

SIR Branch 4 Foghorn

	<p>SIR Branch 4</p> <p>Foghorn</p> <p>February 2025</p>	
<p>Big SIR-Stuart Ruth Secretary-Bob Calhoun Asst. Secretary-Jack Major</p>	<p>God Bless our USA Foghorn Editor John McGlothlin</p>	<p>Little SIR-Bill Gipe Treasurer-Bob Golton Asst. Treasurer-George Fenech</p>

February 5th Luncheon. SIR Branch 4 will hold its next luncheon meeting on Wednesday, February 5th, at the Basque Cultural Center, [599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco](#). We hope to see you there.

Lunch will be served at 12 noon. The bar will be available at 11:30AM. The menu choices are:

1. Salmon
2. Chicken Cordon Bleu
3. Veal Stew
4. Mushroom Omelette

Cost will again be \$30.00.

Please respond if you will be attending no later than Tuesday, January 28th 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 to this email, respond directly to Paul 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 dues envelope at the sign-in table if you haven't done so already.

February's Speaker (Contact Alfred Herpe 650-992-3344) – Susan, from Al-Masri Egyptian Cuisine to enlighten us on the art of Belly Dancing as featured at the Restaurant.

Announcements and Information, Bill Gipe

Branch 4 remembers. Branch 4 honors the memory of second-generation SIR member Ron Appel and retired SIR Ted Wright.

SIR Birthdays. Branch 4 celebrates February birthdays of George Bacigalupi, John McGlothlin, Flor Mendoza, David Nigel, and Paul Nocero. Thanks to Herman Ng for continuing birthday greetings & drawings at our lunches and to George Suter for his time greeting "the birthday boys".

Sunshine List. Greetings to Jerry Blumenthal, Dan Machado, Bob Pardini, Ken Reed, and Dan Quigg.

Branch 4 Membership & Lunch Attendance. Membership total 69 (current member renewals). Lunch attendance 34 (Jan.8)

New Member. Branch 4 welcomed Ramon Canova of South San Francisco at our January lunch.

Reminder: please pay SIR branch dues by March 30th. Your \$30 annual dues enable Branch 4 to meet obligations and expenses.

As Dave Sees It..., by Dave Nigel. We began 2025 with our luncheon meeting at the Basque Cultural Center on January 8th with 34 SIRs in attendance. Big SIR Stu Ruth, called our meeting to order calling upon me to greet everyone, honor the passing of member Ron Appel, give the invocation, conduct the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, and lead singing of God Bless America.

Stu called upon activities chairs for announcements. Golf Chair Jack Major provided tournament updates, Bocce Co-Chair Charley Leach invited members to join in the weekly fun, Local Tours Chair Bill Gipe discussed our planned excursion to the Pinball Museum. Bill Gipe also introduced two new members: Herman Ng and Ramon Canova. A drawing for a box of special cookies was awarded to Dan Herran. Our 2025 Membership campaign is approaching the March conclusion. Bill and I reported we are off to a great start with 69 members paying their dues so far.

Tony and Rolf called out winning tickets for Bruce Barichievich and Willie Uclusin. Our "Free Lunch" drawing winner was Charlie Hoenisch. John McGlothlin described our "Geritol" prize for January (see the Foghorn for more information). The "Geritol" winner was George Fenech. Bill Gipe introduced our "birthday boys" for December and January followed by singing "Happy Birthday" and the "birthday boy's" responses. Birthday boy Rich Fraher won a free lunch. Since George Suter stepped down Little SIR Bill asked for a volunteer to take over birthday celebrations and, much to our joy, new member, Herman Ng came forward.

Four entrees were enjoyed and all attending were treated to a dessert of doughnut holes and chocolate donuts picked up by Alfred Herpe. Our speaker, Elton Brandayrel, certified massage therapist, was introduced by Speaker Chair, Alfred Herpe and provided a comprehensive presentation on methods of massage therapy with the slogan: "Time to get those kinks out!" Elton specializes in medical Massage Therapy. After answering questions, Elton gave out free massage certificates to interested SIRs.

Next regular meeting will be Wednesday, February 5th, at the Basque Cultural Center.

ACTIVITIES



Local SIR Tours, Bill Gipe (650-878-5746). SIR Local Tour returns to Alameda and the Pacific Pinball Museum in February. Suggested dates are Thursday Feb. 20 or Feb. 27. Sign-up sheet will be at the Badge Table or phone 650-878-5746. Thank you.



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 January 14th Sharp Park match: The sunny weather was cold to start but warmed up later. The course was somewhat wet, with holes #6 and #10 soggy and cart-path-only. We had 16 players with no guests. Scores were quite high, with 9 players above 110. Highlights: Birdies: Mike Abeyta on par-5 hole #18, and that's it. The results were emailed and are available on the website.

Next Sharp Park Tournament: Tuesday, February 11th – 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-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 17thth. 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. January 15. 2024

Following a hiatus of five weeks of not being able to compete for a variety of reasons, our regular Bocce players reunited January 15th on a gorgeous day at Doelger Senior Center.

Prior to gameplay, we gather at a patio table to share stories and adventures. Especially interesting was Co-Chair, Charley Leach and his wife Rosemary's description of vacationing in Africa and Dubai with adventures in two diverse locales. Co-Chair Roger Kelly described travels in Spain where he and his wife Nancy enjoyed tours of Barcelona and Madrid, followed by two weeks renting an apartment in Alicante, a port city on Spain's southeastern coast and

two weeks touring Casablanca and throughout Morocco.

Bocce play began at 1:00 pm with teams including Pat Long, Bill Gipe, Tim Hazen, Charley Leach, Roger Kelly, and Dave Nigel. Players rotated teams and engaged in close, exciting matches that were competitive and fun.

Branch 4 Bocce players enjoy continuing gatherings and exciting competition Wednesday afternoons on the second, third, and fourth Wednesdays of each month at Doelger Center's court. We hope more SIRs join our Bocce Ball Teams.

Geritol for February

Something new for February, a white wine for a change. Story Winery, 2023, Shenandoah Valley, Chenin Blanc. In the 1960's and 1970's Chenin Blanc was very popular. Wineries were looking for "varietal" grapes to sell and there was a lot grown in Napa and Sonoma; from dry, to slightly sweet and very pleasant. Then wineries found out they could grow it in the central valley and fill larger bottles capitalizing on the varietal name, so-called "fighting varietals". So much for the reputation of a variety renowned for flavor in France. Like several other grapes, Chenin Blanc is making a comeback, produced by smaller wineries from grapes harvested in cooler vineyards. The Chronicle's excellent wine writer, Esther Mobley, profiled one example (at \$90!) from a Napa Grower. The one you have a chance to win costs a lot less (\$18.99) with nice flavors and lots of fruit. Enjoy!

Help (Still) Wanted! In the December Foghorn, we asked for volunteers to MC our Birthday Boys celebration each month. After Little SIR mentioned our need again at our Luncheon, SIR Herman Ng came forward! We are still looking for volunteers to help lead our all-volunteer organization. We are dependent on volunteers to coordinate activities (and bring new ones to life), make decisions on in the interest of our members, participate in Board Meetings, etc. We need new viewpoints! Talk to Big Sir Stu or Little SIR Bill, our Officers, or our directors if you would like information!

Branch 4's Community Service Volunteers. Tad Bogdan

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

The Branch 4 Community Service volunteer team made a lot of hungry families happy helping provide much needed food for their tables last year. The Foodbank Pop-up program is scheduled to end in June 2025 due to reduced funding, so we will only be able to volunteer for pop-up events until then. After that, we'll look for other volunteer opportunities (we'll be soliciting recommendations). There is also a FoodBank matching gift program through January 31 if you would like to donate at www.sfmfoodbank.org.

Upcoming SIR Branch 4 SF-Marin Food Bank opportunities:

January Shift: Rosa Parks @ Glad Tidings

Date and Time: Wed. Jan 29, 2025 @ 8:30am to 11:00am

Location: 1280 Webster St, San Francisco, CA 94115

February Shift: (desired location not available for the whole team)

March Shift: Stonestown

Date and Time: Fri. Mar 7, 2025 @ 10:30am -1:15pm

Location: 501 Buckingham Way, San Francisco, CA 94132

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.

SIR News

Branch Advisory Council. John McGlothlin is our representative on the State President's Branch Advisory Council. The Council met (Via Zoom) on January 10th and discussed the following:

1. "Groupers" Membership Opportunities for SIRs. SIR has been approached by Element3Health to offer members an opportunity to sign up with "Grouper" and receive incentives for participating in activities, including existing SIR activities. The goal is to promote participation. To receive incentives your insurer must be signed up with Grouper. Our group asked, "which insurance plans are signed up and we tabled discussion until we could be provided this information. IF SIR elected to participate, each branch would be given the opportunity to ask their members to sign up. This COULD offer benefits to SIR but much more information is needed to discuss further.
2. Removing references to retirement from SIR documents and marketing materials. We discussed the purpose; to offer an updated image for SIR and comments included a recommendation to emphasize (i.e. activities and fellowship) what we wanted SIR to be rather than focusing on deleting information that served us well in the past.
3. Policies and Procedures to convert SIR to a "mixed-branch" structure. We reviewed a proposal to adopt a two-pronged approach with some branches continuing as they are and others going co-ed. Comments were that this might create more problems than simply letting some branches modify their by-laws if their members voted to. We also discussed possible problems converting from 503(c)(4)'s to 503(c)(5)'s. To be continued....

“A Rememberance”, Ronald Appel, 1946-2024, by Dave Nigel.

This month we remember Ronald (Ron) Appel of blessed memory. We lost one of our wonderful, active, members on Friday, December 27th, 2024. Ron relished attending monthly luncheons. Due to heart and cancer issues, Ron was unable to join us the past few months. His last attendance was the occasion for an excellent presentation regarding volunteering at Kaiser and throughout his life. Our table engaging in

Ron passed away at home generation SF native, Ron 1964, attended City served six years in the US Faith, in 1971, raising Degree Mason and a career with the City of SF organizations.



table made favorable comments Sir Bill Gipe mentioned Ron sat at his wonderful interactions with tablemates.

in Daly City at age 78. A third-graduated from Washington High in College and California State Hayward, Army. and married his beloved wife, Jennifer and Jason. Ron was a 32nd second-generation SIR. His distinguished included supervisory roles in two

Ron's memorial funeral service was held at his Temple on Brotherhood Way, January 12th. SIR Alfred Herpe asked me to deliver Ron's eulogy representing Branch 4 which I proudly accomplished in front of more than 300 in attendance. Ron was an active member of Branch 4 joining in February 2013. His father, Lee, preceded Ron as an active Club member. Ron enjoyed attending our luncheon meetings forming many new friendships.

Want to Recognize a SIR, talk to Dave Nigel

A late, and important, addition. We received word that Ted Wright had passed away on December 10, 2024. Ted was a long-time member, joining SIR in 2005, and an avid golfer. In addition to Branch 4, Ted was an Elk, serving as “Exalted Ruler” (their Big SIR, an Air Force Veteran and a member of his Operating Engineers Local. If you would like to send a note or card, please contact Jack Major. RIP Ted may your courses in heaven be great, your score card better than you thought and all your drives be straight and true....

See you on February 5th 2025!