

The Town Crower

Volume 39, Number 8

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

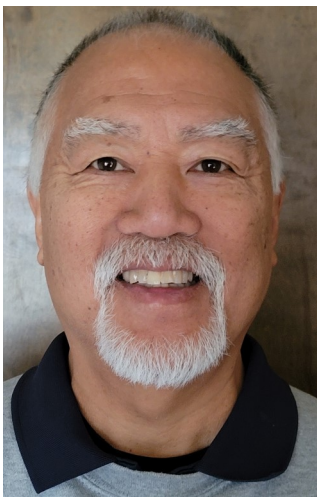
August 2022



Modesto SIR Branch 103

DEDICATED to the PROMOTION of INDEPENDENCE and DIGNITY for MEN

Big Sir Crows By Jeff Chin



Big Sir Jeff Chin

This year is moving quickly. We are more than half-way through 2022. We will be electing next year's officers at the August Luncheon next week. A slate of officers has been nominated by the BEC. These include Dick Nelson, Big Sir; Lance Underwood, Little Sir; Don Rowe, Secretary; Coe Barnard, Assistant Secretary; Ted Bracht, Treasurer; Brian Donahue, Assistant Treasurer; and Directors Jeff Chin, Gary Del Nero, Dennis Imhoff, Kerry Newman, Dave Cooper, and Berry Butrica. Although there is a nominated slate, any member can be nominated from the floor for the positions. All officers will serve a one-year term beginning January 1, 2023.

SIR is a social club for men. We golf, bowl, travel and eat together. A survey will be handed out at the August luncheon to find out if there is any other activity that would interest you. Please let us know what you might like to do.

The August Luncheon will be the last one held at the Seasons. We will be moving from the Seasons in September. A church has purchased the Seasons to become their new sanctuary. Branch 103 and Branch 144 will be moving their luncheons to the Masonic Temple at 800 Rose Ave., Modesto. The site has a larger banquet room for our luncheons with ample parking. The banquet room is on the north side of the building. We will be using the north parking lot and entering the building using the north door.

If you are like me, I have always had a desire for cheeseburgers. One of the better cheeseburgers in this area, and one of the most inexpensive is available at the Commemorative Air Force Central California Squadron Hangar 1-s at the Modesto Airport. The cheeseburger is served with potato salad, beans, chips, drink, and dessert for only \$10.00. Please join us at this fund-raiser on the fourth Saturday of every month.

Veterans need you. Volunteer drivers are needed to take disabled veterans to their medical appointments. Any amount of time is appreciated. They will work around your schedule. My wife and I are going to be volunteer drivers for MOVE, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting the residents of Stanislaus County with transportation options to access the community. If you have time, please think about becoming a volunteer driver in the VetsVan program. Call for information: 209-672-1143.

After I step down as Big Sir of Branch 103, I will be assuming another position for SIR. I will become the Area 18 Governor, a position that has been held by Richard Provost. I will also continue to represent you on the BEC in the position of director as the past president.

SIR Branch 103 BEC Minutes

By Secretary Don Rowe (First Draft)

Attendance: Big SIR Jeff Chin, Secretary Don Rowe, Assistant Secretary Coe Barnard. Treasurer, Joe Stackhouse, Assistant Treasurer, Richard Provost, Directors: Dennis Imhoff, Dave Cooper, Kerry Newman, and Gary Del Nero.

Absent: Little Sir Dick Nelson, Directors Roger Smith, Doug Imberi

Committee Representatives present: Tom Evans, (programs), (Bob Kredit, (Membership and data processing) Jeff Chin, (newsletter and Computer Club), Bill Stires (travel)

Guests:

Call to Order: Big SIR Jeff Chin, called the meeting to order at 7:35 A.M. at Denny's. There were 9 Executive Board members present for a quorum.

Reports:

Secretary: June 24 Minutes were offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Stackhouse- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer: Joe Stackhouse's July 27 report showed the Beginning balance-\$4,984.71. Receipts: luncheon proceeds less contribution portion- \$1008.00, dues-\$10, Raffle- 69.00. Total receipts-\$1087.00. Checks written- Season's Catering-\$1,004.32, Dennis Imhoff, \$38.30 for shirts, Sir Assessment, \$169.75, Bob Kredit-\$8.09- picture frame. Total deductions-\$2,220.46. Ending balance is \$4,851.25. -Motion to accept: Stackhouse, 2nd Newman-PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Big SIR: Jeff reported that The Seasons is sold. The new owners, a church, will make our hall into a sanctuary. We will meet in room 2.

Little SIR: NA.

Membership: Bob reported that we have 103 members and 21 inactive. One new member application was presented -Peter Matysuk. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Provost PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. That makes 104 members.

Luncheon: Good food!

Correspondence: NA

Program: Tom reported for August, Scott Collins, from Modesto Public Works will be our speaker.

Sunshine: Gary said that Doug Imberi has covid. Larry Owens is doing better. A card was sent to John McGrath. Roger Smith's wife was in a car accident. She has moderate injuries. Former member, Manny Semas died.

Health and Safety: There is a new covid variant working. Monkey virus is also starting to infect people.

Thursday Golf: Don Reed and Bob Kredit said that Thursday golf is going well. Coe is also helping.

Usually, 40 + show up.

Golf: NA

Newsletter: Jeff said it is going nicely.

Bowling: NA

Merchandising: Dennis reported that he is having a hard time getting stuff. He is looking at other vendors for our merchandise.

Data Processing: NA

Travel: Bill Stires reported on upcoming travel events. He also said that he will be retiring from setting up travel after the Oct. 23rd event. Anyone interested?

Computer: NA

Dine Out: WE NEED VOLUTEERS TO SET UP FUTURE DINE OUTS!!

Coe is hosting August at Papapolloni Mediterranean Bistro on August 18, 2022.

Other: Donn Reed said we need to renew Microsoft 365. Motion: Renew Microsoft 365 Provost, 2nd Stackhouse- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Old Business: The nominating committee reported the following for Officers and Board members, will be approaching people to take over these positions: Big Sir, Dick Nelson, Little Sir, Lance Underwood, Secretary, Don Rowe, Assistant Secretary, Coe Barnard, Treasurer, Ted Bracht, Assistant Treasurer, Brian Donahue. Directors, Jeff Chin, Gary Del Nero, Dennis Imhoff, Kerry Newman, Dave Cooper, and Berry Butrica.

2. Don Reed is updating the Directory.

New Business 1. There is an opening for Area Governor. Jeff Chin was nominated. Motion to accept: Provost, 2nd Rowe- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. 2. Branch 103 strongly disagreed with allowing women members. Sod did Branches 143 and 144

Adjournment: 9:00 A.M

ALL ABOUT ME

Branch 103 has 104 members. A member will be chosen to tell all about themselves. Little Sir Dick Nelson will interview members each month. The member who Dick interviewed this month is Paul Bender.

Paul Bender is a quiet unassuming man who surprised me one Monday at Creekside. "I have had an interesting life." Paul hails from San Jose. His Dad had a company, "telephone solicitation." That was different than what we think of today. He sold ads to a lot of veteran's groups like the American Legion, VFW., San Jose Speedway.

I went to James Lick High school and played third base. I wanted to play pro ball. I was offered a contract by the Sacramento triple-A team, but that only paid a couple of hundred bucks a month. You had to pay your own expenses. Being under age, my Dad had to sign the contract. He wouldn't do it. He wanted me to play pro baseball but he also wanted me to get an education. I went to San Jose State for a year. I wasn't a much for school. A friend asked me to play softball on their team. I was playing semi-pro baseball. I thought softball was a sissy sport. I was building a car and walked into this chrome shop where I bought parts. The owner was the sponsor of the team I was playing on. He told me, "if you guys win today, you don't have to pay me for the parts." We won the city championship and eventually he offered me a job as a salesman. Our team played an exhibition against Eddie Lopat known throughout the US as the King and His Court. He could do amazing stuff. Most of his pitches were illegal. He'd hide the ball before he released it. Before the game he came around and introduced himself to us and told us that he was going to embarrass everyone of us but it was for the fans. I had two at bats... struck out twice, fouled one pitch off. The funny thing... he was pitching perfect strikes, blind folded from second base.

My Dad told me, "Learn how to sell and you will never go hungry." My Dad produced an indoor car show at the San Jose Civic Auditorium, but he wasn't really interested in it. I was 22 and thought this was something I'd like to do. It cost about \$5,000 to produce. I sold it about 25 years later and when it cost about \$90,000 to produce. I was the first to sell naming rights., so the San Jose Autorama became the Budweiser San Jose Autorama.

I did everything, the contracts for the buildings, the advertising, contracted with agents for TV personalities. The radio guys were always glad to see me. I'd tell them exactly what I wanted and where to put the ad. One year I had 14 car shows. This was all my side job. I always had a regular job. My Dad sold ads for the programs at the San Jose Speedway. I'd go to the track and watched the starters. I thought that was something I'd like to do. The starter told me to come back when I was older and he would teach me how to do that. I was intrigued by race cars. Thirty years later I was the premier starter on the West Coast, and a Nascar official for over 30 years. I am in the Grand National Roadster Hall of Fame, and the San Jose Speedway Hall of Fame. Racing is a dangerous sport. I like the atmosphere, the smell, adrenaline, the excitement. The Indy 500 is the greatest racing spectacle. There's stuff going on all day long. No parking. Every house on 16th St. has a table on the front lawn with coffee and food, "Welcome race fans, help yourself." I went in 1990 and remember the winner, Arie Leyendyke. The day before I had gone to watch to watch the midget races. I was watching this one car, very fast and very smooth driven by 19 year old Jeff Gordon from Vallejo. I know why they call Richard Petty the "King." I saw him in Phoenix. The race was over and we could not get out. There was a long line of people waiting for autographs and pictures. He signed everyone of them. He rode a bicycle through the pits and introduced himself to everybody. He was an ambassador. Paul was wearing a San Jose Speedway shirt, while riding with Joe Bradley at Creekside. Conversation ensued. Joe reminded Paul that he raced at San Jose. Paul told Joe, "You were car#38." Joe's response, "You were that damn starter."

Paul met his wife Vicki on a cold night at the Watsonville Speedway. He noticed she was shivering. He loaned her his jacket and eventually offered to buy her a cup of coffee. She worked in the Nascar office and was learning how to be a scorer for races. Between them they had five kids and have been married for 51 years..

GOLF



All payments for golf must be made by 6:00 PM Wednesday before the Monday Tournament. There will be NO payments at the golf course. Mail all checks to Roger Smith, 3612 Incline Ct., Riverbank, CA 95367-3123. Make all checks to SIRs Golf. Write on the bottom of the check the date of the tournament and the course. All fees, golf and cart fees must be paid with check.

If you want to ride/play with someone, please let us know and give us all the information (ride, walk, play with/ride).

- Mon. Aug. 22-Creekside, 8:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$15)
Host 144
- Mon. Aug. 29-Tracy CC, 8:00, \$52 (cart incl.)
Host 103
- Mon. Sept 6-Dryden, 8:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$15)
Host 144
- Mon. Sept 12-Manteca, 8:00, \$47 (cart incl.) Host
164
- Mon. Sept 19-Teleli, 8:00, \$59 (cart incl.) Host
103
- Mon. Sept 26-Creekside YET, 8:00 (cart opt. \$15)
Host ALL
- Mon. Oct. 3-Castle Oaks, 9:00, \$49 (cart incl.)
Host 144
- Mon. Oct. 10-Dryden, 9:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$15)
Host 103
- Mon. Oct. 17-Tracy CC, 9:00, \$52 (cart incl.) Host
144
- Mon. Oct. 24-Creekside, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$15)
Host 103
- Mon. Oct. 31-Manteca, 8:00, \$47 (cart incl.) Host
164

August Program

By Tom Evans

Our Program Speaker for August will be Peter Collins from the City of Modesto Public Works Department. The Public Works Department provides maintenance services for our airport, streets, traffic control systems, City buildings, parking, City vehicles and City trees. The Public Works Department provides services such as garbage pick-up and recycling, green waste collection and public transit.

Muni-Creekside Golf

Muni-Creekside Golf is an activity that was created by Bob Kredit and Don Reed. This is now a SIR sponsored event. This is a weekly event held at Creekside Golf Course on Thursday mornings. Tee times are first come, first serve, and requests must be made by email or message to Bob Kredit at 6:00 pm the prior Wednesday to the golf tee time. You must have a tee time before coming to the course.



Bowling

SIR AND CLASSY LADIES LEAGUES

Dust off those bowling balls and get ready for winter leagues starting in August. Both leagues will return to Mc Henry Bowl with the same times on Tuesday afternoons. The leagues are set to begin with a meeting on September 6. The leagues will start on September 6, 2021. Everyone is welcome to join the league. If you want to bowl and don't have a team yet, come to the first meeting on September 6, and we will find a team for you. Mc Henry Bowl is now open for practice.

ALL ABOUT ME

continued

Above Paul's desk is a picture of his son's race car, a red and white Sprint car, with two wings, 410 cu in engine and more horsepower than you could imagine screaming around a dirt oval running wide open. Paul has been a member of Sirs since 2002. He has the most time consuming job as treasurer of Area 18 golf. He tracks the checks, pays the bills, and the individual winnings." Barry Meiselman and Joe Adams asked me to do this. I made the mistake of telling them, 'If you can't find anybody else, I'll do it.'" Cars and racing.. Paul Bender has seen the racing greats ,heard the roar of the crowds and dropped the starter's flag innumerable times. He has been an integral part of the Nascar racing community in California for a very long time and that's an interesting fact.

Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

August 24, 2022
10:30 am - 1:00 pm

The Seasons
945 Mc Henry Ave. Modesto, CA
Luncheon Price \$21.00



Donald Carney	8/03/1946	#179
David Brown	8/10/1947	#146
Berry Butrica	8/11/1953	#169
Peter Matysuk	8/11/1955	#37
Jim Bickner	8/14/1939	#165
Phillip Reed	8/18/1953	#33
Jim Tanquary	8/19/1943	#19
Rick DeOcampo	8/21/1964	#83
Juan Salinas	8/22/1960	#4
Mark Lim	8/26/1947	#231
Kerry Newman	8/30/1938	#91
Gary DelNero	8/30/1953	#68
Joe Stackhouse	8/31/1943	#98
Dan Reeves	8/31/1949	#34

Couples Dine Out

Our Couples Dine Out will be on August 18, 2022. It will be at Papapolloni Mediterranean Bistro, 2501 McHenry Ave., Modesto, at 5:30 PM. The restaurant will be open before 5:30 PM. If you would like to attend, please call Coe Barnard (209-602-0661), or send an email to coe@sbcglobal.net.



LADIES' DINE-OUT

The Ladies' Dine-out will be at Javi's Fine Mexican Food Restaurant, 1225 Standiford Ave., Modesto on August 25, 2022, at 11:30 am. All are invited and bring your friends, no reservations are required.



By Gary Del Nero

Don Reed and his wife had COVID, but to make matters worse, Don's wife fell and injured her hip, landing her in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with both of them. Bob Sykes was headed to play golf last Thursday, August 11, and on his way had some pain in his chest. When he got to Creekside, he was taken to hospital and ended up having two stints put in. He was in hospital for a couple days before he got out. The one minor set-back was he ended back in for a few days, but I believe he, hopefully, is at home now - our thoughts and prayers extended to him. Lastly, but not good news, Don Sullivan who was a SIR 144 member passed. He was a good friend to many as he played golf and bowled with fellow members. A card was sent to his family. He will be dearly missed.

Nominated Branch 103 Officers For 2023

These are the nominated officers for Branch 103 for 2023:

Big Sir-Richard Nelson

Little Sir-Lance Underwood

Secretary-Don Rowe

Assist. Sec.-Coe Barnard

Treasurer-Ted Bracht

Assist. Treas.-Brian Donahue

Directors-

Jeff Chin

Dennis Imhoff

Kerry Newman

Dave Cooper

Berry Butrica



Travel

Bill Stires

Scenic Ireland

April 14-27, 2023

There are only 6 more spaces on this trip.

Price: \$5,395 double, \$6195 single. Deposit of \$500 per person is required by August 31 to hold space on this trip. Included in the deposit is a \$350 pp non-refundable Globus and Alamo World Travel group management fee. Prices are

based on current air prices as of 5/6/2022, and subject to change until tickets are issued. Final payment is due no later than December 1, 2022.

Tour includes: Roundtrip airport transfers, Roundtrip economy air to and from Shannon, Ireland, 12 nights First Class Hotel Accommodations, 18 meals: 12 Breakfasts and 6 Dinners, Gratuities on tour for Tour Manager and Bus Driver, Audio headsets for flexible sightseeing, and all portage and restaurant gratuities.

Highlights include stops at Cliffs of Moher, Connemara, Galway, Derry, Northern Ireland-Giant's Causeway, Belfast, Waterford, Blarney, Ring of Kerry and Dublin.

If interested in any trips, call Bill Stires at home phone 209-544-2684, cell phone 209 988-5445, or email bstires46@gmail.com to receive a reservation form. Friends, neighbors and relatives can go on any of the SIR trips.

Notes from Norway

Dave Cooper recently returned from a trip to Norway. Here are his notes from his visit.

Our latest trip to Norway was to the beautiful city of Bergen on the southwestern coast. It is a cosmopolitan city surrounded by mountains and fjords. The entire area is made up of islands connected by bridges and ferries in addition to many tunnels. Bergen has a beautiful harbor surrounded by restaurants and colorful houses. A stunning view of the harbor and downtown is from the top of Floyen Mountain that is reached by a funicular trolley.

Seafood of every type is a mainstay in Bergen's homes and restaurants. On our first night, the dinner table at our son's house was set with a huge platter of unshelled shrimp. Everybody digs in and starts shelling. There are big plates of bread and various sauces. The idea is to peel enough shrimp to cover a large piece of bread, adding the desired sauces and eating it like a sandwich. Contrast this with a wedding dinner we attended catered by a genuine pitmaster (who has traveled numerous times to Texas) that included brisket, ribs, sausages and potato salad. Having grown up in Texas, I know BBQ, and this was the real thing. I told you Bergen was cosmopolitan!

The weather in Bergen and Norway in general is characterized by a lot of rain. In fact, most of power in the country is hydroelectric. Rainy weather means nothing to Norwegians - life goes on as usual. They have a saying: There is no bad weather, just bad clothes. Norwegians are very health conscious. They walk a lot and hike all year. Winters will be cold, windy and rainy (or sleety). I remember on a winter trip seeing kids playing soccer at night with sleet blowing horizontally. These are hardy folks. Clear days are glorious. In the summer, it is light by 4am and gets dark about 11pm. Norwegians take full advantage of the long summer days. Many have large gardens or grow veggies in pots on decks.

An advantage in Norway and Scandinavia in general is that most everyone speaks fluent English. Kids start learning English in the 3rd grade. Many signs are in English as well as menus. Bergen is the birthplace of the renowned composer Edvard Grieg. Music is at the heart of activities in Bergen. Music concerts are frequent in concert halls, churches and in outdoor venues. Brass band music (not John Philip Souza style) can be found everywhere. This type of music, which arose from the Salvation Army bands in England, is characterized by all brass ensembles of 25 are so players and also includes a percussion section. The music is unique and complicated and some of the most beautiful I have ever heard. Brass band competitions are frequent. Elite adult bands compete yearly for the European Championship.

Bergen is a beautiful city with stunning views, a friendly atmosphere, and a multitude of things to see and do.

SIR STATE OFFICERS

State Pres. Richard Kindle..... 209 652-8608
State Vice Pres. Dale Decker..... 209 533-0455
Reg. 2 Dir....Open.....
Gov. Area 18 Richard J. Provost..... 209 577-8219

SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

Big Sir Jeffery Chin 209 602-3912
Little Sir Richard Nelson..... 209 701-8108
Secretary Don Rowe 209 634-0100
Asst. Secretary Coe Barnard 209 602-0661
Treasurer Joe Stackhouse.....209 578-4593
Asst. Treasurer Richard Provost..... 209 543-0972
Doug Imberi 209 596-1298
Gary Del Nero 209 681-1100
Dennis Imhoff 209 846-9529
Roger Smith 209 614-8684
Kerry Newman 209 579-7747
Dave Cooper 209 578-3789



COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership Bob Kredit..... 209 672-0326	Sunshine Chair Gary Del Nero.....209 681-1100
Assistant	Health & Safety Kerry Newman...209 579-7747
Program Chair Tom Evans 209 551-1836	Chaplain Joe Stackhouse.....209 543-0972
Assistant	Asst.Chaplain Gary Goodman209 578-0848
Member Orient. Richard Provost 209 222-1910	Meal Tickets Don Rowe.....209 634-0100
Public Relations Bob Kredit209 672-0326	RaffleRoy Bruk,Jim Bickner, Mike Filan
Bowling Vern Masse 209 544-1953	Table Setup Don Rowe209 634-0100
Bowling Dominic Genova 209 523-1663	Table Setup Bill Caldwell209 529-4125
Golf Chair Roger Smith..... 209 614-8684	Table Setup Jim Bickner209 522-4345
Golf Co-Chair Kerry Newman209 579-7747	Lead Singer Ed Davis209 522-4080
Golf Co-Chair Gerald Hott209 602-2910	Backup Singer Gary Goodman209 578-0848
Golf Handicap Jerry Strain..... 209 574-9301	Audit Committee: Kerry Newman, Coe Barnard
Book Exchange	Nominating Committee: Doug Imberi, Bob Kredit
Travel Area 18 Bill Stires 209 988-5445,	Ladies Dine Out Barbara Webb.....209 526-6511
209 544-2684	
Merchandise Sales Dennis Imhoff 209 846-9529	
Lunch Menu Jeffery Chin..... 209 602-3912	
Computer Club Jeffery Chin 209 602-3912	
Dine OutMonthly Volunteer	

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Bill Caldwell, Lon Loudermilk Don Reed and Bob Kredit

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jeffery Chin jefferygary@msn.com602-3912

SIR DISCLAIMER and ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

All trips and other activities arranged by and for SONS IN RETIREMENT, Inc., and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches do not assume responsibility for the well-being or safety of the passengers, or their property, in any matter pertaining to said tours or other activities. Regular members missing three (3) consecutive meetings shall be notified by Form Letter 4 of their pending membership termination. Certification of attendance at another Branch meeting will be considered as a credit to the attendance record. Individual Branches may limit the number of make-ups during a twelve (12) month period.

Stanislaus Branch #103
1613 Poust Rd.
Modesto, CA 95358-1084
A Non-Profit Organization

INCORPORATED

