



SIR Branch 4 Foghorn

	<p style="text-align: center;">SIR Branch 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Foghorn</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 2024</p>	
<p>Big SIR-Stuart Ruth</p>	<p>Little SIR-Bill Gipe</p>	<p>God Bless Our USA</p>
<p>Secretary-Bob Calhoun Asst. Secretary-Jack Major</p>	<p>Foghorn Editor John McGlothlin</p>	<p>Treasurer-Bob Golton Asst. Treasurer-George Fenech</p>

February 2024 Lunch. SIR Branch 4 will hold its next luncheon meeting February 7th. 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. Entree choices are:

1. White Fish
2. Breast of Chicken
3. Veal Stew
4. Eggplant Parmigiana

Cost will again be \$30.00.

Please respond if you will be attending no later than Tuesday January 30th, so we can make plans with the restaurant. We also need to know your choice of entrée, above. You can respond directly to 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 January 20th we have 70 Dues Paying Members for 2024. Great start! Bring yours to our February luncheon or mail them to:

Bill Gipe
2323 Galway Drive
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Announcements and Information

Birthdays. Branch 4 salutes February birthdays for George Bacigalupi, John McGlothlin, Flor Mendoza, David Nigel, and Paul Nocero.

Sunshine List. Branch 4 sends greetings to Bob Arata, Tad Bogdan, Jerry Blumenthal, Dennis Meixner and Joe Shasky.

Membership & Attendance. Branch 4 membership dues campaign for 2024 continues through February. Thanks to the 70 members who paid their 2024 dues (total through January 20th). Our January lunch attendance was 34 members.

New Members. Branch 4 welcomes new members Mike Chapman, a retired SFFD Fireman, and Eugene Hom, retired SF Public Works construction inspector. Mike attended our Holiday Party and Eugene was sponsored by Jeff Chinn.

As Dave Sees It... Our first 2024 Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center was attended by 34 Branch 4 SIRs. Big Sir Stu called us to order followed by Dave Nigel's invocation, leading the "Pledge of Allegiance," and our group's chorus of "God Bless America."

Activity updates began with Jack Major reporting on upcoming golf events for our most popular and well attended activity. Jack and Bill do an outstanding job coordinating. George Suter, our "Walk for Health" leader publicizes our events in the Foghorn and looks for ideas from us. David saluted Holiday Party Chairman Bill Gipe for organizing and carrying out our Holiday party. David also extended accolades to all who worked hard contributing to the success of this event. Those in attendance added their compliments.

In the absence of Tad Bogdan, David reported on the food distribution activity and requested those

interested in participating in January's distribution use the sign-up sheet provided. Next, David talked about our 2024 Membership Dues campaign - off to a great beginning with 70 paid-up SIRs rejoining our Branch.

Croupiers Tony and Rolf were unable to attend and there was no drawing. George Suter introduced December and January "Birthday Boys," and new member, Mike Chapman won the free lunch ticket. Rich Fraher won the drawing for the "Geritol". Next came our delicious lunch.

SIR Al Herpe introduced speaker John McGlothlin who gave a talk about "Age-Friendly Communities". Topping off our meal, Alfred Herpe provided glazed donut holes.

Big Sir Stu concluded our meeting wishing everyone a wonderful Happy New Year. Our next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7th, 2024.

ACTIVITIES



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

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

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 January 9th Sharp Park match. – The match was canceled due to rain, The course was real soaked out towards the berm (holes 14 thru 17) due to the high waves washing over Clarendon Rd at the north end earlier in the year.

Next Sharp Park Tournament: Tuesday, February 13th - first tee-off is

Results of the December 19th Poplar Creek match – cancelled due to rain that day.

Next Poplar Creek Tournament: Tuesday February 20th - First tee-off is 1000.



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). Local tours are ready to start again. Please leave your tour suggestions on the Badge Table clipboard. Future tours could include the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos, the Google Visitor Center in Mountain View, or the Computer History Museum's "Mac at 40" exhibit (through Feb) in Mountain View. Maybe a return visit to the Pacific Pinball Museum in Alameda? Look for a clipboard at Badge Table or call 650-878-5746 with a message.



•**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 2 or maybe even 3. Beginners (very) welcome!

Bocce Report, by David Nigel, January 17, 2024

Following four weeks not being able to play Bocce Ball due to rainy conditions, six players gathered on an absolutely gorgeous January day to compete. The players were thrilled to greet a new member, Tim Hazen, as he joined Bocce Ball Co-Chairmen, Charley Leach and Roger Kelly. Others in attendance included Pat Long, Richard Soward, and David Nigel. Competition was very close, fun-filled, and topped by a lot of camaraderie.

Bocce Ball is played the second, third, and fourth Wednesday of each month. The players gather at 1:00 p.m. and play commences.

All played well, however, Richard Soward enjoyed an exceptionally good day demonstrating great skill and making key shots. Richard seemed to have a strong relationship with the white ball thrown first called the "Pallino." The players alternate taking shots, attempting to place their ball as close to the Pallino as possible to score points. Twelve points wins the game!

It is hoped that more SIR members will join the Bocce Ball Teams that meets every Wednesday from 1-3PM except first Wednesdays of each month when we gather for our luncheon meetings. We look forward to many rematches in the future.

Feel free to join this activity for a lot of fun. If interested, contact Co-Chairmen Charley Leach or Roger Kelly who would be so happy to include you in our fun-filled activity.

Exceptional SIR Members, by Dave Nigel. SIR Alfred “Al” Herpe was born in 1939 in Shanghai, China after his family escaped from Nazi Germany. Following World War II, the Herpe family journey continued to San Francisco, arriving July 4, 1947. Alfred attended Francis Scott Key Elementary School, A. P. Giannini Middle School, Lincoln High School, and John O’Connell Technical High School where Alfred qualified as a typewriter and office machine mechanic. One of his first jobs was working with his father at Langendorf Bakery. In 1967, Alfred married his high school sweetheart Myra. They have two sons and one daughter and enjoy their two grandsons.

Al began his Naval career stationed at Hunter’s Point shipyard and then Treasure Island. His military occupation specialty (MOS) was Boiler Repairman. After seven years in the Navy, Alfred joined the Army for two years followed by eleven more years as an Army Reservist. His total of 20 years of active and reserve service earned Alfred his military pension.

Alfred’s post active-duty career started with PG&E working at the SF Power Plant, the one with the huge smokestacks along San Francisco Bay. Next, he worked at the City of SF’s Water Treatment Plant followed by 27 years at Mary’s Help Hospital as a “Building-Station Engineer” rising to Chief Engineer.

Upon retiring Alfred became an active volunteer, first at Fort Miley V Hospital driving patients and next, as a docent on Alcatraz. Alfred takes great pride in his active involvement with the SS Jeremiah O’Brien; one of two remaining fully functional Liberty Ships of 2,710 built during World War II. Al hosted our SIR event onboard the O’Brien.

We are fortunate to have had Alfred as a dedicated and active member of Branch 4 since 2001. Alfred is key to securing outstanding and varied speakers for our monthly Luncheons and serves as a Branch Director. Each month Alfred supplies our luncheon desserts, the key to a happy ending! ***Want to Recognize a SIR, talk to Dave.***

Words from Bill and Dave about SIR Dues. Our 2024 Membership Campaign began December 7th. Annual dues are \$25 (\$2.08 per month) and funds our operating expenses. The Membership Committee is very grateful to the 69 SIRs who have paid their annual Dues.

Please write checks payable to: SIR Branch 4 and write “Dues” on your check’s “Memo” line. Bring yours to our February Luncheon, or Mail your dues payment to:

Bill Gipe
2323 Galway Drive
South San Francisco, CA 94080

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

Branch 4's Community Service Volunteers. Tad Bogdan

(tadbogdan@gmail.com, 650 863 8866) - Bill McGee (TDY) while Tad undergoes foot surgery (wcmcgee@pacbell.net, 415-806-4608).

The first community service event of 2024 will be held on Tuesday, January 30th at St. Dominic's in San Francisco. There are still a couple of slots remaining so please let Bill McGee know if you're interested in joining him,

his wife Pam and father-in-law David Barnett, Jack Major, Paul Walsh and Paul Nocero, details below. There are still plenty of slots available for the February event.

Tuesday, Jan 30, 10:30a - 1:15p (2 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!

Quarterly SIR Area 13 Meeting. On November 24th, Bill Gipe and your Editor met with Acting Area Director Andy Danvers who is very capably filling the shoes of Foster Kinney. There was an interchange of ideas between Big and Little SIRs in attendance, similar to the meetings I attended in 2016 and 2017.

Some demographics. Branch size 31-304, Luncheon attendance 14-115, Average age 80+, Dues \$25-\$60, Lunch \$15-\$35, Reserves \$2,600-\$10,300+. Branch 4 was in the middle; our Dues were the lowest.

We discussed challenges. Most common is getting members to participate in leadership and take on responsibilities. One Branch had an active rewards program for members "doing their part" (gift cards). Several branches had to change lunch venues – service and cost issues. Branches discussed small deficits for the Holiday Lunches, one mentioned using the surplus from their Picnic to subsidize the Holiday event. Andy discussed statewide issues with branches closing—a major reason was no one willing to step into leadership. Area 13 Branches share problems filling Big/Little SIR positions.

Our February Speaker- Al Herpe is working on this. Please talk to Al if you have ideas.



See you at the February 7th Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center!

