

The Town Crower

Volume 41, Number 2

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

February 2024



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 Paul Bender



Big Sir Paul Bender

We got 2024 underway in our January meeting. We had a few rookie mistakes, but we will correct them. I was very disappointed in our attendance for our luncheon meeting. I think we need to address this problem. We need to get some feedback from the members. I do not think that we will ever get back to what it was like before COVID, but we should be able to increase the number we have now. Little Sir Juan Salinas and I are going to give it our best shot. We cannot do it alone, we need your input. Please feel free to talk to Juan or me with your ideas. I think part of the problem was the weather. It was cold and wet. I am sure that kept some members away.

Monday Golf is down, which is normal for this time of year, cold and wet. Thursday golf is doing well, along with bowling.

I thought it was a very nice gesture from the Ed Davis family when we received a Christmas card and a \$100 donation for the Branch. Ed Davis was a member of Branch 103 who passed away last month. When it came to SIR, he was all in. Ed was our lead singer with a marvelous voice for years. He served as the Big Sir in 2001.

2024 is going very quickly. It is already time to wish you and your loved ones a happy Valentine's Day.



Richard Provost, Branch 103's Big Sir in 2018, passed away last month. His funeral will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 1813 Oakdale Road, Modesto at 10:00 am. He also served on the SIR State Board as an Area Representative.

SIR Branch 103 BEC January Minutes

By Secretary Don Rowe (First Draft)

Attending: Big SIR Paul Bender, Little Sir Juan Salinas, Secretary Don Rowe, Treasurer Ted Bracht, Directors: Dave Cooper, Kerry Newman, Dennis Imhoff, Coe Barnard, Roger Smith, Dick Nelson, and Lance Underwood.

Absent: Assistant Secretary Ray Tillery, Assistant Treasurer, Brian Donahue, and Jeff Chin, (newsletter)
Committee Representatives present: Tom Evans, (programs), Bob Kredit (Thursday Golf) John Cardoza (travel)

Guests:

Call to Order: Big SIR Paul Bender, 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. 17. Minutes was offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Bracht- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Big SIR: Big Sir Bender expressed his concern about the lack of members at our last luncheon. We had 45, 42 ordering lunch. It cost the Branch over \$300.00 to pay for missing members lunches. Dave Cooper said that he would give the Board members a list to call, hopefully to encourage them to come to our luncheons.

Little SIR: Little Sir Salinas said that he will be encouraging members to invite people to become Branch 103 members.

Treasurer: Ted Bracht reported that the Jan.24 report showed the Beginning balance- \$3,426.63. Receipts: luncheon proceeds less contribution portion- \$1,028.00, Membership dues, \$40.00 Raffle- \$9.00, and merchandise sales, \$75.00. Total receipts- \$1,652.00. Checks written- Margarito's Catering, \$1,377.33, State Sir Assessment- \$267.50 Total deductions \$1,644.83. Ending balance is \$3,433.80. Motion to accept: Bracht- 2nd Rowe-PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Ted also reported that we pay \$25.04 for each lunch. Discussion was had. Motion: Increase the member price to \$25.00- Rowe,2nd Bracht -PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Membership: 1. Dave Cooper reported we now have 104 members. We still have 21 prior members have not paid their dues.

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

Correspondence:

Program: Tom Evans reported that the Feb. luncheon will have Brett Burnside speaking on the American Museum. He is working on March's speaker. In April, we will hear from Dave Mehshow talk about travel.

Health and Safety: Kerry said for us to get our vaccinations-Covid, flu, and RSV. Covid is still out here!

Sunshine: Gary reported that Don Stevenson is recovering from back surgery. He also said that Dom Genova will go to our inactive list.

Golf: All tournament will start at 9:00 EXCEPT for Manteca. Motion: approve the 2024 Golf schedule-Smith, 2nd Salinas -PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

WE NEED TO GET AN ASSISTANT FOR PAUL. Coe Barnard is working with Paul. Anyone else is also welcome.

Thursday Golf: Yesterday they had 23 players.

Newsletter: NA

Bowling: Team 10 won the second third of the league.

Merchandising: Dennis talked about purchasing more SIR pins. Motion to have Dennis purchase more pins-Smith 2nd Newman -PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Travel: John Cardoza spoke about the train ride to Reno and the cruise to Alaska. He is also working on a Panama Canal trip.

Computer: NA

Activities: JEFF WILL NOT BE DOING ACTIVITIES AFTER DEC. WE NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE ON THAT TASK. Phil Reed is doing pickle ball. Dine out is on Feb. 21 at Papapolloni's Restaurant in Modesto at 5:00 pm. Contact Juan Salinas-209-605-6762 or Juangolfnut@yahoo.com

Old Business: NA

New Business: 1. The annual audit will be led by Kerry Newman and Joe Stackhouse.

Other:

Adjournment: 8:35

ALL ABOUT ME

Branch 103 has 104 members. A member will be chosen to tell all about themselves. Dick Nelson will interview members each month. The member who Dick interviewed Ed Guida.

Ed Guida lives in Oakdale. "I got tired of making the left hand turn on 120 heading up Sonora." I'd come over from the Bay area to go fishing up at Pinecrest and just decided. Hey, I am truck driver, I can get a job anyplace,, so why not live in Oakdale. So I bought my house in Oakdale and moved there twenty five years ago.

My Dad was a realtor in Redwood City. He told me, 'If you have something you're good at, you'll never be out of work.' I went to Sequoia High School in Redwood City. My main interests were football and girls. I was a 145 pound linebacker with one speed ... fast. Coaches held me out of practice because I hit the starters too hard. I had enough credits to graduate my junior year. I worked part time jobs at Portola State Park and at a gas station. I was making grown-up money, so I had money for dates. I'd go into the city during the Summer of Love in 1968.

I went to the College of San Mateo for a semester taking some aeronautical mechanics classes. I was better with a pencil than a wrench.

The Army was a good experience from 1973-1976. After basic at Fort Polk, I had a two month delay before my AIT at MP School at Fort Gordon. During this delay I was assigned to a range where I shot every firearm the Army had. I got really good with the M-14. A couple of months later, I was waiting to ship out from Oakland when I was approached by two men in suits who instructed me that I was coming with them. I was detailed for a couple of months working for a government agency overseas in southeast Asia, 'Helping to re-educate poppy farmers.'

I met all sorts of people in the Army. Fort Gordon was outside of Augusta. I was walking down town with a couple of friends . A black guy was on the same side of the street, instead of just walking by he crossed over to the other side of the street. "That's just the way it is," said one of my friends.

I was stationed in Bayreuth, Germany and traveled all over Europe. My favorite city was Salzburg. I had three guys pull a knife on me and was able to talk them down. I had stopped a guy who had \$5 of hashish who shot at me. After that, I decided that I did not want to be a policeman.

I liked to drive. so I drove trucks for almost 40 years, starting out making deliveries in Bobtails and then full sized trailers in the Bay Area. My last 5 years, I was the Safety Manager for Gardner Trucking.

I met my wife Pam at Moniz Sausage Company in Oakland. We have 4 kids, 6 grandkids, and two great-grand children.

Ed has a part time job at Bass Pro in the camping department. In his spare time, he reads James Patterson novels, golfs, gardens, camps and fishes. "I walk the stream banks up at Dardanelles, Clark's Fork, Kennedy Meadows, and either fly fish or bait fish."

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. 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. \$20) Host 103A

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

Mon. Mar. 18-Dryden, 9:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144

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

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

Mon. Apr. 8-Creekside, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144

Mon. Apr. 15-Tracy CC, 9:00, \$59 (cart incl) Host 103A

Mon. Apr. 22-Dryden, 9:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103B

Mon. Apr. 29-Manteca, 8:00, \$49 (cart incl) Host 144

Mon. May 6-Atwater, 9:00, \$54 (cart incl) Host 103A

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.



Bowling

League Bowls Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

McHenry Bowl, 3700 McHenry Ave., Modesto

Team 10 won the second third of the league this week. Members of Team 10 are Marvin Van-Middendorp and Tom Mickelsen.

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Season High Scores

Handicap Series: Arnold Fidalgo 760, Handicap Game: Al Sterling 286, Scratch Series: David Brown 658, Scratch Game: Joe Miceli 266

Handicap Series: Debbie Chin 658, Handicap Game: Barbara Webb 242, Scratch Series: Dolores Bavaro 436, Scratch Game: Debbie Chin 186

Week 23 January 29

Handicap Series: David Brown 687, Handicap Game: Steve Gibson 253, Scratch Series: David Brown 651, Scratch Game: David Brown 225

Handicap Series: Rebecca Burrichter 619, Handicap Game: Rebecca Burrichter 213, Scratch Series: Barbara Webb 385, Scratch Game: Barbara Webb 136



The Pickleball Activity is 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.

Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

February 28, 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 February 21, 2024 at Papapolloni Mediterranean Bistro, 2501 McHenry Ave., Modesto at 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please call Juan Salinas at (209) 605-6762 or email at juangolfnut@yahoo.com.



LADIES' DINE-OUT

The Ladies Dine Out will held at BJ's Restaurant, 3401 Dale Rd., Modesto at 11:30 AM on February 29, 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.



| | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Mike Alves | 2/09/1948 | 76 Yrs. Old |
| Steve Holly | 2/19/1945 | 79 Yrs. Old |
| Don Rowe | 2/19/1949 | 75 Yrs. Old |
| Earl Glenn | 2/21/1942 | 82 Yrs. Old |
| Doug Imberi | 2/22/1950 | 74 Yrs. Old |
| Roger Smith | 2/23/1952 | 72 Yrs. Old |
| Don Ahrens | 2/27/1947 | 77 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: Two Branch 103 Titans have left us in the last month, Ed Davis (99 yrs. Old) and Richard Provost. Ed may have been a charter member for our SIR's 103 way back when. In 2001, Ed served as big SIR. Richard was our Big SIR in 2018. He was a very, very active member and throughout the organization, both State SIR level and our local branches, he was active. Richard's funeral will be held on February 10, 2024 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 10:00 am. A man makes his mark in life and these two had a lasting Mark/Legacy of positive service and commitment that is beyond reproach.

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 death¹.

A safer way to build protection: Getting vaccinated is a safer and more reliable way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19¹.

Offers added protection: COVID-19 vaccines can offer added protection to people who had COVID-19, including protection against being hospitalized from a new infection¹.

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

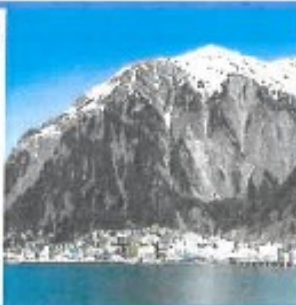
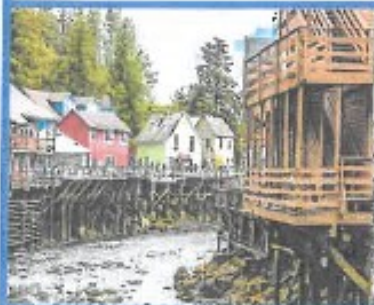
Ketchikan, Alaska, Juneau, Skagway, Endicott Arm and Dawes Glacier
(Scenic Cruising Alaska) and Victoria, Canada

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**



16 NIGHT PANAMA CANAL CRUISE ABOARD THE CORAL PRINCESS

**SAILING FROM
SAN FRANCISCO TO FT. LAUDERDALE
JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

PORTS OF CALL

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico/ Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala/ Puntarenas,
Costa Rica/ Fuerto Amador, Panama/ Full Transit through the historic locks
and Cartagena, Columbia**

THE CORAL PRINCESS



****Add the Princess Plus Package for \$960 per person
Includes: Beverage package, WiFi, Crew appreciation, Premium
desserts (2 per day), Fitness classes (2 per cruise) and unlimited Juice Bar, 2 Casual
Dining meals per guest, Room service delivery****

ESCORTED BY JOHN CARDOZA (209) 483-7722 cell



Call John Cardoza for more information

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

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



February

2024

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