

# The Town Crower

Volume 42, Number 9

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

September 2025



## 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

Dear Fellow SIR Members,

Our organization is built on a simple but powerful mission: *to enrich your life*. Together, we have 79 branches across 16 areas, with over 8,000 members. While our history and traditions remain strong, we also face challenges—our median age is now over 80, and membership has declined more this past year than in the past.

We are proud to celebrate our members and leaders who keep SIR thriving. Congratulations to this year's President Award honorees: Derrick Dieter Rex (Br. 45), Ricky Kindle (Br. 143), Andy Danver (Br. 35), Lee Lamp (Br. 129), Bruce Henry (Br. 32), and Gary Brandley (Br. 23). Your dedication shows what SIR is all about—friendship, service, and staying active together.

But to continue that tradition, we must grow. The future of SIR depends on welcoming new members—especially those in their 60s and 70s, including the Baby Boomer and Gen X generations. These men are looking for what we already offer: golf, bowling, pickleball, RV trips, and the chance to make new friends. To reach them, we need to advertise, invite, and personally encourage them to join us. A phone call or invitation to an activity can make all the difference.

As members, we also have responsibilities: keeping our records and finances in order, participating in area meetings, and maintaining open communication with State SIR. Ignoring those connections weakens us, but engaging makes us stronger.

Now is the time for all of us to take action—reach out, invite a friend, and volunteer when asked. By staying active, we stay young. By welcoming others, we ensure SIR will continue to thrive for many years to come.

Thank you for your support, your participation, and your commitment to *making friends for life*.

Featured Events in September 2025: Dine out for September 17, 2025. The Fruit Yard 7948 Yosemite Blvd. Please RSVP Juan Salinas by September 12, 2025.

### Music in the Plaza & Farmers Market

- **Music in the Plaza:** Every Friday evening through September 26 (bands like Blues Box Bayou Band, Remedy, and Rob Hill Band)—7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in downtown Modesto [Downtown Modesto](#)
- **Modesto Certified Farmers Market:**
  - Thursday markets: Sep 11, Sep 18, Sep 25 (8:00 AM–1:00 PM)
  - Saturday markets: Sep 13, Sep 20 (8:00 AM–1:00 PM)
  - Venue: Alongside Stanislaus County Library



**Big Sir Juan Salinas**  
**Branch 103**

# SIR Branch 103 BEC Minutes August 27, 2025

Secretary Don Rowe

**Attending:** Big SIR, Juan Salinas, Little Sir Fernando Gonzalez, Secretary Don Rowe, Assistant Secretary Ray Tillery, Treasurer John Santillano, Assistant Treasurer Ted Bracht. Directors: Dave Cooper, Dennis Imhoff, Lance Underwood, Dick Nelson, and Paul Bender.

**Committee Representatives Present:** Gary DelNero, (Sunshine)

**Absent:** Directors- Roger Smith and Vic Whaley, Bob Kredit Thursday Golf, and Tom Evans, Program.

**Guests:** Jerry Strain, and Bob Lewis.

**Call to Order:** Big SIR Juan Salinas, called the meeting to order at 9:29 A.M. at The Masonic Lodge, Eleven Executive Board members were present for a quorum.

**Secretary:** July Minutes was offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2<sup>nd</sup> Underwood- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Big SIR:** NA

**Little SIR:** Fernando said that the State Membership Date Base transferred former Branch 144 to Branch 103.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Santillano reported that the beginning balance was \$3,653.31. Receipts: Dues, \$25.00, Sir 144 deposit-\$4,940.10, Raffle \$101.00, Advertisement (Anthony Butera)- \$10.00, Member Luncheon Purchase- \$2,025.00, total-\$7,101.10. Checks written: Postage for Newsletter- \$20.98, State SIR assessments-\$272.25, Advertisement- \$286.19, merchandise-\$248.32. Total Disbursements-\$3,081.56. Bank balance-\$7,672.85, petty cash-\$300.00, Total balance-\$7,972.85. Motion to accept: Santillano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rowe - PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Membership:** Bob Lewis presented an application for membership from Bruce Cramer.

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

**Correspondence:**

**Program:** Nan Su presented a slide show "Challenges with China".

**Health and Safety** Kerry Newmqn told us it is flu season and vaccinations are available. The new covid vaccine should be ready soon.

**Sunshine:** Gary's report was given at the luncheon.

**Golf:** NA

**NEED TO GET AN ASSISTANT FOR PAUL.**

**Thursday Golf:** Juan reported that it is going great!

**Newsletter:** Bob Lewis said that the newsletter is a work in progress.

**Bowling:** Bob Lewis reported that it will start Sept. 2.

**Merchandising:** NA

**Travel:** John spoke about a cruise to Hawaii next year.

**Activities:** Lance Underwood suggested attending an MJC football game. A reminder that wives and family may participate.

**Dine Out.** To be determined.

**Old Business:**

**New Business: Election results:** Big Sir: Fernando Gonzalez; Little Sir: Ray Tillery; Treasurer: John Santillano; Assistant Treasurer: Glen Carrington; Secretary: Don Rowe; **Assistant Secretary: OPEN.** Directors: Dave Cooper, Ted Bracht, Bob Lewis, Jerry Strain, and Dennis Imhoff.

Area 18 (Branches Modesto, Turlock, and Stockton) is holding a competition for recruitment of new members from Sept. 30, 2025, to June 28, 2026. The member who recruits the most members, will receive \$150. Each Branch is asked to donate \$50. Motion: Branch 103 will donate \$50 for the competition- Motion to accept: Gonzalez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bracht- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Other: The next BEC meeting will be at 9:30 AM September 24<sup>th</sup> at The Masonic Lodge**

**Adjournment:** 10:02AM

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. Sept 8-Atwater, 8:00, \$59 (cart incl.) Host 103C**

**Mon. Sept 15-River Oaks, 8:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$10) Host 103A**

**Mon. Sept 22-Dryden, 8:00, \$36 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103B**

**Mon. Sept 29-Swenson, 8:00, \$54 (cart incl.) Host 103C**

**Mon. Oct 6-Creekside, 8:00, \$37 (cart opt. \$20) Host All**

**Mon. Oct 13-Castle Oaks, 8:00, \$58 (cart incl.) Host 103A**

**Mon. Oct 20-Tracy GC, 8:00, \$59 (cart incl.) Host 103B**

**Mon. Oct 27-Dryden, 8:00, \$55 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103C**

**Mon. Nov 3-Micke Grove 8:00, \$62 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103A**

**Mon. Nov 10- Pheasant Run 8:00, \$64 (cart incl.) 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.

## Sunshine Report

By Gary Del Nero



**Here's the Sunshine Report for September.**

Lots going on: update on two with Ray Canada's son still in Stanford Hospital in treatment for cancer, going to be a long road ahead per Ray. Our prayers are with him and family, Kerry Newman went in for a procedure and ended up with 2 stints put in as he said that makes 4. Kerry is at home and very glad to be with us. Reported Don Vanbuskirks wife was in hospital for respiratory issues and COVID last month. Unfortunately, she succumbed to COVID and other issues and passed . Our thoughts and prayers with him and family. Our thoughts are still with Jeff Chin and his treatments.  
Sunshine 103

Gary Del Nero: Phone 209 681-1100--Amos 209 605-9638  
Email [garydelnero73@gmail.com](mailto:garydelnero73@gmail.com)

**GARY DEL NERO**

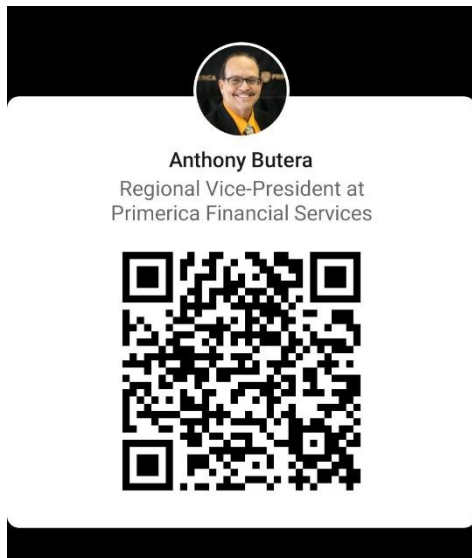


The Pickleball Activity is be scheduled the first and third Fridays of every month at the courts at Beyer Park at 9:00 am. Please come out and give it a try. There will be experienced players to help introduce you to the game. All the equipment will be provided. All members and their spouses are invited.

## *Bowling September 2025*

Bowling has started. There's still time to join the SIR League.  
McHenry Bowl, Tuesdays at 1:00 PM

The speaker for September is Marvin Jackson who will talk about  
"The Buffalo Soldiers"



Ad for Anthony Butera



Speaker for August was Nan Su from  
The Epoch Times

New Officers for 2026: Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez, Little Sir Ray Tillery, Treasurer John Santillano, Asst Treasurer: Open, Secretary Don Rowe and Asst. Secretary Ray Tillery. Directors: Ted Bracht, Dave Cooper, Dennis Imhoff, Bob Lewis, Juan Salinas and Jerry Strain.

***Dining Out Clubs Info – From  
Vince Sereno, Chairman, 144  
Dining Clubs***

***As we complete our 3 groups of  
Dining Out in 2025, we can look  
forward to the proposed slate of  
hosts and proposed restaurants for  
2026, as established during the  
August Dinners. A Very Special  
thank you to group Host &  
Restaurant Coordinators Kathy  
Norris and Hall Eubank for their  
excellent leadership. – Vince***

**2nd Tuesday Evening Club**

***Tuesday September 9th – Skewers  
Tuesday October 14th – Javi's Mexican  
For Reservations: Contact Kathy  
Norris at 209-596-0416***

**3rd Wednesday Evening Club**

***Wednesday September 17th The Fruit  
Yard 7948 Yosemite Blvd. Please  
RSVP Juan Salinas by September  
12th 209-605-6762***

**4th Tuesday Evening Club:**

***Tuesday Sept. 23rd -- Lee's Chinese  
Tuesday Oct. 28th--Ciao Bella  
Restorante***

***For Reservations Contact Hall  
Eubank at: 209-649-4148***

**4th Thursday Evening Club:**

***Thursday Sept. 25th -- Strings Italian  
Thursday October 23rd – Mimi's Cafe  
For Reservations:  
Contact Vince Sereno at:  
209-524-9630, or Cell at: 209-552-1539***

***Humor — How to Walk a Human:  
A Dog's Guide!***

***Humans need exercise. If they  
don't get it they become "chubby".  
It is up to you to save them.***

- 1. Allow your human to tether  
themselves to you. This keeps them  
from wandering off or running  
away.*
- 2. Your human will probably need  
breaks. Be considerate and stop and  
sniff often.*
- 3. Bark frequently. Humans have  
short attention spans.*
- 4. When you go to the bathroom,  
walk away. If you have trained  
your human correctly, they will pick  
it up. Good aerobics.*
- 5. Periodically drag your human as  
fast as you can. This is called  
interval training.*
- 6. Do not allow your human to  
shorten the walk. They are being  
lazy. Sit in protest if you must.*
- 7. Once you return home, allow  
your human to remove their tether,  
then lick their face many times. This  
is positive reinforcement for a job  
well done.*



## Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

**September 24, 2025**

**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 at The Fruit Yard on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please call Juan Salinas at 209-605-6762 or email at [juangolfnut@yahoo.com](mailto:juangolfnut@yahoo.com). by September 12, 2025.

Name		Date	Age
Marvin	VanMiddendorp	09/21/1955	70
Fernando	Gonzalez	09/25/1946	79
Cecil	Brown	09/10/1944	81
Joe F	Savage	09/07/1942	83
Roy	Hardison	09/05/1929	96



## LADIES' DINE-OUT

The Ladies' Dine-Out will be taking some time out. Please read the upcoming newsletters to find out the next date.



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 hangar 1-S at 700 Tioga Dr., Modesto. The breakfast will be on September 13, 2025. The lunch will be on September 27, 2025.

### NEW MEMBER PROCEDURE

A prospective member will attend a luncheon with a member as a guest. During the luncheon he will be introduced to the group, and he will be given a membership application. New members will fill out the application and submit it to Dave Cooper or any board member. The application will be submitted to the Branch Executive Committee for acceptance. Upon acceptance the new member shall attend an Orientation session prior to the next meeting. At the luncheon the new member will be introduced to the membership.

ARRANGED BY ALAMO WORLD TRAVEL  
FOR SIRS AREA 18, BRANCH 143 & FRIENDS



## SIR STATE OFFICERS

State Pres. Rich Carlston..... 925 324-0838  
State Vice Pres. Lee Lamp .....530 921-1375  
Area 18 Rep. Anthony Butera ..... 209 985-3473

## SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

Big Sir Juan Salinas..... 209 605-6762  
Little Sir Brian Donahue ..... 209 988-2748  
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  
Vic Whaley ..... 916 509-2483  
Dave Cooper ..... 209 578-3789  
Roger Smith ..... 209 614-8684  
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.: Brian Donahue ..... 209 988-2748  
Public Relations: Bob Kredit..... 209 672-0326  
Bowling: Vern Masse..... 209 544-1953  
Bowling: Bob Lewis..... 626 252-5484  
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: Lance Underwood..... 209 681-6989  
Sunshine Chair: Gary Del Nero ..... 209-681-1100

Health & Safety: Kerry Newman...209 579-7747  
Chaplain: Dick Nelson.....209 701-8108  
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:

Sam Graham, Bob Kredit and Gary Williams

STATE HONORARY LIFE MEMBER: Jerry Strain

## SENIOR HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:

Don Reed

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bob Lewis .... [bobalew69@msn.com](mailto:bobalew69@msn.com).....209-523-7387

## 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.

# SEPTEMBER



# September

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 SIR Golf Creekside SIR League Bowling	3	4 Creekside Golf	5 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto	6
7	8 SIR Golf- Atwater	9 SIR League Bowling Dining Club- Skewers	10	11 Creekside Golf	12	13 CAF Breakfast- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
14	15 SIR Golf- River Oaks	16 SIR League Bowling	17 Couples' Dine- Out- The Fruit Yard	18 Creekside Golf	19 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto	20
21	22 SIR Golf- Dryden	23 SIR League Bowling Dining Club- Lee's Chinese	24 General Membership Luncheon	25 Creekside Golf Dining Club- Strings	26	27 CAF Lunch- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
28	29 SIR Golf- Swenson	30 SIR League Bowling				