



**MAY 2025 SIR's WELCOME**

*FROM*

**BRANCH 163**

**TO ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS**



**We had a better turnout for our April Luncheon with fewer cancellations due to illnesses, so we are grateful to be heading for warm weather days when we hope to have over 55 attendees every SIR Luncheon. There were no new guests this meeting so remember we don't grow if you don't bring a guest. When asked I find that most members came because someone invited them and that invitation must come from a member: that's you and me. Let's do our part to 'ASK' a friend to check us out. I think most will find that we are a lot like them and a group they really would like to join. Don't forget to let their wives know who we are and what we do. Wives truly do want us out of the house occasionally so here is an opportunity to please them also.**





**UNITED STATES CAPITOL BUILDING WASHINGTON D.C.**

**I just got back from the 51<sup>st</sup> Honor Flight for veterans of the military and I wanted to let you know how wonderful it was and how ‘Honored’ we felt from everyone who tended to our needs. Everything from minimal TSA check-ins to busses, hotel registration, meals, care-givers, guardians, even the Capitol motorcycle escort to the Capitol building, and a welcome from our own Vince Fong in the House of Representatives; all were provided with “Thankyou and Welcome Home”!**

**I will tell you many a tear flowed or were held back during those three days especially at the many monuments and the Changing of the Guard. I felt so special I thought I had been transported to a kingdom somewhere!**

I tell you this only to remind you that if you or a friend are a veteran (overseas or stateside service counts) you must encourage them to go. They will thank you many times afterwards. Thanks.

*Sir Larry Sitzman, 661-703-9450*

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#### **SPEAKER JACK JAMES SHARES HIS EXPERIENCES**

Our own Jack James shared his career experiences on Pharmaceuticals as he worked with 'Drug Stores' as his chosen field. Jack gave many examples of the way it was when he started back in the '70s until today. He noted we have many times more medicines over the counter today and maybe allow us to live

<b>Q: Where can single men over the age of 70 find younger women who are interested in them?</b>	<b>A: Try a bookstore, under Fiction.</b>
<b>Q: What can a man do while his wife is going through menopause?</b>	<b>A: Keep busy. If you're handy with tools, you can finish the basement. When you're done, you will have a place to live.</b>
<b>Q: How can you increase the heart rate of your over 70-year-old husband?</b>	<b>A: Tell him you're pregnant.</b>
<b>Q: How can you avoid that terrible curse of the elderly wrinkles?</b>	<b>A: Take off your glasses.</b>

<b>Q: Seriously! What can I do for these crow's feet and all those wrinkles on my face?</b>	<b>A: Go braless. It will usually pull them out.</b>
<b>Q: Why should 70-plus-year-old people use valet parking?</b>	<b>A: Valets don't forget where they park your car</b>
<b>Q: Is it common for 70-plus year olds to have problems with short-term memory storage?</b>	<b>A: Storing memory is not a problem. Retrieving it is the problem.</b>
<b>Q: As people age, do they sleep more soundly?</b>	<b>A: Yes, but usually in the afternoon.</b>
<b>Q: Where should 70-plus year olds look for eye glasses?</b>	<b>A: On their foreheads.</b>
<b>Q: What is the most common remark made by 70-plus year olds when they enter antique stores?</b>	<b>A: "Gosh, I remember these!"</b>
<b>SMILE, You've still got your sense of humor, haven't you?</b>	

**I HATE IT WHEN THE TRUTH HITS ME IN THE FACE!!!!**

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## MAY CALENDAR 2025 FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T READ THE NEXT SCREEN

(Like me!)

**May 1<sup>st</sup>**—Honor Flight breakfast at Elks Lodge. 1616 30<sup>th</sup> Street. 8:00 A.M.

■ NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

**May 8<sup>th</sup>**—SIR LUNCH-OUT at Si Senior's. Airport Dr./China Grade

**May 11<sup>th</sup>**—MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION (flowers and dinner)

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**—SIR LUNCHEON AT HODEL's. Kern Room. Check in at 11:00 A.M.

**May 19<sup>th</sup>**—POOL BUDDIES. Rescheduled. Bankshots. Olive Dr/Roberts Lane

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**—MEMORIAL DAY. Put out the Flag!

**May 28<sup>th</sup>**—Sewer Rate Increase letter due AT City Clerks office. Maybe make two letters; one for sewer and one for water rate increases. The more letters the greater their effectiveness.

Just a reminder that it is so important to Branch 163 for everyone to keep the second and third Thursday open for SIR's Activities. Let Thursday be a 'Work-Around' day: Show the Doctor who is Boss! This also helps your guest/friend understand how we schedule and how important it is for everyone because a full house is more enjoyable.

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**ATTENTION MEMBERS: JUNE 19 SPEAKERS**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS.**

**\*READ ON\***

## Bakersfield Music Hall of Fame



Our Big Sir, Jim Shapazian, has scheduled Kim McAbee-Carter and her husband Kyle Carter to speak and Perform at our up -coming Sir Luncheon on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of June. This is a huge accomplishment for our Branch 163 efforts to get the 'Word Out' about who we are and what we are about. Now, we need your help. We Want you to invite your wives, significant other, neighbors, friends, etc. This one-time invitation to a guest can be easy because our Speaker-Entertainers will be most enjoyable.

Branch 163 has done its part, NOW it is up to you to fill the tables. **Here is the goal: one guest per member including wives, of course.** Can you do it? We think you can. We look forward to a packed house. Thanks men. By the way if you don't know who they are google: [www.bakersfieldmusichalloffame.com](http://www.bakersfieldmusichalloffame.com) and you can learn of this 'gem' of Bakersfield history.

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For those of you who like a traditional Calendar to look at, the next page is my best shot at one for you. Problem is the print is a bit toooooo small for my tired eyes; maybe for you as well.



# May

## 2025

Subtitle

### Title

**SIR'S CALENDAR FOR MAY 2025 REMINDER:  
ONLY Schedule Thursdays for SIR Events!!!!  
And DON'T FORGET MOTHER'S DAY**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 National Day of Prayer. Honor Flight Bkfst. 8:00 AM	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 <b>SIR LUNCH- OUT. Si Senor's</b>	9	10
11 <b>MOTHERS DAY</b>	12	13	14	15 <b>SIR LUNCHEON</b> Hodel's Kern room at 11:00	16	17
18	19 <b>POOL BUDDIES. Bankshots</b>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28 Sewer Reject letter due	29	30	31 <b>Reserve 19 June for SIR Luncheon with wives</b>

**\*\*\*\*NEW  
MEMBER\*\*\*\***

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**WELCOME: SIR LEO HUDSON**

Leo has joined our team Branch 163 because he wants to meet new people, his friends encouraged him (Jim and Larry), and his wife thought it would be a good idea. Thanks Leo I hope you enjoy SIR's as much as we do.

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**Scripture for the month:**

**Psalm 33:12** *Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for His Inheritance.*

**Proverbs 16:7** *When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies live at Peace with him.*

## **BRANCH 163 LITTLE SIR**



**With much regret Don Noriel sent us his resignation as Little Sir for Health and family reasons. Don has had some medical issues plaguing him and just cannot be effective at his duties which, of course, bothers him as Don likes to be precise. Don has agreed to stay on as a member and attend as many function as possible. We wish you well Don.**

**Sorry to say that leaves us without a Little Sir so will someone step up?**

## BRANCH TEAM 163



**We will take on anyone, anytime, but you better bring your A-Game! Actually, the table usually wins; why do they make the pockets so small! We always have a lot of fun, usually pretty quiet place, play four games, have a small lunch with great conversation. Fun time away from home! We really would like to get another team together and I know deep down many of you want to but just have too many excuses. If nothing else come out and cheer us on and share lunch. Call me.**

***Sir Larry Sitzman 661-703-9450***



## THE LAST SHOT AT BANKSHOTS



With much regret we bid farewell to Sir Don Waln, Branch 163 Secretary, team pool shooter, general 'utility' helper at Sir meetings, and FRIEND! The family wants Don and Marilyn to move closer, so Denver will be their next home front and they will be leaving good old Bakersfield before the end of May. We wish you good travels and God Speed!

## FROM THE OFFICE OF BRANCH 163 BIG SIR



### May, 2025 Newsletter Memo:

Hello SIR members, I wanted to bring to you all a challenge today. May is the month we celebrate Memorial Day. What is Memorial Day for? It is a day to remember our fallen heroes from wars past beginning with the American Civil War. One of the remarkable periods of our history was the battle of Gettysburg and was considered a major turning point of the war. Shortly after the war, President Abraham Lincoln gave his Gettysburg address. I would encourage all of you to review that address to get you in the mood for celebrating our fallen heroes. This month's luncheon video will explore the traditions and the history of this great holiday.

**I also want to let you in on something I have been working on for the June luncheon. We will have a special guest that will not only give a presentation on the Bakersfield Music Hall of Fame, but provide a bit of entertainment for us all. I thought it fitting if we invited all the ladies to take part in this special time and friends as well. Looking forward to continuing to provide the best, informative and sometimes entertaining luncheon events as possible. See you soon.**

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**GOOD DAY from RON SCHILLING**

**Ron Schilling has been a dedicated SIR's member since October 2006 and has been serving as Branch 163 Treasurer where he maintains the accounting for branch assets especially our money. Ron collects and deposits our revenues, remits payments for expenses, keeps Hodel's paid and happy, and sends reports to the State Sir office.**

**We thank you for your diligence in meeting the needs of this important position.**

**Although Ron does not look his age he turned 90 on February 14 this year! Keep it up Ron.**

**He was born in Moline, Illinois in 1935 and lived in the East Moline district. His dad worked for John Deere Company in parts manufacturing and assembly. Though he did not much like his job, it paid well during the depression and the family lived as comfortably as possible and always had food on the table which many others did not.**

**Ron remembers his folks had an adjacent lot which they turned into a productive garden growing, berries, asparagus, corn, potatoes, beans, onions, carrots: just about everything one could get seeds for were planted. He said his Uncle helped tend the garden so it must have provided for several families. They canned a good portion of the produce and kept it in the cellar.**

**Ron also recalls they heated the house in the winter with a coal furnace in the basement. There was an outside chute that was used to dump coal down into a room in the basement. It was messy and always needed stoking. After WW II his dad bought a 'Stoker' Furnace that burned 'pea' coal. It was self-feeding and was cleaner burning plus easier to maintain.**

**Ron recalls his folks talking about how people made snide comments about his Dad not going into the war effort but he was classified as 'Vital—Industry' so he stayed with the factory. Deere had converted a lot of their production facilities into manufacturing of military equipment through the war years.**



After the war Ron's Dad went into partnership with the local Deere dealer at Monmouth, Illinois but it didn't work out. His family were Pentacostal and attended church regularly. Ron can remember sleeping underneath one of the pews when the services ran too long! But since he had ended his employment at the dealership, his folks joined the California Evangelistic Association and they packed everything they had into a trailer and headed to Seal Beach where Ron attended 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The next year they moved and Ron attended Lindburg Junior High School in North Long Beach.

Then his Dad received an invitation to pastor a small church in Monitor Oregon so they moved up there where Ron attended 8<sup>th</sup> grade in a two room school house: 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> in one room and 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> in the next room. There were only five in his eighth grade class! But Ron had settled in, was playing football, and had met a girl friend; can't do much better than that right?

In his 9<sup>th</sup> grade year the family moved to Bakersfield where Ron's dad pastored the Rosedale Community Church. Ron was thrust into the big time attending Bakersfield High School with an enrollment of 2000 students! Ron was a good athlete and got to play his favorite sport football. In his senior year Ron played left tackle for Varsity, 'Go Drillers'!

While going to BHS, Ron got a part-time job at the "Q-NE-Q" drive-in root beer stand at 26<sup>th</sup> and Chester. This was his first real job in Bakersfield and Ron worked hard at it. By summer the owners made him 'Straw Boss' which meant he was a worker and a manager. About the same time Ron took a liking to "YOUNG LADIES"! And because he worked late in the evening he had chances to date girls without having to explain why he got home so late some nites!

He graduated BHS in 1953 and enrolled at Bakersfield College where he wanted to play for the JV team but because of class conflicts Ron had to sit out the year and never was able to rejoin the football team.

**After two years at BC, Ron dropped out of school, got married In 1955, and started his work career. Like all new families Ron worked long hours, fathered three children, and his first big job was delivering milk door to door for the Teakwood Dairy which was a prominent dairy at that time. It later sold to Peacock Dairy which sold later to Meadow Gold. In the '50s and '60s dairy and cattle were good industries to find employment and so it was for Ron.**

**In 1961 Ron left Peacock and went to Porterville as an independent distributor of Carnation products. During a four year partnership and by 1965, door to door deliveries had nearly vanquished and became unprofitable. That same year Ron came back to Bakersfield and got a job with Carnation Company as a delivery driver to commercial accounts. This is when he met our member Sir Ron Huntington who was the new office manager. Ron retired from Carnation in 2002 but he kept his class A license and had other delivery jobs for a while.**

**When Ron was delivering product to Nelda's Diner in Lake Isabella, he met a woman named Kathy Hood and through what Ron says were God's miracles they both found each to be a perfect match and they married in December 1986.**

**During his years in Bakersfield Ron belonged to the Bakersfield Barbershop Quartet Society for which he was a member for 60 years. They sang locally in and around Kern County and It was their Director Don Newberry who invited Ron to a Sir Luncheon one Thursday. Don couldn't drive any longer and asked Ron to take him home which became a routine and Ron became kind of a 'nurse maid' for Don. During this time Dick Weigelt, Nominating Committee, kept pestering Ron to be an officer but Ron didn't want to be. So when the position of Treasurer came up Ron volunteered with one condition; Dick would 'stop bugging' him about being Little Sir!**

**Ron's favorite memories include 38 years of marriage to Kathy, helping his kids grow up, taking them to ball practice, vacation travels, and teaching**

**them good work ethics. He still enjoys watching their families grow and have families of their own. Ron says God has blessed him many times over.**

**Thankyou Ron for being a good Role Model and for your kind friendship.**

*Sir Larry Sitzman*