

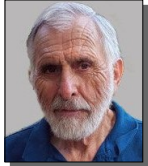


# SIR Branch 116 Trampas Topics Newsletter February 2021

Next Meeting via Zoom on  
Feb. 15th at 12:00 Noon

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Men Enjoying Active Retirement

## Message from Sam



I hope all of our members and their families are doing well. We are starting February very hopeful with start of vaccinations for Covid. Now Contra Costa County seniors are eligible for Covid vaccines.

The turnout at the January luncheon was one of the best since the pandemic started. Breakout rooms have been a huge success. Many thanks to Neil Schmidt for all the technical wizardry! Several have mentioned that our January speaker Ed Webster was excellent and his photos were amazing. You will also enjoy our February speaker - General Yee, who is in charge of US Cyber Command.

I am excited about our coming February 15 monthly meeting. State SIR president and other SIRs will be joining us to learn about our plans to broaden our branch demographics and be more inclusive. Our February speaker – General Yee – also agreed to give his views on diversity & inclusion.

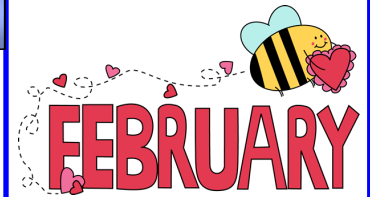
During January, I reviewed with BEC our branch goals and plans for this year. The highest on that list were recruiting new members and retaining those we have. Al Farbman [Publicity] has already started putting ads in LinkedIn, Patch and other social media outlets. Don Schroeder [Recruitment] and Diversity Team members are working to broaden our membership base. Tom O'Brien and Roger Craig [Member Relations] started a "phone tree" with branch members calling other SIRs for fellowship.

Ron Armijo and his audit team completed an audit of our branch finances. Our branch financials are in good shape. Effective January 1, we suspended branch dues for 2021 – barring some unexpected development.

State SIR organization is working on a plan to open up outdoor activities such as golf. We will hear more about that in mid-February. Although most of our in-person activities remain suspended due to the pandemic, we have many on-line activities such as Computer and Tech, Book Groups 1 & 2, Fishing, Arm Chair Travel and Bridge. If you have any ideas and/or want to start a branch activity, please call or email Mike Ward.

Stay safe, and stay in touch. Valentine's Day is February 14th. Don't forget the flowers!

*Sam Beret*  
Big SIR



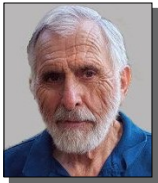
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Please email or call any BEC member if you have any questions/news regarding branch activities or members

## 2021 SIR Branch 116 Officers



**Big SIR**  
Sam  
Beret



**Little SIR**  
Fred  
Wachowicz



**Treasurer**  
Alan  
Fitzgerald



**Asst. Treas.**  
Al  
Satake



**Secretary**  
Paul  
Ramacciotti



**Asst. Sec.**  
Alan  
Pope



**Member. Sec.**  
Phil  
Goff

## 2021 SIR Branch 116 Directors



Michael  
Barrington



Gary  
Boswell



Roger  
Craig



Kevin  
Donahue



Al  
Farbman



Darrell  
McClaughry

## 2021 Activity Chairmen

Activity	Chairman	Asst. Chairman
• Amiable Amblers	John Riordan	Joel White
• Bocce	Jim Seven	Paul Russell
• Book Group 1	Rich Black	Steve Bort
• Book Group 2	Alan Pope	Scott Clark
• Book Exchange	John Fraser	Dick Kauffman
• Bridge	Jon Dickson	Bob Wolf
• Computer & Tech.	Neil Schmidt	Phil Goff
• Dine-O-SIR	Alex Lutkus	Marty Katz
• Duplicate Bridge	Conrad Robertson	Tom Henry
• Fishing	Harry Sherinian	Terry Miller
• Golf—18 Hole	Bernie Wroblewski	Jim Johnson
• Golf—9 Hole	Dick Chaffee	D. Mclaughry
• Golf—Carmel	Jim Barstow	JJ, Harris, Eller
• Golf—Carson City	David Harris	Harry Oberle
• Golf—Lessons	Jerry Zampino	Jeff Johnson
• Mexican Train	Richard Madden	Alex Lutkus
• Parties	Marty Katz	
• Pickleball	Ed Solomon	Gary Bonfiglio
• Poker	Lou Sandor	
• Saturday Tours	Greg Hughes	
• \$ums in Retirement	Ben Smith	
• Travel	TBD	
• Wine-O-SIR	Lou Meylan	

## 2021 Support Chairmen

### RAMP Department Heads:

- Recruitment Don Schroeder
- Activities Mike Ward
- Member Relations Tom O'Brien/Roger Craig
- Publicity Allan Farbman

### Branch Support Chairmen:

- Audit Committee Ron Armijo
- Nominating Committee Michael Barrington
- Sunshine Committee Matt Arena
- Computer Support Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff
- Webmaster Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff
- Newsletter Editor Neil Schmidt
- New Member Orientation Dave Williams
- Membership Roster Prep George Pryhuber

### Diversity Support Team

- Team Leader Fred Wachowicz
- Team Member Sam Beret
- Team Member Terry Sherman
- Team Member Al Satake
- Team Member Jerry Hicks
- Team Member Jim McCormick
- Team Advisor Lee Moy

### Luncheon Support Team:

- Attendance Mike Scheneider
- Audio Visual Neil Schmidt
- Chaplain Committee Terry Sherman
- Greeters Committee Terry Grummitt
- Raffle Committee Ben Bryce
- Storytellers Committee Mac McLoughlin/F. Schafer

### Speakers Committee

- Team Member Fred Wachowicz
- Team Member Jeff Johnson
- Team Member Allan Farbman
- Team Member Paul Freitas
- Team Member Roger Craig

**A Thank You to all Br. 116 SIR Who  
Volunteer to be Leaders**

## Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities

Apple User Group	Dick Macy (Br.171)	376-1180
Astronomy	Bill Hunter (Br.8)	947-6947
Bowling	Dan Weller (Br. 8)	935-5510
Digital Photo.	Bill Phelon (Br.8)	254-8338
Pocket Pool	Jerry White (Br.8)	944-9068
Tennis	Ralph Thornicraft (174)	376-8140

Monthly Activities Calendar

# February 2021

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	<b>SIR Br. 116 Meeting</b> (11:30 via Zoom)  President's Day Holiday	16	17	Computer & Tech (9:30 via Zoom)  Book Group 2 (11:00 via Zoom)	19	20
	Book Group 1 (10:15 via Zoom)			Fishing Group (8:30 via Zoom)		
28						

Super Bowl

Valintines Day



February 7, 2021



## Br. 116 Treasurer's Report

Alan Fitzgerald, Treasurer  
(galan.fitzgerald@gmail.com)

### January 26, 2021

	Jan. 2021	2020 YTD
Contributions	\$	\$ 66.40
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ (116.40)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ <b>0.00</b>	\$ (50.00)
August Cash Balance		\$ 11,226.14
Outstanding Checks		\$ 0.00
Bank Acct Balance		\$ 11,226.14



## Membership

Phil Goff  
(philgoff@yahoo.com)

### SIR 116 January Membership Status

Total Current Membership is 204  
(no change since January)

## February Birthdays

When you see these members, wish them a  
Happy Birthday!

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ron Armijo   | 11. Tom King         |
| 2. Norm Azevedo | 12. Harry Oberle III |
| 3. Jon Dickson  | 13. Ed O'Rourke      |
| 4. Cliff Egan   | 14. Richard Rossland |
| 5. Max Foust    | 15. Fred Schafer     |
| 6. Dan Green    | 16. Mike Schneider   |
| 7. Mike Howard  | 17. Jeff Smith       |
| 8. Cord Hull    | 18. Curtis Trenor    |
| 9. Jeff Johnson | 19. Ernie Wong       |
| 10. Pete Kallas | 20. Rich Yamanaka    |



## \$ums in Retirement

Tom Henry  
(tomhenry925@gmail.com)

\$UMS is participating in another Branch 128 (San Ramon) Zoom meeting in Jan.

At this meeting we will identify what the "experts" are recommending as investments for 2021 including specific stocks, Sectors, ETFs, and Mutual Funds.

In the round robin, each attendee then will be asked to "recommend" at least one specific stock, Sector, ETF, or Mutual Fund to be tracked by the Investment Group during 2021. At the April, July, and October we will report on the performance of these "recommendations".

Looks like we'll be continuing to participate in these Zoom meetings for a while, so mark your calendar: 4th Wednesday at 1:30.



Always checkout the SIR Happenings State Newsletter at:

[sirinc.org/sirhappenings](http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings)

It contains some interesting SIR reading material.

## SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site  
[branch116.org](http://branch116.org)

Branch 116 Golf  
[branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)

Branch 116 Shopping Cart  
[sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site](http://sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site)

Area 16 Computer and Technology  
[sirinc2.org/a16cat/](http://sirinc2.org/a16cat/)

SIR Happenings State Newsletter  
[sirinc.org/newsletters/](http://sirinc.org/newsletters/)



## Little SIR Report

Fred Wachowicz

(fredwach@pacbell.net)

**Things are happening in February!** Most of us are making progress with covid vaccine shots and there is progress on reopening outdoor activities at the State, County, and SIR State levels.

We have a great speaker this month who is Major General Garrett Yee who is the Assistant to the Director for the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). He will speak on the topic of Cyber Operations and the Command and Control challenges we face in today's Military environment. Take a look at his impressive Bio included in this edition of the newsletter. (see page 6)

Additionally, Major General Yee will speak in an extended session (following adjournment of our regular meeting) on the topic of his experiences and reflections on Diversity for those who would like to remain on the Zoom session for this timely topic.

If you were able to catch last month's speaker you know that his Mt Everest story was a truly great achievement and maybe one of the greatest achievements in the world of mountain climbing expeditions.

Along that line our Branch Speakers Committee has now confirmed Great Speakers for our monthly meetings to include: Travel in the Pandemic and After, the story of animal rescue dogs and their achievements in major disasters, and De La Salle's Head Football Coach among others.

You may also be aware that our Branch has formed a Diversity Support Team to consider how we might insure that we reach out to all those in our local community who may be interested in SIR membership and the friendship opportunities that we provide. Major General Yee's discussion on his experiences and reflections in this area provide a great introduction to this important topic.

Our Activities Chairman and Travel Planning Team are using this period of time to Revamp Our Travel Activity Venue to include a monthly ARM

CHAIR TRAVEL Meeting, Full Day Travel Excursions, Weekend Travel Trips, and 1-2 week Travel Trips across North American and other International locations. Don't miss out on participation in the upcoming travel activities. Check out Mike Ward's column on what is happening in travel. Travel may be back in our immediate plans soon with covid retirement.

Lastly look for our Annual Online Survey to insure that we hear your interests, concerns, and ideas for Branch Improvement.

It will definitely be out in February.

If you haven't yet saddled up for 2021 do so now. We promise Fun, Friendship, Activities, and Normality for 2021.



## Sunshine Report

Matt Arena

(marena@astound.net)

SIR **Patrick Bermingham** passed on January 7, 2021. Patrick was our cheerful greeter for many years. He loved his golf and storytelling and most of all his Irish accent. He had many friends in the branch and will be missed.

SIR **Lou Sandor** had a fall that caused a broken ankle. He is recovering but this event. He is on his way to Folsom to join his daughter who is a nurse at the local hospital. She is sure to nurse Lou back to health.

*I don't need a friend who changes when I change, nods when I nod. My shadow does that much better.*

*Plutarch*

Try this web site [myoptumserve.com](http://myoptumserve.com) if you are trying to get an appointment for the vaccine. Contributed by SIR **Dennis Snarr**.

In Memoriam

**Patrick J. Bermingham**

December 8, 1935 - January 7, 2021

## February Meeting Speaker Biography

### **Major General Garrett S. Yee** **Assistant to the Director** **Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)**

Army Maj. Gen. Garrett S. Yee is the assistant to the director of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). In this role, he helps to lead a global organization of 8,000 military and civilian personnel who plan, develop, deliver and operate joint, interoperable, command and control capabilities and a global enterprise infrastructure, in direct support of the President, Secretary of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, combatant commanders, Department of Defense components, and other mission partners across the full spectrum of operations.

Prior to this assignment, Yee served as the military deputy to the Army CIO/G-6 and senior information security officer in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO)/G6, Headquarters, Department of the Army in the Pentagon.

Yee, a native of Fremont, California, received his commission in the Army upon graduation from Santa Clara University. He later earned a Master of Business Administration from Golden Gate University and Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

Yee's command and operational assignments include commander, 335th Signal Command (Theater) (Provisional) in Kuwait, where he concurrently served as the G-6 for U.S. Army Central Command and the director of Cyber Information Systems for the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation INHERENT RESOLVE; deputy commanding general for Mobilization, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois; deputy commander, 335th Signal Command (Theater) (Provisional) during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan; commander, 505th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade in Las Vegas, Nevada; commander, 650th Regional Support Group in Las Vegas, Nevada; theater

observation detachment officer with the Center for Army Lessons Learned in Iraq during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, where he authored a handbook on provincial reconstruction teams; and commander, 3/356th Logistics Support Battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Yee's awards and decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, Parachutist Badge and German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency. He is also a recipient of the National Infantry Association Order of SaintMaurice and the Signal Corps Bronze Order of Mercury.



**Major General Garrett S. Yee**





## Activity Chair

Mike Ward

(michael.ward64@comcast.net)

The COVID 19 pandemic is still out of control in the Bay Area and a majority of the SIR ACTIVITIES are still on hold with the exception of the following five (5):

Book Club 1, Book Club 2, Bridge, (co-ed) Computer & Technology, (co-ed) (Area) and Fishing. (Area) These Activities are currently held on ZOOM and feel free to join them by calling the specific Activity Chairman.

### GOLF OPENING- STATUS

According to SIR President, Stu Williams. "The Governor has lifted the Stay-at-Home Order. The Sir State Board has announced the conditional Re-Opening of Sir Golf, provided the branches get approval from their own BEC Board and include the resolution and protocols."

The Chapter BEC will be meeting on February 15, to further discuss this announcement and how it relates to Contra Costa County mandate that applies to social gatherings.

### TRAVEL

I had another phone conversation with Michael at Alamo Travel. We discussed the travel interest of the Branch members and came to the conclusion that members are not currently interested in travel due to Covid 19. Once Covid 19 goes away, the travel industry will open up to safe travel and our members will become more interested. In the meantime, Armchair Travel Zoom meetings / Video's are still being offered by Alamo Travel. If you and your wife or significant other have an interest in Domestic or International travel, please give me a call at (510) 734-9863 or email me at [Michael.Ward64@comcast.net](mailto:Michael.Ward64@comcast.net), so that I can put your name on a travel list. (Domestic or International) Once travel comes back, I will be looking for a chairman for Domestic/International travel and another Chairman for Weekend Travel Trips. (1-2 days) If you have an interest in becoming a travel chairman, please feel free to contact me.

## ANNUAL SURVEY

The Annual Activity Survey was updated and forward to Fred Wachowicz for the input of the branch survey questions. The survey should be emailed to each branch member by the second week in February. Again, please take some time to complete and return this survey on time. This survey is the only way we know how to create new activities for our members.

Since the Covid 19 vaccine is starting to become available and the State and County has relaxed some of the Rules and Regulations, there is some light at the end of the tunnel.

Make sure you continue to Mask Up, Social Distance and follow the State and County current Rules and Regulations to help fight the spread of Covid 19.

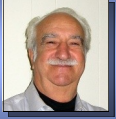
Also make an appointment for you and your wife or significant other to get the two (2) shots of the Covid 19 Vaccine's ASAP.

## February Brain Teasers

(Compliments of Alan Fitzgerald)

1. A clock gains half a minute every day. Another clock doesn't work. Which one will show the correct time more often?
2. What time is it when a clock strikes 13 times?
3. In a conventional clock, how many times does the minute hand pass the hour hand between noon and midnight?
4. If a clock takes two seconds to strike 2, how long will it take to strike 3?

Answers are on page 9..



## SIR Fishing Group

Harry Sherinian

(h.sherinian@comcast.net)

All SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in non-SIR fishing trips as well as attend the monthly SIR Fishing Group meetings. Contacts are Ron Lew, (Big Fish) 925-550-4166 and Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator 925-846-7067. Next meeting will be through ZOOM on **Thursday, February 25th, at 8:30am.**

Well, 2021 is even worse than 2020 so far. Covid restrictions causing closures and access problems, lack of rain, and low water temperature have all but stopped us. Many of us fished for sturgeon. Many of us did not catch any sturgeon. Some of us fished for trout. Some of us did not catch any trout. One of us found a good place to buy crab. Tom Kostik, Harry Sherinian and Ron Lew caught a few stripers. It can only get better. Chuck Vanocine and Stan Wong caught some nice Trout up at Lake Berryessa.



Chuck Vanoncini at Lake Berryessa



## Computer & Technology

Neil Schmidt

(SIR.Area2.CAT@gmail.com)

The next Zoom SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group meeting will be Thursday, **February 18th starting at 9:30 AM.**

The February presentation topic will be "DYI Home Security Systems". Most security devices are now wireless and easy to install. As a result, there are now several "Do it Yourself" (DYI) security systems available that can be customized for your house, ordered online and self installed. I am sure everyone has seen the SimpliSafe "masked-man" advertisements on TV. That is just one of several DYI security systems now available. Even ADT now has a DYI system. With many of the systems, you can choose to either self monitor or have it professionally monitored. The presentation will discuss various security system options and some of the top rated DYI systems.

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT's mailing list by sending an email to SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom web link that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list.

## Trampas Topics Submissions



We need your contributions and suggestions for Trampas Topics. Please send photos, news items, SIR activities, and Letters to the Editor:

Neil Schmidt, Trampas Topics Editor  
[trampastopics@gmail.com](mailto:trampastopics@gmail.com)







## Br. 116 Book Group 1

Rich Black

(blackrw41@comcast.net)

Book Group #1 will next meet again on February 22 when it will read "The Mirage Factory" by Gary Krist. On March 22 the group will read "Into Thin Air" by Jon Krakauer. A possible book for April 26 is "The Worldly Philosophers" by Robert Heilbroner, but that has yet to be confirmed.

The group anticipates meeting by Zoom until Contra Costa County and SIR's directives permit in-person meetings.

Prospective new members should contact Richard Black at [Blackrw41@comcast.net](mailto:Blackrw41@comcast.net)

Book Group #1 met on January 25, 2021 to discuss "The Pillars of the Earth" by Ken Follett. No one knew who recommended the book but Art Donaldson, who loved it, commented first. Richard Black then led the discussion with, in addition to Art, Steve Bort, Nick Bowles, Jerry Christopherson, Garrett Girvan, John Kopchik, Mac McLoughlin, John Riordan, Mike Schneider, Richard White, and Joel White. The group awarded the book a resounding 4.2 stars with the understanding that it is 1000 pages but then again it reads fast.

### BRAIN TEASER ANSWERS

1. The clock that doesn't work will show the precise time twice a day, but the fast one will take  $2 \times 60 \times 12 = 1440$  days to show the precise time. Therefore, the broken clock shows the correct time more often.
2. Time to have the clock fixed.
3. Ten times (you can verify it yourself).
4. Four seconds (it takes two seconds between 2 consecutive strikes).

How did you do?



## Br. 116 Book Group 2

Alan Pope

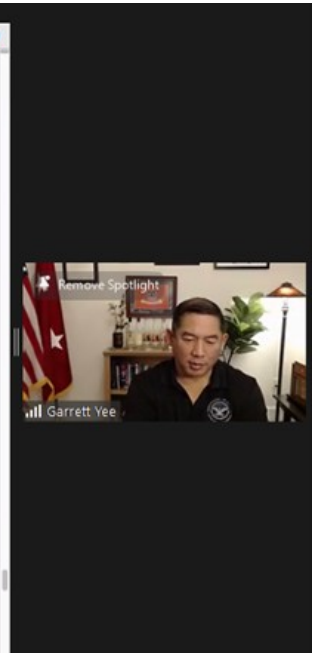
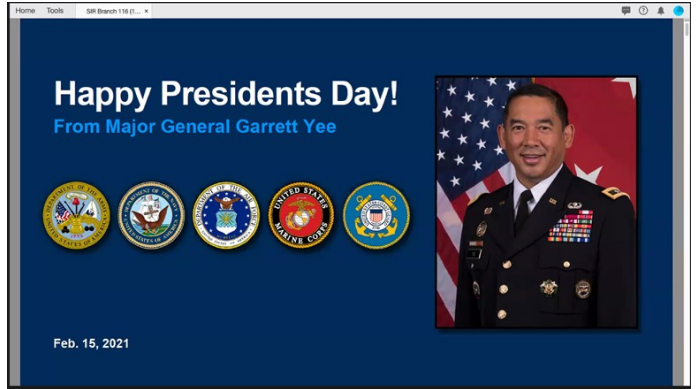
(pope451@gmail.com)

Book Group 2 met by teleconference on Thursday, January 21, to discuss "City of Thieves" by David Benioff. For approximately 900 days, from September 1941 to January 1944, the Russian city of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), was under a military blockade by the German army. The lack of food, water, and utilities caused famine and hardship for the citizens. This novel tells the story of two boys, one a twenty year old educated Russian army deserter, the other a naïve 17 year-old boy caught for looting a dead German's body. During those times, both crimes would result in death. But their lives would be spared if they could find a dozen eggs needed for the wedding cake of a Russian colonel. With completely opposite personalities, the boys quickly develop a symbiotic friendship. Together they experience the darkest side of warfare, a city under siege, and at times humor, during their quest. Although there were some very dark passages and crude language, the group enjoyed the author's style and gave the book an overall rating of 4.7 out of 5.

The next Book Club 2 meeting will be on **Thursday, February 18, at 11 am** by videoconference using the Zoom app. The group will discuss, "Manhunt" (The 12-day Chase to catch Lincoln's Killer) by James Swanson. Whether you have read the book or not, we welcome anyone interested to join us.



# January Speaker





**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

RETURN TO: Neil Schmidt  
2231 San Miguel Dr.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5805

**Sons In Retirement: A non profit Organization for Men Enjoying Active Retirement**

### **Rules of Attendance & Membership for SIR Branch 116**

**RULE 100.** A member shall be notified in writing and/or telephone by his Branch of the pending termination of his membership should he be responsible for any of the following:

- Miss three (3) consecutive regular luncheon meetings without having been excused by contacting the designated Branch Attendance person prior to the meeting date.
- Did not attend one-half of the regular luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period. NOTE: Excused meetings cannot be included to achieve the minimum attendance.
- All legitimate alternatives to termination shall be explored. The member's response may suggest an alternative to termination such as inactive status.

**RULE 101.** Certification of attendance by a member at another Branch meeting will be considered as a credit to his attendance record. Individual Branches may limit the number of make-ups during a 12-month period.

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### **Non Responsibility Declaration**

**RULE 345:** All activities arranged for or by, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

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### **Checks for Trips**

Trips of 2 days and 1 night or less may be made payable to the Branch conducting the trip. Trips in excess of 1 night must be made payable to the travel agency involved.