

The Town Crower

Volume 41, Number 12

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

December 2024



INCORPORATED

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

Well, the big news is the weather. The fall colors in Modesto are hard to beat. As usual the leaves came down with the first rain then we had flooded gutters all over town.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeff Chin, Dick Nelson and Bob Kredit for all there help and dedication that they give to Sirs and Branch 103.

We have some dedicated workers that I want to thank: Don Rowe, Jim Bickner, Roy Bruk for set up and running the front desk, Little Sir Juan Salinas, Treasurer Ted Bracht, Tom Evans getting the speakers for our meetings, Membership Dave Cooper, Roger Smith Golf, Merchandise Dennis Imhoff, Gary Del Nero Sunshine, Earl Glenn Books, Health Kerry Newman, and our humor guy Don Reed. Special thanks to Joe Stackhouse, who is stepping down as our Chaplin at the end of the year. Dick Nelson will be our new Chaplin.

Dining out was a huge success, we had 26 folks for dinner. Kerry Newman did a great job setting things up at the Outback Restaurant. Thank you, Kerry.

It was a great honor for me to be your Big Sir this past year. I know that Juan Salinas will do a fine job next year. He is young and has lots of energy to move us forward.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and be safe.

Thanks again for everybody's help this past year.

**SIR Branch 103 Membership Dues for 2025
are due NOW!! The total dues are \$25.00**

SIR Branch 103 BEC November Minutes

By Director Don Rowe (First Draft)

Attending: Big SIR Paul Bender, Little Sir Juan Salinas, 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, Bob Kredit Data, and Thursday golf, and Tom Evans, Program.

Absent:

Guests: Vince Whaley, Director Elect, Anthony Butera, Area 18 Director, Rick Kindle, Past State SIR.

Call to Order: Big SIR Paul Bender, called the meeting to order at 7:27 A.M. at Denny's Restaurant. Twelve Executive Board members present for a quorum.

Reports: October 25 Minutes were offered for acceptance and modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Underwood- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Big SIR: 1. Paul asked Kerry Newman to do the 2024 audit. 2. He talked to Margarito, and we will have round tables for the December luncheon. The menu will be green salad, Chicken Cordon Bleu, dessert. We will also have a case of red and white wine for the tables.

Little SIR: NA

Treasurer: Ted Bracht reported via email that the November 20 report showed the Beginning balance- \$3,570.88. Receipts: luncheon proceeds less contribution portion- \$1,081.00, Raffle- \$37.00, Ladies Day tickets-\$300.00, 2025 dues, \$375.00, merchandise - \$845.50 & \$759.50. Total receipts- \$1,877.50.

Checks written- Margarito's Catering, \$1,101.87. Total deductions \$1,101.87. Ending balance is \$4,346.51. Motion to accept: Bracht- 2nd Nelson-PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Membership: 1. Dave Cooper reported that we have 98 members.

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

Correspondence: NA

Program: Margarito will supply Christmas music for the December luncheon.

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

Sunshine: Gary reported that Coe Barnard is doing better. Johnny Tayler passed last month.

Golf: The 2025 schedule is completed and available on the website. NCGA dues due on Dec. 18- \$55.00. NEED TO GET AN ASSISTANT FOR PAUL. Roy Bruk is working with Paul. Anyone else is also welcome.

Thursday Golf: Don Reed and Bob Kredit reported that it is going great!

Newsletter: NA

Bowling: NA

Merchandising: Dennis reported that merchandise orders are being fill slowly from the company.

Travel: Trips in Newsletter.

Computer: NA

Activities: Couples' Dine Out was successful at Outback Restaurant this month with 26 in attendance. No dine out in December.

Old Business: NA

New Business: NA

Other: Rick Kindle presented "What is SIR?" It focused on marketing SIR. 1. We need more exposure in the community. 2. SIR began in 1958. 3. State SIR budget is \$90,000-80% for insurance; next year's Branch Assessment will go to \$1.00 per member. 4. Pilot Program-Branches are asked to step up membership recruitment, allocating \$1,000.00 from the Branches (which will be matched by State SIR). There are tools available for Branches to use. The Branches will focus on making membership growth, target potential leaders, and target ages 60-69. The Pilot program will be from Jan. to Feb. Then there will be an assessment to see if it helps. Motion: Branch 103 will participate in the Pilot Program, allotting \$1,000.00 for the first quarter of 2025- Motion to accept: Donahue, 2nd Cooper- YES 9, NO 3- Motion Passed.

Adjournment: 8:27 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. Dec 9-Dryden, 8:00, \$33 (cart opt. \$20)
Host 103A

Mon. Dec 16-Creekside, 8:00, \$35 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103B

Mon. Jan 6-Creekside, 9:00, \$36 (cart opt. \$20)
Host 103A

Mon. Jan 13-Elkhorn, 9:00, \$53 (cart incl.) Host 103B

Tue. Jan 21-Manteca, 8:00, \$50 (cart incl.) Host 144

Mon. Jan 27-Dryden, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20)
Host 103A

Mon. Feb 3-Swenson, 9:00, \$54 (cart incl.) Host 103B

Mon. Feb 10-Creekside, 9:00, \$36 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144

Tue. Feb 18-Atwater, 9:00, \$59 (cart incl.) Host 103A

Mon. Feb 24-Dryden, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20)
Host 103B

Mon. Mar 3-Manteca, 8:00, \$50 (cart incl.) Host 144

Mon. Mar 10-Creekside, 8:00, \$36 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103A

Mon. Mar 17-Tracy CC, 8:00, \$59 (cart incl.)
Host 103B

Mon. Mar 24-Dryden, 8:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20)
Host 144

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

Team 9 (Strain, Salvi, Kincannon, and Fidalgo) won the first third of the league. Team 1 (Lewis, Del Nero, Holly, and Lewis) are in first place in the 15th week of bowling.

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 637, Handicap Game: Debbie Chin 251



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 98 members. A member will be chosen to tell all about themselves. Dick Nelson will interview members each month. The member who Dick interviewed is Mike Alves.

“I grew up in Newman. My Dad had a small dairy with thirty cows. I cleaned the barn . I did not want anything to do with cows. Now, I think that a farm is a good place to raise kids. I thought I wanted to be a teacher, but decided that if kids gave me as much trouble as I gave my teachers, I would not be a teacher. As an adult, I did not like to travel, but now I enjoy traveling with my wife in our fifth-wheeler all over the country.” Mike Alves is living proof that people sometimes change as they grow older.

Mike attended Orestimba High school, played junior varsity football and was interested in photography. “ I went to MJC for a couple of years and studied forestry. I worked for Simon Newman in Newman and hauled hay and worked in a seed plant. I was a retail clerk at Beano’s Department store in Modesto for seven and a half years. For 10 years, I worked at Farmer’s Market Grocery which was bought out by New Deal. The majority of my working career was with UPS as a delivery driver for 25 years.”

“I married my current wife Judi in 1981. We met at the McHenry Bowling Lanes. We have been married for 43 years. She was a realtor with PMZ for 20 years.”

“I retired in 2007. My wife and I like to travel in our 34 foot Coachman 5th wheeler RV. In 2022, we toured the United States, visiting 34 states and drove 12,000 miles. My wife researches everything and finds interesting places. Mt Rushmore is spectacular. You see pictures, but Rushmore is something you have to see in person. We like to go to Monterey. We go up to Bellingham, Washington and visit relatives. In the winter, we go down to Indio for three months. We have been to Europe a couple of times, and this summer we are going to France and Switzerland.

I used to play golf at St. Stanislaus. I met Earl Glenn, who told me about Sirs and invited me to join. I play pickle ball and golf regularly.”

Mike lights up when you ask him about his grand kids. “We fly them up to Bellingham sometimes so they can spend a couple of days with us in the RV. We really like going to Monterrey. We throw our bikes on the back of the RV and ride all over the place when we get there.” After retiring, Mike and His wife were hesitant about buying a RV. “One weekend in Monterey and my wife was hooked. Now we are world wide travelers,” Mike says, “There is just so much to see.”

Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

December 20, 2024

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Masonic Temple

800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA

Luncheon Price \$25.00



Couples Dine Out

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



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 December 14, 2024. There will be no lunch on December 28, 2024



Ted Bracht	12/02/1947	77 Yrs. Old
William Irby	12/07/1947	77 Yrs. Old
Bob Sykes	12/14/1935	89 Yrs. Old
Bob Hall	12/26/1945	79 Yrs. Old
Sonny Crim	12/27/1952	72 Yrs. Old
Fred Angleton	12/30/1950	74 Yrs. Old

RAFFLE RAFFLE RAFFLE

Remember to bring raffle prizes to the luncheon on December 20!!

2025 SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

Big Sir—Juan Salinas

Little Sir-Brian Donahue

Secretary-Don Rowe

Assist. Sec.-Ray Tillery

Treasurer-Ted Bracht

Assist. Treas.-Brian Donahue

Director-Dick Nelson

Director-Vic Whaley

Director-Dennis Imhoff

Director-Roger Smith

Director-Kerry Newman

Director-Dave Cooper

Director-Lance Underwood

Past President-Paul Bender



Sunshine

By Gary Del Nero

For some good news, it is quiet over the thanksgiving holiday. No news is good news. Still thinking about Johnny Taylor who passed last month and our thoughts are with Jeff Chin that his treatments are successful.

Gary Del Nero Sunshine Branch 103



Christmas Word Search



Find the hidden Christmas words.

J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	N	U	R	D	C
H	X	E	P	N	C	L	O	C	K	A	O
F	M	W	H	G	R	V	F	E	T	R	U
I	I	Y	T	F	A	P	O	L	U	P	N
R	D	E	M	I	N	U	T	E	R	A	T
E	N	A	T	N	T	B	H	B	K	R	D
W	I	R	E	I	H	A	C	R	E	T	O
O	G	E	N	G	A	L	D	A	Y	Y	W
R	H	R	E	S	O	L	U	T	I	O	N
K	T	R	A	E	I	O	O	E	R	I	S
S	F	A	M	F	L	O	C	R	A	F	N
B	R	I	N	D	A	N	C	E	N	E	L

MINUTE	DANCE	PARTY	CLOCK
CELEBRATE	MIDNIGHT	NEW YEAR	JANUARY
COUNTDOWN	FIREWORKS	RESOLUTION	BALLOON



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

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 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 Juan Salinas.....209 605-6762
Little Sir Brian Donahue.....209 988-2748
Secretary Don Rowe209 634-0100
Asst. Secretary Ray Tillery209 499-0955
Treasurer Ted Bracht.....209 573-1690
Asst. Treas. Brian Donahue.....209 988-2748
Dick Nelson209 701-8108
Dennis Imhoff209 846-9529
Ray Tillery209 499-0955
Vic Whaley916 509-2483
Dave Cooper209 578-3789
Roger Smith209 614-8684
Lance Underwood.....209 681-6989
Paul Bender..... 209 324-1793



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 Kredit209 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 Newman209 579-7747
Golf Co-Chair: Gerald Hott209 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:Dick Nelson.....209 701-8108
Asst.Chaplain:Gary Goodman209 578-0848
Meal Tickets: Don Rowe, Roy Bruk
Raffle: Roy Bruk, Jim Bickner
Table Setup:Don Rowe209 634-0100
Table Setup:Jim Bickner209 522-4345
Lead Singer:
Backup Singer:Gary Goodman209 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.com602-3912

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)

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

INCORPORATED



December

2024

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