

The Town Crower

Volume 42, Number 12

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

December 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 we come to the close of another memorable year, I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to each of you. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Big SIR.

Our group has accomplished so much together—on the golf course, on the lanes, out on the road, and in all the social activities that keep our chapter vibrant and connected. What made this year truly special wasn't the events themselves, but the camaraderie, good humor, and genuine friendship each of you brings to this organization.

Thank you for your support, your participation, your ideas, and your willingness to lend a hand whenever needed. Your spirit is what keeps this chapter strong, active, and full of life.

I'm grateful for the trust you placed in me this year, and I look forward to seeing our chapter continue to grow and thrive in the years ahead.

Wishing you all good health, good times, and many more great moments together.

With sincere appreciation,
Your Big Sir Juan Salinas

For any member who wants to purchase tickets for the Christmas Luncheon, send a \$25 check made out to: SIR Branch 103. Send to: Fernando Gonzalez, 2509 Portofino Dr., Modesto, CA 95356 by December 10. Also, indicate if you are bringing a guest and choice of Prime Rib or Chicken. The luncheon is Thursday, December 18th at 10:30 AM. Thank you. Branch 103



Big Sir Juan Salinas
Branch 103

SIR Branch 103 (Region 2-Area 18) BEC Minutes November 20, 2025

Secretary Don Rowe

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

Committee Representatives Present: Gary Del Nero, (Sunshine) and Bob Kredit Thursday Golf.

Absent: Big SIR Juan Salinas, Assistant Secretary Ray Tillery, Directors- Roger Smith, Vic Whaley, and Tom Evans, Program.

Guests: State Sir Secretary Jeff Chin, Anthony Butera, Area 18 Representative, Jerry Strain, and Bob Lewis,

Call to Order: Little SIR Fernando Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M. at The Masonic Lodge, Nine Executive Board members were present for a quorum.

Secretary: Oct. 22 Minutes were offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Underwood- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Big SIR: AB

Little SIR: 1. Fernando opened a discussion about raising dues. The Board will discuss this next month. 2. For Dec. CHRISTMAS luncheon, we will be charging the members \$25.00, and the wife or significant other, will be free. 3. It was agreed that we should have 3 BEC members as signatories for the banking account. 4. A budget committee will develop a budget for the Board to review. 4. Lawn signs are here for members to pick up. 5. **Dec. Ladies Day Luncheon will be Thursday, Dec.18.**

Treasurer: John Santillano reported that the beginning balance for Oct. was \$7,610.77. Receipts: Raffle \$104.00, Member Luncheon Purchase- \$1,675, Rooster Items, \$142.00. other ADVERT, \$20.00 total receipts- \$1,941.00 Checks written: Luncheon- \$2,030.61, printing supplies (newsletter+Roster+other) \$86.08, advertisement, \$506.86, Rooster purchase, \$220.50. Total disbursements, \$2,844.05 Bank balance-\$6,707.72, petty cash-\$300.00, Total balance-\$7,007.72 Motion to accept: Santillano, 2nd Rowe - PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Membership: Don Rowe presented 2 applications for membership: Ernie Villarreal and Marc Abenoja, Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Bender - PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Correspondence: NA

Program: We had an informative presentation about Ukraine's "Starving Years"-1932-33.

Health and Safety: Kerry Newman warned members to be aware of their surroundings to minimize falls. Also, he suggested not to have throw rugs unless they are taped down. He also suggested to have safety bars in your showers and bathtubs.

Golf: NA

NEED TO GET AN ASSISTANT FOR PAUL.

Thursday Golf: No golf due to calendar change.

Newsletter: Bob Lewis said that the newsletter is rolling.

Bowling: Bob Lewis reported that bowling is rolling along.

Merchandising: NA

Travel: NA

Activities: Lance reported that no one came to the MJC game. Lance said that he would not be on the Board to continue being the activities director. **WE NEED TO HAVE SOMEONE TAKE ON THIS TASK!**

Dine Out. To be determined.

Old Business: NA

New Business: NA

Other: 1. Anthony Butera reminded us about 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. The leader has brought in 5 new members! 2. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING IN GIFTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON.** 3. The Board will be discussing the possibility of having members make reservations for the monthly luncheons.

Adjournment: 10:23 A.M.

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.

2025

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

2026

Mon. Jan. 5- Creekside 9:00 \$58 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103A

Mon. Jan. 12- Micke Grove 9:00 \$63 (cart opt. \$18) Host 103C

Tues. Jan. 20- Swenson 9:00 \$58 (cart inc.) Host 103B

Mon. Jan. 26- Dryden 9:00 \$56 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103A

Mon. Feb. 2- Elkhorn 9:00 \$60 (cart inc.) Host 103C

Mon. Feb. 9- River Oaks 9:00 \$45 (cart opt. \$10) Host 103B

Tue. Feb. 17- Atwater 9:00 \$60 (cart inc.) Host 103A

Mon. Feb. 23- Dryden 9:00 \$56 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103C

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 December.

Sent a card to Tom Gianopoulos who spent a few days in the hospital for medical issues. Thoughts are with Ernie Pinkston who had a knee replacement (Not anything fun as my wife just went through the same, lots of therapy etc.) and continued thoughts for Jeff Chin, hoping all his treatments are successful. Card was sent to Jerry Miller, whose wife passed suddenly. Thoughts and prayers are with Jerry and family. Ernie Lewis is in physical therapy.

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.

December 2025 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Week 9 October 28

Series: Bob Abujen 630

Game: Gene Cox 223

Series: Barbara Webb 392

Game: Barbara Webb 163

Handicap Games

Gene Cox 678

Gene Cox 263

Terry Wilcox 636

Terry Wilcox 232

Week 10 November 4

Series: Bob Lewis 646

Game: Bob Lewis 256

Series: Debbie Chin 424

Game: Dolores Bavaro 170

Bob Lewis 700

Bob Lewis 274

Debbie Chin 661

Debbie Chin 245

Week 7 November 11

Series: Bob Abujen 629

Game: Bob Abujen 250

Series: Dolores Bavaro 405

Game: Terry Wilcox 150

Gene Cox 659

Gary Goodman 255

Terry Wilcox 601

Terry Wilcox 228

Week 8 November 18

Series: Bob Abujen 620

Game: Arnold Fidalgo 254

Series: Debbie Chin 374

Game: Barbara Webb 133

Debbie Chin 133

Al Kusters 667

Arnold Fidalgo 282

Debbie Chin 605

Debbie Chin 210

After 1 week Team 9 is in 1st Place (Brown, Kusters & Mickelsen)
Team 9 won the first third.

Come out for our hometown tournament.

----- 2026 UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS-----

January 20-21 Napa Bowl, Napa- Steve Ellingson 707-637-3008

February 18-19 Country Club Lanes, Sacramento- Tod Davis 916-722-3575

March 5 Fireside Lanes, Citrus Heights- Art Tourtilott 916-635-6138

Branch 103 Bowling Chairman:

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

2025 end of the Year NEWS of the 3 Dining Out Clubs: -- From Vince Sereno
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE 3 EVENING DINING OUT CLUBS!

THIS IS A SPECIAL YEAR AS 2025 MARKS THE 25th SILVER ANNIVERSARY of the BEGINNING of the 4th Thursday Evening Dining Out Club. Due to membership growth, the 4th Tuesday Club was added in June 2013, and in January of 2016, a 2nd Tuesday Club was added. Members include spouses of deceased members, their friends as well as couples. If interested, Call Vince @ 209-524-9630

2nd Tuesday Evening Club

Tues. Dec. 9th – Christmas Party @ Norris's

Tues. Jan. 13, 2026 – George's Steakhouse

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

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

Tues Jan. 27, 2026—Outback Steakhouse.

Tues. Feb. 24, 2026 –Thailand Restaurant

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

Thurs. January 22, 2026 – BELLA ITALIA

Thurs. Feb. 26, 2026 –Outback Steakhouse

For Reservations: Contact Vince Sereno at:
209-524-9630, or Cell at: 209-552-1539

MY NO. 1 Comical Story of 2025

A bagpiper was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be held at a cemetery in the country. As the bagpiper was not familiar with this area, he got lost and, being a proud man, didn't ask for directions.

Finally, an hour late, he arrived and saw the funeral director had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. He felt very bad and apologized to the men for being late. He went to the side of the grave and looked down to see the vault lid already in place. Not knowing what else to do, he started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. He played out his heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. And as he played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, he wept, they all wept together.

When he finished, he packed up his bagpipes and started for his car. Though his head hung low, his heart was full. As he opened the door to his car, he heard one of the workers say: "I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Thoughts to Consider

I'm too old to worry about who likes me and who dislikes me. I have more important things to do. If you love me, I love you. If you support me, I will support you. If you hate me, I don't care. Life goes on with or without you.

New Members



Marc Abenoja retired from the Navy.
He enjoys bowling, tennis and gardening.



Ernie Villarreal was in the Navy for 3 years.
He enjoys golfing with buddies. His wife is
Rosemary.



Marc (L) with friend Tony Solonga



Ernie (L) and Marc

Branch 103 Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday December 18, 2025

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Masonic Temple

800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA

Luncheon Price \$25.00

Couples' Dine Out

There is no Couple's
Dine Out for December
(See next month's newsletter for January)



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 December 13, 2025. The lunch will be on December 27, 2025.



Name		Date	Years
Butera	Anthony	12/05/1955	70
Crim	Sonny	12/27/1952	73
Stephens	Donald	12/04/1952	73
Angleton	Fred	12/30/1950	75
Irby	William	12/07/1947	78
Bracht	Ted	12/02/1947	78
Yarbrough	David	12/03/1946	79
Hall	Bob	12/26/1945	80
Brooks	Patton	12/24/1939	86
Dutton	Peter	12/23/1935	90
Sykes	Bob	12/14/1935	90



Ad For Anthony Butera



Anthony Butera

Regional Vice-President at
Primerica Financial Services



16 NIGHT HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CRUISE ABOARD THE RUBY PRINCESS

**SAILING ROUND TRIP
SAN FRANCISCO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 8, 2026**

PORTS OF CALL

Hilo, Big Island/ Kahului, Maui/ Honolulu, Oahu
Nawiliwili, Kauai and Ensenada, Mexico

THE RUBY 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



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 Fernando Gonzalez.....415-420-2440
Secretary Don Rowe 209 634-0100
Asst. Secretary Ray Tillery..... 209 499-0955
Treasurer John Santillano 209 544-1953
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.

DECEMBER

December

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 SIR Golf- Creekside	2 SIR League Bowling 1:00	3	4 Creekside Golf	5 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto	6
7	8 SIR Golf- River Oaks	9 SIR League Bowling 1:00 <i>Dining Club @ Jay Norris's</i>	10	11 Creekside Golf	12	13 CAF Breakfast- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
14	15 SIR Golf- Dryden	16 SIR League Bowling 1:00	17	18 Ladies Day Luncheon 10:30	19 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto	20
21	22 No Golf	23 SIR League Bowling 1:00	24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27 CAF Lunch- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
28	29 No Golf	30 SIR League Bowling 1:00	31			

All Dining Clubs meet no later than 5:00PM

Meeting has been held. Information only.

Area 18 Quarterly Meeting Summary November 14, 2025

See below notes to review and consider

To: Area 18 Members and Branch Leadership
From: Anthony Butera, Area 18 Representative
Date: November 19, 2025

Subject: Game-Changing Recruitment: Area 18 Partners with John Thurman Field

AREA 18 IS ON THE MOVE! Our mission to recruit new members and elevate the SIRS profile to gain a powerful momentum. At our recent Quarterly Meeting on November 14, 2025, we unveiled a dynamic new strategy: a high-profile partnership with the new professional baseball team at John Thurman Field.

This initiative represents a game-changing opportunity to embed SIR within a beloved community tradition and reach a broad new audience.

A Major League Opportunity

We were privileged to hear from General Manager Corey Gales and Ken White, who detailed the rich history of John Thurman Field and the exciting future this new team brings. Key highlights that make this partnership so valuable include:

- **Proven Leadership:** The team is owned by Dave Heller, a respected figure in baseball, and managed by San Francisco Giants legend J.T. Snow.
- **Direct MLB Connection:** The team is uniquely positioned as a potential feeder for the San Francisco Giants, creating an immediate and powerful link to Major League Baseball for our community.
- **Regional Draw:** The organization is poised to become a premier entertainment destination for the entire region within a two-hour radius.

Our Strategic Engagement Plan

To capitalize on this opportunity, Area 18 is developing a comprehensive plan designed for maximum visibility and member involvement:

1. **Premier Hospitality:** Secure the VIP deck for Opening Night to host current and prospective members, offering a first-class experience to showcase the benefits of SIRS camaraderie.
2. **Prominent Brand Visibility:** Implement stadium-wide advertising, including billboards, and establish a dedicated SIRS Information Booth at games to engage the public directly.
3. **Center Stage Recognition:** Pursue the honor of having a SIRS member throw the ceremonial First Pitch, placing our organization at the heart of the community celebration.
4. **Community Kickoff Event:** Officially launch this partnership by inviting all Area 18 members, their families, and prospective recruits to the Opening Game. This event will serve as a fun, dynamic, and effective platform for recruitment.

Building Our Legacy

This partnership is more than just marketing; it's a strategic investment in our future. By supporting this team and its associated youth baseball camps, we are actively directly or indirectly foster local youth development. This aligns our brand with the inspiration of baseball and the powerful dream that a SIR member's grandchild could one day take the field for the Giants.

This is how we could build our SIRS legacy, inspire our community, and grow our ranks.

Let's play ball and make this a winning season for SIRS Area 18!

*P.S. Let's also celebrate the recruiting success already happening in our Area 18! A special **congratulations** to John Cardoza from Branch 143 in Turlock, who is rumored to have recruited an impressive five new members since September. This is the spirit we aim to amplify with this new partnership.*

Don't forget our upcoming quarterly meeting November 14th , Friday at 10:30am at the Old Mill CAFE AT 600 9TH Street Modesto, CA

To All Area 18 Current, Future and Past Big Sirs and Little Sirs and Members at Large

Subject: Save the Date: Important Final Area 18 Meeting of the Year - November 14, 2025

Dear Area 18 Members,

Please mark your calendars for our final meeting of the year. This will be an important session to plan for an exciting new event and to review our annual recruitment efforts.

Date: Friday, November 14, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: The Old Mill Cafe, 600 9th St. , Modesto, CA 95351

Agenda Items:

*** A New Partnership** is Bubbling with John Thurman Field! Corey Gales, Vice President of the new management team at John Thurman Field will be presenting for 10 minutes how **SIRs can utilize the facility**, including the popular VIP Party Deck in which we have enjoyed in the past. This is a fantastic chance to plan for a fun and engaging member event next spring. We are tentatively scheduling an Area 18 Gathering for May 2026.

We encourage all members to attend this important meeting.

- **Annual Recruitment Review:** We will discuss the recruitment initiatives each branch has implemented this year. Please come prepared to share your experiences and insights on what was successful. Be ready to report on:
 - The current top recruiter in each branch .
 - How many new members your branch has recruited.
 - **State Reporting**
 - Whether all forms (including Form 20) have been submitted to the State SIR office.
- We look forward to seeing you there! **RSVP BY November 13, 2025**

Thanks, Area 18 Representative

Anthony Butera