



Fresno Branch # 159 Inc.
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Bulletin 282

Fresno Branch No. 159

Vol. XXV - No 2



The Chanticleer

Date Feb 13, 2014

Place: Ramada Inn
324 W. Shaw Avenue

**New 159 website - www.branch159.sirinc2.org
Program - Kathy Colacchio Children's Hospital Central**

Social Hour 11AM
Luncheon: 12 Noon
\$ 15 - No Buck Bucket

I am glad that I joined SIRs. It gives me great things to do: like meeting new friends and staying in touch with old friends. When I was a teacher most of the people I knew were also teachers. Now I have met friends from other fields. Like the new PC word I now have diversity in my associations.



Big SIR James

Now I have a better understanding of aging and it isn't bad. Sure there are some negative parts, like aches and pains. It's funny that when I finally joined the adult world, I missed my childhood. As a child we had little worries, liked to play with our friends and had few obligations. Well aren't we in a similar situation now that we are retired. Now we have a few more worries and obligations but we have a little more money to spend as we please, no one to tell us what to do (?). are not as careless when we play and have more time to do fun things.

For those of you who have not tried one of the activities like poker, fishing, tennis, bowling, golf, etc; join the fun. I would like to pitch in for Lee Moy our new travel chairman/ He seems to be enjoying his new "job". He has come up with many travel activities like day trips (Giant games vs Dodgers games) etc. We need bowlers, the equipment is free, the cost is little (\$7 compare to \$40 for golf) it is not competitive but the company is terrific and best of all it is FUN. We bowl on Fridays at 1 pm at Sierra Lanes (Corner

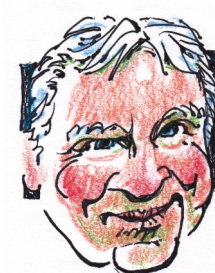
of Blackstone and Sierra).

There are a couple of changes this year. First there is an assessment fee of \$20 for the year and no "buck bucket". Second this year we will be meeting at Pardinis 2 times: the Mother's May Luncheon and the November Luncheon. We were left off the calendar at the Ramada

Again let me thank all the volunteers who Make Sirs 159 such a great Branch: the Board Executive Committee, my fellow officers, past Big Sirs who advise me in my position, and most of all the activities chairmen

Have Fun and bring in new members.

SIRS' what a wonderful group of men. I have to admit this is the best organization I have ever had the pleasure to join. So many backgrounds and careers all in one place.



Little SIR Dennis

When I joined I was welcomed and felt right at home. Thanks David. That is what we need to continue to do with new members, let them know what they can expect. Get them involved in some of the activities and committees. Encourage them to join in. There is so much experience for us to share. I have been fortunate to have members share and give me guide lines in my new position as Little Sir and I am

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

For those of you who have not paid your assessment yet, you have been given a month of grace. After that is past we assume you don't want to belong to SIR 159.

SIRS 159

FEBRUARY'S LADIES DATE NIGHT

SAMBA'S GLOBAL CUSINE

Fig Garden Shopping Center
Back NE corner of shopping center
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
5:30 DRINKS - 6:00 DINNER
Mediterranean style dinner buffet

BE ON TIME

PAY YOUR OWN BILL

YOUR NO-HOST COUPLE

GILBERT & ANNY MATOSSIAN

323-2005

Call them for reservations and other details

2014 Branch Assessment

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

very grateful. I would like to share an example. After my first outing as little sir (last month) I received calls from senior members of SIRs with encouragement and good helpful suggestions. All of which I found very helpful and welcomed. Thanks guys. That is what it is all about we are all here to share, help, serve and be involved. Looking forward to our next lunch-

eon, see you there.
PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR \$20.00 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.

Our scheduled speaker is:
Kathy Colacchio,
Development Specialist
Children's Hospital Central California

SIR OF THE MONTH – Dennis Costello

Dennis Costello was born a Military Brat in Dayton, Ohio on January 26, 1941. His birth order was the 2nd oldest. (A tough place to be) He has two brothers and 3 sister. He enjoyed being a “military brat”, because his family traveled all over the country and world. He lived in Florida, the Panama Canal Zone, Rhode Island, Anchorage, Alaska, and San Bernardino. While in R. I. he attended a catholic grammar school. He loved the Nuns. He kept in touch with his 6th and 8th grade teacher.



activities. He learned to ski, at which he became quite proficient. He then skied every winter. Dennis also did lots of camping. His comment was that high school was a lot of fun.

Dennis finished high school in Alaska and then the family moved to San Bernardino. This is where he went to Junior College and majored in “Lounge”. His words not mine. He found San Bernardino mundane

after the excitement of Alaska.

After J.C. he got married, and 3 children later he got divorced. While he was married, he worked for the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department. He stayed there for 2 years. The job helped lead to the divorce.

After leaving the Sheriff Department, he went to work for Public Transportation as a bus driver. He enjoyed this and ended up in management.

Dennis met his present wife at the Public Transportation. She worked there as well. They were married on August 14, 1979, and have been married for 34 years.

4 years later, Dennis got an offer from Fresno Area Rapid Transit (FART) (This was quickly changed.) He became the Operations Manager. He stayed there for 5 years, and then went to long Beach Transit as Assistant General Manager. 7 years passed, and he then went to ATE

His high school days were spent in Anchorage, Alaska. While in high school, Dennis played football, but not for the high school. He was a member of a base youth football team. This was Elmendorf Air Force Base. They played against the local High school. He also played American Legion baseball. During his high school summers, Dennis was a forest fire fighter. He often was flown in by a bush pilot to a remote lake where he and others were dropped of to fight a fire. As he said, “I was a tough Mick in those days.”

But, Dennis also had a soft side. He performed in Little Theater. His father directed most of the plays. One of them was Oklahoma. One year, Boris Carloff came to his high school where he performed in a sketch. His dad played opposite Boris, and Dennis got to meet Boris.

His high school days were not all organized ac-

She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a carjacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun. No charges were filed. Moral of the story? If you're going to have a senior moment...make it memorable!



Speaker, Dean Eller, receiving his 'thank you' plaque from LS Costello.



New Officers of 2014 taking the oath from Manny Contino - John Crawford, Perry Huffman James Noriaga, Dennis Costello, & Vic Froehmer

Perry Pun for February

A group of women were at a seminar on how to live in a loving relationship with your husband.

The women were asked, "How many of you love your husband?" All the women raised their hands. Then they were asked, "When was the last time you told your husband you loved him?" Some women answered today, a few yesterday, and some couldn't remember. The women were then told to take out their cell phones and text their husband: "I love you, sweetheart." The women were then told to exchange phones with another person, and to read aloud the text message they received, in response.

Here are some of the replies:

1. Who the hell is this?
2. Hey, mother of my children, are you sick or what?
3. Yeh, and I love you too. What's up??
4. What now? Did you wreck the car again?
5. I don't understand what you mean?
6. What the sh__ did you do now?
7. !?!

8. Don't beat around the bush, just tell me how much you need?
9. Am I dreaming?
10. If you don't tell me who this message is actually for, someone will die.
11. I thought we agreed you wouldn't drink during the day.
12. Your mother is coming to stay with us, isn't she??

out the missing ball (no recollection of having picked up his partner's bright yellow ball). Finally there was the surprise at the end of the day. When two SIRs who had shared a cart drove to the parking lot to put away their clubs...they found that they had parked adjacent to each other. To their amazement/chagrin, one of the vehicle's back door had been left wide open. After 4 plus hours of an open invitation to pilfer anything in the car...nothing was found missing.

The following week...a notice was put out to our golfers concerning renewal of their yearly handicap with the NCGA. The next day there was a great response with many checks handed to our handicap chairman John Brechmann at the luncheon. That night I get a call from Brechmann saying, "What's up with these guys?" Seems that 4 of you had already renewed earlier and had handed John a 2nd renewal check that day.

Some of us might be showing our age more than others...but what a great group we belong to! :-)) It is a delight to play on a weekly basis with such fine gentlemen who enjoy golf and the commaraderie and exercise it affords.

We thank Dennis Ensminger for serving as the monthly golf chairman for January. Thanks also to Claude Torres who assisted. The monthly chairman for February is Mike Williamson. Gilbert Matossian will assist.

Branch 159 February Golf Schedule				
Chairman Mike Williamson 251-3103				
Thur	2/6	10AM	SG	Madera Muni
Wed	2/12	10AM	SG	Riverside
Thur	2/20	10AM	SG	Sherwood
Thur	2/27	10AM	SG	Eagle Springs
Thur	3/6	9AM	SG	Valley Oaks
Thur	3/12	9AM	SG	Madera CC
Thur	3/20	9AM	SG	Ridge Creek

Distracted Driving Incident

This morning on the interstate, I looked over to my left and there was a woman In a brand new Cadillac Doing 65 mph with her face up next to her rear view mirror putting on her eyeliner.

I looked away for a couple seconds...to continue shaving and when I looked back, she was halfway over in my lane, still working on that makeup. As a man, I don't scare easily. but she scared me so much; I had to put on my seat belt and I dropped my electric shaver, which knocked the donut out of my other hand. In all the confusion of trying to straighten out the car using my knees against the steering wheel, it knocked my Cell Phone way from my ear and fell into my coffee which was between my legs, splashed and burned Big Jim and the Twins. Ruined the damn phone, soaked my trousers, and disconnected an important call.

Damn women drivers!

Get Out Of The Car!

This is a true account recorded in the Police Log of Sarasota, Florida:

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! GET OUT OF THE CAR!" The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realized why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee, and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat. A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down.

Management as a General Manager. He was assigned to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. He moved over later to Foothill Transit.

While at ATE, he was approached by Flyer of America. They build transit busses. Dennis became the Regional Sales Manager for the South Western United States. He stayed with Flyer until retiring at age 69. That was 4 years ago. While retired, he is periodically call on to do consulting work.

He has 3 children by his 1st marriage; 2 girls and a boy. Their names are Carrie, Lori, and Dennis Michael (known as Mike). Carrie lives in New Harmony, Utah. She and her husband have 5 children: 3 boys and 2 girls. Carrie is also a proud grandmother of 8 grandchildren. (Remember guys-- this adds up to 8 great grand children for Dennis.

Lori lives in San Bernardino and has 1 boy—Trenton. He is in his 2nd year at UCLA on an academic scholarship. Dennis says he is also a great golfer.

Dennis's son Mike lives in Yucaipa, California. He is the Fire Department Chief for Rancho Cucamonga, CA. He and his wife have 2 boys and 2 girls. They are all in high school. The boys are both Eagle Scouts.

Dennis has two step children, a girl and a boy.. They are Karyn Reynolds (the oldest) with one son, and Steve Walkins with one son.

Dennis joined SIR in March 11, 2011. He is the Rooster Chairman. (You know guys, that is where all your shirts come from.) he is also periodically the Monthly Golf Chair. He fills in, from time to time when needed, as the Golf Chair Assistant .

In January, Dennis will become our Little SIR. (Wow, who will get our shirts for us?)

By John Crawford

Treasurers Report SIR Branch 159 Expense Breakdown

Branch 159 has monthly, quarterly and annual expenses. In the past, members contributed to the voluntary "Buck Bucket" as they paid for their lunch or the \$24.00 pre-paid Buck Bucket. As of Jan. 1, 2014 Branch 159 has converted to a fixed Branch assessment, which is authorized by revised SIR State Rules. The following financial breakdown is based on 2013 expenditures and explains how the Branch money is spent and is based on \$1.00.

SIR State assessment	\$ 0.22
BEC expenses	\$ 0.08
Office supplies	\$ 0.01
Telephone Directory	\$ 0.02
Chanticleer (Includes postage)	\$ 0.67
Total	\$ 1.00

Callers Corner

I thought that this month it would be a nice time to start the new year by listing our callers names. This way when they call our SIRs will not think that someone is calling to sell a vacuum cleaner: Allan Baxter, Joe Bencivengo, Mel Bisgaard, Bernie Cargle, Dennis Costello, Doug Duke, Bill Hedman, Dell Kerns, Bob Knebel, Allen Layne, Manuel Nunez, John Pokorny, Dale Reichard, Gino Roberti, Terry Schneider, Stan Sherman, Ron Travis, Jim Vaughan, Fred Wrazel. Thank you **-Ron Travis**

January Menu

Beef Stroganoff & Baked Fish
Roasted New Potatoes&Carrot Raisin Salad
Fresh Seasonal Vegetables
1Green & 1 Fruit Salad
Rolls & Butter
Coffee, Tea, & Decaf
Assorted Dessert

Attendance Report

In January, 2014, SIR Branch #159 had 297 members with 199 of those members attending the January 9, 2013 luncheon. This represents 67% of the members in attendance. There were 98 members absent of which 51 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

November Bowling Scores

The time change and medical problems have cut our numbers down but we are still rolling. Certainly a few more of you could use a Friday afternoon escape to join your fellow Sirs for a couple hours of fellowship. – Friday afternoons, 1 PM Sierra Lanes. Anyone interested please contact Duke Marshall @ 447-5388. It is all handicapped. See you there

Dec 06	Hi Series	Duke Marshall	638	159
	Hi Game	Duke Marshall	228	159
Dec 13	Hi Series	Tom Harlan	647	175
	Hi Game	Tom Harlan	230	175
Dec 20	Hi Series	Tom Simpson	650	159
	Hi Game	Tom Simpson	247	159
Dec 27	Hi Series	Tom Simpson	624	159
	Hi Game	Duke Marshall	232	159

Birthdays

Joe Bencivengo, John Blackburn, Bud Burrows, Alan Bynum, Steve Chase, Roger Deal, Ted Feasel, George Gruner, Roy Harris, Joe Hushek, Bob Jones, Lee Kerr, David Metzger, Bob Montgomery, Randy Morris, Lee Moy, Danny Munoz, Abel Parra-Gutierrez, Jack Whitaker

New Members

Garry Elliott - 456-8431
Jose Haro – 288-4310
John Hayes – 435-5902
Larry Smith – 432-7668

Anniversaries

Al and Mary Ann Baez
Pete and Donna Berman
Boyd and Carolyn Gibson
Russ and Britt Hewer
Allen and Lois Layne
Jerry and Marlene Manley
Warren and Joan Moose
Sal and Betty Morales
Jim and Betsy Peterson
Alex and Patty Ramirez
John and Mary Ellen Williford
Russ and Geneva Wyatt

TRAVEL

ACTIVE-SIRS

Gloria Estefan phrased it best: “Get On Your Feet.” New Year’s Resolutions not withstanding. Come together, pull together. Walk at Woodward Park (Mar); dance lesson (June). Activities will be held the third week of those months; MWF; 10am; co-ed. Prepping for our participation in the Fresno Veterans Day Parade, Nov 11th.

AREA-SIRS

Mens’ Night Out is In ! NBA (Feb) Hooters; Baseball FSU Tailgate. Drinking is optional; BBQ hotdogs.

Reinvigorating Travel !

SIRS 159 Golf program is the best in the Valley. One of our goals is to achieve that level of success with our Travel Department. A much higher vision is to have a very high percentage participating in the various activities. Be a 100% member."

The main focus this year is to honor our military

veterans. Plans include visiting Castle Air Base (Merced), and the USS Hornet (Alameda); Underground Gardens (May), golf/shopping/wine tasting in SLO (June), and Monterey (August). The 2014 calendar allows you to plan well in advance. All travel plans will be done on the 4th Tuesday-Wednesday of those months mentioned. Everyone can participate in the ACTIVE SIRS exercises; BUT only military veterans can march in the Veterans Parade (Nov). Once again I welcome your participation to all of these scheduled events.

“Giants vs Dodgers baseball game, July 27th Sunday AT & T SF, First Come First Serve, Make \$66 check to SIRS 159, Send check to SIR Shane Petersen, 3245 E. Sample, Fresno, Ca 93710-5910.”

I’d like to acknowledge the following for their contribution: Russ & Britt Hewer (passing out flyers), Larry Psaltis (TravelwithAllan), Donald Ryan (GrandCircleTours), Shane Petersen & John Volkman (SF Giants), and Danny Munoz (manning the Travel booth). *Lee Moy Travel Chairman*

Bridge Scores

12/31 1st. John Williford, 2nd. George Rurik, 3rd. Fred Wrazel, 4th. Vic Froehmer
5th. Ron Vieira, 6th. Jim Peterson
Consolation: Hugh Cox
High score: 5640
High table: 1680

John Williford George Rurik

Jan. 7 1st. Ron Vieira, 2nd. Jim Peterson, 3rd. Allen Bertelsen, 4th. Hugh Cox
5th. John Williford, 6th. George Rurik
Consolation: Larry Knoll
High score: 6100
High table: 1620

Ron Vieira Jim Peterson

Jan. 21 1st. Larry Knoll, 2nd. Hugh Cox
3rd. Jim Lund, 4th. Jim Peterson
5th. Ron Vieira, 6th. Fred Wrazel
Consolation: Allen Bertelsen
High score: 5530
High table: 1840
Larry Knoll Jim Peterson

Computer Group

There will be no Computer Group meeting for February-- our room is taken by another group.

Dale Reichard, Computer Group Chair

Golfers Corner

The day after New Years 41 golfers showed up to play at Pheasant Run in Chowchilla. Gilbert Matossian took top honors in the 1st flight with net 68. Howard Zinn followed with net 71. The 2nd flight had Robert Rathburn low with net 69, James Noriega in 2nd with net 71. In flight 3 John Briceno had low net of the day with a 64, followed closely by Corky Nakayama at 65. In the 4th flight it was Eric Wagner in first with a net 69, Bob Wiens second with a 70. On CTP hole #4, Nick Fierro was close at 4’ 6” with Mike Rumley next at 5’ 2”. On hole #17 Bob Kascht knocked it 4’ 1” from the hole. Dan Rodriguez was second at 8’ 2”.

Only in SIRs? Heard or saw three things that happened at Pheasant Run worth mentioning. First there was the golfer who drove out to his hole assignment in anticipation of the shotgun start. When it was his turn to tee off...alas...no clubs on his cart. Had to return to proshop where he had left them. Next...a golfer hit out of a sandtrap and saw his ball stop on the green. After raking the trap he went to putt the ball...but it was no where to be found! Upon another golfer in the foursome mentioning that he had seen so and so pick up the ball...it was only then when that suspect golfer reached into his pocket and with amazement pulled