

The Town Crower

Volume 40, Number 2

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

February 2023



INCORPORATED

Modesto SIR Branch 103

DEDICATED to the PROMOTION of INDEPENDENCE and DIGNITY for MEN

Branch 103 Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch103

Big Sir Crows By Dick Nelson



Big Sir Dick Nelson

A friend asked me the other day, "What are you doing?" "I told him I was going to Home Depot and buy some wood. "What for?" he asked. "I am going to build an ark," I said.

I was getting restless after 17 straight days of rain and cancellations of several of our Monday golf tournaments. I am thankful for the rain. Within the next two weeks the almond trees will begin to pop and the Valley will be filled with pink and white petaled trees, thousands of acres all serviced by a cloud of bees. Spring is only a couple of weeks away. Branch 103 kicked off the year with our January luncheon which went off with only a few minor wrinkles. Don Reed celebrated his 88th birthday. Chuck Bommarito was presented a certificate from the state for his 90th birthday. Steve Gibson attended after a lengthy recovery from a softball collision with a 230 pound player which resulted in a broken collar bone and numerous other broken bones. He grimaced a bit, "I still caught the ball."

Richard Kindle, last years State Big Sir, came and installed our new officers and directors for 2023.

The Branch Executive Committee met Friday. A major topic of discussion was the price of lunch. At our last luncheon, members were charged \$21. We were actually charged \$23 plus tax. It was decided to charge \$21 for February and then in March raise the price to \$23, the difference paid by the branch. In the meantime the Board will investigate ways to contain costs and discuss this with our caterer. We do not particularly want to change venue or caterer nor do we want to make the price of lunch prohibitive.

A brief reminder. Annual Dues of \$20 dollars are past due.

In conclusion, I just have to tell this brief story. My source smiled wryly when asked to verify this and suggested that it probably did not happen. There was a pilot who flew chartered planes on his off days. A lady and her husband brought a cat to their flight. The pilot informed them cats could not go. The lady complained about the necessity of her cat. The pilot relented but insisted that the cat be confined to a cage. During the flight, the lady let the cat out of the cage. The cat went nuts and escaped to the cock pit. The captain opened a window and the cat fell several thousand feet. The moral of the story, even after a fall of a thousand feet and a very hard landing, a cat sometimes lands on its feet. So it is with us, a new team, occasional bumps, but we will land on our feet and spring will come.

SIR Branch 103 BEC Minutes

By Secretary Don Rowe (First Draft)

Attendance: Big SIR Dick Nelson, Little Sir Lance Underwood, Secretary Don Rowe, Assistant Secretary Coe Barnard, Treasurer, Ted Bracht, Directors: Dennis Imhoff, Dave Cooper, Barry Brutica, Kerry Newman, Jeff Chin, and Gary Del Nero.

Absent: Assistant Treasurer, Brian Donahue.

Committee Representatives present: Tom Evans, (programs), Jeff Chin, (newsletter and Computer Club)

Guests: None

Call to Order: Big SIR Dick Nelson, called the meeting to order at 7:27 A.M. at Denny's. There were 11 Executive Board members present for a quorum.

Reports:

Secretary: Nov. 18 Minutes was offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Chin- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer: Ted Bracht's Sept. 21 report showed the Beginning balance-\$3,739.13. Receipts: luncheon proceeds less contribution portion- \$1287.00, dues plus contributions for lunch-\$1,391.00, Raffle - \$74.00, Total receipts- \$2,752.00. Checks written- Margarito's Catering-\$1,538.30, Sir Assessment, \$212.00 Total deductions-\$1,750.30. Ending balance is \$4,740.83. -Motion to accept: Bracht 2nd Rowe-PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Big SIR: 1. Big Sir Dick rolled into his first month with a bit of apprehension. He worked on his system to organize mailings to SIR Branch 103. He also sent out a dues reminder. 2. Bob Kredit resigned as Membership Chair. Dave Cooper agreed to take his place. 3. Roger Smith resigned as a Director, so he could to take on some additional responsibilities with Area 18 golf. Barry Butrica will replace him. 4. The guarantee for our luncheon was increased from 55-60. 5. Rick Kindle, our former State President, installed our new officers. 6. We had three members from Manteca branch join 103. Don Ahrens was a former Big Sir of Branch 164.

Little SIR: Lance asked who had the birthday list for our branch.

Membership: Dave Cooper reported that we now have 109 members.

Luncheon: Good food! \$5.00 FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT EACH LUNCH.

Correspondence: There is a Branch 161 Discovery Bay Golf tournament Feb. 6.

Program: Tom reported that he is working on future speakers.

Sunshine: Gary reported that Gene Fruechtenight has died.

Health and Safety: Kerry reported that Covid vaccine will probably become an annual event.

Thursday Golf: Thursday golf is going well.

Golf: Dry Creek is still under water.

Newsletter: Jeff said it is going nicely.

Bowling: Bowling finals for the second third of the season is coming up.

Merchandising: Dennis reported that he sold \$250 in merchandise. He also has a new vendor, Star Sports! They offer more selections. We will need to get a setup for logo first. Motion: have Star Sports set up our logo, Imhoff, 2nd Rowe- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Data Processing: NA

Travel: NA

Computer: NA

Dine Out: Jeff Chin is hosting Feb. 16 at Marcella's Mexican Restaurant. Contact him if interested.

Other: 1. As Area 18 Representative, Jeff reported that he sat in on the State SIR meeting. There are 14 Area Representatives. Three were selected to sit on the State SIR Board. As Activities director for Branch 103, Jeff will be setting up activities for the year.

New Business:

1. Kerry Presented the 2022 Branch 103 Audit. "The records received are in good order and consistent with acceptable Accounting Principles and Practices" The Audit also "Commended Joe Stackhouse for his outstanding efforts managing the Branch 103 financial data and reporting..."

2. A discussion about the raise in price of our luncheon. The new price is \$24.81, including tax. Several ideas were suggested. A Motion was made: Raise the lunch price to members to \$23 starting March-Newman, 2nd Del Nero-PASSED 10 yes, 2 no.

Adjournment: 8:36 A.M.

ALL ABOUT ME

Branch 103 has 109 members. A member will be chosen to tell all about themselves. Big Sir Dick Nelson will interview members each month. The member who Dick interviewed this month is Don Reed.

My story starts in Portales, New Mexico, January 13, 1935.

For the next six years my folks lived in a number of states, including NM, Texas, Oklahoma and Arizona. My father was a heavy equipment operator. Never did I spend a year in one school, until we came to California just after the start of WWII. He belonged to Local 3 of the Operating Engineers Union for 50 years. After we had been at Honey Lake, CA, building ammunition storage units in the high desert, we ended up in Oakland. My dad was working at Hunter's Point in San Francisco, when I was infected by spinal meningitis and was in a coma for 21 days in county hospital (in quarantine). The Good Lord must have seen something good in me and have now lived to be 88 years of age.

My Reed family has a long history in America, even before the Revolutionary War. My great, great, great grandparent fought in that war and my great, great grandfather and great grandfather were in the Civil War, where the son lost his leg at age 20. He lived to be only 72 and fathered 11 children. The Reeds moved from North Carolina after the Civil War and moved to Texas, taking two years by wagon train. Had great uncles in WWI and older brother who was in the Navy Sea Bees during WWII. Younger brother was in US Air Force 23 years, serving in Vietnam 3 tours. I had joined the California National Guard while in HS and spent 6 years plus three more in the Army Reserve. Attained the rank of Staff Sgt. when discharged. Was platoon sergeant in communications at Modesto Headquarters Company 184th Infantry, California 49th Division of the National Guard. We moved to Modesto when was in the 8th grade, went to Modesto High School, where I learned the printing trade. Worked at Gowans Printing during my senior year and time at MJC. Kept moving around several print shops until landed at The Modesto Bee. Have been a member of International Typographical Union, now CWA for 64 years. Served as Sec.-Treas. In Modesto and a short stint, same position, when we merged with the Sacramento Local 46 Union. Was the Allied Printing Trades Council Sec.-Treas. for over 40 years here in Stanislaus County. During my moves I met my wife, Mable, while working at the Los Banos Enterprise weekly newspaper. We married May 21, 1955 in Las Vegas, Nevada. We would have been married for 68 years this year. Mable was taken from me on November 26, 2022 after a long illness.

We have two sons, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

While our boys were young, was active in Bel Passi Baseball for Boys. Served several years as the president. Also, during this time, spent 9 years in the Modesto Police Reserve. All this time was enjoying the great game of bowling. Started league bowling in 1951 at the old Modesto Bowl. Moved to McHenry in 1959 when it first opened. Spent 39 years as Secretary-Treasurer of the Tuesday El Dorado League. Retired and became a SIR bowler Tuesday afternoons with Branch 103 during the year 1997.

Was a member of the Branch Executive Committee or something for over 24 years. Was editor of the branch newsletter "The Town Crower" for over 15 years. Took over the responsibility for the Thursday SIR golf at Muni in 2000 when it almost went defunct. Did it alone until Bob Kredit came along about 2009-10 and asked if needed help. The rest is history. Became a Honorary Life Member in 2010. Was upgraded to a Senior Honorary Life Member in 2020. Almost the longest serving member of SIR Branch 103. Only Ed Davis and Lon Loudermilk have been a member longer.

Pictures from January Luncheon

Past SIR State President Rick Kindle installing 2023 Branch 103 Officers. Pictured : Coe Barnard, Don Rowe, Dick Nelson, Ted Bracht, Lance Underwood, and Rick Kindle.



2023 Branch 103 Officers being installed. Pictured: Dennis Imhoff, Gary Del Nero, Barry Butrica, Brian Donahue, Dave Cooper, and Kerry Newman. Gary Del Nero views the installation in the foreground.

Membership Chairman Bob Kredit handing out membership certificates to two new members of Branch 103, Claude Fross and Don Ahrens.



GOLF

Bowling

TO ALL SIR MEMBERS: WE HAVE CHANGED THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS AS FAR AS TOURNAMENTS ARE CONCERNED. BEGINNING

JAN 1, 2022, YOU MUST HAVE YOUR REQUEST SUBMITTED TO YOUR CHAIRMAN NO LATER THAN FRIDAY AT 6:00 PM OF THE WEEK BEFORE YOU PLAN TO PLAY. IF YOU SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST AFTER THE **DEADLINE**, YOU WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO ARRIVE AT THE COURSE ON MONDAY, 45 MINUTES BEFORE THE START TIME, WITH YOUR CHECK FOR THE CORRECT AMOUNT AND THE HOST WILL FIT YOU INTO THE TOURNAMENT.

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. Feb. 6-Dry Creek, 8:00, \$52 (cart incl.) Host 103

Mon. Feb. 13-Creekside, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$15) Host 144

Tues. Feb. 21-Atwater, 9:00, \$49 (cart incl.) Host 143

Mon. Feb. 27-Creekside, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$15) Host 103

Mon. Mar. 6-Manteca, 8:00, \$47 (cart incl.) Host 144

Mon. Mar. 13-Creekside, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$15) Host 103B

Mon. Mar. 20-Tracy CC, 9:00, \$52 (cart incl.) Host 103

Mon. Mar. 27-Dryden, 9:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$15) Host 144

Mon. Apr. 3-Dry Creek, 8:00, \$52 (cart incl.) Host 103

Mon. Apr. 10-Creekside, 8:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$15) Host 143

Mon. Apr. 17-Swenson, 8:00, Ride-\$46 (cart incl.) Walk-\$29 Host 144

Mon. Apr. 24-Dryden, 8:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$15) Host 103



League Bowls Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

McHenry Bowl, 3700 McHenry Ave.,
Modesto

Congratulations to Team 3 for winning the second third of the league.

Results from week 21 of League:

First Place-Team 3 (J. Sterling, L. Salvi, J. Kincanon, A. Fidalgo) **Season High Scores:** Men Scratch Game: D. Brown-258, Men Handicap Game: A. Sterling-298, Men Scratch Series: B. Abujen-732, Men Handicap Series: J. Sterling-744, Women Scratch Game: N. Brey-166, Women Handicap Game: P. Abujen-242, Women Scratch Series: D. Bavaro-439, Women Handicap Series: B. Webb-681. **Last Week's Top Scores:** Men Scratch Game: L. Salvi-223, Men Scratch Series: A. Fidalgo-587, Men Handicap Game: L. Salvi-275, Men Handicap Series: G. Cox-687, Women Scratch Game: B. Webb-163, Women Scratch Series: B. Webb-432, Women Handicap Game: B. Webb-218, Women Handicap Series: D. Chin-598, **Individual High Average:** Men-B. Abujen-208, Women-B. Webb-145



Creekside Golf

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.

Remember your \$20 Branch 103 Membership dues for 2023. If you don't pay, you may not play golf or bowl. Write check to SIR 103

Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

February 22, 2023

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Masonic Temple

800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA

Luncheon Price \$21.00

Couples Dine Out

The January Dine Out is on February 16, 2023 at Marcella's Mexican Restaurant, 3507 Tully Road, Modesto at 5:00 pm. If you would like to go please call Jeff Chin at 209-602-3912 or email at jefferygaryc@msn.com.



Larry Owens	2/04/1943	#129
Mike Alves	2/09/1948	#50
Steve Holly	2/19/1945	#21
Don Rowe	2/19/1949	#216
Earl Glenn	2/21/1942	#126
Doug Imberi	2/22/1950	#7
Roger Smith	2/23/1952	#180

LADIES' DINE-OUT



The Ladies Dine Out will be at Javi's Fine Mexican Food Restaurant, 1225 Standiford Ave., Modesto on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 11:30 am. No reservations are required, please join us.



The Commemorative Air Force Central California Valley Squadron holds fund-raising meals twice a month. A Second Saturday

Pancake Breakfast and a Fourth Saturday Lunch. The breakfast time is 7:30 am to 11:00 am. The lunch time is 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. The cost is \$10 per person. No reservations required. The meals are served at the hangar 1-S at 700 Tioga Dr., Modesto. The pancake breakfast will be on February 11, 2023 and the lunch will be on February 25, 2023.



By Gary Del Nero

Best Burger in Modesto

We will be having lunch each month at a different restaurant to determine the Best



Burger in Modesto. We will start on February 8, 2023 at Burger IM, 1521 N Carpenter Road, Modesto at 11:30 am. The lunch is open to anyone who wants to have lunch. No reservations re-

quired, just show up and have a burger with us.

Branch 103 Website

www.sirinc2.org/branch103

Happy to see, no pun intended, Jerry Hott's eye surgery is all good. It is also good to have Bob Sykes back golfing. Hopefully, a better new year going foreword. If you have a sick relative, death, or feel good news, please let me know.



Bill Stires

Trip is sold out at this time. Wait list for new passengers!

Scenic Ireland Trip through Ireland and Northern Ireland

April 14-27, 2023

Price: \$5,395 Double Occupancy Single \$6,195

\$500.00 Deposit to hold your place.

Final payment due on December 15, 2022

Airfare and transportation to and from the airport is included and 18 meals. Includes gratuities on tour for Tour Manager and Bus Driver.

Highlights: 12 nights in First Class Hotel Accommodations, 1 night in Limerick, 1 night in Clifden, 1 in Sligo, 2 nights in Belfast in Northern Ireland, Visit Cliffs of Moher, local farms, an Abbey, Giant's Causeway, Titanic Experience, Hillsborough Castle, Belfast's O'Connell Street, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College, House of Waterford Crystal, Blarney Castle and the Kissing Stone, Garnish Island, Ring of Kerry, Dingle Peninsula, and much, much more. Leisure time to explore most of the towns and villages.

Autumn Colors Trip to East Coast

October 13 - 22, 2023

Price: \$5,130 double occupancy Single: \$6,127

Final Payment due June 15, 2023

Deposit of \$500 per person to hold reservation

Highlights: 2 nights stay in Boston. Tour of city, free time on own. Visit Manchester, Vermont; Burlington, Vermont; North Conway, New Hampshire; Bar Harbor, Maine; Acadia National Park; Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Scenic drives along the Mo-hawk Trail and Kancamagus Highway. Professional local tour guide for entire trip. 9 nights of First-Class Hotel accommodations. 14 meals including a regional lobster feast.

This trip will fill up fast, so sign up early.

Remember that relatives and friends may also go on all trips.

Call Bill Stires at 209-988-5445 or email at bstires46@gmail.com to receive brochure.

SIR STATE OFFICERS

State Pres. Dave Gonzales 916-587-3538
State Vice Pres. Dale Decker.....209 533-0455
Area 18 Rep. Jeff Chin..... 209 602-3912

SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

Big Sir Richard Nelson..... 209 701-8108
Little Sir Lance Underwood..... 209 681-6989
Secretary Don Rowe 209 634-0100
Asst. Secretary Coe Barnard 209 602-0661
Treasurer Ted Bracht.....209 573-1690
Asst. Treasurer Brian Donahue..... 209 988-2748
Jeff Chin..... 209 602-3912
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 Lance Underwood..... 209 681-6989	
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 jefferygaryc@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

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

INCORPORATED



FEBRUARY 2023

No.	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22				1	2	3	4
23	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		SIR GOLF	SIR BOWLING	BURGER LUNCH			CAF BREAK-FAST
24	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		SIR GOLF	SIR BOWLING		DINE-OUT MARCELLA		
25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		SIR GOLF	SIR BOWLING	LUNCHEON	LADIES LUNCHEON	BEC MEETING	CAF LUNCH
26	26	27	28				
		SIR GOLF	SIR BOWLING				