



Happy New Year

Branch 106 Members

Well, the year 2020 sure turned out different than any of us would've thought at this time last January. We started off great and ended in a definite cautious, sorrowful state. Our Branch continues to hold strong and add new members. Our Board of directors for this next year is attached to this email. We have added some new and lost a few. I would like to thank Jim Hahn and Gary fox for all they did this past year for our branch and they will be missed on the board. We have added new members Doug Beaumont, Mike Gardner and Mike Miller. The rest of the board will continue in their present positions to see us through this Covid situation. One Big Loss, Bob DuSell will be stepping down as our News Editor/Monthly News Letter. I want to thank Bob DuSell for all the work and support he has given this branch for many years in that position. Which brings me to asking you to volunteer to step up and get involved by taking over from Bob. By being a member of the SIRS there are only four expectations of you. They are as follows;

SIR has four expectations of its members:

- Be a friendly, sociable guy
- Participate in our activities, luncheons and events
- Volunteer when asked – give it a shot 
- Bring guests and introduce them to SIR so we can perpetuate the organization.

The third expectation is “Volunteer when asked” and **I am asking**. We need an editor and Bob can explain how he has managed this position over the years to make it easy on you. If you can step up and help the branch please let any board member know you are ready to help.

With the spread of Corona Virus our branch has been pretty lucky thus far as we did not have any members test positive until Dec when we had four members test positive with one being hospitalized. All seem to be doing ok, some have recovered and hopefully will have all symptoms pass soon. They were apparently exposed while they were away from us all and have kept themselves quarantined so not to expose any members. Let's all continue to take all the safe precautions and stay safe while we are waiting for our immunization shots.

As we thought the year might end without too many more surprises, we found out our newly elected SIRS State President Jim Johnson had passed away suddenly. Stu Williams has moved up to take the President position. He seems very positive that the SIRS organization will be ok and he sent us this reminder;

“If we keep our face to the sunshine, we will not see the shadow of this difficult year”

Stu Williams SIRS 2021 President

We would like to take a minute to remember the members we lost this past year.

Richard Marsch	Joined SIR Jul 1983	RIP – January 2020 “Century Award”
Murray Sussman	Joined SIR Jan 2010	RIP – Feb 2020 Member Data Base
Paul Kersey	Joined SIR Nov 2014	RIP - May 2020
Vernon Sandusky	Joined SIR Sep 2019	RIP - May 2020
Ray Ganzer	Joined SIR Feb 1990	RIP – July 2020 “Honorary Life Member”
Whit Whitman	Joined SIR Jun 2018	RIP – September 2020

A few of our members have also had the tragedy of losing family members this past year and could probably use a few supportive words from their friends in the SIRS.

Peter Librado Lost his wife
Jack Smith Lost his wife
Dave Marianno Lost his daughter

I wish I had a crystal ball so I could better predict what 2021 will bring and how it will impact the SIRS. We know that the bulk of our members are ready to get back in action when it is safe. Please keep our branch members engaged through more non-traditional means such as ZOOM, personal telephone calls, front porch visits when allowed and exercise opportunities.

One opportunity to get out and get some exercise on your own might be to volunteer with the Sacramento Valley Veteran's Cemetery Wreath Group on Jan 16, 8am to pick up the wreaths placed on the veteran's grave sites. **Mike Gardner** said he is going and bringing his trailer and wagon.

We must continue to recruit new members and focus on younger candidates to help improve volunteerism. We are in need of members to step up to lead our branch and give us a good direction for the future. It has been an interesting year with challenges that none of us thought we would be facing. I am confident that our 2021 State leadership team lead by State President Stu Williams and Vice President Rick Kindell will guide us through these troubled waters and that our local Branch Leadership will help the SIRS regain its strength to be the best darn men's social activity organization and will continue to contribute to **Making Friends for Life!**

Let's Stay Strong and Safe

Rick Newman
Big Sir
Branch 106