

# SENIOR SIR TIMES

SIR  
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR MEN

**"OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR MEMBERS THROUGH FUN ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS WHILE MAKING FRIENDS FOR LIFE"**

**MARCH 2023 Newsletter - Turlock Branch 143**



## BIG SIR GREG BACK SAYS...

It is March and that means my extended term as Big SIR is coming to an end. It has been an honor and privilege to serve these past years. Beginning in April Gary Toombs (a past Big SIR) will take over as your Big SIR. Please welcome Gary back and give him your help and support. This is your last chance to pay your dues for 2023. If you haven't already, you can pay at this month's meeting or send your check for \$40 to treasurer Leonard Zumbstein at 2645 Mira Flores, Turlock 95380. We have another great "Dine Out" lined up for this month at Vito's in Turlock. You don't want to miss this so call Gary Toombs to RSVP and confirm the date. It may



not seem like it with all the wet weather we are having, but spring is right around the corner and good weather will soon be arriving making it a great time to try one of our outdoor activities. Our activities chairmen work hard to organize and provide a variety of activities for you so please join in and support them and your branch. March also brings us several important holidays... **March 9 is National Meatball Day, March 17 is St. Patrick's Day, March 23 is National Puppy Day and March 26 is National Make Up Your Own Holiday Day.** We have another lunch and interesting program for you this month on our regular third Wednesday, March 15, so please join us. I hope to see you all there.

**Last chance to pay Dues to SIRs March 15th  
DUES ARE NOW \$40 for the year and NOW PAYABLE**

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS:  
APRIL 1-2 and 3 of 2023**

### JOIN US IN MARCH

11:30 am - Sir Lunch meeting MARCH 15th -

WILL BE HELD AT Denair Community Center in Denair, 3850 N Gratton Rd  
Denair, CA 95316, doors open at 10:30.

8 am - BEC meeting MARCH 17th- Will be at MY GARDEN CAFE 8 am start time.

**NEW PRICE FOR LUNCHEONS IS NOW \$25.00**

**Lunch tickets will be sold at the door.**



# SIR TRAVEL

**Bill Stires, Travel Chairman**  
**John Cardoza, Travel Assistant**



## SCENIC IRELAND TRIP THROUGH IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND APRIL 14-27, 2023

**THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT AT THIS TIME.**

**WAIT LIST FOR NEW PASSENGERS!**

**Price: \$5,395 Double Occupancy - Single \$6,195**

**Air fare and transportation to and from the airport is included.**

**\$500.00 DEPOSIT TO HOLD YOUR PLACE**



**Airfare and transportation to and from the airport is included  
 18 meals. Includes gratuities on tour for Tour Manager & Bus Driver**



**Highlights:** 12 nights in First Class Hotel Accommodations

1 night in Limerick, 1 night in Clifden, 1 in Sligo, 2 nights in Belfast in Northern Ireland,

Visit Cliffs of Moher, local farms, an Abbey, Giant's Causeway, Titanic Experience, Hillsborough Castle, Belfast's O'Connell Street, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College, House of Waterford Crystal, Blarney Castle and the Kissing Stone, Garnish Island, Ring of Kerry, Dingle Peninsula, and much, much more.

Leisure time to explore most of the towns and villages.

## AUTUMN COLORS TRIP TO EAST COAST

**10 Days, October 13 - October 22, 2023 Price: \$5130 double occupancy, Single \$6127**

**Final Payment Due June 15, 2023. Deposit of \$500 per person to hold reservation**

Highlights: 2 nights stay in Boston. Tour of city, free time on own.

- Visit Manchester, Vermont; Burlington, Vermont; North Conway, New Hampshire; Bar Harbor, Maine; Acadia National Park; Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Scenic drives along the Mohawk Trail and Kancamagus Highway.

- Professional local tour guide for entire trip.  
 - 9 nights of First-Class Hotel accommodations.  
 - 14 meals including a regional lobster feast.

**This trip will fill up fast, so sign up early.**

**Call Bill at 209-988-5445 or 209-544-2684 or email at [bstires46@gmail.com](mailto:bstires46@gmail.com)  
 to receive a brochure and Remember that relatives and friends may also go on all trips.**

# SIR 143 - 2023 OFFICERS

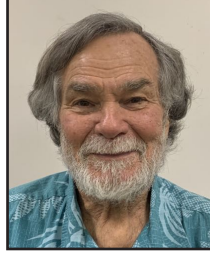
## Working For You!



**Greg Back**  
Big Sir



**Gary Toombs**  
Activities Chairman



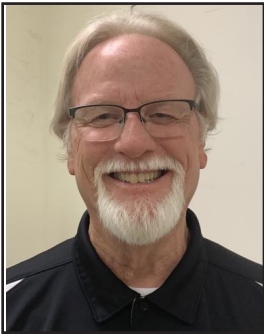
**Bob Holly**  
Little Sir



**Joe Adams**  
Golf



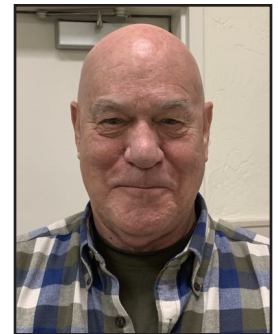
**Larry Hughes**  
Membership



**Mark Taylor**  
Past Big Sir



Our Sir 143 - 2023 Officers: LtoR Rock Libby, Robert Lotspeich, John Cardoza, Leonard Zumstein, Mark Taylor, Bill Stires, Gary Toombs, Fred Courter, Greg Back, Joe Adams. Larry Hughes, and Bob Holly.



**Rock Libby**  
Assistant Secretary



**Fred Courter**  
Newsletter



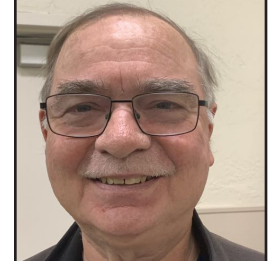
**Bill Stires**  
Travel chairman



**John Cardoza**  
Assistant Travel



**Robert Lotspeich**  
Secretary



**Leonard Zumstein**  
Treasurer

### Newest Honorary Life Members

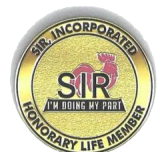


Rick Kindle presenting Honorary Life Membership Certificates to : **Bill Stires and Joe Adams.**

Bill and Joe received their Honorary Life Membership at our January luncheon.

Honorary Life Member (HLM) - This award is the highest and most prestigious award available within SIR. It is bestowed only to those who, upon careful review and scrutiny by the State Honorees Committee, are found to have:

- been a member for a period of 5 years or more.
- clearly earned it through exceptional and extraordinary service.
- steps forward whenever the need arises
- would be recognized by his peers to have earned it



The HLM is not to be treated lightly or awarded merely on the basis of good fellowship. An HLM shall remain a member of his Branch until death, transfer, resignation or permanent relocation, but shall not be subject to attendance requirements.





# RV TRAVEL

Ken Kajioka  
RV Chairman



# BLACK OAK CASINO RV PARK TOULUMNE APRIL 2 - April 7, 2023

### Sign-Up Procedure:

Ken Kajioka 209-602-8351

1. Call Black Oaks RV Park for reservation 1-877-747-8777
2. **IMPORTANT:** Let them know you are with KEN KAJIOKA group
3. Call or text Ken Kajioka after registering
4. Reservation will ask for a credit card # but will not bill



### BRING A GUEST!

This event is open to friends and relatives. This event will be cancelled if we don't have a minimum of 10 rigs.



## IT'S DINE-IN- DINE OUT TIME

Our next dine-out will be at **Vito's**  
on Thursday, March 30th. In Turlock

on Crowel Ave. -  
Meet 5:30 drinks  
6:00 dining  
call Gary to RSVP  
209-604-8406



LUNCH THIS MONTH WILL BE HELD AT  
DENAIR COMMUNITY CENTER - in Denair,  
3850 N Gratton Rd. Denair, CA 95316.

The menu for the next LUNCHEON  
Will be another great meal  
provided by our caterer  
Nicolau Farms.

LUNCH TICKETS  
WILL BE SOLD  
AT THE DOOR

# BEC MINUTES

## BRANCH 143 - SIR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

### Held on - FEBRUARY 17, 2023

#### Site My Garden Café, Turlock

Quorum is present:

**Guest: None**

**Attendance:** Fred Courter, Bob Holly, Leonard Zumstein, Larry Hughes, Joe Adams, John Cardoza, Bill Stires, Mark Taylor and Rock Libby.

**Absent:** Greg Back

**Treasurer's Report:** Leonard Zumstein reports bank balance of \$3,741.87 and \$275 Cash on hand for a total of \$4,016.87. The audit committee met on 2/15 following the luncheon and completed the required audit. The Form 29 and Form 28 will be sent by Leonard to the appropriate recipients. Expenses for stamps and tablecloths in the amount of \$76.45 to Larry Hughes and for tea, punch and ice in the amount of \$10.21 to Bob Holly. Other expenses included the State Assessment of \$218 and \$180 for Poinsettias for our Christmas Ladies Day luncheon. Receipts for the February luncheon were \$1,110 and expenses were \$1244.67 for a loss of \$134.67.

The Treasurer's report was passed unanimously with a 1st by Rock Libby and 2nd by Joe Adams.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the 1/20/23 BEC Meeting by Bob Lotspeich were unanimously approved as emailed and printed in the Newsletter with a 1st by Leonard Zumstein and 2nd by Gary Toombs.

#### Committee Reports:

**Membership Report,** Larry Hughes: Larry reports 44 members and 21 guests including one visiting SIR member and our guest speaker John Rogers for a total of 65. Larry reports 118 members since Ed Darrah was mistakenly dropped and Darrel Leaman re-joined the chapter. Larry's report included the Form 27 and this report was unanimously approved with a 1st by Rock Libby and 2nd by Joe Adams.

**Golf report,** Joe Adams: Joe reports Golf participation steady with about 50% of what we had in the past. The annual Ron Witort Memorial Tourney will be held 3/13 at Rancho del Rey.

**Travel,** Bill Stires reports once again the Ireland trip is full but there is room for those interested in the Fall Colors trip. See Bill for information. Bill and John are heading to Danville for a Cruise info meeting. John is working on an Asian Cruise from Indonesia to Viet Nam and ending in Hong Kong as well as a Reno Train Trip.

**Dine in/Out** Gary Toombs: Gary reports our next Dine Out will be at Vitos on March 30th.

**Bocce Ball** continues at Dust Bowl on the 1st and 3rd Fridays. Contact Mike Johnson for info.

**Old Business:** Gary Toombs will handle the Big Sir duties next quarter and Mark Taylor and Rock Libby in the 3rd and 4th quarters. Bob Holly read the Schedule of Branch Operations for February and March. We will be looking at designating a House Committee and this will be presented in Fred Courter's March Newsletter. A possible Lunch/Brunch/Breakfast committee composed of Roger Jackson, Bob Holly, Larry Hughes and Rock Libby is under consideration.

**New Business:** Rock Libby presented dessert proposals from our Caterer and there was once again discussion of lunch alternatives to stop our losing money each month. Some of these ideas have potential and will be discussed at our next luncheon. Other locations will be looked into by Rock Libby for our luncheons, once again with the idea of saving money in mind. Fred Courter is considering a column in the Newsletter featuring a different member each month with a brief story about themselves. Rock Libby suggested a method of collecting from those not eating lunch some amount to help defray the expense of the Hall and drinks, etc. Mark Taylor would like to advise our membership of the activities available at the Turlock Senior Center. We will look into the possibility of making coffee at our lunch meetings in the future.

Meeting was adjourned without objection at 9:27 AM.

**Respectfully submitted by**  
**Robert Lotspeich**  
**Secretary, Branch 143**



**DUES ARE NOW \$40 for the year and NOW PAYABLE**

Send your checks to Leonard Zumstein, 2645 Mira Flores, Turlock 95380 or bring to the next luncheon

**Our Speaker for the Month of March will be Gabby Guerrini, General Manager of the State Theater in Modesto**



**This column on Memories From Our Sir Members I hope to make a monthly story about a member who is willing to tell a short story about their life. If you have a story you would like to tell, write it up and send to my email address: fredcourter@gmail.com**



### Memories from the past - Part 1

# Fred Courter



These stories are about Fred and Frank Courter, twins...events taking place the first part of our lives during the years 1940 - 1962. Hope you enjoy this history as I and Frank and many others remember the events.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, two wars were going on between 1941 and 1945, with soon another war in Korea from 1949 to 1953, and then Vietnam.

When we were born in Palo Alto Hospital we were the first set of twins born at that hospital. We lived on Lincoln Avenue in East Palo Alto, off Bell Street. We didn't stay long. I don't know how long we lived there, because our mom and dad never told us. I saw it on my birth certificate just a few years ago. (More about the birth certificate later).

The first thing I remember is living on Ralmar Ave., also in East Palo Alto. The story is my father built that house on Ralmar. I don't know if this is true or not, but my dad was a carpenter during the war. We lived on Ralmar between 1940 to 1949. Dad had several jobs before he got married. After moving from Iowa when he was about 16-18 years old, he got a job on the Web Ranch just west of present day Stanford University. He may have worked on their dairy farm. He was also a car-

penter at the shipyard at Hunter's Point in San Francisco, helping to build troop ships for the war effort. He also worked at Swift Packing plant in South San Francisco and a Master Carpenter until he retired in 1965. In the 1940's we always spent our time outside playing with cars and trucks that Frank and I built ourselves out of wood scraps that dad would bring home from a construction site he was working on. They were just blocks of wood we put together with nails and some small wheels from old skates we found at the dump.

They didn't have toy stores like they do today (or if they did, we didn't go to them). I don't think we could afford much then. Later in the 1940's mom and dad always rolled their own cigarettes by hand. Plus we grew some vegetables our self and we also had chickens to eat. During the war many things were being rationed like, tires, some food items, and cigarettes. Mom and dad got chits to help purchase the items they needed. Also, we were very happy when dad came home with a box of wood from a job site. From that scrap wood we would make our toys.

*(This story to be continued next month)*



# THE WINE LINE

By Russ Winton

## Wine Investigation for Novices and Oenophiles (W.I.N.O.)



### Wine Thoughts and Odd Lots

Here are some winey items that have been piling up on my desk. It's a new year and it's time to find my desk.

If you are a Cabernet Sauvignon fan, you might want to tune in to what's going on with the PRCC. Formed in 2012, the Paso Robles CAB Collective is a collaborative effort of leading Paso Robles growers and producers of Cabernet and red Bordeaux varietals specific to the Paso AVA. The PRCC just received a grant of \$14,988 to identify research and education needs specific to the Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon and red Bordeaux wine grape growing region. Check out [pasoroblescab.com](http://pasoroblescab.com) for tons of information including a cool map listing 24 wineries you probably should visit.

Wine and Spirits Magazine named Eden Rift among the Top 100 Wineries of the Year. It is located in Cienega Valley AVA, which straddles Monterey and San Benito Counties. It was acquired in 2016 by San Francisco native, Christian Pillsbury. Eden Rift rose quickly in recognition for their limestone based Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays under direction of winemaker Cory Waller who tenured under Josh Jensen at Calera. Find out more about Eden Rift at [www.edenrift.com](http://www.edenrift.com).

I wish all restaurants had quality house wines. We went to a relatively new steak house to order a cocktail and take notes on the amazing mixologist. I asked about his house wines. He said the Cabernet Sauvignon was L. Martini Napa, the Pinot Noir was Angeline Sonoma, the Chardonnay St.

Francis Sonoma and the Pinot Grigio Stemmari from Sicily. All are under tap! He said the tap system is perfect, no wasted wines and no bottles to deal with and I added, also a fair price (\$8) for the happy diners.

The Sonoma County Winegrowers have launched a weekly post called "The Good Stuff". Each Wednesday go to [sonomawinegrape.org](http://sonomawinegrape.org) to find out what's happening in and around the beautiful Sonoma Wine Country.

The economic impact of California wine on the U.S economy is big. It employs 1.1 million Americans, generates \$170.5 billion in annual economic activity and pays \$21.9 billion in annual taxes including local, state, federal, business, excise and personal taxes. (Are you taking notes?)

### What's On Our Table

When looking for wine steals, I always check the back of the bottle to see who produced, vinted, or just cellared the wine and of course, where it was bottled. The 2021 Juniper+Oak California Sauvignon Blanc was vinted and bottled in Modesto and is \$3.99 at the Grocery Outlet. I returned to buy more and discovered a 2020 Juniper+Oak Pinot Grigio. That sealed the **steal**. A mixed case also gave me another 10% off. It looks like 2023 is going to be a great year. And yes! I just found my stapler. Cheers!

Comments? Find me on Facebook or [rgwinton@yahoo.com](mailto:rgwinton@yahoo.com)



## BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

Joe Adams, Gordon Alldrin, Kevin Byrne, Earl Hamilton,  
Bob Holly, Al Miroo, Don Nordell

## ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH

Marvin Souza, Joe Bughi, S. Lon Bishop, Wardee Bruce,  
Lenny Zumstein, Larry Date, Larry Ashabraner, Bill Stires





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 3600 Geer Road, Suite 105  
 Turlock, CA 95382







## TURLOCK BRANCH NO. 143 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN OFFICERS FOR 2023

Big Sir/Web Master .....	Greg Back	585-6862
Little Sir .....	Bob Holly	668-2786
Secretary .....	Robert Lotspeich	535-1784
Assistant Secretary .....	Rock Libby	634-6508
Treasurer.....	Leonard Zumstein	634-8878
Assistant Treasurer .....	Vern Segars	634-2142
Membership.....	Larry Hughes	578-1194
Assistant Membership .....	Bob Holly	668-2786
Recruiting.....	OPEN	
Bowling .....	OPEN	
Travel Chairman.....	Bill Stires	988-5445
Travel Assistant .....	John Cardoza	483-7722
Roster/Mailing .....	Larry Hughes	578-1194
Golf.....	Joe Adams	632-8197
Assistant Golf .....	Ray Walker	606-9889
Sunshine .....	Ted Thorn	535-8696
Newsletter Editor/Photo .....	Fred Courter	226-1173
Bocce Ball.....	Mike Johnson	613-6801
Program .....	Gary Potter	667-8516
Assistant Program .....	OPEN	
Catering/Hall Set-Up.....	OPEN	
Chaplain .....	Larry Hughes	578-1194
Wagon Master.....	Ken Kajjoka	602-8351
Trail Boss .....	OPEN	
Dine-In ~ Dine-Out.....	Gary Toombs	604-8406
Nominating Committee Chair .....	Greg Back	585-6862
Directors:	Larry Hughes, Kevin Byrne, Bill Stires, Gary Toombs, Fred Courter, Joe Adams, OPEN.	

### STATE OFFICERS

State President: Dave Gonzales - yogonzo@yahoo.com - 408-398-1240  
 State Vice President: Dale Decker - daledftg@gmail.com - 209-533-0455  
 Area 18 Representative: Jeff Chin - jeffereygaryc@msn.com - 209-602-3912