

The Town Crower

Volume 43, Number 3

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

March 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

As we are moving forward in this new year there are areas where we need help from our branch members. We need someone to help putting out the books and putting them away. I heard from some of our members that they appreciated having the books on the table versus in the bookcase. We also need a volunteer who can come early and help the members who are collecting the money for lunch. At this time there is only one person trying to collect the money and issue the lunch ticket during the board meeting.

I would like to hear from you if we would like to keep the round tables versus the types we use to use.

Thank you for accepting the increase to our annual dues to \$30, this puts us in a good position in our planned expenses for the remainder of the year and will put us in a good position of not needing to increase dues again in 2027.



Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez

We have yard signs about our branch; we need some of our members to please be willing to place them on your lawns. They will be available at the badge table at our next lunch.

The State SIR has approved the changing of the titles from Big SIR to President and Little SIR to Vice President. The State has left it up to the branch if they want to change these titles. I personally have no preference for either one, I would like to hear your opinions about these title changes.

Bob Kredit has volunteered to handle the creation of new badges which will involve replacing the badges for Branch 144 with Branch 103 badges. This will take some time, so please be patient as we complete this effort.

Included with this editorial (*last page of the newsletter*) is a document that the board used to determine what the dues should be for 2026. We felt that \$40 and \$35 would leave us at the end of the year with more funds than we would need. \$25 would leave us very little at the end of the year for us to use going into 2027, therefore \$30 was the most appropriate for our budget.

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 103

\$30 dues are due. Please pay asap. They are due no later than March 31. Thank You!

SIR Branch 103 (Region 2-Area 18) BEC Minutes February 25, 2026

Secretary Don Rowe

Attending Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez, Little Sir Ray Tillery, Secretary Don Rowe, Assistant Secretary Robert Tillery, Treasurer John Santillano, Directors: Dave Cooper, Bob Lewis, Juan Salinas, Jerry Strain, and Ted Bracht.

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

Absent: Directors- Dennis Imhoff, and Tom Evans- Program.

Guests: John Cardoza and Mike Johnson (Branch 143 Membership Chairman)

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

Secretary: Dec. 18 Minutes were offered for modification. Motion to accept: Rowe, 2nd Lewis- PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Robert Tillery has said that he would serve as Assistant Secretary. Motion: Confirm Robert Tillery as the Assistant Secretary- Rowe, 2nd Strain PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Big SIR: Big Sir Fernando reported That the State Sir recommends Branches charge \$25 for dues. 2. According to State law, members will need to sign a photo release form if their pictures are in any publication open to the public.

Little SIR: NA

Treasurer: Treasurer John Santillano reported that the beginning balance for Jan. was \$4,422.41. Receipts: Raffle \$75.00, Member Luncheon Purchase- \$1,870.00, Dues \$1,870.00. other ladies' day luncheon \$10.00. Total receipts-\$4,037.00. Checks written: Luncheon- \$2,155.82, State Sir Board assessment \$440.60, Advertisement returned to the State Sir, \$254.25 Bank balance-\$2,854.67 petty cash-\$250.00, Total balance-\$5,604.74 Motion to accept: Santillano 2nd Strain - PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Membership: We had a discussion reviewing the procedure for accepting new members.

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

Correspondence: NA

Program: NA

Health and Safety NA.

SUNSHINE: Gary Del Nero reported that Bob Kredit is doing better from his Aortic Valve replacement. Also, Jeff Chin has passed away. He served us as a Director, Newsletter editor, Little and Big Sir, District 18 Director, and State Sir Secretary. A moment of silence was had.

Golf: NA

NEED TO GET AN ASSISTANT FOR PAUL.

Thursday Golf: Don Reed reported that it is going nicely--40-55 players.

Newsletter: Bob Lewis said that the newsletter is going fine.

Bowling: Bob Lewis reported that bowling is rolling along.

Merchandising: NA

Travel: Trip to Hawaii is still available. John is working on a Washington D.C. trip for 2027.

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

Dine Out. To be determined.

Dining Out Club: Dinner sites will be published in the newsletter and are booked for the year.

Old Business: The Budget Committee discussed a read-out about this year's budget numbers. A discussion was had concerning which amount the Branch should charge members for this year: \$25, \$30, \$35, \$40 to keep the Branch financially sound. For the year 2026, the Committee recommended \$30. Motion. Raise the dues to \$30 for the 2026 year-Ray Tillery 2nd Santillano-PASSED-YES 7, NO 2.

New Business:

Other:

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.

- Mon. March 2- Pheasant Run **8:00** \$65 (cart inc.) Host 103B
- Mon. March 9- Creekside **8:00** \$63 (cart opt.) Host 103A
- Mon. March 16- Tracy GC **8:00** \$63 (cart inc.) Host 103C
- Mon. March 23- Dryden **8:00** \$61 (cart opt.) Host 103B
- Mon. March 30- Swenson **8:00** \$58 (cart inc.) Host 103A
- Mon. April 6- Ripon **8:00** \$47 (cart opt.) Host 103C
- Mon. April 13- Castle Oaks **8:00** \$63 (cart inc.)
- Mon. April 20- Dryden **8:00** \$61 (cart opt.) Host 103A
- Mon. April 27- Elkhorn **8:00** \$60 (cart inc.) Host 103C

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

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



Sunshine Report for March.

Bob Kredit was at Doctors Medical Center for a few days. He needed a valve replacement and now he is at home. He said slowly but surely, he is getting better. Jerry Hott is back in the hospital for dehydration and kidney problems. On a very sad note, Jeff Chin passed at UCSF hospital with his wife Debbie at his side. Jeff had done a ton of work for our SIR's being a past Big SIR, editor of our SIR 103 newsletter, he also was at the State SIR level. His absence will surely be missed. A memorial is set for tentative date, March 28th, a Celebration of Life.

When plans are set, they will be sent to the membership via email.

Gary Del Nero: Phone 209 681-1100

Amos: 209 605-9638

Email: garydelnero73@gmail.com

Gary Del Nero



The Pickleball Activity is 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.

March 2026 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 22 January 27

Series: Steve Gibson 614

Al Sterling 707

Game: Steve Gibson 248

Steve Gibson 270

Series: Barbara Webb 481

Barbara Webb 649

Game: Barbara Webb 176

Barbara Webb 232

Week 23 February 3

Series: David Brown 597

David Brown 669

Game: David Brown 237

David Brown 261

Series: Barbara Webb 407

Terry Wilcox 613

Game: Barbara Webb 150

Terry Wilcox 221

Week 24 February 10

Series: Arnold Fidalgo 627

Arnold Fidalgo 696

Game: Arnold Fidalgo 264

Arnold Fidalgo 287

Series: Dolores Bavaro 386

Dolores Bavaro 581

Game: Barbara Webb 156

Barbara Webb 211

Week 25 February 17

Series: Bob Abujen 648

Gary Del Nero 682

Game: Bob Abujen 269

Bob Abujen 275

Series: Barbara Webb 483

Dolores Bavaro 600

Game: Barbara Webb 154

Dolores Bavaro 218

Week 26 February 24

Series: Arnold Fidalgo 645

Arnold Fidalgo 708

Game: Arnold Fidalgo 279

Arnold Fidalgo 300

Series: Barbara Webb 430

Terry Wilcox 613

Game: Terry Wilcox 158

Terry Wilcox 237

Come out for our hometown tournament.

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

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

March 24-25 Clayton Valley Bowl, Concord- Gary Kaufmann 925-360-9260

April 13-15 Gold Dust West, Carson City, NV- Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727

Branch 103 Bowling Chairman: Bob Lewis 209-523-7387 bobalew69@msn.com

[Bowling Tournament Calendar 2026 pdf](#)

March 2026

Dining Out Club Information

Since 2001

2nd Tuesday Evening Club:

Tuesday March 10, 2026 – Mimi's Cafe

Tuesday April 14, 2026 El Cazador Mexican Restaurant

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

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

Tuesday March 24, 2026—El Cazador Mexican Restaurant

Tuesday April 28, 2026 –Tasty Thai

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

Thursday March 26, 2026 – Lee's Chinese Kitchen

Thursday April 23, 2026 -- Olive Garden

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

If you enjoy Dining Out at different restaurants in our local area and are interested in joining one of our 3 social, fun loving, evening Dining Out Clubs, please contact Chairman Vince Sereno at (209) 524-9630. He will provide you with all the information needed to become a member. Open to all SIR members, Couples or SIR members with Lady friends, singles, Widows of Deceased SIR Members, family members, Etc. who enjoy Dining Out.

Chuckle No. 1: "Misinformation"

An older man crashed his car into a very expensive car. The owner of the expensive car jumped out and approached the older man while saying, "Give me \$20,000 in cash or I will beat you up until you are battered!" The older man replied, "Wait a moment, friend, I don't have much money, but let me call my son. He trains Dolphins." The older man contacted his son, and as he was about to speak, the luxury car owner snatched the phone his hand and said, "So, you train Dolphins? Well, your father just crashed and damaged my luxury car. Bring me \$20,000 or I will beat him and you up badly!" The son replied, "All right, give me 15 minutes and I will be there." Exactly 15 minutes later, the son arrives in a Jeep. Ten people jumped out and beat the luxury car owner severely. Meanwhile, the son walks up to his father and said, "Dad, I train Navy Seals, not dolphins."

Chuckle No. 2: "Scammer."

I got a call from a scammer the other day. ME: "Hello?" SCAMMER: "Hello, this is Tom from Microsoft Support. We're detecting dangerous viruses on your device." ME: "Oh no! On my device? That sounds expensive." SCAMMER: "Do not worry, ma'am. Are you in front of your device? ME: "Yes. I'm ready." SCAMMER: "Good. Click the Start Button." ME: "I don't see that." SCAMMER: "Do you see the information above the Start Button?" ME: "Yes." SCAMMER: "That is the Control Panel." ME: "Wow. I didn't know it had a name." SCAMMER: "Now press Internet Options." ME: "I don't think my device has internet. It was on sale." SCAMMER: "All devices have internet, ma'am. Please turn it off." ME: "Uh.... I usually just press the big button." SCAMMER: "Press it." ME: "Okay." SCAMMER: "Is it off?" ME: "No The door just popped open." SCAMMER: "Door?" ME: " ...Yeah, and there's a burrito in it." SCAMMER: "Why is there a burrito in your computer?" ME: "Computer, I thought this was microwave support!" SCAMMER: "CLICK!"

Branch 103 Luncheon

Wednesday March 25, 2026

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Masonic Temple

800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA

Luncheon Price: \$25



Couples' Dine Out

The Couples' Dine Out will be at Strings at 2601 Oakdale Rd. Suite P on March 18, 2026 by 4:30. If you would like to attend, please call Juan Salinas at 209-605-6762 or email at juangolfnut.yahoo.com. by March 13, 2026



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 March 14, 2026. The lunch will be on March 28, 2026.

Last	First	Date	Age
Yee	Wellington	3/24/1958	68
Guida	Ed	3/27/1954	72
Abujen	Bob	3/29/1951	75
McDonough	Bob	3/16/1950	76
Sterling	Earl	3/01/1950	76
Sheaffer	Charles	3/17/1949	77
Bak	Don	3/25/1948	78
Gibson	Steve	3/23/1948	78
Vasche	Mark	3/20/1948	78
Prater	Dave	3/11/1947	79
Lyda	Ron	3/07/1947	79
North	Jerry	3/18/1946	80
Laurenti	James	3/12/1945	81
Cooper	David F.	3/19/1943	83
Dodd	Andre	3/25/1942	84
Casiano	Nilo	3/04/1942	84
Bruk	Roy	3/13/1941	85
Gillum	Frank	3/24/1940	86
Gianopoulos	Tom	3/21/1940	86
Shoup	Charles	3/13/1939	87
Weiss	Thomas	3/29/1938	88
Palmer	Charles	3/26/1937	89
Bommarito	Chuck	3/01/1932	94

Ad For Anthony Butera



Anthony Butera
Regional Vice-President at
Primerica Financial Services





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

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

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**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



There is a trip to Washington DC in late September or October for around \$5000

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 Robert Tillery.....209-918-1267
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
Dining Out Chair: Vince Sereno.....209-524-9630



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.

MARCH

The speaker for March is:
Louis Rivera. Topic is Exercise for the Elderly. He has been a Physical Therapist since 1983. Recently he retired from Sutter Health Modesto where he worked for 28 years. He is currently practicing as consultant for Interim Health Modesto. Experience with Acute Care Physical Therapy, Chronic Health Management, Industrial Rehabilitation, Cardiac Rehabilitation.

March

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 SIR Golf- Pheasant Run	3 SIR League Bowling 1:00	4	5 Creekside Golf	6 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto	7
8	9 SIR Golf- Creekside	10 SIR League Bowling 1:00 XXXXXXXXXXXX Dining Out Club- Mimi's Cafe	11	12 Creekside Golf	13	14 CAF Breakfast- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
15	16 SIR Golf- Tracy GC	17 SIR League Bowling 1:00	18 Dine Out- Strings 4:30	19 Creekside Golf	20 Pickleball- Beyer Park, Modesto	21
22	23 SIR Golf- Dryden	24 SIR League Bowling 1:00 XXXXXXXXXXXX Dining Out Club- El Casador Mexican	25 General Membership Luncheon 10:30	26 Creekside Golf XXXXXXXXXXXX Dining Out Club- Lee's Chinese Kitchen	27	28 CAF Lunch- Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
29	30 SIR Golf- Swenson	31 SIR League Bowling 1:00				

**All Dining Out Clubs meet no later than 5:00 (Please arrive by 4:45)
Dine Out Meets at 4:30 at Strings**

Dues Amount	\$40 Dues	\$35 Dues	\$30 Dues	\$25 dues
Starting balance	\$4,672.41	\$4,672.41	\$4,672.41	\$4,672.41
Dues for 161	\$6,441.00	\$5,634.00	\$4,830.00	\$4,026.00
Monthly lunches collected 70	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00
Raffle	\$1,260.00	\$1,260.00	\$1,260.00	\$1,260.00
Merchandise revenue	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
Printing Supplies	\$(25.00)	\$(25.00)	\$(25.00)	\$(25.00)
State Board Assessments	\$(1,778.40)	\$(1,778.40)	\$(1,778.40)	\$(1,778.40)
Special Activities	\$(360.00)	\$(360.00)	\$(360.00)	\$(360.00)
Monthly lunches expense 75	\$(22,500.00)	\$(22,500.00)	\$(22,500.00)	\$(22,500.00)
Merchandise expense	\$(480.00)	\$(480.00)	\$(480.00)	\$(480.00)
Other expenses	\$(2,400.00)	\$(2,400.00)	\$(2,400.00)	\$(2,400.00)
Ladies Lunch expense	\$(1,750.00)	\$(1,750.00)	\$(1,750.00)	\$(1,750.00)
Cash flow for the year	\$(7.60)	\$(799.40)	\$(1,606.40)	\$(2,407.40)
Bank Balance	\$4,680.01	\$3,873.01	\$3,069.61	\$2,265.01