



EB

MESSAGE FROM SIR
STATE PRESIDENT
ED BENSON



WHAT'S NEXT FOR
YOU AFTER SHELTER
IN PLACE ?



MEMBER SURVEY
ENCLOSED

SONORA BRANCH 136



Message from the “Big Sir”

Gene Zanoni (209-532-1989) As we continue to experience a lockdown extension, I wish that everyone remains safe and well. After a very comprehensive exchange of ideas among several of our members representing Branch #136, regarding the Ladies Day Luncheon scheduled for May 12, 2020, it became readily apparent that cancellation was our only alternative. The decision was rendered simply due to the many complications influenced by the prevailing Coronavirus pandemic.

SIRS Mission

To improve the lives
of our members
through fun
activities and events
- while making
friends for life.

Chiefly among them included jeopardizing public safety. As a result, all members that purchased tickets during the March luncheon will shortly be issued complete refunds.

In order to encourage more civic mindedness among our members, I extend an open invitation to our rank and file to attend any of our monthly Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meetings. The BEC meetings are held in the East Lounge Bar and they commence at 10:00 A.M. and generally last for about one hour. As a result of your attendance, you will witness first-hand the diligent effort put forth by your Board Officers, Chairman and numerous Directors. Given that our Luncheon meetings do not start until 12 o'clock noon, there is ample time to socialize from the conclusion of the BEC meetings to the commencement of our Luncheon meetings. Moreover, these meetings occur regularly, except during those months wherein we have scheduled special events; e.g., Ladies Day Luncheon, Annual BBQ Picnic and Christmas Luncheon. In addition, to any months that require us to suspend all operations due to extremely unusual circumstances: the current Coronavirus pandemic crisis is such an example.

Included in this month's Bulletin is a MEMBER SURVEY. Please print out this document. The MEMBER SURVEY is structured in such a manner that it provides an opportunity for all members to exercise their voice by which to draw attention to those issues deemed critical to the enhancement of our overall membership experience. Therefore, due to the lack of current branch activity, you now have enough time to ponder the questions with complete thought. Your feedback is most important for it will be critically evaluated in ultimately determining potential changes that you feel are necessary. Once you have completed your questionnaire, I respectfully request that you bring them to our next active monthly luncheon and deposit them at the check-in (ticket purchasing) station.

Until such time as we vacate our dormant status, I hope that everyone continues to abide by public policy to remain healthy and safe. Perhaps when we arrive on the other side of the Coronavirus pandemic, we will reflect upon the current situation as simply a mirage.

Message from the "Little Sir"

Paul Pavadana (209-532-8051) Well, again another slow month without too much to report. The latest is on the Ladies Day Luncheon. I am sorry to report that it has been cancelled. Anyone

COVID-19 statistics



United States

Cases reported 1,035,765

Deaths 59,266

Recovered 142,238

California

Cases reported 43,464

Deaths 1,755

Recovered Not reported

Tuolumne County

Cases reported 3

Deaths 0

Recovered 2

Worldwide

Cases reported 3,110,000

Deaths 217,000

Recovered 926,000

who paid for this event in March will be receiving a refund in the mail. The picnic that is scheduled for September is also on hold at this time. First of all we have not had anyone to step forward to chair this event that will be catered. Second, any event has to be approved by the SIR State Board before any planning is done. We are living in a time of if's and uncertainty. I am hoping we will at least be able to have our Christmas Luncheon in December.

Luckily our county has been free from this virus. I have been busy doing ALOT of “honey do” items while also trying to keep my sanity. I am sure there are many of you also in the same boat. We all just need to hang in there and pray normalcy will return to our lives soon. Please take care and hoping to see everyone in the future.

Message from Sir State Pres. Ed Benson

(Partial statement taken from SIRS Website) It is apparent that there is pressure to modify the pandemic regulations, perhaps as early as the first part of May. It is time for us to begin planning for the SIR startup. We received some inkling late last week of what the lifting of regulations might entail. I suspect everyone has read President Trump's three phase plan for removing restrictions involving the pandemic. The Wall Street Journal outlined them as follows: “States should move to the first phase of reopening after exhibiting a downward trend of documented cases or positive tests over a two-week period. States could move into other stages after showing cases aren't surging.”

“Under the first phase, movie theaters, restaurants, sports venues, places of worship, gyms and other venues could open with strict social distancing guidelines in place, though bars would stay closed. Schools and day care centers that are closed would remain so. The plan recommends that vulnerable people remain home during the first phase.”

“In the second phase, non-essential travel could resume, and bars could open with some restrictions. Schools and youth activities would reopen. Vulnerable people would be told to stay home.”

“For phase three, ... vulnerable people could resume interaction, but should seek to follow social distancing.” “Governors will make the final decision on opening their states.”

So, what does this mean to SIR? We believe the following:

- California will be more cautious opening than most states.
- The opening will differ from county to county and perhaps city to city as requirements are lifted.
- With an assumed Sir-wide median age of 78, approximately 40 percent of our members are 80 years old or greater – they could potentially be classified as “vulnerable”.
- The bulk of our members will take a cautious, wait and see approach to engaging once restrictions are lifted.
- Numerous venues and caterers that SIR Branches used in the past will open slowly, if at all.
- Because of the likelihood of patchwork, county by county and in some cases city by city lifting of restrictions, and the sheer number of SIR Branches, a centralized reopening planning and approval process is not feasible.

- Our goal is to reopen very cautiously while following national, state, county and city health department and governmental officials' directions.
- SIR State directions for restarting shall be more conservative than allowable actions permitted by national, state, county and in some cases, city health departments and governmental officials.
- SIR shall not be an early adopter or the first social organization to reopen any luncheon, activity or event. BECs will have to approach this task in a thoughtful, common sense manner. In that regard, Big Sirs shall ensure each BEC member views and understands our recent video, "BEC Fiduciary Responsibilities" found on the sirinc.org website at: <http://sirinc.org/MemInfo/TownHallFeb2020/FiduciaryResponsibilities.html> This video clearly explains, perhaps for the first time, California and SIR State requirements for and to protect BEC directors.
- We are likely entering into the most challenging situation SIR has ever faced. If we all act as a team, prudently and with common sense, we will return relatively unscathed.

What To Do When "Shelter in Place" Is Over?

If you're like me, staying at home during the shelter in place order has been challenging. At first it was no big deal, after all I have my "honey-do" list to work on; books to read; some projects I have been meaning to get to and so on. Well, that took care of the first couple of weeks. Now I am so bored and itching to get outside my house and see my friends. So when the "shelter in place" order is changed/modified or set aside, you may want to consider some of the following SIRS activities:

Golf - Chairman Paul Pavadana (209-532-8051) and/or Danny Lauretta (209-586-4567)

Hello my fellow golfers. Some golf courses are now open for play. Sorry to say at this time that Teleli Golf Club is still closed due to the Coronavirus. Hopefully it will be open in May. This however does not mean we can have a Skins Game or Tournament. Any SIR activity has to be approved by the SIR State Board. If May is still a no-go for us I am looking at June where we have a Tournament scheduled on June 16th at Castleoaks Golf Club. They were shut down for awhile but are now open to the public.

So now, what is there to do while we can't get out and play? For one, if you have short carpet you can set up a cup or glass and practice putting. Don't let your golf swing go stale. Get outside and just swing a club...you don't need to be hitting a ball to keep your swing fresh. Look at your clubs and make sure the grooves are clean and the grips are in good shape. Maybe it is time to purchase a new set of clubs. There are plenty of good deals online at different golf equipment



sights. I know I for one is chopping at the bit to get out and play, and can't wait to get a Tournament organized for all of you (even though it is not the easiest thing to do). Just be patient my friends and I will keep everyone informed of ANY news I get on course openings.

From John White - When Tiger Woods started his professional career, the average shoe size of a professional golfer was size 9. Today, it is 11.5. What happened? More men (and women) are playing golf than ever before. Athletes which would have gone into baseball or football are now playing golf. Golfers are actually working out and going to the gym! Those pot bellied professional golfers of the past are harder to find on today's PGA tour.

But what about me? I'm retired and have never really been good at golf or even considered taking up the sport. First of all, we can't compare ourselves to anyone on the PGA. They represent the top 1% of all golfers in the world. Sure we would all like to hit a ball like Rory McElroy, but let's face it...he's 40 years younger than us, practices golf every day of his life, and even then loses over 80% of the time he plays! So don't compare.

According to Golf Week, the average score by non-professional golfers hovers around 100. Even with all the advances in club technology and ball design, most golfers on the course will have a round over 100. Lou Holtz, the former head football coach at Notre Dame, wrote in his book how upset he was with his golf game during a celebrity tournament. Finally, the pro he was playing with turned to Lou and said, "you're not good enough to get mad at your game." Lou thought about it for a moment and said, "your right!" and his whole demeanor changed. So even if you haven't played in a long time or never took up the sport in the first place, consider coming out to the next Sirs outing to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and have some fun with your fellow SIR members.

RV Group - Chairman Eddie Toews (209-532-3970) As the same as everything else, the RV group is staying at home and staying well. We had to cancel two outings so far this year. The group is anxious for this to be over so we can get back on the road.

On another note, as we get past this, we have several openings in the group. Anyone that has an RV of any type or size, you are invited to visit the group at our outings and possibly join the club. Please contact RV Chairman, Eddie Toews at 209-532-3970 for more information.

Chaplain - Steve Gregory (209-533-0309) We lost a good friend last week. Jack Walls, #099 (wife Rosie) went home to God. They traveled extensively for years with our SIRS RV group and will be missed. Some further thoughts about friends and our own journey:

- When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is Trust.
- A long drought had persisted in a small village. The people decided to gather to pray the following day. Everyone arrived but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is Faith.
- Every night we go to bed with no assurance we will be alive the next morning. Still, we set the alarm to wake up. That is Hope.

- We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is Confidence.
- We see the world suffering. Still, we marry and have children. That is Love.
- On an old man's T shirt was written: I am not 80 years old; I am sweet sixteen plus 64 years of experience. That is Attitude.

Yes, it's a wonderful life when you are filled with Trust, Faith, Hope, Confidence, Love and a good Attitude. And especially remember Good Friends are the rare jewels of life; difficult to find and impossible to replace.

Bowling (Chairman needed) From John White - Most of the bowling is done at the Black Oak Casino bowling alley. The casino will supply you with a bowling ball and shoes so you would be all set to play. Most bowling leagues have an average score of 190-225. But most league bowlers will never get that high. An "exceptional league bowler" will be in the 130-150 range. But if you can get to 100 consider yourself in good company. Many bowlers will throw a "straight ball" as it is the easiest to hit a target that way. But most professional bowlers will throw a curved ball as it gives the ball a better angle to hit the 1-3 spot (right handed) for a strike.

Pinochle - Chairman Bob Morrison (209-588-0994) Pinochle is a trick-taking, Ace-Ten card game typically for two to four players played with a 48-card deck. However, we usually play the cut-throat version with three players and a 40-card deck with no nines. Players score points by taking tricks and combining cards into melds. Playing each hand consists of three phases: bidding, melds, and tricks.

One possible origin for pinochle is that it evolved from the card game *bezique* along with its cousin *binokel*. A second possibility is that it evolved from the Swiss and, later, the South German game of *binocle* or *binokel*, which descended from *bezique*. The word pinochle has several possible derivations. One is that it came from the French word *binocle*, which means eyeglasses or binoculars. Another is that it came from *bis* (until) and *knochle* (knuckle) because originally a player would rap his knuckles on the table to end the game. A third derivation is that the word pinochle is related to the French word *binage* for the combination of cards called *binochle*. German speakers adopted this latter pronunciation of the game. In the last quarter of the 19th century, German immigrants brought the game to America where it was mispronounced and misspelled "pinochle." Pinochle was the favorite card game of American Jews and Irish immigrants, while *skat* was the preferred game of a majority of German immigrants. During World War I, the city of Syracuse, New York outlawed the playing of pinochle in a fit of anti-German sentiment.

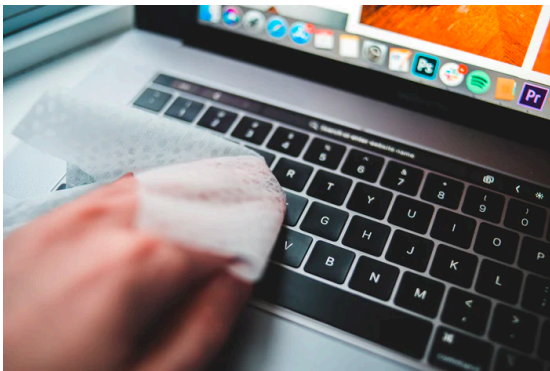
Car Club - Chairman Rich Rinaldi (209-532-8366) Nothing to report.

Fishing - Chairman Chuck Simmons (209-532-9550) From Chuck Simons - The SIRS Fishing Group is not a "group" as such. There are three of us who fish mostly independent of each other, although we have fished together on occasion. One is predominantly a Bass fisherman; while the other fellow and myself are lake trout fishermen.

Trout fishing in the lakes and streams has been poor since the last drought; and the flooding of Moccasin Creek hatchery reduced the planting of catchable size fish. Stream fishing is open in Tuolumne, Calaveras and Mariposa counties as of April 25th.

If you have a fish story to share, you can send it to me at simons4890@yahoo.com. Stay safe everyone.

Kayaking/Easy Hiking - Sol Robin (209-651-1054). Nothing to report.



Self-Isolation Guidelines for Older Adults (age 65 and older) and Those Who Have Elevated Risk

Tuolumne County Public Health

1. Remain at home until further guidance is issued
2. Continue with outdoor activities
3. Practice social distancing, both in and outside the home
4. Stay in touch with others by phone, email, or other online tools
5. Identify family, friends, neighbors, and caregivers who can provide support
6. Have supplies on hand
7. Have a plan for if you get sick
8. Practice hand washing
9. Use "respiratory etiquette"
10. Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs

Real Men wear their mask and practice social distancing



DECLARATIONS: NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All travel and other events/activities arranged for or sponsored by SIR, Inc. and its Branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members of SIR and their guests who desire to participate. SIR, Inc. and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or passengers or their property whatsoever, in any matters pertaining to said events/activities (Rule 345).



Is a man...?

Brave - Men account for 93% of all workplace deaths

A Hero - Men comprise over 97% of war fatalities

A Protector - 79% of all homicide victims are men

Vulnerable - over half of fathers without any visitation rights financially support their children

Disposable - men account for over 80% of all suicides

Is a man broken, is a man trying...

WE SEE THE GOODNESS IN MEN



Music has always been a huge part of our lives and during this pandemic its become even more so. Enjoy these heart warming videos. You should be able to access them by just click on the links noted.

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jy6AOGsR80>

“God Bless America”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ep7AJ8uLEw>

“We are the World”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MWNW_a35oY

It is Well With My Soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHU-fFrxiQg>

Message From the Editor

As I am about to wrap up my second edition of our SIRS Branch 136 Bulletin I wanted to reach out to you and encourage you to keep in contact with your SIRS friends (its nice to chat on the phone if only to say, “Hello”); read the entire bulletin and let me know what you think of the new format; check out the Youtube music videos; and lastly to print out, complete your member survey, and return it at our next luncheon (to be scheduled). Our Bulletin will be ever changing as that is just who I am and what is allowed, what is permitted, and what I can get away with. **John White 408-355-5991**



MEMBER SURVEY

1. How long have you been a member of our organization? _____
2. What is your general level of satisfaction with our Branch? Satisfied _____ Dissatisfied _____. If Dissatisfied, please tell us why. _____.
3. Are you currently involved in any activities? If so, which one(s)?

4. Have you ever volunteered for a leadership role in our organization? _____ If not, what might encourage you to VOLUNTEER? _____
5. Do you read or view our monthly newsletter? _____ Yes _____ No.
6. What type of content would you like to see in our newsletter?

7. How many monthly membership luncheons have you attended in the last year? _____.
8. Have you attended any of our events or activities in the past year? _____ Yes _____ No. If so, which ones?
_____.
9. Of our current activities, which ones are your favorite?
_____.
10. What type of activities would you like to see in the future? _____.
11. Some of our activities and events are co-ed, should we provide more co-ed opportunities? _____ Yes _____ No. What would you recommend? _____
12. What type of speakers at our Members Luncheon are of most interest to you right now?

13. What do you currently like most about our organization?

14. What do you currently like least about our organization?

15. Have you sponsored a new member to our organization in the last two years? _____ Yes _____ No. If yes, how many?
_____.
16. Would you sponsor your best friend to be a new member? _____ Yes _____ No. If not, why?

17. What can the organization do to encourage more new members?

18. If you could tell our organization just ONE thing you would like to see happen, what would it be?

19. What would you like to see changed about our branch?
 - a) First change: _____
 - b) Second change: _____
 - c) Third change: _____
20. Please select the branch size that you believe is best for our branch? Less than 100 _____, 100-150 _____, 150-200 _____, over 200 _____, No opinion _____.

10 Time-Honored Truths of Gentlemanly Life

From the book, *How to be a Gentleman* by John Bridges.

1. A gentleman says “please” and “thank you,” readily and often.
2. A gentleman does not disparage the beliefs of others – whether they relate to matters of faith, politics, or sports teams.
3. A gentleman always carries a handkerchief and is ready to lend it, especially to a weeping lady, should the need arise.
4. A gentleman never allows a door to slam in the face of another person – male or female, young or old, absolute stranger or longtime best friend.
5. A gentleman does not make jokes about race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, neither does he find such jokes amusing.
6. A gentleman knows how to stand in line and how to wait his turn.
7. A gentleman is always ready to offer a hearty handshake (pandemic set aside).
8. A gentleman keeps his leather shoes polished and his fingernails clean.
9. A gentleman admits when he is wrong.
10. A gentleman does not pick a fight.

Celebrate May Day

When I was a kid back in Sioux Falls, SD we would celebrate May Day with putting together a basket of candy; leaving it on the front porch of a girl's house; ring the doorbell, and when she answered the door...run. If she caught you she got to keep the candy and you got a kiss. As my kids got older I would do this with them. 40 years later we still do it. May day is one day they never miss coming home. My wife loves it too!

A Happy Birthday to You!

Did you know that babies born in the month of May are typically bigger and stronger than their peers born in the preceding month? That said, let's recognize our May birthdays!

Jake Parsons	5/2
Blaine Cluff	5/2
Phil Baylis	5/6
Mike Ross	5/6
Alan Joachim	5/6
Les Keeler	5/8
Keith Kofoed	5/10
Ray Starkey	5/10
William Shirley	5/11
John Gleason	5/13
Andy Bravo	5/18
Stu Galka	5/19
Dee Stamphill	5/21
Randy Skipper	5/22
Len Carpenter	5/22
Rick Bronner	5/24
Rich Rinaldi	5/26
Jeffrey Boyd	5/28
Jack Houser	5/28

Need Propane?

If you are interested in exploring our propane program please contact our propane chairman **Marty Martin 209-586-1886**