

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;">January 2025</p>	
<p>Big SIR-Stuart Ruth</p>	<p>God Bless our USA</p>	<p>Little SIR-Bill Gipe</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>

January 8th Luncheon. Branch 4 will hold its next luncheon meeting on Wednesday, January 8th, at the Basque Cultural Center, [599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco](#). We hope to see you there. Please note our luncheon is the second Wednesday, January 8th (the first Wednesday is New Year's Day).

Lunch will be served at 12 noon and the bar will be available at 11:30AM. Menu choices are:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. White Fish | 2. Steak Haché |
| 3. Pork Chops | 4. Eggplant Parmigiana |

Cost will again be \$30.00.

Please respond if you will be attending no later than next Tuesday, December 31st, so we can make plans with the restaurant (late responses will still be accepted but not preferred). We need to know if you plan on attending AND your choice of entrée, above. You can respond directly to me at SIRpaul@nocero.com, or by phone to 415-254-8175.

Important: It's time to collect our \$30 annual dues for next year. Please pick up a due's envelope at the sign-in table if you haven't done so already.

January's Speaker (Contact Alfred Herpe 650-992-3344) – **Elton Bandayrel**, Certified Massage Therapist. Time to get those kinks out! Hint for February, get those (belly) dancing shoes out!

Announcements and Information, Bill Gipe

Branch 4 remembers. Branch 4 remembers three SIR members we lost in 2024; Bob Eshoo, David Donnelly and Joe Shasky.

SIR Birthdays. Branch 4 commemorates January birthdays for Rich Fraher, Tim Hazen, Peter Klein, Bill Lippincott, Donald Ray, Richard Soward, Ray Steward, Wil Uclusin, and Brian Weiss. We also salute December birthdays for Peter Angelonides, David Barnett, Eugene Hom, Gabe Maldonado, and Tony Quarto.

Sunshine List. Branch 4 sends greetings to Sunshine List members Jerry Blumenthal, Dan Machado, Ken Reed and Dan Quigg. Added to our list is Ron Appel, Ron would like to hear from his fellow SIRs. Our other “sunshiners” would also appreciate a note or phone call.

Branch 4 Membership & Lunch Attendance. Lunch attendance in November was 34. In December 64 members & guests attended our Holiday Lunch. Paid dues membership for 2025 totals 57 as of mid-December. Reminder: the 2025 dues campaign continues until February. Your \$30 annual dues help fund SIR obligations, such as insurance.

New members. New members welcomed in 2024 included Mike Chapman, William Dyer, Eugene Hom and Herman Ng. Thank you for joining SIR Branch 4.

As Dave Sees It..., by Dave Nigel. Our annual SIR Holiday Party was a resounding success. Sixty-four SIR members, their wives, and guests enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of socializing, fun, camaraderie, fabulous music, and delicious food prepared by Dominic’s.

The Oyster Point Yacht Club was beautifully decorated with holiday decor and was the site for our event for the third year in a row. Kudos are extended to Event Chairman Bill Gipe who took care of countless details and set-up as resulting in a wonderful gathering. Many thanks also to John and Joanne for place cards with meal selections, and programs. Set-up began at 11:00 as Bill and helpers decorated tables with baskets of holiday candies, song sheets, and miniature Christmas Trees.

Guests began arriving at 11:30, mingled and chatted together, and purchased bar drinks. At noon, Bill Gipe greeted everyone, and the meals as ordered were served, topped-off by a rich and scrumptious chocolate cake and coffee.

Big Sir Stu Ruth kicked off the program. Marilyn Cooney sang a medley of holiday songs enjoyed by all. SIR Bill Lippincott’s wife added to the festivities by beautifully dancing to the music. Next, John McGlothlin described our “Geritol” prize (see December’s Foghorn for description). Winner of the “Free” lunch was John McGlothlin. Next, Stu announced the winner of the Pistachio nuts guessing contest; Luisa, guest of Sir Sandy Halasz! Luisa will be eating nuts for some time. The party concluded with Marilyn leading group singing and Bill wishing all Happy Holidays and a Happy 2025!

ACTIVITIES



Local SIR Tours, Bill Gipe (650-878-5746). Branch 4 local tours should resume with a return visit to the Pacific Pinball Museum in February. Check the next Foghorn for details.



Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and Bill McGee 415-806-4608. January 2025. 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 **2025 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 10th Sharp Park match: The sunny weather was cold to start but warmed up later on. The course was well watered, with several fairways carpet-like, and greens were in nice shape. Looks like rain may be coming for January. We had 17 players with 3 guests - Tony Maffai and Will Growney with George Bacigalupi, and Robert Finley with Richard Nishiki-Finley. Highlights: Birdies: Don Appleton on par-3 #8 and Richard Nishiki-Finley on par-3 #8. Will said he made a par putt on #12, well over 20 feet. The results were emailed and are available on the website.

Next Sharp Park Tournament:
Tuesday, January 14th – 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 **\$35 - \$26** greens, and \$9 prize fund. Add a cart for \$25 for **\$60**. Breakfasts are available per Kevin.

The **2025 Poplar Creek Tournaments** starting in February are Tuesdays 2/18, 4/15, 6/17, 8/20 (will change due to aerating) 10/21, and 12/16. 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. Prize fund vouchers are for pro shop merchandise only. Check in 30 minutes prior to first tee time.

Results of the Poplar Creek Tournament: Tuesday December 17th. Tournament cancelled – rained out night before.

Next Poplar Creek Tournament:
February 18th 2025.



Bocce. Charley Leach 415-333-7277, Roger Kelly 650-346-9668: We meet at Doelger Center Wednesdays 1-3PM. Doelger Center is about 1/4 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 are (always) welcome!

Bocce Report, by David Nigel. December 11, 2024

Good fortune allowed our Bocce Ball players to meet and compete between heavy rainstorms. Players met at the Doelger Senior Center in Daly City to enjoy lots of fun and good competition.

Our Co-Chairmen, Charlie Leach and Roger Kelly, missed the games. The games began at 1:00 with teams including SIR Pat Long, Bill Gipe, Jere Driscoll, Tim Hazen, and Dave Nigel. Players rotated teams that engaged in close, exciting and fun competitions.

SIR Bocce Ball players enjoy gatherings and exciting competitions Wednesday afternoons, meeting the second, third, and fourth Wednesdays at the Doelger Center. Players sit in the garden area prior to beginning play to share stories and enjoy many wonderful friendships and developed from our turnouts.

We hope more SIR members will join our Bocce Teams. Co-Chairmen Charley Leach and Roger Kelly extend an invitation for those interested to join this wonderful activity.

Branch 4's Community Service Volunteers. Tad Bogdan

(tadbogdan@gmail.com, 650 863 8866) and Bill McGee (wcmcgee@pacbell.net, 415-806-4608).

At the December 20 Food Bank pop-up at Stonestown, Santa was disguised as Paul Walsh, Bob Richter, Paul Nocero, Jack Major, and Tad Bogdan (a line-up?). We had a fun time rockin to lively music and telling jokes — while handing out food to needy families for the holidays. The families really appreciated our contributions of time and good cheer.

January's event is scheduled for:
Wednesday, January 29th from 10:30 AM - 1:15 PM
Rosa Parks @ Glad Tidings
1280 Webster St
San Francisco, CA 94115

Please contact Tad Bogdan tadbogdan@gmail.com or 650 863 8866 if you would like to join the fun and add to your Karma Pool

Geritol for January, J. Dusi Vineyards, "Model M", Paso Robles, Red Blend.

Dusi is a famous vineyard sought after for grand Zinfandels by Ridge Vineyards and Turley Cellars, among others. They've started making their own wines and this is a blend of 4 varieties from the Estate Vineyards; Zinfandel plus three others. Full-bodied, with lots of fruit and a good value at \$12.99, about 1/3 of what Ridge and Turley charge.

Speaking of Geritol, your editor found out there was a real Santa Claus when Joanne went up to select from the Holiday Gift exchange. Only one item left to choose from AND, what an item! Upon unwrapping I found a bottle of B Wise, Moon Mountain Cabernet blend. From one of the best vineyards areas in our state, made famous by Hanzell and Louis Martini. What a delight! Yup, I do believe in Santa!

“An Exceptional SIR”, by Dave Nigel.

Sir Peter Aiello joined SIR Branch #4 in August 2002. Peter was born in Corona, Queens, New York City and moved to San Francisco in 1948 when he was 6 years old. When the family arrived in the “City by the Bay,” they weren’t strangers because many of his family’s relatives and countrymen had moved to San Francisco long before their arrival.

Peter’s parents were both born in Sicily and his first language was Sicilian. Living in North Beach with Italians from different parts of Italy, he heard and learned a lot of the Italian that was spoken in North Beach. Peter attended Saints Peter & Paul School, followed by Sacred Heart High School, and the University of San Francisco.

Around 1962, Peter met his life-long friend SIR Peter Klein when both worked at Pacific Gas & Electric. Both worked in the same department for a few years and Peter retired from PG&E in 1996.

Peter loves taking trips and traveled to many places including Sicily where he has many relatives who remained there. Peter published a book on Biblical Higher Power Spirituality for Inner Peace and Strength in 2011, a subject that has been his primary interest since he was thirty-one years of age.

Peter Aiello has been an active SIR and enjoys our luncheon meetings while sitting next to his friend SIR Peter Klein.

Want to Recognize a SIR, talk to Dave Nigel

Help Wanted! In the December Foghorn, we asked for volunteers to MC our Birthday Boys celebration each month. We’re still looking... See Bill or Stu! We are dependent on volunteers to step up as leaders to Chair Activities, Make decisions on behalf of our members, participate in Board Meetings, etc. We need new viewpoints. Talk to our Big and Little SIR, our Officers, or our Directors if you would like information!

SIR News

Branch Advisory Council. John McGlothlin is our representative on the State President’s Branch Advisory Council. The Council met (Via Zoom) on December 13th and the following items were discussed.

1. **Modification of State Policy 31** to help address delays in providing documentation needed for tax and regulatory agency reporting (i.e. Branch Officers and Directors). There was little interest in fining branches and more concern about educating branch officers regarding requirements coupled with more training on using Web applications correctly (continued page 6).

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2. **Governance of SIR** was discussed and the President underscored statewide. SIR has a single mission and vision and provides local branches discretion on how to accomplish the mission. Think of SIR as a “holding company”.
3. **Changing Branch Leader Titles** from Big and Little SIR to President and Vice President (as is common in other organizations). The consensus was this required more study and feedback, including considering the cost of making a change. Meanwhile Branches will have flexibility regarding the titles they want to use.
4. **Changing Our Organization's name from SIR** to one possibly more aligned to our goals. There was consensus the SIR name was valuable and should be retained, supported by new slogans or bylines.
5. **Changing local titles from Branch to Chapter** was discussed and consensus was to avoid the associated expenses for a name change (i.e updating incorporation documents and refiling them) and continue to refer to us as Branches.
6. Finally, we discussed the need for refresher training regarding emergency procedures at our lunch venues, including availability of automatic defibrillators (AED's), and instructions for use. The BEC will be discussing this.

See you on January 8th 2025!

