

# The Town Crower

Volume 41, Number 4

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

April 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**

Hope everybody had a good Easter holiday. April is upon us, let's hope we do not get a lot of April showers and we start summer. Our speaker Aaron Castro of Maintenance, Health and Safety of Modesto City Schools school district did a great job explaining what is being done at school and city playgrounds, seeing that everything is safe for the kids, probably our grand kids.

Don't forget the Couple's Dine Out this month on April 17, 2024, at Strings Restaurant 2601 Oakdale Road, Modesto. Contact Juan Salinas, who is the host at (209) 605-6762, or email [juangolfnut@yahoo.com](mailto:juangolfnut@yahoo.com).

We need to see an increase in attendance of our members for our lunch meetings. We have pre-attendance numbers that we have with the caterer regarding meal prepared. If we have less attendance, we must pay the difference, and this has been occurring for months. In 2020 and the advent of COVID, our attendance requirements at our Lunch Meeting changed from six meetings per year to three meetings per year. We are now going back to that six meeting per year requirement for 2024 and beyond. If you do not attend at least six meetings, your membership will be dropped.

Support your SIR BRANCH 103 by regular attendance at our luncheon meetings.

Many thanks to the ones that have been supporting the club, remember this is your club so let's enjoy the activities and friendship we have a great membership. We still need to recruit new members.



# SIR Branch 103 BEC March 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, Roger Smith, Dick Nelson, and Lance Underwood.

**Absent:** Assistant Secretary Ray Tillery, Assistant Treasurer Brian Donahue, Coe Barnard, Jeff Chin, (newsletter), Tom Evans, (programs) and John Cardoza (travel)

**Committee Representatives present:** Bob Kredit (Thursday Golf

**Guests:**

**Call to Order:** Big SIR Paul Bender called the meeting to order at 7:30 A.M. at Denny's restaurant. There were 10 Executive Board members present for a quorum.

**Reports:**

**Secretary:** March 1 Minutes was offered for modification. Motion to accept with modifications: Rowe, 2nd Salinas- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Big SIR:** We have not seen the SIR computer.

**Little SIR:** NA

**Treasurer:** Ted Bracht reported that the Jan.24 report showed the Beginning balance- \$3,377.89. Receipts: luncheon proceeds less contribution portion- \$1,165.00, Membership dues/donations, \$350.00 Raffle- \$37.00. Total receipts- \$1,552.00. Checks written- Margarito's Catering, \$1,202.64. Total deductions \$1,202.64. Ending balance is \$3,726.25. Motion to accept: Bracht- 2nd Rowe-PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Membership:** Dave Cooper reported we have several members participating in activities, golf and bowling, that do not go to our monthly luncheon meeting. A discussion was begun about what to do to encourage them to attend. The Board went through the list and decided to drop several who are either gone or have other needs. As a result, we dropped to 99 members. The others on the list will receive a letter asking them to attend at least 6 luncheons each year, per State SIR rules. If they don't, they will be dropped from our Branch. They will be unable to participate in our activities.

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

**Correspondence:** NA

**Program:** In April, we will hear from Dave Menshew talk about travel.

**Health and Safety:** NA

**Sunshine:** Gary reported that Chuck Bommarito is dealing with medical issues. Don Arheres is also having medical problems. Tom Evans is hospitalized with pneumonia. Coe Barnard has Shingles.

**Golf:** All tournaments will start at 8:00 AM.

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

**Thursday Golf:** going well.

**Newsletter:** NA

**Bowling:** going well.

**Merchandising:** Dennis is looking for vendors for our SIR pins.

**Travel:** There are two cruises available, information is included in newsletter

**Computer:** NA

**Activities:** WE NEED SOMEONE TO BECOME ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN. Phil Reed is doing pickle ball. Couple's Dine Out is on April 17, 2024 at Strings Italian Restaurant, 2601 Oakdale Road, Modesto. Contact Juan Salinas at 209-605-6762 or Juangolfnut@yahoo.com

**Old Business:** NA

**New Business:** NA

**Other:** NA

**Adjournment:** 8:42 AM

# ALL ABOUT ME

Branch 103 has 99 members. A member will be chosen to tell all about themselves. Dick Nelson will interview members each month. The member who Dick interviewed Murle Webb.

Murle Webb is 92 years old, with a birthday coming up in May. He walks a bit slow, but still plays golf. "You make adjustments as you get older. Most people in my family lived a long time." Talk with Murle and you could take an amazing trip from a small chicken ranch in Hollister through the early history of Silicon Valley.

Murle was born in Tulare but only lived there for ten days before moving to San Juan. "December 7 1941, we listened to the radio and heard about Pearl Harbor. We only lived 25 miles from the coast and were afraid the Japanese might invade. I worked on the ranch, built chicken barns, and became the ranch mechanic by the time I graduated from Hollister High School. I had an uncle in the Merchant Marines and another uncle enlisted in the Marines, who survived Iwo Jima and came home after the war. I was an aviation technician in the Navy, stationed at Hickman Air Field in Hawaii, attached to the Military Aviation Transport Service, which flew dignitaries, as well as bringing back wounded and sick on DC 4's.

Murle worked briefly with Sylvania which had no bid contracts with the Army Signal Corps. At Micro Wave Laboratories in Palo Alto, he worked with guidance systems. There had been a multitude of failures with missile launches at Vandenberg because Russians had jammed the guidance system of our rockets.

Murle was in the heyday of electronic transformation. In 1947, William Shockley, with others invented the transistor, which quickly replaced the vacuum tube and greatly enhanced the efficiency of communication of both voice and data. Murle worked for both Micro Wave Technologies and Fairchild Industries and was involved in numerous visits to Cape Canaveral during the Ranger Space Program. Historical Footnote: In 1968, a couple of men, Robert Noyce and Gordon Moore left Fairchild and founded Intel which rapidly brought into production the first micro chip.

Murle was a research and development guy. "You know in that kind of work there are mostly failures. But there is one thing that I am really proud of something which was eventually used in communication cell towers, made commercially available and used by organizations like the Tennessee Valley Authority and AT&T."

Fairchild Industries was in upheaval and Murle decided to change careers. He headed up the AAA office in Hollister for 15 years, before retiring in 1987 and moving to Modesto in 1989.

He is married to Barbara. They have two children and four grand children. He has been a member of SIRs since 1999, has traveled extensively in his retirement, particularly enjoying the national parks. His favorite place, Kodachrome Canyon, Utah.

Murle gave me a history lesson on the amazing impact a small invention and upgrade like how a transistor could be enhanced in design and manufacture leading to transformations of communications, data processing, and the rise of great American companies like Intel. A farm boy from a chicken ranch in Hollister could draw lines on a world map of places where his projects touched: the Black Sea, Arctic Circle, Washington D.C, Tennessee Valley, Canada, Vandenberg, Cape Canaveral.

# Creekside 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.

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

**Mon. Apr. 15-Tracy CC, 8:00, \$59 (cart incl) Host**  
103A

**Mon. Apr. 22-Dryden, 8:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$20)**  
Host 103B

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

**Mon. May 6-Atwater, 8:00, \$54 (cart incl) Host**  
103A

**Mon. May 13-Creekside, 8:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20)**  
Host 103B

**Mon. May 20-Manteca, 8:00, \$49 (cart incl) Host**  
144

**Tue. May 28-Dryden, 8:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$20)**  
Host 103A

**Mon. June 3-Elkhorn, 8:00, \$53 (cart incl) Host**  
144

**Mon. June 10-Creekside, 8:00, \$34 (cart op. \$20)**  
Host 144

**Mon. June 17-Manteca, 8:00, \$49 (cart incl) Host**  
103A

**Mon. June 24-Dry Creek, 8:00, \$53 (cart incl)**  
Host 103B

**Mon. July 1-Dryden, 8:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$20)**  
Host 144

**Mon. July 8-Castle Oaks, 8:00, \$58 (cart incl)**  
Host 103A

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

#### Week 31 March 26

Handicap Series: Gary Del Nero 707, Handicap Game: Bob Abujen 254, Scratch Series: Bob Abujen 614, Scratch Game: Bob Abujen 244

Handicap Series: Debbie Chin 625, Handicap Game: Dolores Bavaro 228, Scratch Series: Barbara Webb 423, Scratch Game: Barbara Webb 168



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

**April 24, 2024**

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

**Masonic Temple**

**800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA**

**Luncheon Price \$25.00**

## Couples Dine Out

The April Couples Dine Out will be on April 17, 2024 at Strings Italian Restaurant, 2601 Oakdale Rd., Modesto at 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please call Juan Salinas at (209)605-6762 or at [juangolfnut@yahoo.com](mailto:juangolfnut@yahoo.com).



## LADIES' DINE-OUT

The Ladies' Dine-Out will be at Javi's Restaurant at 1225 Standiford Ave., Modesto on April 25, 2024 at 11:15 AM. No reservations are required



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 breakfast will be on April 13, 2024 and the lunch will be on April 27, 2024.



|                |           |             |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| Dick Nelson    | 4/03/1937 | 87 Yrs. Old |
| Johnny Taylor  | 4/03/1939 | 85 Yrs. Old |
| Bob Kredit     | 4/03/1946 | 78 Yrs. Old |
| Lon Loudermilk | 4/11/1929 | 95 Yrs. Old |
| Terry Cherry   | 4/15/1958 | 66 Yrs. Old |
| Jim Standard   | 4/25/1947 | 77 Yrs. Old |



## 2024 SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

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

# Sunshine

By Gary Del Nero

Sunshine report: Ed Guida is doing better and has been golfing. I sent a letter of appreciation to a group called "Lock and Load". They gave our branch a \$300 donation in honor of Richard Provost. Tom Evans had a bout with pneumonia over the weekend. He is feeling better. Coe Benard has shingles.

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.

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](http://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. Rick Kindle ..... 209 652-8608

## 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 Ray Tillery .....209 499-0955  
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.



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

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

INCORPORATED



# April

# 2024

| Sunday | Monday                  | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday                                | Friday                                  | Saturday  |
|--------|-------------------------|---------|--|---|---|---|
|        | 1<br>SIR Golf-Elkhorn   | 2       | 3  | 4<br>Creekside Golf                     | 5<br>Pickleball-Beyer Park,<br>Modesto  | 6   |
| 7      | 8<br>SIR Golf-Creekside | 9       | 10   | 11<br>Creekside Golf                    | 12                                      | 13<br>CAF Breakfast-Modesto<br>Airport Hangar- 1S |
| 14     | 15<br>SIR Golf-Tracy CC | 16      | 17<br>Couples Dine Out-<br>Strings Italian Restau-<br>rant | 18<br>Creekside Golf                    | 19<br>Pickleball-Beyer Park,<br>Modesto | 20  |
| 21     | 22<br>SIR Golf-Dryden   | 23      | 24<br>General Membership<br>Luncheon                       | 25<br>Creekside Golf<br>Ladies Luncheon | 26<br>BEC Meeting                       | 27<br>CAF Lunch-Modesto<br>Airport Hangar-1S      |
| 28     | 29<br>SIR Golf-Manteca  | 30      |  |   |   |   |
|        |                         |         |  |   |   |   |
|        |                         |         |  |   |   |   |