

# The Town Crower

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The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

April/May 2020



## Stanislaus SIR Branch 103

Hello, Gentlemen, I hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits and healthy while we get through this pandemic together. Inspired by a newsletter from our neighbors in Bakersfield, I sent out a request to our members to share what they are doing to pass the time during this stay-at-home restriction, and a few responded. Enclosed are the responses in their own words. Now, the funny stuff in this newsletter is not meant to belittle the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather, it is only an attempt to inject some humor into the otherwise tragic events unfolding in our country.

**When you read this newsletter be sure to remember social distancing -Stand at least 6 feet away from your computer screen!!**

Big Sir Doug Imberi

I hope you are all doing well and staying healthy. I wish I could see a little light at the end of the tunnel, but at this time it is still pretty dark. We are in a holding pattern, and that is where we should be until the spread of this disease is under control. I called the Elks last week and they are closed until the end of April for now and possibly longer. No Sir branches are meeting, and the state Sir leadership is not making any predictions as to when we can get together again. As soon as I get some kind of news

that affects you, I'll let you know. In the meantime, take that \$19 you are saving on our lunches and, when it is safe, buy lunch for a health care worker. They are putting their life and their family's life on the line everytime they go to work. I'd like to thank Jeff Chin for putting together this issue of the Town Crower. I don't know how many of you have ever tried to do a newsletter, but I can tell you from experience, it ain't easy, especially when you have to do it month after month. It looks like Jeff might have some aspiring stringers based on the following input and if you don't get a chuckle out of Tom Evan's joke, you need an attitude adjustment. I miss you guys and look forward to the time we can get together again. Stay home, stay safe and stay strong.

Sir John Lemos

John Lemos here, the wife, Rosa, and I have been mostly staying at home doing some needed and neglected repairs to the house and yard. We are fortunate that we are healthy enough to be able to take care of ourselves, even though I was diagnosed with stage for prostate metastatic cancer five years ago.

Yes, it's been hard not being able to visit our daughter and grandkids down in San Diego, definitely missing my outdoor activities fly fishing, golf and backpacking. As far as cooking, I've always enjoyed making my own breakfast and cooking dinner on my Traeger pellet grill. In the meantime, to stay busy we are doing puzzles a lot of yardwork, painting and planning the things we plan on doing when this crisis is over.

Hopefully, everybody is well, and we will see you, hopefully, in the near future.

Sir Bob Kredit

We have our daughter and granddaughter shop for us. My granddaughter learned there are different departments in the store she did not know about. No golf, so working on my wife's to-do list. New bar stools that

needed assembly, I won't buy those again. I installed a 15" lattes extension to my fence, planted new plants in the garden, moved the office to spare bedroom, and many other things on her list. I enjoy Church service on-line at 10:00 am Sundays, plus other services during the week. I am keeping in contact with the family using Zoom. Best time is 10 am and 2:30 pm coffee times with my wife. Looking forward to our Luncheons when we all get released. Stay Safe. Only go to the doctor if you are wearing mask and gloves.

Sir James Haub

I've been catching up with all the repairs around the house that I have been putting off for too long. I think I'm done, then my wife reminds me of something else.

Sir Earl Glenn

I swing my clubs in the back yard to keep in shape. I take my dog for walks to keep in shape. I do a few honey-do's, but seems I can't do them right. I'm thinking about getting some boxing gloves and just going to fist city. Ha ha. We do get take-out quite often. We usually get Mexican food at La Morenitas on Hatch Road in Ceres. They usually have good food. To get a good laugh, I usually look in the mirror. Hope you are staying safe and healthy.

Sir Dick Nelson

Shelter-in-Place should not be that big of a deal. I figured that my life patterns were not drastically changed. However, the final straw happened with the closing of all the golf courses. I miss Monday golf with my Sirs buddies. That sort of frames the week.

My RV is in the garage waiting for the siege to lift. Until that time, I decided to read travel stories, "Travels with Charlie," by Steinbeck, a

couple of books by Paul Theroux, "Journey Across the Plain of Snakes," a road trip along the Mexican border, and "Deep South." One very apt book, "Plague," written 1948 by Albert Camus.

Our generation has been largely spared large scale outbreaks of disease. However, they were much more common in the earlier days of our history. The Spanish Flu, post WWI, killed millions of people around the world. Cholera outbreaks in our larger cities were not uncommon.

One thing I have realized, the value of face-to-face contact. You can do all sorts of things via the web, send text, video conference via Zoom. However, you miss the random contacts in the stores, post office, neighborhood walks. You wear a mask, It's hard to talk and hear. It's hard to tell the bank robbers from your friends. The next best thing is a phone call, text is a poor substitute for a voice. I appreciate the calls from both family and friends. Each morning I make a list of people to call for the day.

I have continued to work on a collection of short stories which I hope to publish someday, "Tidewater Anthology."

As a professing Christian, I do not believe this pandemic is a random uncontrollable event. It is, as a Christian, that I am daily encouraged as I walk through the promises of the Old and New Testaments, even in this time of confusion and loss. So, I get up early and spend time in the Word over a cup of coffee and fill up my tank before the day really gets a hold on me. Eventually, I get to the summaries in the New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

I do look forward to resumption of normal life and my eventual return to the Sirs golfing circuit.

# **SPEAKING OF GOLF, HERE ARE SOME NEW PGA RULE CHANGES, thanks to Richard Provost:**

## **PGA 2019 RULE CHANGES IN EFFECT FOR GOLFERS AGE 62+**

**Rule 9k.34 - If a tree is between the ball and the hole, and the tree is deemed to be younger than the player, then the ball can be moved without penalty. This is so because this is simply a question of timing; when the player was younger, the tree was not there so the player is being penalized because of his age.**

**Rule 1.a.5 - A ball sliced or hooked into the Rough shall be lifted and placed on the Fairway at a point equal to the distance it carried or rolled into the Rough with no penalty. The senior player should not be penalized for tall grass which ground keepers failed to mow.**

**Rule 2.d.6 - A ball hitting a tree shall be deemed NOT to have hit the tree. This is simply bad luck and luck has no place in a scientific game. The senior player must estimate the distance the ball would have traveled if it had not hit the tree, and play the ball from there.**

**Rule 3.B.3 - There shall be no such thing as a lost ball. The missing ball is on or near the course and will eventually be found and pocketed by someone else, thereby making it a stolen ball. The senior player is not to compound the felony by charging himself with a penalty.**

**Rule 4.c.7 - If a putt passes over a hole without dropping, it is deemed to have dropped. The Law of Gravity supersedes the Rules of Golf.**

**Rule 5. - Putts that stop close enough to the cup that they could be blown in, may be blown in. This does not apply to balls more than three inches from the Hole. No one wants to make a mockery of the game.**

**Rule 6.a.9 - There is no penalty for so-called "out of bounds". If penny-pinching golf course owners bought sufficient land, this would not occur. The senior player deserves an apology, not a penalty.**

**Rule 7.G.15 - There is no penalty for a ball in a water hazard, as golf balls should float. Senior players should not be penalized for any shortcomings of the manufacturers.**

**Rule 8.k.9 - Advertisements claim that golf scores can be improved by purchasing new golf equipment. Since this is financially impractical for many senior players, one-half stroke per hole may be subtracted for using old equipment.**

**Please advise all your senior friends of these important rule changes and keep multiple copies in your golf bag. Those not following the rules need to be provided a copy.**

**Golf is...above all...a game of integrity. 😊**

Sir Don Rowe

I'm doing well. I walk 3 miles every morning, weather permitting. When I get home, I exercise for about an hour. I am doing a lot of yard work. Being a sports junkie, I am watching talking heads about the NFL draft and free agents. The NFL channel is replaying lots of football games. ESPN is replaying The Master final rounds from past years. I love to read and am catching up on some magazines and books.

We are sheltering at home, given that I have 4 of the ailments that are most vulnerable to this virus. We pick up groceries from Raley's every couple of weeks. We also use Costco delivery, which is relatively quick. About once a week, we order deliveries from some of favorite restaurants.

I miss golf and my golf buddies, which are many of you, immensely. But I swing clubs daily. Sometimes I go out to the back yard and pretend to play courses I have played several times. While my living rug is not comparable to a green, I practice putting trying to work on hitting the ball where I am aiming it.

I have an appointment with my cardiologist that will be a video conference, avoiding waiting rooms.

all in all, we are handling the new normal pretty well. I hope you all are doing similar things as well: Stay home, get deliveries at home, wash your hands after you receive anything including the mail, and smile often, it helps. Stay safe.

Sir Gary Goodman

Hope everyone is safe and healthy. I sure miss getting together with all of you. Sandy and I have been doing the social distancing thing as I hope all of you have been doing. We have been doing a lot of gardening, Sandy has gone through every drawer and closet in the house and rearranged stuff and also found stuff we bought several years ago. Oh, and she found out that she has 27 purses that some were hidden in a

cubbie under the stairs.

I miss playing golf, but I have been taking a long walk almost every day for a mile or two, and Sandy and I walk our dogs in the park each day. It's amazing how fast the day goes when you keep some sort of a routine.

We have also seen some pretty amazing shows on TV. We recorded a movie that stars a Modesto boy named Timothy Olyphant, "Hit-Man". It was filmed in 2007, it was very exciting with a lot of action as you might suspect. We also taped on A & E the story of Garth Brooks life. What a great guy and entertainer.

So other than that, we are staying low anticipating the day we all can get together again, until then, stay safe and "We Will All Get Through This Together!"

Sir Thomas Evans

The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a very creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

And not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.

Sir Bill Caldwell

Walking, bike-riding to get our exercise. If you want to pass the time at home, try working a 1000 or 1500 piece jigsaw puzzle. I'll guarantee it will pass the time plus test your patience and concentration.

Sir Michael Alves

My wife and I go for walks on the canal bank by our house a couple of times a week. Doing projects around the house. We play games: Yahtzee, scrabble and cribbage. Doing puzzles, and I started reading books by Lee Child. We miss our bowling night. I miss the Thursday morning golf, hope everyone is well. See everybody soon. Stay safe.

Sir Don Reed

As a member of SIR Branch 103 since 1997 I have been through a lot of members. There are only two members who have been with 103 longer than myself --- Wesley Rash and Ed Davis.

When I was a novice in the branch, then Little Sir Bill Barrett, took it upon himself to initiate me into serving the cause. First was Program Chairman, then a member of the Executive Board, from there to Secretary. In 2004, I was unexpectedly made editor of the branch newsletter, when Bert Cofer passed away. Have never wanted to be a Big Sir!

During 2006 became a member of the Executive Board again, serving through this year 2020. During this time, I was presented with an Honorary Life Membership during the year 2010 by State SIR President Buck Kendall.

I was responsible for the newsletter and the membership directory all those years from 2004 to 2020.

This coronavirus-19 was the first time there has been a lull in the luncheon program for our State SIR, causing the halt to the golf and bowling and other activities.

Have felt almost lost because not being able to take part in activities. Had been taking charge of the Muni 9-hole golf on Thursday for more years than want to think about. I finally got help from Bob Kredit a few years back, who has taken some pressure off me. We are planning to move the 9-hole Thursday to Creekside Golf Course when they close Muni, sometime by the end of this year.

Mostly during the break in activities there has been a lot of reading and getting the outside work taken care of. Mostly my reading has been with the books of Lee Child, James Patterson, Michael Connelly, Clive Cusler with some Preston/Childs books. Most of them are ones borrowed from our branch book cabinet.

We continue to isolate ourselves at home with some getting out for groceries and doctors.

Sir Joe Bradley

No golf, no bowling, no grandkids, just 24/7 of staying locked up. I have already read five books, usually read two a year. I have been trying to talk my wife into downsizing our house, but with covid-19, maybe we should expand. After 55 years of marriage, we still can't agree on TV shows or movies, except for Jeopardy, which she kicks my ass, and lets me know.

Finally, I told her to go play in the garden. One of her friends shows up to see her, and I sent her to the back yard. A few minutes later, she said I can't find her, which I replied, you just have to dig a little (deeper).

Sir Jeff Chin

I, like everyone else, am having a difficult time with this stay-at-home order, especially watching the news and seeing the numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to increase daily. It's even more frustrating to watch the demonstrations and protests while the numbers keep growing.

Deb, my wife, and I get our daily exercise. We usually try to begin our day with a Tai Chi video, a good way to loosen up. During the day we either take a ride on a bike or walking 3 to 5 miles. The new expansion of Route 132, next to Kansas Ave. is something that we get to watch during our walks. Our dog, Abby, gets to go with us when we take our walks on the canal bank. MJC West Campus is a great place to ride our bikes without any worry about traffic.

Still doing a great deal of reading. I am reading a couple of books right now, bouncing between re-reading books of David Baldacci, Max Lucado, or Mark Batterson, and golf instruction and tips. Just finished a good book, Man's Search for Meaning, by Viktor E. Frankl. It helped me realize how I can help my mother. She is 91 years old and has just been diagnosed with colon cancer. She spent the last couple of weeks at English Oaks doing rehab and therapy. We get to visit her by going to her window and speaking to each other on the phone. She's going back to Bethel at the end of the week. They are still bottled up there, so we won't get to see or touch her until this crisis is over. Please pray for her and my family.

I miss everyone and the activities (competition) on the golf course and the bowling lanes. I hope all of you are doing well. I know we will get through this soon, I hope...