Important Information From the Desk of the Big Sir

Over the river and thru the woods to grandmother’s house we go! That’s how we used to celebrate Thanksgiving when I was a kid. Only it was over the Altamont and then thru Livermore to grandma’s house in Oakland – 2 lanes all the way. You have to be really old if you remember that stuff.

And speaking of celebrations, there are 3 special days in November that you don’t want to forget. November 1 is “National Plan Your Epitaph Day”; November 2 is “Sadie Hawkins Day” (remember Li’l Abner?); and November 15 is “National Clean Out your Refrigerator Day”. The Astrological signs: Sagittarius and Scorpio, Birthstone: Topaz.

November is Thanksgiving month, and for Branch 46 it also means getting ready for the Ladies Day Christmas Luncheon. As you know by now, we are selling luncheon tickets and Big “R” tickets both by mail and at the November 19 luncheon. The Christmas Ladies Day affair is the main fund-raiser for the branch so be sure and make it to the November luncheon so you can sign up for the Christmas activities. Also, check out the two full page ads we have in this bulletin for all the information on Ladies Day.

I don’t like to keep bringing up our membership problem, but it is probably the most serious facing the branch at this time. Our active membership has dropped to 96—one less than last month. This was caused by placing another member on the inactive list. The main reason possible members are not knocking on our door is they don’t know we’re here. That’s where you come in. I hope all of you are carrying one or more of the wallet cards that were passed out a few months ago. So, once again, please put your name on the card and give it to one of your friends or someone you think would enjoy being in our branch. In particular, someone who is in an activity in which you participate. Better yet, give it to his wife. She might be glad to get him out of the house. Remember- there’s a free lunch riding on this!

Jack Lamberty, Big Sir
Miss a Meeting?
When you know you will miss a luncheon meeting, please give our Attendance Chairman, Lee Talbott, a call (473-4159) or send him an e-mail: wltal@aol.com

**SIR BRIDGE**
Please note chairman change!
Bridge starts at 9AM preceding the monthly meeting. Please contact Dave Palmer to reserve a seat at a bridge table.
**Dave Palmer Bridge Chairman 242-2093**
or E-mail Dave at dpalmeretal@aol.com

Sunshine & Memorials:
Rich Mayo is our chairman for this committee. His phone number is 952-9177. Whenever you are aware of a member who has a serious illness or whose family has experienced some tragic circumstances, please give Rich a call. Please don't be hesitant to call Rich if you are aware of a member who is having problems. A call from the SIR would be greatly appreciated.

18 Hole Golf
Lodi-Stockton
SIR Golf
2015 Combined schedule
Nov 18 - Mickey Grove 2 man BB 8:00 S/G
Rutherford
Greg Young 986-1056,
Gary Calhoon 474-6448
Rutherford (Bill) 916-776-9222

**WELCOME OUR NEW STARS**
New members to Branch 46 are easy to recognize. They have a star on their badge. When you see a star on a SIR’s nametag, make sure you introduce yourself and welcome them to Branch 46. We also suggest you send a welcoming E-mail to the new member as described in an earlier bulletin.

ANNUAL FOOD BANK DRIVE
During the months of September, October, and November we urge every member of Branch 46 to bring in three cans or boxes of non-perishable food to the Branch luncheon. I will collect the food each meeting and deliver it to the Stockton Emergency Food Bank in time for Thanksgiving distribution. Cash donations, if preferred, are also welcome. The money collected will be used to buy turkeys. Please call me for more information.
John Sefried~ Past Big SIR
477-5023

**9 Hole Golf**
Please note chairman change!
The 9 hole golf group plays every Tuesday at Swenson Executive Course. Players should arrive by 8:30 a.m. to get their tee times. In the winter months we play on an informal basis. Come and join us.
Lee Talbot
Any questions, call me at 473-4159 wltal@aol.com

**Bring a Friend, Win a Prize**
When you bring a friend (prospective new member) to a Branch 46 lunch meeting, you will receive FREE five 50-50 tickets. Good luck! ALSO, if your friend happens to join, then you will receive a free lunch.
SWITCHING TO E-MAIL

Sending out bulletins via Snail-mail (USPS) is time consuming and expensive. If you have a computer and are now receiving your bulletin thru the mail please consider switching to E-mail. Simply contact Jack Lamberty and we’ll take care of the rest. Thank you. Remember – E-mail is in color!!

Jack Lamberty 451-1165 JackL68734@aol.com

The Photos link of the branch website will have photos from Romeo 6 at the Olive Gardens sometime after October 27. Similarly, the Bulletin link will be updated with the November bulletin as soon as it is published.

The Computer link continues to feature interesting articles on technology written by Bill Bromily of Branch 1. This month’s writeup contains two interesting articles about the use of computers in automobiles. Because of the increasing amount of software in automobiles there is growing concern among automakers about possible shifting control of the vehicles themselves to the software firms. Google and Apple have hundreds of workers in the auto software area. This plus the fact that these two firms are valued at five to eight times the value of many of the automobile firms. There is also an update on new uses for the IBM Watson computer – the one that soundly trounced two Jeopardy champions.

If you would like something posted on the website concerning the branch, contact Jack Lamberty. 451-1165; JackL68734@aol.com
CHRISTMAS LADIES DAY LUNCHEON
December 10, 2015 - @ Elkhorn

CHRISTMAS PARTY GIFT EXCHANGE
Branch 46 has a tradition of exchanging gifts at our annual Christmas party which will be held at Elkhorn Country Club on December 10. The gifts will be distributed by raffle along with the BIG “R” activity. Each donor will receive a free ticket for the drawing. If you or your wife or significant other have a hobby or skill for making items that could be donated, that’s great. If you don’t have a hobby, purchased items may be donated. We ask that every couple attending the party bring an item to assure enough gifts for everyone to take one home. Tables will be set up to receive your gift as you arrive on December 10.

Entertainment will be provided by the Lincoln High School Choir
Note: Please plan on arriving early. Doors will open at 11:30 and the choir will perform for us between 12 and 12:30 since it is a school day.

Big ‘R’ Tickets 2015
for the Christmas Ladies Day Luncheon
Don’t Be Caught Without Them!!

We are currently distributing envelopes with 12 Big ‘R’ tickets. At the October luncheon we tried to give an envelope to everyone present; however, a few of you slipped through. We intend to complete the job at the November 19 luncheon and then mail the remaining envelopes to those who have not yet received any. This is a fund-raiser at the Christmas Ladies Day Luncheon. Remember, you are not obligated to buy any tickets, but you can’t win anything without turning in the stubs before the drawing.

We would appreciate $1.00 coming with each stub, or $5.00 for 6 stubs ----- Or $10.00 for all 12 stubs.

You don’t have to be present to win one of the prizes. Just put your name and telephone number on each stub and make checks out to SIRS Branch 46 and mail them to:

Pete Lepisto
3407 Sonoma Ave
Stockton, 95204

You can also bring them to the November 19th meeting or the Christmas Ladies Day Luncheon on December 10. Keep in mind that all ticket donations help in supporting SIR Branch 46 operating expenses.
OCTOBER LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS

October’s speaker was Kevin Costello, Artistic Director of the Stockton Civic Theater. Kevin gave an insightful talk on the Civic Theater including its location history which started with the purchase of the Zion Lutheran Church on Monroe and Willow in 1952 and converting it to a 197 seat theater. The current theater is a 300 seat facility on Rosemarie Lane in west Stockton. The 2015-2016 year consists of five productions with 4 remaining in the season. Next up will be the “Disney’s Little Mermaid” on November 18 which he recommends for grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mr. Costello is growing a beard so he can play King Trident in this production. The final show will be “1776”, a musical comedy about our founding fathers and their efforts to gain independence. The show starts on June 16 and is highly recommended by Mr. Costello.

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Our November speaker will be Brandy Thurman, an administrator for the San Joaquin County Office of Education. She has been in education for 12 years – 9 years as a teacher and 3 as an administrator. She grew up in the area, attending Tokay High School in Lodi, then the University of Pacific where she received her B.A. and teaching credential in 2003. In 2012 she obtained her Masters degree and administrative credential. Brandy is a class of 2014 Stockton Leadership Graduate and serves on the Pacific Athletic Council and Athletic Leadership Council at the University. She will be talking about our Court and Community School Programs at San Joaquin County Office of Education. (SJCOE)

Happy Thanksgiving
HOW TO ANNOY THE LITTLE WOMAN
WITHOUT REALLY TRYING!!

LESSON #1. Forget to sign up for
the Ladies Christmas Luncheon
AVOID THE HASSLE!!
BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK TO THE
NOVEMBER LUNCHEON!

2015 LADIES' DAY
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
NOON - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
ELKHORN COUNTRY CLUB
HAM OR BEEF-$26 PER PERSON
Our Birthday Greetings to...

Frank CHICAGO  Jeff LUOND  Ellis WEEKS
Donald KING  Michael MARTIN  Hal LOWERY
Frank CLARK  Vaughn PIPES  Bob STEWART

and our warmest regards to the following SIRS and their wives …

Betty & Pete PEDERSON  married  November 18, 1997
Melba & Noel BERBANO  married  November 23, 1983

50 years or more congratulations to …

Barbara & Ben GEORGE  married  November 10, 1962
Joanna & Lonnie STONE  married  November 30, 1956

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Members:  Active = 96, Inactive = 11
October Meeting Attendance  49 = 51%
SIR Travel Opportunities 2015

Note: If you decide to book one of these trips or cruises, please go through the branch Travel Chairman shown in the listing. He has spent a great deal of time and effort setting up these opportunities for SIR members, and you will be able to socialize with a group of your fellow Sirs.

Nov 5-23, 2015: Crossroads of Turkey. (19 day land tour of Turkey begins in Istanbul and then continues to Asiatic Turkey with stops at the WW1 battlefield of Gallipoli. Other stops will include many ancient Biblical, Roman and Greek sites.) Cost $3795 which includes airfare, hotel, taxes and fees, gratuities for drivers/guides and 35 meals. Jim Hohenshelt, Br 62, San Jose, 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan 408-735-8765.

Nov 6-22, 2015: Panama Canal Cruise. 16 day cruise from Ft. Lauderdale to L.A. and back to S.F. through the Panama Canal aboard the Coral Princess. Cost $7000 for Two. Includes Air fare too and from SF and one night stay in Ft. Lauderdale as well as ship transfers. Ed Boll, Br 152, Arnold, 209-736-9466.

Dec 26, 2015-Jan 3, 2016: New Year’s Celebration on a Western Caribbean Cruise. Board the Norwegian Dawn for seven days of treestyle cruising and visiting the following ports of call. Cozumel, Roatan, Harvest Caye, and Costa Maya. Cost starts at $2350 which includes home pick up, RT airfare, all shipboard meals, and all transfers between locations. Phil Manriquez, Br 1, San Bruno, 650-871-5009.


Dec 29-Jan 2, 2016: New Year’s in Scottdale. Ring in the New Year at the fabulous Hilton Double Tree Paradise Valley Resort. Enjoy tours of Oak Creek Canyon, Sedona, Phoenix & Scottsdale for New Year’s Eve highlighted with a wonderful dinner along with Popular music of the Big Band era! Contact Bruce Bentley, 831-465-6590, for more information.

Jan 9-19, 2016: Mexican Riviera Cruise. 11 day of the sun-kissed Mexican Riviera filled with rich culture, bright flowers, scenic vistas and, definitely, Fun in the Sun. Get a taste of the rich heritage in this vibrant country, from the friendly people and authentic Mexican cuisine. Cost from $1485. Bruce Bentley, Br.20 Santa Cruz, 831-465-6590.

Feb 12-Mar 2, 2016: Australia & New Zealand Cruise. Start in Sydney with a tour then board the MV Sydney for a bay cruise and a 2 night stay at the Rydges World Square Hotel. Next you will board the Diamond Princess with stops in Melbourne, Hobart, and stops in New Zealand. Trip includes air, transfers, all shipboard meals, 2 cocktail parties, and all port taxes and government fees. Also included is Trip Insurance covering pre-existing medical conditions. Cost $6085 to $7315 depending on cabin. Larry Martinson, Br 114, San Jose, 408-528-0746 or Jim Stoner 408-238-8458.

Jan 9-16, 2016: Mexican Riviera Cruise. (11 day cruise from San Francisco with port calls at Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas). Cost $1455 to $1995 pp depending on
stateroom and includes home pick-up, all taxes and fees, gratuities for drivers and porters, all shipboard meals and entertainment on board. Roy Jordan, Br 62, San Jose, 408-735-8765 or Jim Hohenshelt 408-394-7226

**Mar 10-16, 2016: Azaleas, Plantations & Cajuns.** Experience the hospitality and charm of the south through educational tours of Natchez, Baton Rouge, Lafayette and New Orleans. See spring in full bloom with the surrounding flowers at historic sites and plantations. 3 nights Baton Rouge & 3 nights New Orleans 7 day, 13 meals from $2105 Bruce Bentley, Santa Cruz, Br 20, 831-465-6590

**Mar 12-31, 2016: South America Cruise.** 18 day cruise starting in Santiago, Chile where you will board the Star Princess for a long cruise of South and Central America ending in Los Angeles. Costs of $3660 to $5260 depending on cabin selection include home pickup, transfers, meals and entertainment aboard ship, all departure and port taxes, all driver and porter gratuities. Rollo Parsons, Br 141, San Jose, 408-268-5245 or Brian Serpa, 408-227-7658.

**Mar 25-Apr 10, 2016: Big Band Voyage Across the Atlantic Ocean.** 16 day all inclusive cruise across the Atlantic on the Crystal Symphony. Relish the blissful luxury of days at sea, highlighted by visits to Bermuda, the Azores, Barcelona,, Bandol, and Monte Carlo. Cost from $3665. Ken Richter, Br.146, Walnut Creek, 925-689-6217.

**Apr 2-17, 2016: Princess Hawaiian Cruise.** San Francisco R/T to Hawaii. Stops at Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Maui and Ensenade, Mexico. Includes R/T pier transfers, gratuities, excursion special, cocktail party and gifts. Costs range from $2400 to $3800. Tom Molinari, Br 147, Petaluma 707-762-1880.

**Apr 17-25, 2016: AMA waterways Tulip Time Cruise.** 8 night river cruise through the Netherlands and Belgium aboard the AmaSerena riverboat. You will visit Amsterdam, Volendam, Edam, Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges, Kinderdijk and Keukenhof Gardens. Trip includes air, transfers, guided excursions, wine or beer with dinner, free WiFi and more. Cost $5950 to $7950 depending on cabin. Jim Stoner,Br.114, 408-238-8458 or Larry Martinson 408-528-0746.

**May 9-21, 2016: Kenya Safari Adventure.** Visit the best game reserves to see hundreds of animals. Game drives in the mornings and late afternoons. This tour is active and exciting! 4 & 5 star hotels, Mt Kenya National Park, Lake Nakura National Park, Amboseli National Park, Samburu National Game Reserve and Maasai Mara. 13 days, 28 meals. Starting at $3975, Bruce Bentley, Br.20, Santa Cruz, 831-465-6590.

**May 11-21, 2016: Alaska Cruise.** This 10 day cruise aboard the Grand Princess starts and ends in San Francisco and will make 4 ports of call: Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and Victoria. The ship will also cruise beautiful Glacier Bay. Included: Transportation to and from SF. Port taxes, taxes on included items, Travelex Group Protection Plan and porter tips. Cost $2150 to $3270 depending on cabin. Don House Br 74, 408-268-1703 or Allen Daily 408-265-8140.

**Jun 4-19, 2016: Great American Waterways.** A 15 night cruise on a small boat (Blount-88 passengers) which will sail across four of the Great Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario. This adventure starts in Chicago and explores some of Michigan’s charming small towns. Marvel at the lowering of the ships on the Welland and Erie Canals than explore New York’s Niagara Falls, Cooperstown, West Point and the Statue of Liberty. Cost of $5660 to $8125, Port Charges, Taxes, occ insurance included. Mike Console, San Jose, Br 54 & 32 , 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch, 408-274-2992.