

The Town Crower

Volume 42, Number 10

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

October 2025



Modesto SIR Branch 103

DEDICATED to the PROMOTION of INDEPENDENCE and DIGNITY for MEN

Branch 103 Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch103

Big Sir Crows

Dear Fellow SIR Members,

As the leaves begin to turn and the air becomes crisp, fall reminds us of change—and opportunity. This season, I encourage all of us to step out, reconnect, and enjoy the things that make our SIR life rich: fellowship, activity, laughter, and new experiences.

Whether joining the Family Fun Festival, enjoying a lunch at the Senior Center, trying a chair Zumba class, or simply walking through a patch of pumpkins, these moments matter. Invite someone new, make a phone call, volunteer, share an outing—these small things help grow our branch and brighten everyone's day.

As we prepare for the holidays, let's also remember that staying active keeps us young, and staying connected keeps us strong. Whether it's through a game, a lunch, or just sharing a story, every bit of participation makes our branch better.

Looking forward to seeing you at some of these events, hearing your stories, and sharing this beautiful season with all of you.

Dine out for October 15, 2025, will be at the Outback Steakhouse.

Please RSVP Kerry Newman (209-579-7747) by October 10, 2025.

Fall Happenings in Modesto – What's Coming Up

Here are some events and activities in Modesto this fall that you might enjoy:

- **Family Fun Festival** – Sunday, September 28, 2025, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Gallo Center Plaza & Modesto Rotary Music Garden. Free event with music, chalk art, lawn games, face painting, balloon animals, and more. tickets.galloarts.org

- **Modesto Certified Farmers Market** – Saturdays (e.g. September 20) from ~8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Stanislaus County Library downtown. Fresh produce, artisan goods, a walk-and-shop morning. [Downtown Modesto](http://DowntownModesto)

- **Senior Center Zumba (Chair)** – For those aged 60+, gentle “chair-Zumba” classes at the Modesto Senior Citizens Center, mornings and afternoons. Good for mobility, fun, music. modestogov.com

- **Senior Lunch Programs** – Mancini Hall, Modesto Senior Center, and other local senior centers run lunch programs several days a week (Monday through Friday or specific days). Great chance to meet up and enjoy a meal together. stancounty.com

- **Wild-Harvest and Pumpkin Patch Events & Seasonal Treats** – In Modesto and nearby, as fall gets underway: pumpkin patches, craft fairs, local farms offering autumn produce, gourds, photo ops. Perfect for a weekend outing.



Big Sir Juan Salinas
Branch 103

SIR Branch 103 (Region 2-Area 18) BEC Minutes September 24, 2025

Secretary Don Rowe

Attending: Little Sir Fernando Gonzalez, Secretary Don Rowe, Assistant Secretary Ray Tillery, Assistant Treasurer Ted Bracht. Directors: Dave Cooper, Dennis Imhoff, Roger Smith, Lance Underwood, Dick Nelson, and Paul Bender.

Committee Representatives Present: Gary DelNero, (Sunshine)

Absent: Big SIR, Juan Salinas, Treasurer John Santillano, Director Vic Whaley, Bob Kredit Thursday Golf, and Tom Evans, Program.

Guests: Jerry Strain and Bob Lewis.

Call to Order: Little Sir Fernando Gonzalez, called the meeting to order at 9:29 A.M. at The Masonic Lodge, Ten Executive Board members were present for a quorum.

Secretary: Aug. Minutes were offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Tillery- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Big SIR: NA

Little SIR: Fernando said that Area 18 met about advertising. The State wanted us to return unused funding from the State Sir. It was agreed to keep it and use it on ads.

Treasurer: Little Sir Fernando reported for John Santillano (due to his hospitalization) that the beginning balance for Aug. was \$7,6272.85. Receipts: Sir, Raffle \$148.00, Advertisement (Anthony Butera)- \$20.00, Member Luncheon Purchase- \$2,385.00, total-\$2,620.00 Checks written: Luncheon \$2,281.04. Total Disbursements-\$2,281.04 Difference between receipts and disbursements-\$338.96. Bank balance-\$8,011.81, petty cash-\$300.00, Total balance-\$8,311.81 Motion to accept: Gomzales, 2nd Bracht- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Membership: Jerry Strain reported that we have 172 members. Bob Lewis presented an application for membership from Bruce Cramer. We will need to vote on him next month.

Luncheon: good lunch! **\$5.00 FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT EACH LUNCH.** 95 lunches purchased

Correspondence: NA

Program: A good presentation on the "Buffalo Soldiers".

Health and Safety Kerry Newman 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: Oct. 6 tournament will be the Don Sullivan Memorial Tournament.

NEED TO GET AN ASSISTANT FOR PAUL.

Thursday Golf: Going well.

Newsletter: Bob Lewis said that the newsletter is rocking and grinding.

Bowling: Bob Lewis reported that there are 32 bowlers!

Merchandising: Dennis has an order in but expect it may be a while before they arrive.

Travel: John spoke about a cruise to Hawaii next year. They will be sailing down the Mississippi soon.

Activities: Lance Underwood suggested that attending the Nov. 1 MJC football game, seniors \$5.00. We will have a Corn Hole tournament at our social time, 10:00 to 11:00. Motion: Have tournament prizes funded -1st \$30.00, 2nd \$20.00 and 3rd \$10.00-Underwood, 2nd Tillery PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Dec. will be Ladies Day luncheon. We ask members to bring items for the raffle.

Dine Out: To be determined.

Old Business: NA

New Business NA

Other: NA

Adjournment: 10:01AM

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. Oct 6-Creekside, 8:00, \$37 (cart opt. \$20) Host All YEAR END TOURNAMENT

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

Mon. Nov 17- Dryden 8:00, \$55 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103C

Mon. Nov 24- Swenson 8:00 \$54 (cart incl) Host 103A

Mon. Dec 1- Creekside 8:00 \$57 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103B

Mon. Dec 8-River Oaks 8:00 \$44 (cart opt. \$10) Host 103C

Mon. Dec 15- Dryden 8:00 \$55 (cart opt. \$20) 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.

Sunshine Report

By Gary Del Nero



Here's the Sunshine Report for October.

Talked with Mark Lin he had fallen off a ladder and hit his head. Blood clot from the fall.

Thankfully no surgery is needed. MRI shows shrinking blood clot. Mark is at home now, card sent. I am very sad to report that Ray Cabusas's son has passed. This is one of those reports that hurts all of us deeply. It is not supposed to be this way, a child go before us. Just a few months ago Joe Micelli lost his daughter. Again, not supposed to be this way. Our hearts go out to Ray and his family. And again, to Joe and Family. There are a few other items but at this time I thought just remembering out two fellow SIR members that have lost their children (Obviously they are older children) remembering them with this report ending with our thoughts and prayers.

Gary Del Nero: Phone 209 681-1100--Amos 209 605-9638
Email 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.

October 2025 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 1 September 2

Series: Bob Abujen 572

Steve Holly 698

Game: Bob Abujen 225

Steve Holly 265

Series: Dolores Bavaro 419

Dolores Bavaro 608

Game: Dolores Bavaro 169

Dolores Bavaro 232

Week 2 September 9

Series: Bruce Cramer 673

Bruce Cramer 700

Game: Bruce Cramer 277

Bruce Cramer 286

Series: Barbara Webb 454

Barbara Webb 622

Game: Barbara Webb 177

Barbara Webb 233

Week 3 September 16

Series: Steve Gibson 607

Steve Gibson 688

Game: Steve Gibson 215

Don Stephens 253

Series: Dolores Bavaro 439

Dolores Bavaro 628

Game: Dolores Bavaro 159

Dolores Bavaro 222

Week 4 September 23

Series: Bob Abujen 647

Bob Abujen 680

Game: Bob Lewis 247

Bob Lewis 265

Series: Barbara Webb 397

Debbie Chin 623

Game: Dolores Bavaro 156

Debbie Chin 224

After 4 weeks Team 9 is in 1st Place
(Kosters, Mickelson & Cramer)

Come out for our hometown tournament.

----- 2025 UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS -----

October 15 Bolero Brentwood, Brentwood

Ron Wilson 925-354-6647

Keith Jones 925-628-9577

November 7-8 McHenry Bowl, Modesto

Vern Masse 209-538-3640

Branch 103 Bowling Chairman:

Bob Lewis 209-523-7387 bobalew69@msn.com

ATTENTION AREA 18 GOLFERS

DUE TO THE FACT THAT NO LOCAL COURSES HAVE FACILITIES TO HOST THE YEAR END LUNCHEON AND PRIZE GIVE AWAY THE COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO HOLD THE LUNCHEON AND GIVE AWAY AT THE MASONIC LODGE. YEAR-END CHECKS WILL BE HANDED OUT FOLLOWING LUNCH.

DATE: OCT. 29, 2025

PLACE: MASONIC LODGE
800 ROSE AVE
MODESTO, CALIF

TIME: 10:30

LUNCH **FREE LUNCH** IF YOU HAVE **SIX** ROUNDS OR MORE
IF NOT, LUNCH WILL BE **\$20.00**

YEAR
END CHECKS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AFTER LUNCH,

CHECKS NO EXCEPTIONS, CHECKS WILL ONLY BE GIVEN
TO PAYEES, CHECKS NOT PICKED UP WILL BE MAILED.

IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THE BANQUET YOU MUST
SIGN UP. SIGN UP SHEET WILL BE AVAILABLE AT YOUR
LUNCHEON OR AT THE SIGN IN TABLE AT THE GOLF COURSE
OR CONTACT PAUL BENDER (209)324-1793 OR
11golfbender@gmail.com

GOLF COMMITTEE

SIR Football Game Day

Saturday, November 1.
MJC Stadium
MJC vs Monterey
Game time 1:00 pm.
General admission \$10. Seniors, students and veterans \$5. Children 7-10 \$3.
Meet in the D section of the home bleachers at 12:30 pm. We will try to have a section 5 or 6 rows up.
Bring your wife, grandkids, relatives or friends.
Let me know if you are joining us.
Lance Underwood
209-681-6989
LUnderwood527@gmail.com

SIR Corn Hole Tournament

November 19th.
10:00- 11:00 am.
Before our meeting and lunch at the Masonic Lodge.
Teams of two.
Prize money for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.
Pick your team and let me know by Nov. 12th.
Lance Underwood
209-681-6989
LUnderwood527@gmail.com

Branch 144 Dining Out Club began in 2001 as a small group of friends eating out in the evening. I joined the group in 2008 and became Chairman in 2009. There were about 20 members at the time. Membership escalated and in just a few short years due to the increase in membership, we established 4 separate groups until Covid caused a pause in our dining experiences. Now, we have 3 separate Clubs. It has been my pleasure to serve as your Chairman, and I am looking forward to continuing in 2026. -- Vince

2nd Tuesday Evening Club:

Tuesday October 14th – Javi's Mexican

Tues. November 11th – Outback Steakhouse

For Reservations: Contact Kathy Norris at 209-596-0416

3rd Wednesday Evening Club:

Wednesday October 15th—Outback Steakhouse

2045 W Briggsmore Ave, Modesto

Please RSVP Kerry Newman by October 10,2025.

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

Tuesday October 28th –Ciao Bella Rest.2045

No Dinners in November or December

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

No Dinners in November or December

Thursday October 23rd – Mimi's Cafe

For Reservations: Contact Vince Sereno at:

209-524-9630, or Cell at: 209-552-1539

Chuckles:

The math teacher saw that "Little Johnny" wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, "Little Johnny! What are 2 and 4, 28, and 44?" Little Johnny quickly replied, "ABC, CBS, HBO and the Cartoon Network.

A priest and a pastor are standing on the side of the road. They are holding a sign that reads: "The end is near! Turn around now before it's too late!" A passing driver yells, "You guys are nuts!" And he speeds past them. From around the corner they can hear the tires screech, then a big splash. The priest turns to the pastor and says, "Do you think we should just put a sign up that says "Bridge Out Ahead?"

During a visit to the mental asylum, I asked the director how do you determine whether a patient should be institutionalized. "Well," said the director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask them to empty the bathtub." "Oh, I understand, A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger." The director said: "No, a normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a seat near the window?"

Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

October 22, 2025

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Masonic Temple

800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA

Luncheon Price \$25.00



Name		Date	Years
Alford	Randy	10/3/56	69
Manning	Robert	10/20/52	73
Leffingwell	Charlie	10/11/56	73
Pinkston	Ernie	10/18/46	79
Masse	Vern	10/24/45	80
Quilici	Lynn M.	10/17/44	81
Bradley	Joe	10/11/42	83
Strain	Jerry	10/10/42	83
Evans	Tom A	10/02/42	83
Miceli	Joe	10/24/40	85
Luis	Joe	10/12/40	85
Stroud	Gary	10/18/39	86
Cox	Gene	10/16/39	86
Duran	Jim	10/12/37	88
Davis	Leonard	10/3/36	89

Couples' Dine Out

The Couples' Dine Out will be at **Outback Steakhouse** at 2045 W Briggsmore, Modesto on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, Please RSVP Kerry Newman (209-579-7747) by October 10, 2025.



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.



Ad For Anthony Butera



Anthony Butera
Regional Vice-President at
Primerica Financial Services



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SAN FRANCISCO
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Nawiliwili, Kauai and Ensenada, Mexico

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Dining meals per guest, Room service delivery**

ESCORTED BY JOHN CARDOZA (209) 483-7722 cell



SIR STATE OFFICERS

State Pres. Rich Carlston..... 925 324-0838
State Vice Pres. Lee Lamp530 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 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:

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.....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.

OCTOBER

October

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Creekside Golf	3 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto	4
5	6 SIR Golf- Creekside- Don Sullivan Memorial	7 SIR League Bowling	8	9 Creekside Golf	10	11 CAF Breakfast- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
12	13 SIR Golf- Castle Oaks	14 SIR League Bowling Dining Club- Javi's Mexican	15 Couples Dine- out 5:00PM Outback Steakhouse	16 Creekside Golf	17 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto	18
19	20 SIR Golf- Tracy GC	21 SIR League Bowling	22 General Membership Luncheon	23 Creekside Golf Dining Club- Mimi's	24	25 CAF Lunch- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
26	27 SIR Golf- Dryden	28 SIR League Bowling Dining Club- Ciao Bella	29 End of Golf Luncheon- Masonic Lodge 10:30AM	30 Creekside Golf	31	

All Dining Clubs meet no later than 5:00PM