

# The Town Crower

Volume 41, Number 1

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

January 2024



INCORPORATED

## Modesto SIR Branch 103

DEDICATED to the PROMOTION of INDEPENDENCE and DIGNITY for MEN

Branch 103 Website: [www.sirinc2.org/branch103](http://www.sirinc2.org/branch103)

### Big Sir Crows By Paul Bender



**Big Sir Paul Bender**

Well now that the holiday season is over hoping everyone had a joyous one. Now is the time to bring in the New Year 2024.

As the Big Sir and Little Sir Juan Salinas, we will focusing on membership and attendance for our luncheons. When I first joined Sirs in 2011, we would have 80 to 90 for lunch, then Covid hit and everything went downhill from that point on. Not just us, but all organizations like Elks, Moose, etc.

Also, we need to address activities, we need one or two members to step up and take that on since Jeff is stepping down. We also need volunteers to set up Couples Dine Out once a month.

I want to thank Dick Nelson for all his service and dedication to Branch 103. I personally want to thank him for helping me with the transition to be Big Sir.

Also want to thank Richard Provost, Bob Kredit and Don Rowe for all their help.

This is going to be a good year. See you all on January 24, 2024 for our monthly luncheon.



Branch 103 lost two members in December who made outstanding contributions to SIR and all of its members, Ed Davis and Richard Provost. Our thoughts and prayers with their families.

# 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 Club) Tom Evans, (programs), Bob Kredit (Thursday Golf)

**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 restaurant. 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.

**Correspondence:** NA

**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:** See Newsletter

**Computer:** NA

**Activities:** Jeff Chin's list of Dec. activities will be in 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:**

**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).

**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**

**Mon. Jan. 22-Dryden, 9:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103A**

**Mon. Jan. 29-Swenson, 9:00, \$49 (cart incl) Host 103B**

**Mon. Feb. 5-Creekside, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144**

**Mon. Feb. 12-Atwater, 9:00, \$54 (cart incl) Host 103A**

**Tues. Feb. 20-Dryden, 9:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103B**

**Mon. Feb. 26-Manteca, 8:00, \$49 (cart incl) Host 144**

**Mon. Mar. 4-Creekside, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt) Host 103A**

**Mon. Mar. 11-Swenson, 9:00, \$49 (cart incl) Host 103B**

**Mon. Mar. 18-Dryden, 9:00, \$32 (cart opt.) Host 144**

**Mon. Mar. 25-Drycreek, 9:00, \$53 (cart incl) Host 103A**

**Mon. Apr. 1-Elkhorn, 9:00, \$53 (cart incl) Host 103B**

## 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: Arnold Fidalgo 760, Handicap Game: Al Sterling 286, Scratch Series: Joe Miceli 638, Scratch Game: David Brown 237

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

#### Week 18 December 26

Handicap Series: Joe Bradley 703, Handicap Game: David Brown 252, Scratch Series: David Brown 608, Scratch Game: David Brown 237

Handicap Series: Barbara Webb 624, Handicap Game: Barbara Webb 223, Scratch Series: Barbara Webb 459, Scratch Game: Barbara Webb 168



The Pickleball Activity is 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.

## Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

**January 24, 2024**  
**10:30 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Masonic Temple**  
**800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA**  
**Luncheon Price \$23.00**

## Couples Dine Out

The January Couples Dine Out will be on January 17, 2024 at Outback Steakhouse, 2045 W. Briggsmore Ave., Modesto at 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please call Kerry Newman at (209)579-7747 or email at [kerryn-ewman07@comcast.net](mailto:kerryn-ewman07@comcast.net).



## LADIES' DINE-OUT

The Ladies Dine Out will held at Strings Restaurant, 2601 Oakdale Rd., Modesto at 11:30 AM on January 25, 2024.



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 November 11, 2023 and the lunch will be on November 25, 2023.



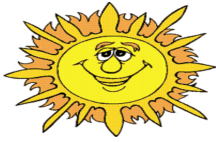
Don Von Buskirk	1/06/1937	87 Yrs. Old
Claude McMillen	1/09/1943	81 Yrs. Old
Sam San	1/12/1952	72 Yrs. Old
Vincent Oo	1/12/1978	46 Yrs. Old
Don Reed	1/13/1935	89 Yrs. Old
John Faria	1/20/1947	77 Yrs. Old
Robert Fachner	1/27/1954	70 Yrs. Old

## 2024 SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

Big Sir—Paul Bender  
 Little Sir-Juan Salinas  
 Secretary-Don Rowe  
 Assist. Sec.-Coe Barnard  
 Treasurer-Ted Bracht  
 Assist. Treas.-Brian Donahue  
 Director-Dick Nelson  
 Director-Ray Tillery  
 Director-Dennis Imhoff  
 Director-Roger Smith  
 Director-Kerry Newman  
 Director-Dave Cooper







# Sunshine

By Gary Del Nero

Sunshine report: Don Stevenson had back surgery and all went well. He said it was a 6 hr. 45 minute surgery. Our thoughts are with him. Some very sad news, two Titans in our Sirs Branch 103 have passed. First, Ed Davis, who we believe he was a founding member of our 103 charter, passed last month. He had turned 99 years old in September. What a voice, as he led us many times in song at our meetings, and, in my opinion, one of the most dedicated members we ever had. Second, is Richard Provost, who left us three days after Christmas. He died suddenly with a brain aneurysm. His tireless devotion to SIRs will be truly missed. He has served as a Past Big SIR and presently, a State Area Representative for SIRs.

Respectfully Gary Del Nero Sunshine 103

## 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<sup>1</sup>.

**A safer way to build protection:** Getting vaccinated is a safer and more reliable way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19<sup>1</sup>.

**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<sup>1</sup>.

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](http://www.sirinc2.org/branch103)

# 2023 Christmas Luncheon





# 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

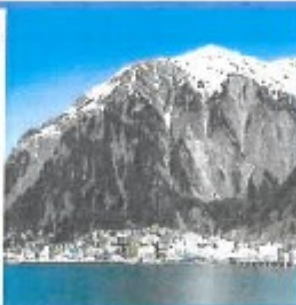
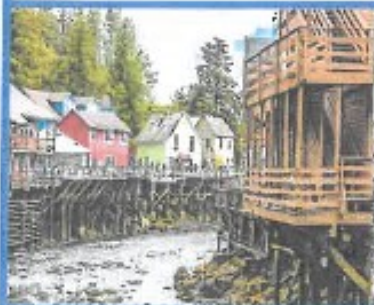
Ketchikan, Alaska, Juneau, Skagway, Endicott Arm and Dawes Glacier  
(Scenic Cruising Alaska) and Victoria, Canada

#### 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](http://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. Dale Decker..... 209 573-0833  
State Vice Pres. Stu Williams..... 510 865-5000  
Area 18 Rep.

## SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

Big Sir Paul Bender..... 209 324-1793  
Little Sir Juan Salinas..... 209 605-6762  
Secretary Don Rowe ..... 209 634-0100  
Asst. Secretary Coe Barnard ..... 209 602-0661  
Treasurer Ted Bracht..... 209 573-1690  
Asst. Treas. Brian Donahue..... 209 988-2748  
Dick Nelson ..... 209 701-8108  
Dennis Imhoff ..... 209 846-9529  
Ray Tillery ..... 209 499-0955  
Kerry Newman ..... 209 579-7747  
Dave Cooper ..... 209 578-3789

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership: Dave Cooper ..... 209 578-3789  
Assistant  
Program Chair: Tom Evans ..... 209 551-1836  
Assistant:  
Member Orient.: Dick Nelson ..... 209 701-8108  
Public Relations: Bob Kredit ..... 209 672-0326  
Bowling: Vern Masse ..... 209 544-1953  
Bowling: Jeff Chin ..... 209 602-3912  
Golf Chair: Roger Smith..... 209 614-8684  
Golf Co-Chair: Kerry Newman ..... 209 579-7747  
Golf Co-Chair: Gerald Hott ..... 209 602-2910  
Golf Handicap: Jerry Strain..... 209 574-9301  
Book Exchange: Earl Glenn ..... 209 537-7254  
Travel Area 18: 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  
Sunshine Chair: Gary Del Nero..... 209-681-1100

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Bob Kredit

## SENIOR HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Lon Loudermilk and Don Reed

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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



Health & Safety: Kerry Newman... 209 579-7747  
Chaplain: Joe Stackhouse..... 209 543-0972  
Asst. Chaplain: Gary Goodman ..... 209 578-0848  
Meal Tickets: Don Rowe, Roy Bruk  
Raffle: Roy Bruk, Jim Bickner  
Table Setup: Don Rowe ..... 209 634-0100  
Table Setup: Jim Bickner ..... 209 522-4345  
Lead Singer:  
Backup Singer: Gary Goodman ..... 209 578-0848  
Audit Committee: Kerry Newman, Coe Barnard  
Nominating Committee:  
Ladies Dine Out: Barbara Webb..... 209 526-6511

## 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



# January

## 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	SIR Golf-Creekside 2	3	4 Creekside Golf	5 Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto	6
7	8 SIR Golf-Elkhorn	9	10	11 Creekside Golf	12	13 CAF Breakfast-Modesto Airport Hangar- 1S
14	15	SIR Golf-Manteca 16	17	18 Creekside Golf	19 Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto	20
21	22 SIR Golf-Dryden	23	24 General Membership Luncheon	25 Creekside Golf	26 BEC Meeting	27 CAF Lunch-Modesto Airport Hangar-1S
28	29 SIR Golf-Swenson	30	31			