

# The Town Crower

Volume 41, Number 8

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

August 2024



## 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



August is upon us with July leaving us with a large heat wave which triggers fires which we have plenty going on and many evacuations. We sure must feel for those folks.

What this month lacks in big holiday. It makes up for it by the fact that August is seemingly our big vacation holiday. Everyone is taking vacation days at the beach, at national parks, or by the fire at a campsite. While there may not be big holidays this month, there's not shortage of lesser-known holidays to celebrate in the hammock with your favorite cold beverage. Here are some to consider:

Admit your Happy Month, family Fun Month, here's is my favorite, Golf Month, National Catfish Month, and Picnic Month,

**Big Sir Paul Bender** The Annual Perseid Meteor Shower lights up the night sky this month. The peak days are August 12-13. However, you can see them for a couple of weeks before and after this date.

Don't forget that we have activities that you can participate in: Monday golf, Thursday golf, Bowling, and Couple's Dine Out, where we go to a different restaurant once a month. If you have not attended, you should try it you get to know other members and their spouses.

Hope to see you all soon. Have a safe and great August.

# **SIR Branch 103 BEC July Minutes**

By Director Dick Nelson (First Draft)

**Attending:** Paul Bender, Juan Salinas, Ted Bracht, Brian Donahue, Dave Cooper, Dennis Imhoff, Dick Nelson, Roger Smith

**Committee Representatives:** Bob Kredit-Thursdays Golf, Gary Del Nero- Sunshine

**Absentees:** (absences are created a problem.): Don Rowe-Sec., Ray Tillery-Assist Sec, Kerry Newman-Director, Lance Underwood-Director

There was confusion about number required for quorum. We had 8 voting members present. Did not conduct any business, but proceeded to discuss several issues without voting.

Call to order: Paul Bender 7:30

Items discussed:

1. Minutes dated May 24 need to reflect correct date : June 28, 2024

2. Discussion of letter sent out by Branches 84 and 110(Chico) addressing proposed changes by State to logos, mission , change of by-laws to include gender neutrality, and reorganization as non profit under provisions of Internal Revenue Code&501(c)3.

3. Paul Bender brought up that some people had asked about the possibility of merger with Branch 144. Background of this was discussed. Members of the two BEC's met last August 15, 2023. The two groups discussed some of the strengths, weaknesses, common problems they had. 144 decided later that they wanted to stay independent. One year later, due to declining luncheon attendance, and membership, the question of merger is being raised.

**Adjournment:** 8:20 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Nelson



Branch 103 has 96 members. A member will be chosen to tell all about themselves. Dick Nelson will interview members each month. The member who Dick interviewed is Oscar Cherry.

Oscar had a big surprise. His grand daughter Sabrina came by and offered to take him out to breakfast. They rode around and stopped at a Salida school which his great grand daughter attended. They walked into a big surprise birthday celebration for Oscar's 90th birthday. Sixty relatives had come from Virginia, Texas, Missouri, Oregon, and Washington and celebrated from 11am to 3 pm. The next morning they gathered at Oscar's house for breakfast. "I fixed it."

Oscar was born in Joy, Texas. His Dad was a share cropper. Oscar was a middle child, "I always did what I wanted." In 1939, we drove to California in a Model T. "It was just like all the pictures, you see a family with all their stuff strapped on to a car. My Dad had \$50 dollars. We moved to Empire and he went to work for a couple of ranchers."

"I always worked. I had my own welding shop in 10th grade at Modesto High. I built a trailer and sold it to a guy who gave me a beef, which I sold for \$200. After high school, I went into the Air Force. At that time, the Air Force was separating from the Army. I was part of the Combat Defense Force. I was married with three kids. At one time, I had 5 part time jobs which I worked on my off days, one of which was a short order cook. Could not support a family on less than \$400 a month."

"I worked at the Riverbank Ammunition Plant for 10 years until 1976, as a mill wright, electrician, welder. I could weld anything but the crack of dawn and a broken heart."

Later, I worked at Leprino Foods in Tracy for 21 years as a maintenance foreman, until I ruptured a disk and retired with a disability in 1996.

In 2001, I had open heart surgery, the same year my wife of 50 years, Anna Lee, died. I had met my wife in elementary school and married her when she was 16 and I was 18. As a result of my wife's time under hospice care, I eventually worked as a hospice facilitator.

I had a bucket list and one of the things I wanted to do was play golf. I fished a lot when I had my bass boat and fished in every lake within 50 miles of Modesto. I have been on 17 cruises. My favorite place was Athens.

Oscar has been a member of Branch 103 for seven years. "I like the fellowship."



# 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. Aug 5-Manteca, 8:00, \$49 (cart incl) Host 103B**

**Mon. Aug 12-Dryden, 8:00, \$32 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144**

**Mon. Aug 19-Atwater, 8:00, \$54 (cart incl) Host 103A**

**Mon. Aug 26-Creekside, 8:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103B**

**Tue. Sept 3-Dryden, 8:00, \$33 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144**

**Mon. Sept 9-Swenson, 8:00, \$49 (cart incl) Host 103A**

**Mon. Sept 16-Dryden, 8:00, \$33 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103B**

**Mon. Sept 23-Manteca Year End Tournament, 8:00, \$40 (cart incl)**

**Mon. Sept 30-Creekside, 8:00, \$35 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144**

**Mon. Oct 7-Castle Oaks, 8:00, \$58 (cart incl.) Host 103A**

**Mon. Oct 14-Tracy CC, 8:00, \$59 (cart incl.) Host 103B**

**Mon. Oct 21-Dryden, 8:00, \$33 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144**

**Mon. Oct 28-Manteca, 8:00, \$49 (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**

The SIR Bowling League is taking a break during the summer. There are summer leagues available if you would like to bowl. Contact McHenry Bowl for times. The SIR Bowling League will begin after Labor Day in September.

## Outdoor Relaxation Activities

A variety of outdoor relaxation activities allow seniors to soak up sunshine, fresh air, and natural scenery while reducing stress and improving mood. Top picks include picnics, glamping, and visiting local parks.

**Glamping** - Comfortable way to experience the outdoors.

**Picnics** - Chance to enjoy meals outdoors with loved ones.

**Hobbies in Nature** - Soothing activities like [birdwatching](#) and [hiking](#).

**Walking Through Community Gardens** - Skills building and social engagement.

**Visiting Zoos/Parks** - Change of scenery and walking paths.



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

**August 28, 2024**

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

**Masonic Temple**

**800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA**

**Luncheon Price \$25.00**

## Couples Dine Out

The August Couples Dine Out will be on August 21, 2024 at George's Steakhouse Bar and Grill, 1001 Kansas Ave., Modesto at 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please call Jeff Chin at (209) 602-3912 or at [jefferygaryc@msn.com](mailto:jefferygaryc@msn.com).



## LADIES' DINE-OUT

The Ladies' Dine-Out will be at BJ's Restaurant and Brew House, 3401 Dale Rd., Modesto on August 29 at 11:30 AM. No reservations 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 for breakfast and \$13 for lunch. No reservations required. The meals are served at the hangar 1-S at 700 Tioga Dr., Modesto. The breakfast will be on August 10, 2024 and the lunch will be on August 24, 2024.



Don Carney	8/03/1946	78 Yrs. Old
Sal Rodriguez	8/04/1945	79 Yrs. Old
Rick Wilcox	8/05/1954	70 Yrs. Old
David Brown	8/10/1947	77 Yrs. Old
Berry Butrica	8/11/1953	71 Yrs. Old
Peter Matysuk	8/11/1955	69 Yrs. Old
Jim Bickner	8/14/1939	85 Yrs. Old
Phil Reed	8/18/1945	71 Yrs. Old
Jim Tanquary	8/19/1943	81 Yrs. Old
Juan Salinas	8/22/1960	64 Yrs. Old
Mark Lim	8/26/1947	77 Yrs. Old
Kerry Newman	8/30/1938	86 Yrs. Old
Gary Del Nero	8/30/1953	71 Yrs. Old
Joe Stackhouse	8/31/1943	81 Yrs. Old
Don Reeves	8/31/1949	75 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

Director-Dave Cooper

Director-Lance Underwood





# Sunshine

By Gary Del Nero

Sent a card to Kerry Newman. He has had a very tough time lately, his wife was just at Stanford having multiple surgeries and I believe she is home now. Kerry, then, had his sister passed, not to mention all he is going through health-wise, our thoughts and prayers with him and family. I learned of a fire in Tuolumne County and called Bob Sykes who lives in that area. He said as I talked with him on Tuesday at about 7 pm 7-30-24, that evacuations were in order about two miles from his area. He has seen fire trucks and helicopters in the area. We pray all the fires will get contained soon. Sykes said he is still fighting off some medical issues.

## 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)

## **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**



There is a married SIR member from Turlock who wants to go on this cruise and needs someone to share a room. His wife doesn't want to go. If interested, call John Cardoza at (209) 483-7722.

## SIR STATE OFFICERS

State Pres. Dale Decker..... 209 573-0833  
State Vice Pres. Lee Lamp..... 530 921-1375  
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  
Roger Smith ..... 209 614-8684  
Lance Underwood..... 209 681-6989



## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership: Dave Cooper ..... 209 578-3789  
Assistant  
Program Chair: Tom Evans ..... 209 551-1836  
Assistant:  
Member Orient.: Juan Salinas..... 209 605-6762  
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 Area18: John Cardoza..... 209 483-7722  
Merchandise Sales: Dennis Imhoff .. 209 846-9529  
Lunch Menu: Juan Salinas..... 209 605-6762  
Computer Club: Jeffery Chin ..... 209 602-3912  
Activity Chair  
Sunshine Chair: Gary Del Nero..... 209-681-1100

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

## 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





# August

# 2024

August 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto	3
4	5 SIR Golf-Manteca	6	7	8 Creekside Golf	9	10 CAF Breakfast-Modesto Airport Hangar- 1S
11	12 SIR Golf-Dryden	13	14	15 Creekside Golf	16 Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto	17
18	19 SIR Golf-Atwater	20	21 Couples' Dine Out- George's Steakhouse	22 Creekside Golf	23	24 CAF Lunch-Modesto Airport Hangar-1S
25	26 SIR Golf-Creekside	27	28 General Membership Luncheon	29 Creekside Golf Ladies Luncheon-BJ's Restaurant	30 BEC Meeting	31