

# The Town Crower

Volume 41, Number 11

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

November 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



The holiday season is upon us ready or not.

How can we forget Election Day on Nov. 5th, which come around every fourth year for the President and Vice President of the United States. Go out and vote for this very important to our nation!

On November 11th, we celebrate Veteran's Day, which is to honor all military that sacrificed so that we can do what we do, a big THANKS to all that served.

Thanksgiving is family's getting together with a big dinner, held the 4th Thursday of November, this year it will be on November 28th. The day after is also known as Black Friday, a great shopping day.

#### Big Sir Paul Bender

I would like to welcome our new members. Jerry Bullock, John Norenberg, Ken Nolte and Jerry Felts.

Don't forget to vote!

Happy Thanksgiving and Veteran's Day!



# SIR Branch 103 BEC October Minutes

By Director Don Rowe (First Draft)

**Attending:** Big SIR Paul Bender, Secretary Don Rowe, Assistant Secretary Ray Tillery, Treasurer Ted Bracht, Assistant Treasurer, Brian Donahue. Directors: Dave Cooper, Kerry Newman, Roger Smith, Dennis Imhoff, Dick Nelson, and Lance Underwood.

**Committee Representatives Present:** Gary DelNero, (Sunshine) and Don Reed, Thursday Golf.

**Absent:** Little Sir Juan Salinas, Jeff Chin, (newsletter) Tom Evans, (programs) John Cardoza (travel) Bob Kredit, Thursday golf.

**Guests:** None

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

**Reports:** Sept. 30 Minutes was offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Tillery- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Big SIR:** 1. There was a State SIR Zoom meeting on October 18 for Branch Officers on recruitment. It was good. We are doing many of the ideas presented.

**Little SIR:** NA

**Treasurer:** Ted Bracht reported via email that the Oct.23 report showed the Beginning balance- \$3,395.80. Receipts: luncheon proceeds less contribution portion- \$1,455.00, Raffle- \$67.00, Ladies Day tickets-\$400.00. Total receipts- \$1,922.00. Checks written- Margarito's Catering, \$1,452.46, SIR quarterly assessment, \$267.50, Brian Donahue, copies-\$26.96. Total deductions \$1,746.92. Ending balance is \$3, 570.88. Motion to accept: Bracht- 2nd Underwood-PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Membership:** Dave Cooper reported that we have 99 members.

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

**Correspondence:** NA

**Program:** NA

**Health and Safety:** Kerry reminded us to get your flu and covid vaccinations!!

**Sunshine:** Gary reported that Coe Barnard is having some health issues. Jeff Chin will be getting Chemotherapy. Joe Stackhouse was back for the luncheon-Welcome back, Joe!

**Golf:** All tournament will start at 9:00 except Manteca and Dry Creek will still be 8:00. Next year's tournament will be out shortly. Mickie Grove is too high priced, and Atwater is trying to get the course in better shape.

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

**Thursday Golf:** Don Reed reported that it is going great!

**Newsletter:** NA

**Bowling:** NA

**Merchandising:** NA

**Travel:** NA

**Computer:** NA

**Activities:** NA

**Dine Out:** Kerry Newman is inviting everyone to Outback on Nov. 13. Contact Kerry -209-579-7747, or email-[kerrynewman07@comcast.com](mailto:kerrynewman07@comcast.com).

**Old Business:** NA

**New Business:** Because of the holidays the luncheons will be earlier in the month, our November Luncheon will be November 20, and our December Luncheon will be December 18. Kerry Newman is selling Ladies Day Tickets for December 18 luncheon. Ladies Day tickets will be sold at the November luncheon. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER THAT!

**Other:** NA

**Adjournment:** 8:18 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Rowe



# 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. Nov 4-Dry Creek, 8:00, \$53 (cart incl.)**  
Host 103B  
**Mon. Nov 11-Dryden, 8:00, \$33 (cart opt. \$20)**  
Host 144  
**Mon. Nov 18-Swenson, 8:00, \$49 (cart incl.)**  
Host 103A  
**Mon. Nov 25-Creekside, 8:00, \$35 (cart opt. \$20)** Host 103B  
**Mon. Dec 2-Manteca, 8:00, \$49 (cart incl.)** Host 144  
**Mon. Dec 9-Dryden, 8:00, \$33 (cart opt. \$20)**  
Host 103A  
**Mon. Dec 16-Creekside, 8:00, \$35 (cart opt. \$20)** 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**

The team that is currently in first place in the league is Team 9 (Strain, Salvi, Kincannon, and Fidalgo).

### High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games Season High Scores

Scratch Series: Bob Abujen 661, Scratch Game: Arnold Fidalgo 249, Handicap Series: Lor Salvi 749, Handicap Game: Chuck Shoup 291

Scratch Series: Babara Webb 511, Scratch Game: Terri Wilcox 178, Handicap Series: Dolores Bava-ro 337, Handicap Game: Becky Burrichter 225



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.

# 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 is Tom Evans.

Tom Evans was invited to a Sirs luncheon by his uncle, who was a member of Sirs Branch 144. He eventually showed up at a luncheon held by Branch 103 in 2010. Tom took over for Sky Coleman as Program Director, which he has done diligently for the past ten or twelve years securing stimulating speakers for our Branch. He solicits from a diverse variety of people from athletes to police, veterans advocates, and elected officials, and then schedules their appearance.

Tom has been a Mason for 57 years . In 2017, he received the Golden Veteran Award for being a 50-Year Mason. He is also a Hi Cap advisor which helps people evaluate healthcare options. With the annual renewal of medicare plans, this is an invaluable service.

Tom is visually impaired and cannot drive. He enjoys movies. His favorite movie was ,”The Godfather”. I was surprised to find out that Tom and his wife Diane are avid country music fans. He cracked a big smile when mentioning Ronnie Milsap. “ I met him at a Honky Tonk in San Jose. We lived in Arizona for four years and saw a lot of his concerts. Also, I saw Taylor Swift open for George Strait. I met Paul English, the drummer for Willie Nelson. “ Sometimes you find out the most interesting things about someone, when you just sit down and ask a few simple questions.”

Tom graduated from Los Altos High School. His class was the third class to graduate in a new school. He managed the swim and water polo teams, and acted in several plays. Tea House of the August Moon was his favorite. He attended Foothill Community College. He started work for Lockheed, and then joined the Naval Air Reserve in Alameda. Tom did two years active duty in the Philippines and worked on the newspaper, as well as being a disk jockey on the base radio station.

Tom worked for Lockheed from 1966-1998. “The culture changed. I took early retirement at 55.”

Tom and his wife, Diane, have traveled extensively. They have gone through the Panama Canal, toured the Hawaiian islands, cruised on the Queen Elisabeth 2 along the East Coast to Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Montreal, as well as sailing around Australia and New Zealand.



## Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

**November 20, 2024**

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

**Masonic Temple**

**800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA**

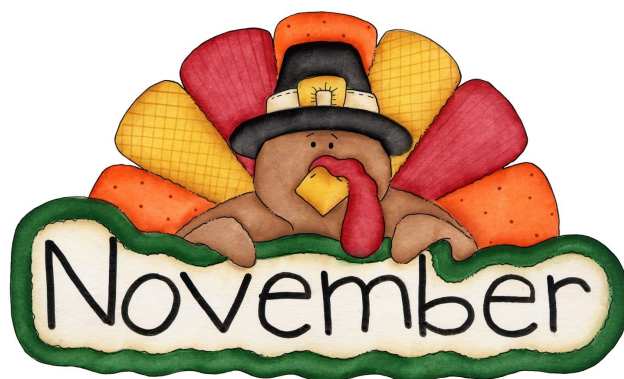
**Luncheon Price \$25.00**



Carlos Bonilla	11/05/1944	80 Yrs. Old
Paul Bender	11/08/1936	88 Yrs. Old
Jerry Holt	11/17/1945	79 Yrs. Old
Ernie Garza	11/18/1946	78 Yrs. Old
Mark Doniak	11/27/1957	67 Yrs. Old

## Couples Dine Out

The October Couples' Dine Out will be on November 13, 2024 at Outback Steakhouse, 2045 Briggsmore Ave., Modesto at 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please call Kerry Newman at (209) 577-2410 or email [kerrynewman07@comast.com](mailto:kerrynewman07@comast.com).



## LADIES' DINE-OUT

The Ladies' Dine-Out will be taking a break during the holiday season. The meal will resume in January 2025.



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 November 9, 2024 and the lunch will be on November 23, 2024.

## 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

Bob Palmer lost his brother of 79 years a card sent to him and family, we lost Johnny Taylor who was 85 years old. Funeral services were at Lakewood Memorial and about 10 of us attended from our Branch 103. He leaves behind a lot of family members and a pet project, a beautiful green pickup which he was proud of. He will be missed.  
Gary Del Nero Sunshine Branch 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)

## **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.





**Modesto SIR #103 & 144**  
**Train Experience – Turlock to Reno**  
**January 9 – 10, 2025**

**\$150/person - Roundtrip (rates vary and subject to change)**

**Book Flex-Rates / Senior-Military Discount (10%)**

**Amtrak Website link: [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) 800-872-7245**

**NOTE:** When you book with an agent or direct, be sure to reserve the same train numbers.

**Itinerary**

TRAIN	ORIGIN	DATE	DEPARTURE	DESTINATION	DATE	ARRIVAL
711	Modesto	1/9/25	8:03 AM	Stockton	1/9/25	8:36 AM
3711 /BUS	Stockton	1/9/25	8:45 AM	Sacramento	1/9/25	9:50 AM
6	Sacramento	1/9/25	10:23 AM	Reno	1/9/25	3:27 PM
5	Reno	1/10/25	9:24 AM	Martinez	1/10/25	4:13 PM
718	Martinez	1/10/25	6:15 PM	Modesto	1/10/25	7:54 PM

Please join us on this train experience when we take Amtrak/BUS 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 3:30 p.m., we will walk a short distance to the hotel. It's recommended you make reservations, for Thursday night, January 9th, at the **Silver Legacy 775-329-4777**, or a hotel of your choice.

**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. Rich Carlston..... 925 324-0838  
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



# November

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
					1 Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto
3	4 SIR Golf-Dry Creek	5	6	7 Creekside Golf	8
10	11 SIR Golf-Dryden	12	13 Couples' Dine Out- Outback Steakhouse	14 Creekside Golf	15 Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto
17	18 SIR Golf-Swenson	19	20 General Membership Luncheon	21 Creekside Golf	22
24	25 SIR Golf-Creekside	26	27	28	29