



Fresno Branch # 159 Inc.
135 W. Athens Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611-3514

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Bulletin 280

Fresno Branch No. 159

Vol. XXIV - No 12



The Chanticleer

Date Dec. 12, 2013
Place: Ramada Inn
324 W. Shaw Avenue

**New 159 website - www.branch159.sirinc2.org
Program - The Clovis North Vocal Ensemble**

Social Hour 11AM
Luncheon: 12 Noon
\$18 per person

O my gosh, where did the year go ? It sure was busy and successful. I would once again like to thank all the previous Big Sirs for their guidance throughout the year at our monthly HLM meetings. Thank you to the 2013 BEC for all their help and participation. Because of their hard work we received a Presidential Citation in Recognition of outstanding leadership and Branch Service awarded by the State President.



Big SIR Howard

A musical performance by the Clovis North Singers will entertain us.

Thank you to Mike & Karen Williamson for hosting our "Ladies Date Night" at Javier's Mexican Restaurant in Sunnyside last month. Once again, it was attended by 20 couples. The food and fellowship was outstanding. There will be no "Ladies Date Night" in December since we will have the "Ladies Day Luncheon". In January the "Ladies Date Night" will be hosted by George & Dorothea Gianopulos with details in the announcement on later pages.

Looking back over the year, we accomplished much : Membership with over 300 on the books, New name badges, Activity Sign tables, Monthly Ladies Date nights once a month, largest and most played Golf group in the valley, a San Francisco Ball game, Two Roger Rocka's shows, Great lunches and informative speakers, and a New \$20.00 a year assessment fee for membership to replace the \$2. buck bucket. We closed the November financial books with money to spare after paying bills for our December Ladies day luncheon. I'd say it was an awesome year

Sir James Noriega (2014 Big Sir) and Sir Dennis Costello (Little Sir) will lead and guide us through 2014. Next years BEC has created and voted a new job for me so I still will be around as the Activities chairman of Sir 159. Most if not all of our other activities are doing well. My chore is to oversee them and make them available to all.

I WISH YOU AND ALL YOUR LOVED ONES A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SAFE NEW YEAR.

I hope all of you have made your Reservations for the "Ladies day Luncheon". We are expecting a packed house with your significant other. Call Shane Petersen @, 298-0976.

About Growing Old
If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old

NOTICE FROM THE BEC

Effective January 1, 2014, Branch 159 will be assessing dues to each member in the amount of \$20.00, payable on or before January 31, 2014. This collection of dues, approved by the BEC, replaces the voluntary "Buck Bucket and enables Branch 159 to meet its "Authorized Expenses." Please complete the coupon below and bring to the first meeting in January or mail to Treasurer Shane Petersen



George Gianopulos
Receiving
HLM Award

2014

Branch Dues

Name _____ BADGE # _____ Amount \$ 20
(Make check payable to SIR Branch 159) Pay at the door or mail check to: Treasurer: Shane Petersen, 3245 E Sample Ave., Fresno, CA. 93710-5910

It is that time of the year when we celebrate Thanksgiving, then Christmas and New Year. (oops it's Happy Holidays; let's be PC). It's a great time to get together with family and friends, as well as being thankful for those things that don't seem important until we count our blessings; like our health and friendships



Little SIR James

I hope you enjoyed the presentation from Chancellor Dr. Deborah Blue, the speaker from our last luncheon. It's great that we have such wonderful leaders in our community. She is keeping the tradition alive at State Center Community College District.

Let's give Dennis Costello a big welcome as our next Little Sir. I am sure he will do a terrific job next year. Also say "Thanks" to Big Sir Howard Zinn. It will take me much effort to duplicate the terrific job he has done this year.

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Will Rogers Quotes

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco
2. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
3. There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither works.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.
6. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
7. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back into your pocket.
8. There are three kinds of men: The ones

October Bowling Scores

The new league has started and we invite any SIR member to come join us – Friday afternoons, 1 PM Sierra Lanes. These scores represent what the person bowls + their handicap. Anyone interested please contact Duke Marshall @ 447-5388. See you there

Date	Name	Score	Branch	
4-Oct	Hi Series	Tom Harlan	606	175
	Hi Game	Bill Ripley	215	175
11-Oct	Hi Series	Alan Barton	756	159
	Hi Game	Alan Barton	281	159
18-Oct	Hi Series	Merle Knapp	606	175
	Hi Game	Merle Knapp	230	175
25-Oct	Hi Series	No Bowl		
	Hi Game	No Bowl		



159 Championship. From left to right - Don Corley winner of low net, Joe Hushek winner of low Gross.

that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.

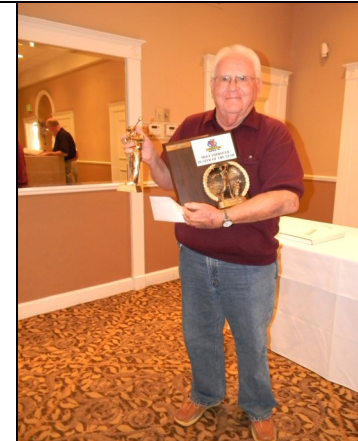
9. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
10. If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there



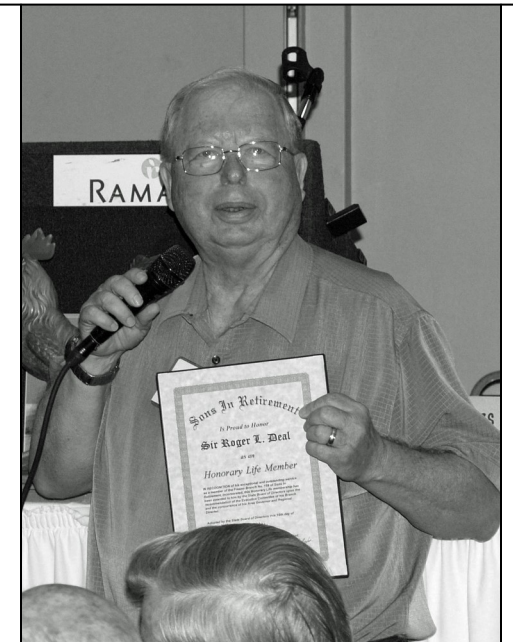
Golfer of the Year. Tied for 2nd James Noriega (not pictured Bob Moore). 4th - Vic Froehmer, 1st - Rick Pezzi



**Team Player of the Year
2nd Don Avakian 1st George Rodriguez**



**Most Improved Golfer of the year
Dennis Costello**



**Roger Deal
Receiving
HLM Award**

**SIRS 159
JANUARY'S LADIES DATE NIGHT
Ovideo Ristorante Italiano
3097 W, Bullard Ave.
SW Corner of Bullard & Marks
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15
5:30 DRINKS - 6:00 DINNER
Choice of Lasagna, Ravioli or Pasta
(Fettucine Alla Pana, Rigatone, or Spaghetti)
The above served with pasta, tossed Green
Salad, Vegetables, Bread and Butter
Coffee or Iced Tea
All for \$16.95
BE ON TIME
PAY YOUR OWN BILL
YOUR NO-HOST COUPLE
GEORGE & DOROTHEA GIANOPULOS
432-4630
CALL THEM FOR RESERVATIONS**

Attendance Report

In November, 2013, SIR Branch #159 had 302 members with 202 of those members attending the November 14, 2013 luncheon. This represents 67% of the members in attendance. There were 100 members absent of which 49 were excused. Members are expected to attend the monthly meeting or to notify the Attendance Chairman when the wish to be excused. Three consecutive unexcused absences or six unexcused absences in a twelve month period constitutes a jeopardy to membership. If you are unable to attend a future meeting, PLEASE call 447-5388 or send an email to DukMarshal@aol.com When you call or email please include your NAME and BADGE NUMBER

Duke Marshall, Attendance Chairman

CALLERS CORNER

It has been noticed that some members come to the luncheon late and complain about no seating. My guess is that the caller left a message about the luncheon asking them to call him for confirmation - either Yes or No - if they plan to attend. The reason for the call is to get a headcount for the Ramada Inn. This lets them know how many people to prepare for. The member has to return the call as a matter of courtesy and to help the caller to turn in the correct number of attendees. This also applies if the member brings a guest or has to cancel. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. **Ron Travis**

Computer Group

There will be no Computer Group meeting in December, too close to Holidays. Look forward to January, see you then.

Dale Reichard, Computer Group Chair

Perry Pun of the month -

An Arabic family was considering putting their grandfather, Abdullah, in a nursing home. All the Arabic facilities were completely full so they had to put him in an Italian home. After a few weeks in the Italian facility, they came to visit Grandpa. 'How do you like it here?' asks the grandson

"It's wonderful! Everyone here is so courteous and respectful," says Grandpa

'We're so happy for you. We were worried that this was the wrong place for you. You know, since you are a little different from everyone

"Oh, no! Let me tell you about how wonderfully they treat the residents", Abdullah says with a big smile. There's a musician here-- he's 85 years old. He hasn't played the violin in 20 years and everyone still calls him

'Maestro'! There is a judge in here -- he's 95 years old. He hasn't been on the bench in 30 years and everyone still calls him 'Your Honor'! There's a dentist here 90 years old.

He hasn't fixed a tooth for 25 years and everyone still calls him Doctor!

*And me -- I haven't had sex for 35 years and they still call me "The F***ing Arab".*



Ron Rich Match Play - 4th place - Butch Evans, 3rd place - Vic Froehmer, 2nd place - Mike Williamson, 1st place - Mike Moyle.

11. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.

12. After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him.

The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

Golfers Corner

Fifty-eight golfers who showed up to play at Ridge Creek in Dinuba were faced with a stiff challenge in our first of the month match in NOV. The greens were fast and the pin locations treacherous. In flight 1 Mike Moyle was low with net 72 followed by Lee Moy with net 74. In the 2nd flight Tony Anello had low net of the day at 65, Butch Evans next at net 69. The 3rd flight had Gary Smith in first at net 70, James Noriega second at net 72. Nick Fierro was low in a tiebreaker with Mike Williamson in the 4th flight, both with net 74. In the 5th flight Byron Brough was on top with net 70 followed by LeRoy Foote at net 74. On CTP hole # 3 Duke Marshall was close at 7' 8" followed by Moyle at 11' 6". Ray Phillips almost holed out on CTP hole #16... a scant 11" away. Gary Smith placed second at 1' 5".

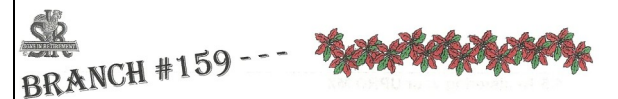
As of this writing the weather is just starting to change. Yet it amazes me that so many of our group turn out to play in cold overcast conditions as seen at Madera Muni on NOV 21. The brotherhood and camaraderie of our

golfers is a good thing!

Lynn Streit is to be thanked for his leadership as monthly chairman for NOV along with Nick Fierro as assistant. Dennis Costello has stepped forward once again to be monthly chairman in December. Lee Moy will assist.

Branch 159 December Golf Schedule
Chairman Dennis Costello 676-5878

Thur 12/5	9:30AM	TT	Fig Garden
Wed 12/11	10AM	SG	Madera G&CC
Thur 12/19	10AM	SG	Airways
Thur 12/26	10AM	SG	Riverside
Thur 1/2	10AM	SG	Pheasant Run
Wed 1/8	10AM	SG	Ridge Creek



SONS IN RETIREMENT

The Annual Holiday Ladies Day Luncheon



- FEATURING -
THE CLOVIS NORTH
VOCAL ENSEMBLE
IN A PROGRAM OF
CHRISTMAS MUSIC

☆ **RAMADA INN**
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013
11 AM: SOCIAL HOUR
12 NOON: LUNCH & PROGRAM
☆ LUNCHEON CHOICES:
- ROAST TURKEY
- BAKED HAM
- POTATO, VEGETABLES
- SALAD, DESSERT, BEVERAGE



☆ - - DOOR PRIZES FOR THE LADIES - -

\$18 PER PERSON

SIR #159 ANNUAL HOLIDAY LADIES DAY LUNCHEON

Reserve by mailing check to:
Shane Petersen
3067 E. Warner Ave.
Fresno, CA 93710

Name: _____

Guest: _____

*Make checks payable to "SIR Branch #159"

Turkey Ham
Turkey Ham

SIR OF THE MONTH JAMES NORIEGA



In 1946 an American born woman of Mexican ancestry gave birth in Clarksdale, Arizona to a boy, whom she named James Noriega. Her husband was a migrant worker from Mexico who worked in the mines located in Clarksdale. In the 40s the borders with Mexico were open, and people could cross over at will. Thus began the multicultural education of James.

He was a fortunate child in that he got to go to 1st grade twice. Once in the U.S., and again, in Mexicali, Mexico. You see, he became quite ill the summer following his 1st experience in 1st grade, and James was moved to Mexicali where his grandmother could care for him. This was in 1950. In the fall, feeling better, he was sent to school in Mexicali where the school placed him in 1st grade for the second time. There were 52 students in the class, and the teacher taught him discipline. Each morning the students were fed eggs and oatmeal for breakfast at the school. The next summer he again became quite ill again, and was held out of 2nd grade for the year. He says, "I never got to learn my addition facts." As a result, he developed his own method of adding numbers. He uses his personal method of adding to this day.

By the time he was ready to start school again, he had moved to Coachella, California with his family and some of his brothers and sisters. Due to his age and size, the school put him into third grade. Because small chil-

dren learn languages so quickly, James is fluent in both English and Spanish without any accent in either language.

As a child during the summers of his growing up years, James worked with his family in the fields around Fresno. In the off season, they would go back to school in Coachella. This went on until he graduated from high school in 1965 from Coachella Valley High.

Out of high school, he enrolled for the fall semester at Fresno State College (now University). When asked why Fresno state, he said he liked it here in Fresno. James graduated from FSU in 1969 with a BA in Mathematics.

In the fall of 1969 he began his educational career as a math teacher in Tulare at Tulare Western High. He had not yet earned his teaching credential. James had entered the Intern Teacher Program at Fresno State. He went to education classes at night and during the following summer. After a year of taking education classes, he earned his Lifetime Teaching Credential. This was in 1970.

With credential in hand, James transferred to Fresno Unified. He was assigned to Sequoia Middle School as a math teacher. After 8 years with junior high students (this helps explain some of his behaviors) He became a math teacher at McLane High School.

James earned his counseling credential in

1988. As a result he became a counselor at McLane. He came to enjoy highland dancing and bagpipes. James saw an opportunity to help council kids with needs, so he moved to Edison High School in 1977 as a counselor. The district, in a reorganization, transferred James to Sunnyside High in 2000. He was again reorganized to Bullard High in 2003. By 2006, James decided it was time to retire from Fresno Unified and leave his education career behind him. James had spent 37 years as an educator.

James is happily married to Debbie. They were married in 1975. Their daughter Allison is their only child. She is a chiropractor, married to a chiropractor and resides in Pennsylvania. Debbie works at Community Medical Center as a social worker.

You will often find James on the golf course playing with friends or the Branch 159 golf group. He also likes to bowl. James bowls with the Branch 159 group and on Friday afternoons.

James is presently serving as Little SIR for Branch 159. In January 2014 he will become the Big SIR. We wish him great fortune as he leads Branch 159 in 2014.

by John Crawford

Bridge Scores

Nov.5 1st. Fred Wrazel, 2nd. Ron Vieira
3rd. John Williford, 4th. Russ Mott
5th. Hugh Cox

Consolation: Gene Tognazzini
High score: 3650
High table: 1450
John Williford Jack Leonard

We now meet on Tuesday at noon.
Nov 19 1st. Fred Wrazel, 2nd. Ron Vieira
3rd. Bob Cleveland 4th. George Rurik
5th. Gene Tognazzini, 6th. Larry Knoll
Consolation: Jack Leonard
High score: 4620
High table: 1460
Ron Vieira George Rurik

Sunshine Desk

Since my last report, we have lost Leroy Pandukht, Guy Mathys and Terry Dondero. Please keep Patt, Heidi, and Cynthia and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Additionally, please be alert, aware, and supportive of all the roosters who face issues of illness, loneliness, isolation, loss, or change. Among those SIRs are Stan Littleworth (family health and move), Irv Zander (health), Brian Morse (health), Bill Freeman (health), Bob Wilderson (health), Buch Evans (family health), Steve Whitehead (family loss), and Larry Rosander (health).

We are certain that there are others. Let us continue to stand side-by-side with all SIRs facing a tough time. Let us continue the reassurance of every man that each man is not alone.

Charles Barrett <charles@thebarretts.com>
Sunshine Desk