



Incorporated

SIR exists to enrich the lives of its members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making friends for life.

THE ROOSTER'S CROW

The HOOKER OAK BRANCH #84 meets the FIRST THURSDAY of each month at
MANZANITA PLACE,
(inside the Elks Lodge building)
1705 Manzanita Avenue,
CHICO, CA, 11:30 AM

**SONS IN RETIREMENT,
HOOKER OAK BRANCH #84**

Volume 47, Number 1

January 2025

The Branch Executive Committee meets at 10:15 AM on the same day at the same place.



SIR Happenings



Cycling Club

This months bicycle ride meandered through Bidwell Park then travelled to the old stagecoach trail that is now Humboldt Road. We will be on hiatus during January but will return with a ride during February.



Upper Park. Left to right: Jeri Hamlin, Mike Hamlin, Tim Kressin, Ken Doglio, David Kronick

For More Information Contact:
Tim Kressin - 951-743-1297
Ken Doglio - 530-933-3921

GOLFERS Branch 84 and Branch 110 tee off together for several tournaments at courses throughout the area. Now that the weather is cooperative, you can dust off your clubs, hit the range for a few practice swings, and join the fun.

For information on upcoming golf outings, please contact Paul Brossoit.

530 514 3486

FORE!



SIR Branch 84—Current List of Special Interest Clubs

Bowling Club - Ray Quinto 530 343 6752

Fishing Club - Ron Ward 530- 354-5147

Golf Club - Paul Brossoit 530 514-3186

Hiking Club - Rich Utter (Branch 110) 925-922-7020

Movie Club - Greg Sanger 530-518-7924

Writing & Book Club - Chip Meriam 530-228-1544

Special Activities Club - Alex Van Patten 530-566-2151

Cycling Club - Tim Kressin 951-743-1297

BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club meets every Tuesday night for drop-in open bowling, from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM, at the Bolero Bowling Center in Chico.



Ray Quinto
530 343 6752

OFFICERS

BIG SIR,	Chip Meriam-----	228-1544
LITTLE SIR,	Tim Kressin-----	951-743-1297
SECRETARY,	Mike Hamlin-----	526-4408
ASST. SECRETARY,	Lowell Terrell-----	895-1737
TREASURER,	Paul Brossoit-----	530-514-3486
TREASURER ASST.,	Ray Quinto-----	343-6752

DIRECTORS

RAY QUINTO-----	343-6752
PETE VOLPATO-----	891-4705
MARTY NICHOLS-----	530-514-8270
RICK FARLEY-----	864-5113
ALEX VAN PATTON-----	530-566-2151
DENNIS BRUGGMAN-----	530-682-2369
BOB KERMAN, ALTERNAET-----	530-966-0147

COMMITTEES

ATTENDANCE,	Mike Crump-----	530-588-4781
ATTENDANCE ASST.,	VACANT	
AUDITOR,	Benny Sommer-----	895-0840
BOWLING,	Bob Gaines-----	514-5066
CHAPLAIN,	Richard Kannenberg-----	208-869-5786
CHAPLAIN ASST.,	Bob Roberts-----	219-2566
DINNER CLUB,	Jerry Brandt-----	636-4392
FISHING,	Ron Ward-----	354-5147
FISHING ASST.,	Harold Frazier-----	809-1623
GOLF,	Paul Brossoit-----	530-514-3486
HIKING,	Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
HOUSE MANAGER,	Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
MEMBERSHIP,	Greg Sanger-----	345-2344
MEMBERSHIP ASST.,	Ken Doglio-----	933-3921
MOVIE CLUB,	Greg Sanger-----	345-2344
NOMINATING COMM.,	Greg Sanger-----	345-2344
R. CROW EDITOR,	Chip Meriam-----	228-1545
R. CROW ASST.,	Lowell Terrell-----	895-1737
SONG DIRECTOR,	Jerry Brandt-----	636-4392
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES,	Alex Van Patton-----	530-566-2151
SUNSHINE,	Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
TRAVEL,	Lowell Terrell-----	895-1737
WRITING & BOOK CLUB,	Chip Meriam-----	225-1544



FROM THE BIG SIR

Chip Meriam

Greetings, fellows.

As is customary this time of the New Year, a reflection on the past and a look to the future are both in order.

I retired January 9, 2019. Shortly thereafter, I became a member of the Hooker Oak SIR Branch 84. A quick review of the Branch Roster indicates I was officially inducted March 24, 2019. If blame must be placed, look to Mike Hamlin, for he is the SIR that asked me to be a SIR.

The 2019 officers were Al Wood, Jim Hertl, Gerry McLaughlin, Ron Myers, Jerry Walters, and Jesse Smyth. The directors were Jerry Brandt, Don Foster, Myles Pustejovsky, Gene Rideout, Lowell Terrill, and Rene Vercruysen. Our chaplain was Richard Kannenberg.

Now, six years hence, the 2024 officers were Chip Meriam, Tim Kressin, Mike Hamlin, Lowell Terrill, Paul Brossoit, and Ray Quinto. The directors were Jerry Brandt, Jim Hertl, Don Foster, Myles Pustejovsky, Al Wood, Richard Kannenberg, and Mark Ward as an alternate. Our chaplain was Richard Kannenberg.

For 2025, our officers remain the same, but we have a new slate of directors. Please welcome to the “sweat shop”: Ray Quinto, Pete Volpato, Marty Nichols, Rick Farley, Alex Van Patton, Dennis Bruggman, and Bob Kerman as an alternate. Our chaplain is, no surprise, Richard Kannenberg.

Hopefully you’ll recognize most, if not all of the names of the past officers and directors. Indeed, many of them served for multiple terms over multiple years. Please join me in thanking each and every one of these fine gentlemen for investing their time to further the success and well being of our SIR Branch. As I’ve noted on this page before, the monthly luncheons, guest speakers, and various club activities do not just happen by themselves. Our Branch Executive Committee, comprised of the names listed above, are responsible for all of this happening seamlessly.

And to the new slate of directors, thank you for taking the initiative to join the process of planning and implementation. I, for one, am glad you’re here. Together, I believe we can assure a continued, healthy, and growing Hooker Oak SIR Branch 84.

Happy New Year, everyone.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Harold Bickley, Warren Brusie, Wally Douglass,
Richard Kannenberg, Gary Kretz, John Lechner,
Wayne McNamee

January 2, 2025 - 11:15 AM

Manzanita Place (Chico Elks)



Eric Miller started his environmental career in “sewage” in 1987 and promoted to “garbage” in 1989. He served 20 years in the public sector, most of it in solid waste, and 10 years consulting in water resources. He is greatly amused by his experience managing a landfill. Eric retired from Butte County’s Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility in 2023.

He is an off-an-on freelance writer, a fledgling garbage videographer, a member of the Solid Waste Association of North America’s (SWANA) Landfill Rebranding Committee, and has presented at regional and national conferences. Eric launched the *Garbage Talk* YouTube channel because our garbage has back stories everyone should know. Eric graduated from Colorado State University and UC Davis and lives in Chico.

Rideshare Service

Myles Pustejovsky has kindly volunteered to set up and coordinate drivers to chauffer members who do not drive any longer or do not have rides to our luncheons. His plan is to divide the area up into districts and ask for volunteers in each district to pick up and drop off members before and after each luncheon. If you are interested in volunteering to pick up fellow members on the way to and from our luncheons, or would like to take advantage of this new club service, please contact Myles.

Myles Pustejovsky

530-342-4751

mandadurham@att.net



Luncheon Fare

Classic Beef Lasagna

Caesar Salad

Garlic Bread

Surprise Dessert

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE JANUARY 2 MEETING, PLEASE NOTIFY MIKE CRUMP BY DECEMBER 29 530 588 4781

WISDOM

As I pen this I am “toughing it out” here in the Southern California desert at a resort in Palm Desert. I know that our Big Sir newsletter editor is expecting something filled with wisdom to start the new year. That probably is not going to be present in this piece. In my random musings I got to thinking about meals eaten in various establishments. These dining places have different descriptive names. Do realize the descriptions are hazy. Such as...CAFE==basically a coffee shop with some pastry.

RESTAURANT ==you order a meal, it is prepared and delivered to your table

DELI==a quick place to walk in and select prepared food items which you take and consume wherever.

The advent of fast food establishments have blurred these lines. So here goes...

I was about six when we were traveling somewhere and stopped at a restaurant. The waitress approached and asked us what we would like to select. My immediate reply was “I want fish, potatoes and water”.

The standard fare when we did eat out as a kid was hamburger steak, mashed potatoes and gravy and green beans.

Life is not complete if you have not traveled through the south and stopped at a Waffle House. I did so and ordered grits with my waffle and fried egg. The grits were pathetic. I noticed I was not charged for them. I questioned the waitress, her reply was “That’s because they weren’t any good.” Works for me.

About midnight in Miami, we boarded an Aerolines Argentinas jumbo jet heading for Argentina with a brief layover in Buenos Aires. We had barely gotten comfortable when we were served a full course meal! About 8 hrs later before landing we had a full breakfast. We were well fed.

I assume most of you have had split pea soup at Anderson’s in Santa Nella. We stopped there on our way home from being “tourists” in So Cal. While waiting for the hostess to seat us I mentioned to my wife that it was unusual to not meet anyone on the trip that we knew. We were shown to our booth and wouldn’t you know it. The guy in the next booth called me by name.

This is getting sort of long, so the one about the rat in the Indian restaurant in Bangkok must wait for another time! Happy New Year.

December 16, 2024 Richard Kannenberg

USELESS AND IRRELEVANT WORDS

January 2025

A Tale of the Hapless US Penny

It has recently been suggested in the New York Times that we have a “Perpetual Penny Paradox.” This refers to the estimated and incredible 240 billion US pennies that we keep at home, ignored and unspent. We receive them as change mostly. They really won’t buy anything in today’s world so, when we receive them as change, we leave them in cans or jars, behind couch cushions, in piggy banks, or even in the garbage or scattered in parking lots. The result is that they are no longer in circulation, so the mint has to make new ones. The U.S. Mint says it loses more than \$100 million a year from penny production. Although the 2023 report from the Mint said they had decreased penny shipments, they keep on making them at an ever increasing loss to seigniorage (profit made by a government by issuing currency, especially the difference between the face value of coins and their production costs) as can be seen from the diagram below.

The U.S. One Cent coin, or penny, has almost no purchasing power today. The cost of making pennies in 2019 was 1.99 cents per coin. This cost includes the metal content and the labor used to produce them so, the cost of producing them is higher than face value. The melt value of pennies ranges from more than two cents for the pre-1982 copper pennies, to just a cent for the copper-plated zinc pennies. However, the penny is a very sentimental coin to most Americans, and many people fear that eliminating the penny would raise prices because things would need to be rounded up to the nearest nickel.

Unfortunately, the nickel is in just as bad a shape as the penny. The current cost for manufacturing a nickel is 7.29 cents per coin. The mint produces billions of these coins every year to. At this rate, the United States loses millions of dollars producing pennies and nickels.

Both sides in the penny debate make some good points, and the solution is far from easy. So here’s my take on the issues involved in the pro-penny and the anti-penny debate. Hopefully, you can form your own opinion from all this. Mind you, there is currently no move anywhere in the government to change the situation, so we will continue to dump millions into something we don’t need, sound like our government? Actually, The United States has eliminated small denomination coins in the past with relatively little trouble. In 1857, the U.S. Mint stopped making the half-cent coin, partly because the cost of making it had exceeded its face value, and somewhat because it was considered to be too small a denomination and it was no longer needed. It too had very little purchasing power at the end of its life.

So, what are the arguments?



Arguments for keeping the Penny

- Prices will increase. If the U.S eliminates the penny, merchants will round the amount up to the nearest five cents. They will probably round everything up in their favor, costing us more for everything we buy. The poor pay the most. A corollary to the above argument says that the poor will be affected the most because the poor are most likely to make more frequent, smaller purchases, thus suffering the rounding up more often.
- Charities need pennies. Many small charities depend on penny drives to bring in donations. People think nothing of pouring out their old penny jars to support these drives.
- Nickels cost even more to make. If we eliminate the penny, we will need more nickel coins in circulation. Nickels cost 7.29 cents to make, (2.29 cents over face value, as opposed to 0.99 cents over face value to make a penny,) so making each nickel costs 1.3 cents more than making each penny. Since the penny costs almost ~2.5 more than face value to make, the Mint can make 5 pennies and still lose less money than making one nickel. And, of course, if we eliminate the penny, we'll need a lot more five-cent coins, which will offset the savings of stopping penny manufacture.
- Pennies are sentimental. The fact is that Americans love their pennies and hate to change things. We've always had pennies and therefore still should have pennies, according to this thinking. Additionally, the same reasoning rejected the adaptation of the metric system in the United States even though virtually the entire rest of the world uses it. Americans are traditionalists, and the Lincoln Cent is the epitome of modern-day circulating coin tradition. Public opinion is divided, but surveys show that a significant portion of Americans still support the penny's continued use.

Arguments for eliminating the penny.

- Pennies are worthless. They don't buy anything, many people throw them away, and nobody wants to use them. Many stores have "Leave a Penny, Take a Penny" cups next to the cash register for customers who don't want pennies and change.
- Pennies waste time. The average American wastes 2.4 hours a year handling pennies or waiting for people to handle them. This statistic, which is cited by the folks at RetireThePenny.org, is the result of compiling some penny-handling related events. These events include the ubiquitous 30 second period we sometimes spend waiting for someone who has to dig through their pockets or purse to find that last cent so they can pay for something with exact change. They probably do this, so they don't get stuck with any more pennies.
- Making pennies wastes taxpayer money. It costs the U.S. Mint 1.99 cents to make each one-cent coins, meaning that taxpayers are losing 0.99 of a cent for each one of the 9.1 billion pennies the Mint produces each year. That is a loss of over \$90 million to produce pennies in 2019.
- Making pennies wastes time. The U.S. Mint makes an average of 21 million pennies per day to produce its nine billion pennies annually. If we get rid of the penny, the U.S. Mint would only have to do half the work. This figure does not include the time, fuel, expense, and hassle of carting all of those pennies around to the banks, merchants, etc. If we stop making pennies in the first place, we save all this associated time and trouble, too.
- Rounding-up prices wouldn't matter. The anti-penny folks rebut the rounding-up argument by pointing out that we wouldn't pay more for each item we buy, only for the total price of what we buy. Even if you shop 2 or 3 times a day, (which most people don't) and also if the rounding goes against you two times out of 3 (which it shouldn't), we're still only talking about a 3 or 4 cents per day at the most! Most people throw more than four pennies into the change-jar or trash each day anyway!
- Pennies are less than the minimum wage. A *New Yorker* article pointed out that pennies are so worthless now that it doesn't even pay the federal minimum wage to stoop to pick one up off the street unless you can do it in 6.15 seconds or less.



- **Diminished Value:** With inflation, a penny has very limited purchasing power, and similar coins with low value have been phased out in other countries. Canada and Australia are good examples. Critics argue that the penny no longer holds practical value in day-to-day transactions
- **Environmental Concerns:** The mining of materials for pennies, particularly zinc, poses environmental risks, and there is concern over the environmental impact of producing billions of pennies annually
- **Lobbying Influence:** The zinc industry, which benefits from supplying materials for pennies, lobbies to retain it. Groups like Americans for Common Cents emphasize the penny's role in cash transactions and its perceived value among the public.

Well, the debate remains unresolved, balancing costs, practicality, and tradition. While some argue for a shift toward a nickel-only currency and/or increased use of digital payments, public sentiment and industry interests keep the penny in circulation for now. As you can see, both sides have some good points. As the U.S. Mint faces the prospect of having to find more cost-effective compositions from which to make the nation's coinage, the debate about the continued existence of the humble penny is sure to carry on. Many people thought that 2009, the 100th anniversary of the Lincoln cent, should have been the last year of penny manufacture. But others have a vested interest in keeping the penny alive. For example, the zinc metals lobby, and the Coinstar company (who make those change-counting machines in the grocery store) will both fight hard to keep the penny in production.

Paraphrased from:

Econlife, Published by Elaine Schwartz, September 8, 2024

The Sprucecrafts, By Susan Headley, Updated September 29, 2021

As always, comments are welcome.

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