



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

SIR BRANCH 163

JANUARY 2025 NEWS

DECEMBER LUNCHEON CELEBRATION



And what a celebration it was with over 90 attending. For those of you who could not attend, we had a most excellent lunch with wonderful sharing. Many suggested there was something special about the day that brought the Christmas spirit to the forefront.



One thing for sure, Dr. Jennifer Garrett and the Bakersfield College Choir brought the Joy of Christmas to us through a number of songs and as usual does not disappoint. All I heard were praises from our group. I find it extraordinary that little ole backwoods Bakersfield can produce such gifted musicians and vocalists. Of course, much has to do with Dr. Garrett's efforts in bringing professional training to her classes. She works tirelessly in perfecting talent and it shows. The BC Choir sings without musical accompaniment and quite beautifully I might add. Incidentally, do yourself a favor and plan to attend the Bakersfield Symphony and B.C. Choir Holiday Special the first part of December where you can experience some of Bakersfield's finest.

What really made our event special this year was the opportunity to celebrate Sir member **Oscar Chavez' 100th Birthday**. Oscar actually turned 100 on the day of our luncheon and we had a cake made just for him (thanks to the wonderful people at Hodels)!



Actually, Oscar asked for Chocolate cake and then asked if we could offer carrot cake also which was his wife's favorite. Angi passed away last January. Needless to say both cakes turned out most flavorful. I know because it seemed proper for me to taste each for purposes of accurate reporting to you!



And yes, Oscar has plenty of breath to blow out the candles, although he asked not to have 100 of them! That squelched our plans for 100 even though Big Sir Shapazian, a trained Bakersfield fireman, warned us that many candles would melt frosting and cake! And maybe set the smoke alarms off—no offense Oscar!

We sang the birthday song to him at lunch when the cakes were brought with a moving ‘Happy Birthday’ to Oscar which everyone truly enjoyed.

So for those of you who missed the luncheon, you missed a good one!

A GREAT BIG 'THANKYOU -- BIG SIR SHAPAZIAN'

**FOR DOING SUCH AN OUTSTANDING JOB ARRANGING, SCHEDULING,
AND LEADING OUR SIR'S GROUP THIS PAST YEAR. THANKYOU ALSO FOR
OFFERING TO LEAD AGAIN IN 2025. (applause)!**



TO ALL SIR MEMBERS:

**Gentlemen, I pray for a healthy, happy and prosperous new year in 2025
for you all. I for one am very excited to be part of what I expect to be a new**

start for the country as a whole and politics in general. I expect that the SIR leadership will prove to be more accountable to us as we should be to them. I pledge to do all I can to increase our membership with good, quality people that will support our effort to maintain the standards to which we hold. Thanks to all of you for doing your part in upholding those standards and supporting those efforts. May this new year be a positive experience for you all. *Jim Shapazian*

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JANUARY EVENTS



- 2nd Honor Flight Breakfast 8:00 A.M.
- 9th SIR Lunch-out: Si Senior Grill 11:00 A.M. Airport Drive/ West China Grade Loop. Delicious!
- 16th Sir Luncheon: Hodel's Kern Room 11:00 A.M. \$20 per person. Cash only . Don't be shy Bring a friend
- (Sorry but we cannot take credit cards)
- 27th Pool Buddies: Bankshots; Olive Dr. and Roberts Lane 11:00 A.M.

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We do hope you enjoyed all your Christmas and New Year celebrations this past month. Whether you liked your presents or not we hope you were able to receive them with joy and cheerfulness.

Most importantly how will we address the New Year? Let us be Optimistic and Positive as we walk through this year helping our families and friends either enjoy or cope with whatever comes their way. Friendship and their needs comes before self every time.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR EXPRESSIONS



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Quotes for this month:

The Christian does not have to obey the Ten Commandments in order to be saved, but a Christian does have to obey them in order to be a free (and thus Godly) human being. If you don't obey the law of God, you become a slave to selfishness and sin. Tim Keller

“There is no neutral ground in the Universe. Every square inch, every split second is claimed by God, and counter-claimed by Satan”. C.S. Lewis

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Don't forget to include "POOL BUDDIES" in your January Schedule. We will be meeting on January 27th the last Monday of the month. Join us.



Sir Don Waln focuses on his opportunity to 'Clean the Table' which he did on the next play. It is always a blessing to get him on your team'.

Sir Richard Weigelt said he hadn't played for 50 years and then proceeded to pocket four in a row! He has got a 'good eye' for lining up the cue; one to be wary of if he is on a competitive team. Moral of the story: Don't leave them in any good position.

Bankshots: Nice people, great tables, perfect lighting, good food. What could be better? Olive Drive / Roberts lane. 27 January. 11 A.M.

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See you all at the next function. Keep your Thursdays open for SIR activities and do invite a good friend to our functions. Many of our members find the SIR organization just what they need socially and fulfills an emptiness within.

HAPPY NEW YEARS MEN

Larry Sitzman