

# The Town Crower

Volume 39, Number 9

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

September 2022

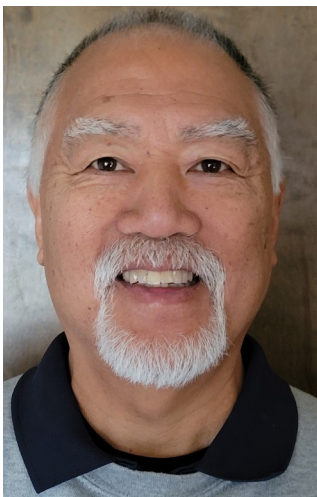


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## Modesto SIR Branch 103

DEDICATED to the PROMOTION of INDEPENDENCE and DIGNITY for MEN

### **Big Sir Crows** By Jeff Chin



**Big Sir Jeff Chin**

First, I must apologize for the election mix-up at our August luncheon. There were misunderstandings about the Director elections. We will be having another election at the September luncheon. There will be one ballot with the nominees for Director listed. There will be six nominees listed for five positions. The nominees are Berry Butrica, Dave Cooper, Gary Del Nero, Dennis Imhoff, Kerry Newman, and Roger Smith. All officers will serve a one-year term beginning January 1, 2023.

The date for the September luncheon was changed this month due to a scheduling error. We will be meeting the third Wednesday this month, September 21. This change is only for this month. We will be returning to the "normal" meeting time of the fourth Wednesday of the month. We will be meeting at 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.

There is a new 2022 Membership Roster out. New members will receive a complimentary copy when they join. All 2022 new members will get one. The rosters are available to all members for \$2.00. The cost is to cover the printing charges. They will be available at the September luncheon.

SIR is a social club for men. We golf, bowl, travel and eat together. The results of the survey that was given last month showed an interest in wine tasting events, luncheon get-togethers, and casino nights. Look for these events to be scheduled in the future.

There will be a new page added to the newsletter. This page is a monthly calendar listing all the SIR Branch 103 events for the month. This page will be the last page of the newsletter, so you can put the page on the refrigerator or another place to see the calendar.

# **SIR Branch 103 BEC Minutes**

By Secretary Don Rowe (First Draft)

August 26, 2022

**Attendance:** Big SIR Jeff Chin, Secretary Don Rowe, Assistant Secretary Coe Barnard. Treasurer, Joe Stackhouse, Directors: Dennis Imhoff, Dave Cooper, Kerry Newman, Roger Smith, and Doug Imberi  
**Absent:** Little Sir Dick Nelson, Assistant Treasurer, Richard Provost Director Gary Del Nero.  
**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:** July 29 Minutes were offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Barnard- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Treasurer:** Joe Stackhouse's July 27 report showed the Beginning balance-\$4,851.25. Receipts: luncheon proceeds less contribution portion- \$1155.00, dues-\$60, Raffle- 80.00. Total receipts-\$1295.00. Checks written- Season's Catering-\$1,147.59 Joe Stackhouse for dinners of the Lokkes-\$64.73, Microsoft subscription-\$99.99. Total deductions-\$1,312.51. Ending balance is \$4,833.74. - Motion to accept: Stackhouse, 2nd Rowe-PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Big SIR:** Jeff reported that moving day to Masonic Lodge will be Fri. at 10:AM. 2. Due to errors in the election of Directors, we will vote again in Sept. 3. Polling results of activities survey were poker night, wine tasting, and lunch get-together. We need to find an activities chairperson. 4. A discussion about the \$5.00 set up fee being charged for our luncheon at the Masonic Lodge. It was suggested that we charge those that choose not to buy lunch be charged \$5:00 to cover setup, water, and tea. Motion: Charge members who choose not to buy lunch \$5.00 for set up-Rowe, 2nd Barnard- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. 5. We will look into finding music for the December Ladies Day luncheon.

**Little SIR:** NA.

**Membership:** Bob reported that we have 103 members. No new member application was presented.

**Luncheon:** Good food!

**Correspondence:** NA

**Program:** Tom reported that for Sept., Harrison Jones, will talk about our Modesto Landmarks. In Oct., Bruce Hinkey will speak on E Clampus Vitas.

**Sunshine:** NA

**Health and Safety:** Kerry reported that this year's flu vaccine is available.

**Thursday Golf:** Thursday golf is going well. Coe is also helping. Usually, 40 + show up.

**Golf:** Sept 26 will be our end of the year tournament and lunch.

**Newsletter:** Jeff said it is going nicely.

**Bowling:** Start will be Sept 6.

**Merchandising:** NA

**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!!

**Old Business:**

**New Business 1.** State Sir has changed its covid protocols. Motion: keep the covid protocols Branch 103 established-Rowe, 2nd Imhoff- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Adjournment:** 8:0023 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Rowe

**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 Roger Smith.

My father was a professional musician who played the piano and sang tenor with a Southern Baptist quartet. Roger was born in Decatur, Ill. lived there for five years and then moved to Kingsville, Texas. In 1961 he moved to Newark, Ca. And later to Hayward." Dad went to work for Sears Roebuck, did kitchen re-modeling, sold appliances and worked on straight commission. Mom went to work for a glass company. "We always had a piano in the house. I played trumpet in 6th grade, and then played a sousaphone, a big brass horn, goes around your head. I liked the bass. I always wanted to be a bass singer. Dad said, "You ain't got it." My Dad told me when I was a little kid bass singers would hold me up, keep me quiet. "I always liked the bass guys. I played in the band all the way through high school." I was my Mom's favorite child. "if there was one piece of pie left and she knew I wanted it, it was mine." Mom was supportive of her kids. She was there more than Dad, held the home together. Dad was asked to go to Southern California to sing high tenor for Elvis Presley records. Mom put her foot down. "Your family or you're music." Mom kept the family together. I went to, MT. Eden High in Hayward and graduated in 1971. I played football in high school. Our band played in the opening dedication of the San Mateo Bridge. I had no plans after high school. I did not want to go to college. This was the time of the Viet Nam war. My best friend and I decided that if we got drafted we would go together. He got a low number, mine was 351." Parents surprised me "We will support you if you get drafted, and we will support you if you go to Canada." They were adamantly opposed to the war." I worked in a gas station for a year and eventually worked in machine shops for 30 years in the Bay Area.

I coached baseball for 16-18 year old boys and I liked the banter between kids. I enjoyed working with kids. I had a lot of time to think when I worked in the machine shop. I started thinking that maybe I would like to be a teacher. I started taking classes at Chabot Jr. College while working full time. In 1997 I was the shop steward for a machine shop. We were notified that our shop was going to close. We were offered the opportunity to move to North Carolina and work for the "prevailing wage." We sold our house and moved to Modesto, and started at Stan State in the credential program.

"My first sub job, I went to John B. Allard School in Turlock which was a 7th-12 grade school. I pulled up and saw there was a police car outside. I was escorted to my class room. This kid is sitting in the front row looks at me and says, "How long you think you're going to be here?" I told him, "Well they are paying me \$90 a day to be here for the full day and not paying you. So I guess I'll be here for a while." The kid looked at me and cracked up, "Hey you O.K." Never had a problem with that class and the principal offered me a long term sub job." Roger taught at the Alternative Ed School in Empire for ten years and 4 years at Juvenile Hall in Modesto. You talk to Roger for a while about kids and teaching and how anyone could deal with a difficult group to connect with. Roger stated, "I could identify with some of these kids. We never had much, we moved around a bunch, I went to a lot of different schools. In 7th and 8th grade I would fight every day. I got to know the kids and their families. A lot of these kids would come to school, because that's the only place they got anything to eat. So we started talking with Teel Middle School and managed to get breakfast for our kids. I had kids come up to me, "Hey I need a nickel for the bus. So I started carrying around a pocketful of nickels. Other times a kid would come up to me and say, "Hey I am going to be gone for the next three weeks. "I later found out the kids were going to jail because they had a safe place to sleep, and three meals a day."

"I put my phone # on the board and told them to call me if you need something. I will check with your parents." Teachers thought I was nuts. I told them if a kid shows up at my house, he already knows where I live. I'd have kids show up at the house. I'd invite them in. Sometimes I'd find little things left on my car, just to let me know they had been there. But nobody ever messed with my stuff, took anything. I got no prank calls."

# 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. 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
- Mon. Nov. 7-Micke Grove, 9:00, \$49 (cart incl.) Host 144
- Mon. Nov. 14-Dryden, 9:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$15) Host 103
- Mon. Nov. 21-Swenson, 9:00, \$46 (cart incl.) Host 064
- Mon. Nov. 28-Creekside, 9:00, #34 (cart opt. \$15) Host 144

## September Program

By Tom Evans

Our Program Speaker for September will speak on E Clampus Vitus. "As I pass through this life, may I always be humble, may I never take myself serious-"a stuffed shirt", may I always appreciate a little bit of the "ridiculous"; may I always be a two-fisted Clamper when the bottle pass's my way, and if I imbibe and can't hold it like a man, then may I always be able to "Pass it on to the next Brother", may I never forget the stout-hearted men who settled a great Western wilderness, and the heritage we have today; may I never fail to appreciate a bit of Western lore."

## 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

The leagues began 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 bowling center and we will find a team for you. Mc Henry Bowl is now open for practice.

## Roger Smith continued

In 1990 Roger married his current wife, Pam. She was a book keeper who had worked for Mother's Cookies in Oakland, and the Oakdale Country Club, and Sav Mart and currently has an on line business selling decorative wreaths. They have

been married for 32 years and had five kids and 7 grand kids and two great- grand kids.

Roger joined Sirs in 2015. He was brought in by Jerry Emery. Roger is on the Executive Committee and also the Chair of our Golf Committee. Roger makes a deliberate effort to greet everyone either at a golf function or lunch. If he tells you, "I am glad to see you," he is truly glad to see you and shares a warmth and delight in being alive in a particular time and place, because our time here is very fragile and it is a joy to be alive.

## Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

**September 21, 2022**

**10:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Masonic Temple**

**800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA**

**Luncheon Price \$21.00**



Edwin Davis	9/01/1924	#204
Manuel Andrade	9/27/1967	#31

## Couples Dine Out

Our Couples Dine Out will be on August 15, 2022. It will be at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 3401 Dale Rd, Ste. 483, Modesto, at 5:00 PM. The restaurant will be open before 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please call Jeff Chin (209-602-3912), or send an email to [jefferygaryc@msn.com](mailto:jefferygaryc@msn.com).



## LADIES' DINE-OUT

The Ladies' Dine-out will be at Strings Restaurant, 2601 Oakdale Rd, Modesto on September 22, 2022, at 11:30 am. All are invited and bring your friends, no reservations are required.



By Gary Del Nero

It would go without saying possibly the most prolific leader of all time Queen Elizabeth has passed as I put in my Sunshine Report. Most of us were very young when she took power, I was not born at that time. May she rest in peace. Max Stowe's wife has passed, a card was sent out thoughts and prayers with him and family. Talked with Bob Sykes he is getting better and the same with Steve "Gibby" Gibson also getting better. Dominic Genova lost his son recently. We are saddened to hear the news and our hearts go out to Dominic and his family

## 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 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](mailto:bstires46@gmail.com) to receive a reservation form. Friends, neighbors and relatives can go on any of the



# That Game Called Golf

I have hit tee shots that dribbled to the ladies' tee, sand shots that sailed across the green into an adjacent fairway, wedge shots that went more side ways than forward and with a little spin behind where I started. I have hit sprinkler heads on greens, rakes in bunkers, and lost balls in the middle of a fairway. On one par 5 at Dry Creek, I hit every tree on the right hand side of the fairway, sailed a ball over the green, and managed to three putt. I have seen water hazards, measured the distance and hit the ball right into a water hazard 30 yards in front of me. I have planned carefully and failed publicly. Greatness is an elusive thing. Mark Twain stated that golf, "is a good walk spoiled." Maybe we should enjoy the walk a bit more.

Recently, I finished a round at Creekside and was bemoaning how I had messed up something which had been a fairly good round. I had planned to hit a decent drive, stay on the left side of the fairway going in and lay up, rather than going for the green in 2 from 200 yards out and pushing a shot into the water. My plan worked right up to the point where I 3 putted and wound up with a double bogie. Coe Barnard looked up at me and said in his understated way, "You know, that's golf." Not much I could add to that. Greatness is elusive.

Most of us have not grown up on golf courses. Vijay Singh and Greg Norman would hit thousands of balls a week. Most of us don't practice. Harvey Pinnock who schooled Tom Kite and Ben Crenshaw suggests in his Little Red Book, "Seniors should spend 75% of their time chipping and putting." Golf is a difficult game particularly when compounded by age, physical limitations, increasing lack of flexibility, and bad mechanics. To hit a small white ball into a very small hole that is 4.25 inches in diameter and 4-6 inches deep is very hard. In a game where there is often more failure than success why not enjoy the walk. What a privilege to play golf on a cool week day morning. We're not home doing chores, we're not on an assembly line building cars, selling dairy feed, windows, food ingredients, or chasing bad guys or dealing with class rooms filled with recalcitrant teenagers. We are out walking, talking, enjoying the company of other people and playing a difficult game. Even the most skilled professionals hit an errant shot or miss a three foot putt.

A fellow was caddying for his friend who was attempting to qualify for the U.S. Open. He noticed that players at that level had resilience, the ability to move on from something bad and move on. They did not labor, or dwell on it. No big emotional outburst. They locked in on the next shot. Steve Jobs would say after completion of a project, "next best thing."

If an alien saw some guys blow a shot he would conclude they were insane, like homeless guys gone off their medication, waving their arms, jumping up and down like they were on a pile of red ants, screaming profusely to imaginary beings.

I don't know if golf is a noble thing. It is a "good walk" made better in the company of friends. Theodore Roosevelt gave a famous speech at the Sorbonne in Paris on April 23, 1910, "The Man in the Arena." He describes a man, "who .. worthy of credit who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat .. who strives valiantly, who errs, who comes up short again and again, but who actually strives to do the deed.. Who knows great enthusiasm.. And great devotion.. Who spends himself in.... and at best in the end knows triumph of high achievement and at least fails while daring greatly so that his place will never be with the cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat " Contemporary translation, "greatness is elusive so chill out."

## 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 Goodman .....209 578-0848
Member Orient. Richard Provost ..... 209 222-1910	Meal Tickets Don Rowe.....209 634-0100
Public Relations Bob Kredit .....209 672-0326	Raffle .....Roy Bruk,Jim Bickner, Mike Filan
Bowling Vern Masse ..... 209 544-1953	Table Setup Don Rowe .....209 634-0100
Bowling Dominic Genova ..... 209 523-1663	Table Setup Bill Caldwell .....209 529-4125
Golf Chair Roger Smith..... 209 614-8684	Table Setup Jim Bickner .....209 522-4345
Golf Co-Chair Kerry Newman .....209 579-7747	Lead Singer Ed Davis .....209 522-4080
Golf Co-Chair Gerald Hott .....209 602-2910	Backup Singer Gary Goodman .....209 578-0848
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 Out .....Monthly Volunteer	

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Bill Caldwell, Lon Loudermilk Don Reed and Bob Kredit

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jeffery Chin ..... jefferygary@msn.com .....602-3912

### 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  
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Modesto, CA 95358-1084  
A Non-Profit Organization

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