

The Town Crower

Volume 43, Number 1

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

January 2026



Modesto SIR Branch 103

DEDICATED to the PROMOTION of INDEPENDENCE and DIGNITY for MEN

Branch 103 Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch103

Big Sir Crows

A Fresh Start, A Strong Spirit

As we turn the page to a new year, it's not just about resolutions—it's about renewal. Each January offers us the chance to reflect on the wisdom we've gathered, the friendships we've built, and the strength we continue to carry forward. Let's work together to help grow our branch.

Remember that friendships are fuel so let us continue to enjoy the opportunities our lunch meetings provide for us to gather and enjoy sharing our experiences.

Some of our goals for 2026 should be to strengthen our fellowship through regular attendance at our lunches and outreach to others to join SIR.

Let us continue to celebrate milestones together, from birthdays to anniversaries.

The starting of a new year isn't just a date on the calendar. It's a pause — a moment to look back at everything our two branches have overcome and to look forward with being one growing branch. The past year brought its share of challenges, surprises, and lessons. Some moments stretched us, others strengthened us, and all of them shaped who we are today. Each experience added something to our story, and that story continues from this moment forward as Branch 103.

As we step into the new year, let's remember these things.

- Gratitude for the journey so far — for the people who stood by us, the opportunities that helped us grow, and even the obstacles that taught us resilience.
- Courage to pursue what matters — to set goals that excite us, to take risks that move us forward, and to believe in our ability to rise to the occasion.
- Hope for what's ahead — because hope is the spark that turns plans into progress and dreams into reality.
- A new year doesn't magically change our lives, but it gives us permission to reset our mindset. It reminds us that we are not defined by what we didn't accomplish — we are defined by what we choose to do next.

Now, I know people say, "New Year, New Me," but let's be realistic. Tomorrow morning, most of us will still be the same people — just slightly more tired and of course older with more aches and pains. Let's eat healthier, which means adding one more vegetable to the plate that isn't a potato. Exercise more, like parking slightly farther from the store entrance. Let's choose kindness, ambition, curiosity and connection. Let's choose to show up for ourselves and for each other. And let's make this new year one where we don't just move forward but forward with purpose.



Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez

Dues are due. The amount will be determined at the January BEC meeting. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

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

Secretary Don Rowe

Attending Big SIR Juan Salinas, Little Sir Fernando Gonzalez, Secretary Don Rowe, Assistant Secretary Ray Tillery, Directors: Dave Cooper, Lance Underwood, Dick Nelson, Roger Smith, and Paul Bender.

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

Absent: Treasurer John Santillano, and Assistant Treasurer Ted Bracht. Directors- Vic Whaley, Dennis Imhoff, and Tom Evans, Program.

Guests: Bob Lewis

Call to Order: Big SIR Juan Salinas called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M. at The Masonic Lodge, Nine Executive Board members were present for a quorum.

Secretary: Nov. 21 Minutes was offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Cooper- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Big SIR: Big Sir Juan Salinas thanked the officers for their help and support during his year as Big Sir.

Little SIR: Little Sir Fernando presented the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer: Little Sir Fernando reported that the beginning balance for Nov. was \$6,707.72. Receipts: Raffle \$102.00, Member Luncheon Purchase- \$1,900, Ladies Day tickets-\$965.00 other ADVERT, \$60.00 total receipts-\$3,167.00 Checks written: Luncheon- \$1,905.40, advertisement, \$50.00, State Sir assessment-\$272.25. Total disbursements, \$2,227.65 Bank balance-\$7,647.65, petty cash-\$250.00, Total balance-\$7,897.07 Motion to accept: Gonzalez, 2nd Tillery - PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Membership: Dave Cooper reviewed the list of members that have not attended luncheon meetings. We discussed sending letters to them as we did last year. **Motion: members must attend 6 luncheons per year in order to participate in activities-golf, bowling, dining out, etc. Bender, 2nd Cooper- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The discussion for the amount of dues will be moved to January.

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

Correspondence

Program: NA

Health and Safety NA.

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 going fine.

Bowling: Bob Lewis reported that bowling is rolling along.

Merchandising: NA

Travel: NA

Activities: WE NEED TO HAVE SOMEONE TAKE ON THIS TASK!

Dine Out. To be determined.

Old Business:

New Business:

Other: *Next BEC meeting is January 28, 2026, at 9:30 AM*

Adjournment: 10:04 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.

2026

- Mon. Jan. 5- Creekside 9:00 \$63 (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 \$61 (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 \$61 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103C

[SIR-Area-18-South-2026-Tournament-Schedule.pdf](#)
(January-June)

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 January.

Hope all had great holidays and looking forward to a great New Year. The only info I have is Gary Goodman's wife Sandra fell and fractured her hip. She is presently in rehab. Our thoughts and prayers that she gets better soon. All I have to report as of this time. *Gary Del Nero Sunshine SIR Branch 103.* I would like to take this time to thank our outgoing Big SIR Juan Salinas. Thanks for a great year guiding us into the future. You worked out the merger of 144 to 103 in a sometimes bumpy road that has smoothed out, great job Juan.

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.

January 2026 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 13 November 25

Series: Bob Abujen 673

Bob Abujen 676

Game: Bob Abujen 266

Al Sterling 280

Series: Dolores Bavaro 430

Dolores Bavaro 622

Game: Dolores Bavaro 168

Dolores Bavaro 232

Week 14 December 2

Series: Arnold Fidalgo 568

Rick Wilcox 672

Game: Rick Wilcox 210

Rick Wilcox 247

Series: Barbara Webb 449

Barbara Webb 623

Game: Debbie Chin 170

Debbie Chin 246

Barbara Webb 170

Week 15 December 9

Series: David Brown 655

David Brown 730

Game: David Brown 256

David Brown 281

Series: Barbara Webb 448

Debbie Chin 661

Game: Barbara Webb 162

Debbie Chin 230

Week 16 December 16

Series: Steve Gibson 580

Steve Gibson 661

Game: Bob Abujen 215

Joe Bradley 242

Series: Barbara Webb 398

Terry Wilcox 575

Game: Barbara Webb 138

Terry Wilcox 204

After 5 weeks Team 9 is in 1st Place (Brown, Kosters & 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

Dining Out Clubs Information, for January 2026 Happy New Year to Everyone!

2nd Tuesday Evening Club

Tuesday January 13, 2026 – George's Steakhouse

Tuesday February 10, 2026 Strings Italian Cafe

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

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

Tuesday January 27, 2026—Outback Steakhouse.

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 -Thailand Restaurant

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

Thursday January 22, 2026 – BELLA ITALIA

Thursday February 26, 2026 --Outback Steakhouse

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

Chuckles for today: "Saying it like it is! "

Today I was in a shoe store that sells only shoes, nothing else. A young girl with a tattoo and green hair walked over to me and asked, "What brings you in today, I looked at her and said, "I'm interested in buying a refrigerator." She didn't quite know how to respond, had that deer in the headlights look.

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat" I just say, "No, it's for company!"

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, "An ambulance."

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Have you ever noticed: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he knows when he's really in trouble.

Did you ever notice that when you put the 2 words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs"

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me. I want people to know why I look this way.

I've traveled a long way and a lot of the roads were not paved.

Ah! Being young is beautiful but being old is comfortable.

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth. May you always have: Love to share, cash to spare, tires with air, and friends who care.

Branch 103 Luncheon

Wednesday January 28, 2026

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Masonic Temple

800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA

Luncheon Price \$25.00

Couples' Dine Out

January 21, 2026: Mike's Grillhouse at 3801 Pelandale Ave #B11, Modesto. RSVP Kerry Newman (209) 579-7747.



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 January 10, 2026. The lunch will be on January 24, 2026.



<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Birthday</i>	<i>Age</i>
Tillery	Robert	01/24/1970	56
Murphy	Daniel	01/31/1959	67
Felt	Jim	01/12/1954	72
San	Sam	01/12/1952	74
Santillano	John	01/09/1952	74
Mountain	Jeff	01/19/1948	78
Faria	Jack	01/20/1947	79
Sereno	Vince	01/25/1939	87
Rovere	Don	01/17/1938	88
von Buskirk	Don	01/06/1937	89
Reed	Don	01/13/1935	91
Burchell	Bill	01/10/1934	92
Parks	Larry	01/08/1934	92



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. Fred Serena.....510-489-0964
State Vice Pres. Nick Feimer.....650-341-3015
Area 18 Rep. Anthony Butera.....209-985-3473

SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

Ted Bracht.....209-573-1690
Dave Cooper.....209-578-3789
Dennis Imhoff.....209-846-9529
Bob Lewis.....626-252-5484
Juan Salinas.....209-605-6762
Jerry Strain.....209-551-8220



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..... 209 551-8220
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.

JANUARY

January

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year	2 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto (Holiday?)	3
4	5 SIR Golf- Creekside	6 SIR League Bowling 1:00	7	8 Creekside Golf	9	10 CAF Breakfast- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
11	12 SIR Golf- Micke Grove	13 SIR League Bowling 1:00	14	15 Creekside Golf	16 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto	17
18	19 MLK Day	20 <i>Sir Golf- Swenson</i> SIR League Bowling 1:00	21	22 Creekside Golf	23	24 CAF Lunch- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
25	26 SIR Golf- Dryden	27 SIR League Bowling 1:00	28	29 Creekside Golf	30	31

All Dining Clubs meet no later than 5:00

Pictures from Ladies Day













2026 Officers and Directors



Jeff Chin(L) swears in new Officers and Directors. From L-R: Little SIR & Assistant Secretary Ray Tillery, Director Jerry Strain, Secretary Don Rowe, Director Bob Lewis, Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez, Treasurer John Santillano and Director Juan Salinas. Not pictured: Directors Ted Bracht, Dave Cooper and Dennis Imhoff.



Big SIR Juan Salinas(L) presents the Senior Sir President's Award (90 years old) to Robert Sykes (R) a member since 2010. Retired USAF and Park Ranger. Robert's wife Barb is in the center. Congratulations Robert!