

The Town Crower

Volume 40, Number 12

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

December 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 short time after the birth of Christ, King Herod sent his soldiers looking for Jesus and slaughtered all the children in Bethlehem under two years old.

It had been predicted centuries before by the prophet Jerimiah (31:15) which Matthew (2:18) quotes, "A voice was heard in Ramah weeping and loud lamentation Rachael weeping for her children, she refused to be comforted because they are no more."

But on the night of Christ's birth there was worship by angels and shepherds, and wisemen traveled with costly gifts to acknowledge the birth of Jesus. But Herod feared a rival, though a child, who would grow into a future king and reign over a kingdom with no end. A baby in a manger years later grew to grace an empty tomb.

We celebrate and remember both at Christmas. That's the backdrop of Christmas. Birth, flight and exile, death, and resurrection..... a far cry from the holiday bustle of tinsel, mistletoe, a fine Christmas dinner, the family gathered, and carols sung. Today, people around the world celebrate the birth of this child and listen to majestic choral music of Handel's Messiah . We sing quaint hymns , "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem ." The last line of the first verse, "Yet in the darkness shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight."

How fitting to conclude my term as Big Sir 2023 on a note of quiet confidence which befits the season. So we join an unlikely train of angels, shepherds, wisemen and people around the globe who have celebrated the birth of this small child named Jesus for the past two thousand years and look hopefully for His return.

BRING RAFFLE PRIZES FOR DECEMBER LUNCHEON

SIR Branch 103 BEC November Minutes

By Secretary Don Rowe (First Draft)

Attending: : Big SIR Dick Nelson, Secretary Don Rowe, Treasurer Ted Bracht, Assistant Treasurer, Brian Donahue. Directors: Dave Cooper, Kerry Newman, Jeff Chin, Dennis Imhoff, and Gary Del Nero.

Absent: Assistant Secretary Coe Barnard, Director Barry Brutica, Tom Evans

Committee Representatives present: (Jeff Chin, (newsletter and Computer)

Guests: Roger Smith and Paul Bender.

Call to Order: Big SIR Dick Nelson, called the meeting to order at 7:29 A.M. at Denny's. There were 9 Executive Board members present for a quorum.

Reports:

Secretary: Oct. 27. Minutes was offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Chin- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Big SIR: Big Sir Nelson said "For the past year, we have talked about a lot of things. I conclude my term of Big Sir by suggesting the BEC set goals that are measurable as well as the means by which they could be accomplished.

Little SIR: NA

Treasurer: Ted Bracht reported that the Nov.16 report showed the Beginning balance- \$4,233.21. Receipts: luncheon proceeds less contribution portion- \$1,142.00, Christmas luncheon, \$416.00. Membership dues, \$650.00 Raffle- \$19.00, Total receipts- \$2,227.00. Checks written: Margarito's Catering, \$1,116.51 Total deductions \$1,116.51. Ending balance is \$5,343.70. Motion to accept: Bracht- 2nd Rowe -PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Membership: 1. Dave Cooper reported that we have lost members due to moving away, helping an ill spouse, or death. We now have 101 members. We also discussed the change in assessment to State Sir.

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

Program: Ladies Day Christmas luncheon for Dec., Jan. will be Big Sir Paul Bender speaking on the State of our Branch.

Health and Safety: Kerry said for us to get our vaccinations-Covid, flu, and RSV.

Sunshine: Gary reported that Claude McMillen is in Hospice care. Sal Rodriguez's wife has died. Don Stevenson had back surgery.

Golf: All tournament will start at 9:00 EXCEPT for Manteca. WE NEED TO GET AN ASSISTANT FOR PAUL.

Thursday Golf: NA

Newsletter: NA

Bowling: going well.

Merchandising: Dennis will see about purchasing a new banner.

Web Master: NA

Travel: NA

Computer: NA

Activities: Jeff Chin's list of Dec. activities will be at the end of the newsletter. Motion to accept: Chin, 2nd Rowe- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. JEFF WILL NOT BE DOING ACTIVITIES AFTER DEC. WE NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE ON THAT TASK.

Old Business: 1. Dave has collected dues from 66 members. 2. Ladies Day luncheon, Dec. 13. 3. Music will be provided. 4. Jeff will continue to do the newsletter. He will seek ads to support our Branch.

New Business: 1. The annual audit will be led by Kerry Newman. 2. The nominating committee will be led by Dick Nelson. 3. Big Sir Dick will help Paul with the transition to Big Sir. 4.BEC will set goals.

Other: NA

Adjournment: 8:40

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. Dec. 4-Elkhorn, 9:00, \$48 (cart incl) Host 103

Mon. Dec. 11-Dryden, 9:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144

Tues. Jan. 2-Creekside, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103

Mon. Jan. 8-Elkhorn, 9:00, \$53 (cart incl) Host 144

Tues. Jan. 16-Manteca, 8:00, \$49 (cart incl) Host 103-B

NCGA Dues for 2024

NCGA dues of \$55 for 2024 must be paid before you can play golf in January.



The Pickleball Activity will be scheduled the first and third Fridays of every month at the courts at Beyer Park at 9:00 am. Please come out and give it a try. There will be experienced players to help

introduce you to the game. All the equipment will be provided. All members and their spouses are invited.



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.



League Bowls Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

McHenry Bowl, 3700 McHenry Ave., Modesto

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Season High Scores

Handicap Series: Jeff Chin 723, Handicap Game: Joe Miceli 284, Scratch Series: Bob Abujen 629, Scratch Game: Arnold Fidalgo 254

Handicap Series: Dolores Bavaro 652, Handicap Game: Barbara Webb 242, Scratch Series: Dolores Bavaro 436, Scratch Game: Debbie Chin 186

Week 12 November 21

Handicap Series: Ernie Lewis 682, Handicap Game: Joe Miceli 284, Scratch Series: Bob Abujen 612, Scratch Game: Joe Miceli 266

Handicap Series: Barbara Webb 640, Handicap Game: Barbara Webb 228, Scratch Series: Barbara Webb 475, Scratch Game: Barbara Webb 173

Gallo Center for the Arts

SIR members no longer receive a discount when ordering tickets online. The discount was temporary, but, it may return in the future.

Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

December 13, 2023

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Masonic Temple

800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA

Luncheon Price \$23.00



Ted Bracht	12/02/1947	76 Yrs. Old
Bill Irby	12/07/1947	76 Yrs. Old
Bob Sykes	12/14/1935	88 Yrs. Old
Bob Hall	12/26/1945	78 Yrs. Old
Sonny Crim	12/27/1952	71 Yrs. Old
Robert Bishop	12/28/1937	86 Yrs. Old
Fred Angleton	12/30/1950	73 Yrs. Old

Couples Dine Out

There will be no Couples Dine Out in December.



LADIES' DINE-OUT

The Ladies Dine Out will not be held in November or December. The next Ladies Dine-Out will be held in January.

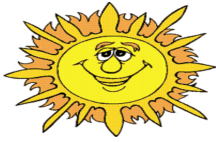
Holiday Celebration Luncheon

Our Holiday Celebration Luncheon will be held on December 13, 2023 at 10:30 am—1:00 pm. Everyone gets a free ticket for the raffle that will be held after lunch. **Please bring items for the raffle.**

2024 Branch 103 Officers Installation



Installation of officers at the November Luncheon. From right to left: Dick Nelson, Ted Bracht, Brian Donahue, Lance Underwood, Don Rowe, Juan Salinas, Paul Bender, Ray Tillery, Coe Barnard, and apologies for cutting off either Dennis Imhoff, Kerry Newman, Dave Cooper or Roger Smith.



Sunshine

By Gary Del Nero

Sunshine report: I am sad to report that Claude McMillan passed due to long bout with cancer. For a few years he was our golf chairman and bowled. He will be missed by many. From SIRs 143, John Tagliotti has passed. I believe he was in early 90's, was a member of Branch 143, and bowling with us on Tuesday SIR's league. Our thoughts and prayers to his family. Gary Del Nero Sunshine 103.

Membership Dues for 2024

Branch 103 Annual Membership Dues have been increased to \$25 for 2024. Your dues are mandatory to participate in any SIR activity including golf, bowling, travel, and luncheons. The liability insurance paid to the State SIR has increased for 2024. We would appreciate the dues paid in November because no money will be collected in December.

Health and Safety

By Kerry Newman

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 has many benefits. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are safe and effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. Here are some of the benefits of getting vaccinated against COVID-19:

Prevents serious illness: COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death.

A safer way to build protection: Getting vaccinated is a safer and more reliable way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19.

Offers added protection: COVID-19 vaccines can offer added protection to people who had COVID-19, including protection against being hospitalized from a new infection.

It's important to note that getting vaccinated not only protects you but also helps protect others around you. By getting vaccinated, you can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect those who can't be vaccinated and those for whom the vaccine is less effective, such as children under 12 and people with certain medical conditions.



Bring a book, take one!

Earl Glenn is using the new book cabinet to display selections. You are encouraged to bring in your used books and take something back to read.

There are usually some interesting and entertaining books available.

Branch 103 Website

www.sirinc2.org/branch103

Travel

John Cardoza (209) 483-7722



ARRANGED BY ALAMO WORLD TRAVEL
FOR SIRS AREA 18, BRANCH 143 & FRIENDS



11 NIGHT INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE ABOARD THE CROWN PRINCESS

SAILING ROUND-TRIP SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 26-JUNE 6, 2024

PORTS OF CALL

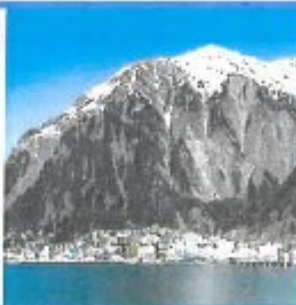
Ketchikan, Alaska, Juneau, Skagway, Endicott Arm and Dawes Glacier
(Scenic Cruising Alaska) and Victoria, Canada

THE CROWN PRINCESS



ESCORTED BY JOHN CARDOZA (209) 483-7722 cell

****Add the Princess Plus Package for \$560 per person**
Includes: Beverage package, WIFI, Crew appreciation, Premium
desserts (2 per day), Fitness classes (2 per cruise) and unlimited Juice Bar**





John Cardoza (209) 483-7722

Train Experience – Turlock to Reno

February 1 – 2, 2024

\$110/person - Roundtrip (rates subject to change)

Book Flex-Rates / Senior-Military Discount (10%) Amtrak Website link:
www.amtrak.com

Itinerary

TRAIN	ORIGIN	DATE	DEPARTURE	DESTINATION	ARRIVAL
711	Turlock	2/1/24	7:45 AM	Stockton	8:36 AM
3711	Stockton	2/1/24	8:45 AM	Sacramento	9:50 AM
6	Sacramento	2/1/24	11:09 AM	Reno	3:56 PM
5	Reno	2/2/24	8:36 AM	Martinez, CA	3:26 PM
718	Martinez, CA	2/2/24	6:26 PM	Turlock	8:08 PM

Please join us on this train experience when we take Amtrak to Sacramento and the California Zephyr from Sacramento to Reno. We will make stops in Roseville, Colfax and Truckee, before arriving in Reno.

The higher up we will go in elevation, the more stunning and gorgeous the views will become. We will see bright, sunlit woodsy meadows, farmland, mountains, huge pine trees, Donner Lake and the Truckee River, which flows right beside us. We will travel through several dark tunnels. The views will change from bright green grass to snowy mountains, and the skies will go from sunshine to thick cloud cover. Gradually, we will start seeing patches of snow higher up and then maybe a foot or more of snow on either side of the train.

Once the train arrives in Reno around 4 p.m., we will walk a short distance to the hotel. It's recommended you make reservations, for Thursday night, February 1st, at the Silver Legacy 775-329-4777.

Contact John Cardoza at 209-483-7722, if you have any questions or need help!
PLEASE contact John when you have booked your trip.

SIR STATE OFFICERS

State Pres. Dave Gonzales 916-587-3538
State Vice Pres. Dale Decker..... 209 573-0833
Area 18 Rep. Jeff Chin.....209 602-3912

SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

Big Sir Richard Nelson..... 209 701-8108
Little Sir.....
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
Barry Butrica 209 988-1396
Kerry Newman 209 579-7747
Dave Cooper 209 578-3789



COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership: Dave Cooper 209 578-3789	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.: Dick Nelson 209 701-8108	Meal Tickets: Don Rowe, Roy Bruk
Public Relations: Bob Kredit 209 672-0326	Raffle: Roy Bruk, Jim Bickner
Bowling: Vern Masse 209 544-1953	Table Setup: Don Rowe209 634-0100
Bowling: Jeff Chin 209 602-3912	Table Setup: Jim Bickner209 522-4345
Golf Chair: Roger Smith..... 209 614-8684	Lead Singer: Ed Davis209 522-4080
Golf Co-Chair: Kerry Newman209 579-7747	Backup Singer: Gary Goodman209 578-0848
Golf Co-Chair: Gerald Hott209 602-2910	Audit Committee: Kerry Newman, Coe Barnard
Golf Handicap: Jerry Strain..... 209 574-9301	Nominating Committee: Jeff Chin, Bob Kredit,
Book Exchange: Earl Glenn 209 537-7254	Joe Stackhouse, Barry Butrica
Travel Area 18: Bill Stires..... 209 988-5445,	Ladies Dine Out: Barbara Webb.....209 526-6511
Assistant: John Cardoza 209 483-7722	
Merchandise Sales: Dennis Imhoff 209 846-9529	
Lunch Menu: Richard Nelson..... 209 681-6989	
Computer Club: Jeffery Chin 209 602-3912	
Activity Chair: Jeffery Chin..... 209 602-3912	

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Bob Kredit

SENIOR HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Lon Loudermilk and Don Reed

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 period.

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

INCORPORATED



December

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	SIR Golf-Elkhorn			Creekside Golf		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	SIR Golf-Dryden		Luncheon-Masonic Temple	Creekside Golf	Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				Creekside Golf		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				Creekside Golf		
31						