

The Town Crower

Volume 42, Number 11

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

November 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

Speaker information on page 5

🌿 Hello Friends,

November is upon us — a month of giving thanks, honoring service men and women. On Tuesday, November 11th, our nation observes Veterans Day, a time to honor and thank all who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Their dedication and sacrifice protect the freedoms we enjoy every day.

As members of our SIR community, we are proud to have veterans among us. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your service and commitment to our country. Whether you celebrate by attending a local ceremony, displaying the flag, or simply sharing a word of thanks, let's all take a moment to remember and honor those who have worn the uniform.

Thank you, Veterans — we salute you!



**Big Sir Juan Salinas
Branch 103**

📌 Local Veterans Day Events in Modesto

- **Modesto Veterans Day Parade**

Join the annual Parade to honor and celebrate our veterans. modestoveteransdayparade.com

- **American Legion Post 74 – Activities & Observance**

The local Post often hosts or participates in ceremonies, gatherings, and tributes around Veterans Day.

• 🙏 A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Members and Volunteers

- As we celebrate this season of gratitude, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all our **SIR members and volunteers** who make our branch such a great community.
- Your time, energy, and enthusiasm keep our activities thriving — from golf and bowling to social gatherings and special events. It's your dedication that brings friendship, fun, and fellowship to life every month.
- Whether you help organize outings, keep score, call members, or simply show up with a smile, **you are the heart of our branch**
- From all of us on the leadership team — **thank you for all you do** to make our SIR branch a place where good friends meet and great memories are made.

SIR Branch 103 (Region 2-Area 18) BEC Minutes October 22, 2025

Secretary Don Rowe

Attending: Big SIR, Juan Salinas, Little S Fernando Gonzalez, Secretary Don Rowe, Assistant Secretary Ray Tillery, Treasurer John Santillano, Directors: Dave Cooper, Dennis Imhoff, Roger Smith and Paul Bender

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

Absent: Assistant Treasurer Ted Bracht, Directors- Lance Underwood, Dick Nelson and Vic Whaley, and Tom Evans, Program.

Guests: Anthony Beutera, Area 18 Representative, Jerry Strain, and Bob Lewis,

Call to Order: Big SIR Juan Salinas, called the meeting to order at 9:30A.M. at The Masonic Lodge, Nine Executive Board members were present for a quorum.

Secretary: Sept. 24 Minutes were offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Imhoff- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Big SIR: Juan informed us that the Nov. Luncheon would be on **Thursday, Nov. 20, and Dec. Ladies Day Luncheon will be Thursday, Dec.18.**

Little SIR: Fernando said that the State Sir guidelines call for a budget of \$40, per member, raised from \$25. A discussion ensued about raising dues, charging the ladies for Dec. XMAS luncheon. This will be resolved at the Nov. 20 Board meeting.

Treasurer: John Santillano reported that the beginning balance for Sept. was \$8,011.81. Receipts: Raffle \$105.00, Member Luncheon Purchase- \$1,775, total receipts-\$1,880.00 Checks written:

Luncheon- \$2,181.04 Bank balance-\$7,610.04, petty cash-\$300.00, Total balance-\$7,910.77. Motion to accept: Santillano, 2nd Rowe - PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. We had a discussion. We tell Margarito we will have 90 members eating lunch. Two months in a row, we have not met that number, which costs Branch 103 to cover the difference. Juan and John will have a talk with Margarito to see what can be done.

Membership: Bob Lewis presented an application for membership from Bruce Cramer. Motion to accept: Cooper, 2nd Gonzalez - PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Correspondence: NA

Program: We had a wonderful presentation from a docent for McHenry Museum explaining the origins of the McHenry Museum.

Health and Safety NA

Golf: NA

NEED TO GET AN ASSISTANT FOR PAUL.

Thursday Golf: Bob Kredit reported that it is going great- 53 players for Thursday!

Newsletter: Bob Lewis said that the newsletter is rolling.

Bowling: Bob Lewis reported that bowling is rolling along.

Merchandising: NA

Travel: John will speak about upcoming events at the luncheon.

Activities: NA

Dine Out. To be determined.

Old Business: Rick Kindle told us that we could up lawn signs for membership recruitment. We could use the funds that State Sir provided for this. Motion: purchase 100 lawn signs at \$ 5.00 a piece, \$ 500.00 Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Gonzalez - PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rick also said that the dinner at the Noz Castle is on May 22. All are invited. Information will be coming.

New Business: NA

Other: 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.

Adjournment: 10:24A.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.

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

Pictures from Don Sullivan's Memorial Tournament are after the calendar.

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 November.

Bruce Cramer, one of our new members, passed away at Memorial Hospital. Talked with Billy Irby he said he is feeling better and will be back soon. Steve Holly is going through both eyes' cataract surgery and so far, all is good. Ernie Lewis was hospitalized for not feeling well. He will be getting a pacemaker. He was totally out of sorts. He ended up in ICU until he was stabilized and as the printing of this newsletter, he has gone into a regular room. Our thoughts and prayers for all our members with illnesses, etc.

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.

November 2025 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 5 September 30

Series: Bob Abujen 599

Jerry Hott 666

Game: Joe Bradley 234

Joe Bradley 268

Series: Dolores Bavaro 392

Terry Wilcox 603

Debbie Chin 603

Game: Debbie Chin 163

Debbie Chin 240

Week 6 October 7

Series: Bob Abujen 612

Ernie Lewis 688

Game: Bob Abujen 245

Bob Abujen 249

Series: Barbara Webb 396

Barbara Webb 570

Game: Barbara Webb 139

Debbie Chin 208

Week 7 October 14

Series: Arnold Fidalgo 560

Rick Wilcox 668

Game: Joe Miceli 213

Gary Del Nero 258

Marvin VanMiddendorp 213

Series: Barbara Webb 400

Terry Wilcox 616

Game: Barbara Webb 159

Terry Wilcox 212

Week 8 October 21

Series: Bob Abujen 695

Bob Abujen 719

Game: Bob Abujen 257

Bob Abujen 265

Series: Barbara Webb 483

Barbara Webb 660

Game: Barbara Webb 190

Barbara Webb 249

After 8 weeks Team 7 is in 1st Place
(Masse, Bavaro, Webb & Pearson)

Come out for our hometown tournament.

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

November 7-8 McHenry Bowl, Modesto

Vern Masse 209-538-3640

Branch 103 Bowling Chairman:

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

Speaker for November is Daren Williams, and his father has the following history.

Holodomor 1932-33: Through the Eyes of Ukrainian Artists

While working to build U.S.-Ukraine business ties during the last 30 years of his life, Daren Williams' father, Morgan Williams, amassed the world's most extensive collection of artworks related to the Holodomor, or "forced starvation," Josef Stalin's Soviet regime killed an estimate 7-10 million Ukrainians to force them off their private land and onto collective farms. The Holodomor art collection serves as a timely and poignant reminder of the danger of letting one man gain absolute power. Daren will share the story of the Holodomor and his [father's work in Ukraine](#) through some of his favorite pieces in the collection, which his family has donated to the [National Museum of Holodomor-Genocide](#) in Kiev.

SIR Corn Hole Tournament

The Tournament has been postponed until after the New Year.

Teams of two.

Prize money for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Lance Underwood

209-681-6989

LUnderwood527@gmail.com

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.

2025 end of the Year NEWS of the 3 Dining Out Clubs: -- From Vince Sereno

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL THE LOYAL MEMBERS OF THE 3 EVENING DINING OUT CLUBS! As each of the 3 groups meet together each month, it is like a family gathering. Sadly, the 4th Tuesday & the 4th Thursday Clubs will not meet again until January due to the Holidays. However, the 2nd Tuesday Club will meet as usual in November & December. - Vince

2nd Tuesday Evening Club

Tues. Nov. 11th – Outback Steakhouse Tues. Dec. 9th – Christmas Party @ Norris's

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

The Couples' Dine Out will be at **House of Potsticker** 3318 McHenry, Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, RSVP Juan Salinas (209-605-6762) by November 10, 2025

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

No Dinners in November or December

January 27, 2026 – Outback Steakhouse

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

No Dinners in November or December

Thurs. January 22, 2026 – BELLA ITALIA

For Reservations: Contact Vince Sereno at:

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

Chuckles:

Old age is golden, or so I've heard it said. But sometimes I wonder as I crawl into bed, with my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup & my glasses on the table until I get up. As sleep dims my vision, I say to myself: "Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?" The reason I know my youth is all spent, is my get up & go has got up & went! But in spite of it all, I'm able to grin & think of all the places my get up & go has gone up and went.

A boy asks his father, "Dad, how do humans come to be on earth?" His father explains that humans evolved from apes that would swing through trees. The boy then asks his mother, "How did humans come to be on earth?" His mother explains that GOD created the first two humans. The boy says, "But dad says that humans evolved from apes." His mother explains, "Your dad told you about his side of the family, and I told you about mine."

Original meaning of a deck of playing cards.

52 cards for 52 weeks in the year. 2 colors for day & night. 4 suits for the 4 seasons & 13 weeks per season. 12 count cards representing the 12 months. If we add the face value of each of the cards of the game, (ace + ace + ace + ace, etc,) we will get 365. Joker was used in leap year. My mind is blown!

Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

Thursday November 20, 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 **House of Potsticker** 3318 McHenry, Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, RSVP Juan Salinas (209-605-6762) by November 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 November 8, 2025. The lunch will be on November 22, 2025.

Name	Date	Years
Norris Jay	11/14/1960	65
Doniak Mark	11/27/1957	68
Serrano Julian	11/03/1951	74
Stires Bill	11/30/1946	79
Garza Ernie	11/18/1946	79
Hott Jerry	11/17/1945	80
Jackson Ed	11/12/1944	81
Bonilla Carlos	11/05/1944	81
Salonga Tony	11/21/1940	85
Chalk Gary	11/21/1939	86
Sterling Jim	11/09/1939	86
Cook Deane	11/04/1938	87
Toepfer Jim	11/01/1937	88
Williams Gary	11/09/1936	89
Bender Paul	11/08/1936	89



Ad For Anthony Butera



Anthony Butera
Regional Vice-President at
Primerica Financial Services



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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 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.

NOVEMBER

November

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 SIR Golf- Micke Grove	4 SIR League Bowling	5	6 Creekside Golf	7 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto	8 CAF Breakfast- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
9	10 SIR Golf- Pheasant Run	11 SIR League Bowling Dining-Outback Steakhouse	12 Couples Dine Out- House of Potsticker	13 Creekside Golf	14	15
16	17 SIR Golf- Dryden	18 SIR League Bowling	19	20 General Membership Luncheon	21 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto	22 CAF Lunch- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
23	24 SIR Golf- Swenson	25 SIR League Bowling	26	27 Happy Thanksgiving	28	29
30						

All Dining Clubs meet no later than 5:00PM

Pictures from Don Sullivan Memorial Tournament 10/06/2025







The following pages are from the Golf Banquet 10/29/2025











