches on several greens, 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 15 players. Highlights: No birdies found. Multiple pars were Dave Ocampo (holes 2, 12, 15), Don Appleton (holes 8, 12, 18), Tad Bogdan (holes 8, 15, 17), Pat Stan (holes 3, 5), George Bacigalupi (holes 12,13), Ray Stevens (holes 8, 13), Paulie Walsh (holes 8, 12, 17, Mike Abeyta (2, 3, 7, 9, 12), Wil Uclusin (holes 8, 10), Jack

Major (holes 8, 16). Check the website for details.

Next Sharp Park Tournament: Tuesday, January 9th - 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.

The **2024 Poplar Creek Tournaments** are starting in February are Tuesdays 2/20, 4/16, 6/18, 8/27, 10/22, and 12/17. These start at 1000 with a 24-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. The prize fund vouchers are for pro shop merchandise only. Check in 30 minutes prior to first tee time.

Poplar Creek Tournament: Tuesday December 19th - First tee-off is 1000. Results were too late for the Foghorn. Details in next edition.



Walk for Health, George Suter 415-314-6768. Stay tuned for information and George's usual thorough instructions.



Local tours, Bill Gipe (650-878-5746). In 2023 Branch 4 resumed local tours with the Oracle Park tour and a visit to the Pacific Pinball Museum in Alameda. Another visit was to the Blackhawk Museum in Danville. Any suggestions for 2024 local tours? Look for details to follow and your ideas are welcome. Sign-up sheet is at the lunch or call 650-878-5746.



•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, by David Nigel, December 13, 2023

One week following our enjoyable Holiday Party , Bocce Ball enthusiasts gathered and played at the Doelger Center during the final week of autumn. On this beautiful December afternoon, five Bocce Ball competitors met, as they do the second, third, and fourth Wednesday of each month and Pat Long and Jere Driscoll demonstrated their outstanding skills and good luck, placing their Bocce Balls adjacent to the white "Polina". Racking up huge scores, they were unbeatable! Bill Gipe, Jerry Frayne, David Nigel and the forementioned Jere Driscoll and Pat Long were all in attendance. We look forward to many rematches and great camaraderie in the future.



Branch 4's Community Service Volunteers. Tad Bogdan (tadbogdan@gmail.com, 650 863 8866). Branch 4 Community Service Volunteers- Bill McGee (TDY) while Tad undergoes foot surgery (wcmcgee@pacbell.net, 415-806-4608). In December, SIRs community service volunteers helped at the SF Marin Food Bank Pop-Up Pantry at Crocker Amazon Park. Bob Richter, Paul Nocero, Jack Major and Tad Bogdan braved the forecast for rain - clouds parted and the sun came out during their shift - to distribute fresh food and other needed groceries to recipients who were full of holiday cheer!

Volunteer spots at the most popular locations fill up quickly so we wanted to make everyone aware of opportunities in both January and February:

Tuesday, Jan 30, 10:30a - 1:15p (5 remaining slots)
Roosevelt @ St. Dominic's | 2390 Bush St, San Francisco, CA 94115

Thursday, Feb 22, 10:30a - 1:15p (7 remaining slots)
North Beach @ Joe DiMaggio Playground | 750 Greenwich St, San Francisco, CA 94133

Email wcmcgee@pacbell.net if you can participate. Join the fun, invite friends and family — and fill your Karma Pool!

“Exceptional SIR Members”, by Dave Nigel,

Charley Leach joined Branch 4 in 2001, and currently Co-Chairs and coordinates our Bocce games. Charley is a native San Franciscan, living at five different places in the City, settling into the 5th in 1970 and staying there ever since. Charley had 3 siblings 2 younger brothers and one sister who passed away.

Charlie’s extensive education career includes Associate (CCSF), Bachelor (Cal) and Master’s (SF State) Degrees plus his Teaching Credential. He also completed the 5-year program required for recognition as a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU). Charley served 3 years in the US Navy, seeing the world and witnessing H-Bomb tests.

Charlie’s professional career spanned Education and the Insurance Industry. Charlie taught in Elementary School and included stints as a Driver’s Ed teacher, Track and Basketball Coach, and Summer School Principal. As part of Fireman’s Fund, Charley specialized in Workers Compensation Audits.

As a dedicated traveler Charley (with Rosemary his wife of 57 years) has visited all fifty States as well as many continents, ran with (from?) the Bulls in Pampalona (survived in one piece!). In addition to Bulls, Charlie’s love of sports brought him to the Bay-To-Breakers (12 times with finishes of a little over an hour), 64 years of Olympic Club Handball, “All-City” in the High Jump, 30’s basketball, Tennis, Pickleball, and of course Bocce!

Proud of his association with St. Ignatius High (the “old school” on Stanyan), Charley has volunteered as class representative for almost 25 years. He also served his neighbors as Westwood Highlands HOA Vice President for 20 years.

Charley is a dedicated and active SIR member. A force behind our successful Bocce activity!

Want to Recognize a SIR, talk to Dave.

A Word (Words?) about Activities and Dues. Our Branch has many unsung heroes. An important group arranges for and leads our Activities. This involves planning, scheduling, answering questions, collecting money, and arranging. Show your appreciation by participating. Consider helping plan and organize activities. Once Branch 4 offered a greater selection. As SIRs left and abilities changed, several activities stopped due to declining interest. Tad Bogdan proved it is possible to launch a new activity with our outreach at the Foodbank, Bill McGee assisting. PR man Dave Nigel is the “Sam Singer” of Bocce putting the right spin on the ball. Have ideas? Discuss them with Big SIR Stu, or Little SIR Bill, or your board members. They would love to hear from you!

Start 2024 by paying your Dues. In addition to SIR Annual Dues, SIR Golfers need to pay 2024 NCGA Dues. Both come with bonuses! Your SIR Dues give you access to Luncheon Meetings,

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our Holiday Extravaganza, and our spellbinding Foghorn. Golf Dues give you access to NCGA benefits including their handicap system, Branch Tournaments and NCGA member discounts.

Some words from Jack about Golf. Time to renew your 2024 NCGA dues. Dues were due by December 15th so, if you haven't paid send your check to:

Jack Major
109 Idora Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94127
415-412-6654 cell

NCGA Dues. (Check or Paypal only) are \$39 payable by check made out to "SIR Area 4 Golf" or PayPal (see below) New signups or late payments will be \$49. Let Jack know if you want to drop off the list.

PayPal Info: Sign into your PayPal account and send the payment to jemajor@pacbell.net . On the page where you enter the amount, if the page says, "Paying for an item or service", change it to "Sending to a friend". Enter a note explaining what you're paying for, i.e. NCGA 2024 dues.

And, some words in behalf of Bill and Dave about SIR Dues.

Due by the end of February. Why are Bill and Dave collecting now? January 1st is fast approaching and some of us procrastinate. We use your dues to run our Branch, small overages in luncheon costs so we can vary the menu, desserts, round down luncheon costs, the free lunches we provide to lucky monthly winners, complimentary lunches for speakers and the guests you bring to our lunches. A small amount goes to State SIR to pay for things they provide such as Liability Insurance, Tax Preparation, and the software we use

for our Web Sites. Nobody at State SIR gets paid!

We need to know how many members we are going to have for 2024 so we can develop our budget (thank you Bob Golton!). Since our average attendance works out to 40-50% of paid members we can work with the restaurant for arrangements.

In short, your dues keep us in business. You can help SIRs Bill Gipe and Dave Nigel by paying promptly. You'll join over 44 SIRs who have already paid for 2024, a great start!

Bring yours to our January luncheon or mail them to:

Bill Gipe
2323 Galway Drive
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Happy New Year to all! See you at the January 3rd Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center!