

The Town Crower

Volume 42, Number 1

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

January 2025



INCORPORATED

Modesto SIR Branch 103

DEDICATED to the PROMOTION of INDEPENDENCE and DIGNITY for MEN

Branch 103 Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch103

Big Sir Crows



I hope every one of you had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. I just can't believe that it has only been three years since I joined this club. They have been the best three years of my life. I met all of you and I have made many friends for life. Well, here I am, at first, I did not want to be a Little Sir. I remember a couple of years ago, Dick Nelson asked me to become his Little Sir for 2024 and I just didn't want to do it. Then Paul Bender nominated me to be his Little Sir, and guess what, you all voted me in.

As your new Big Sir, along with Little Sir Brian Donahue, we will continue to focus on membership and attendance for our luncheon. I would like to ask for you to assist the new Activity Chairman, Lance Underwood, in bringing in new activities like Cornhole, Horseshoe, etc.

I would like to thank Paul Bender for the great job he did this past year. I know he will be there to assist me on my transition to Big Sir. I would also like to thank Bob Kredit, Roger Smith, and Don Reed for showing me how to work and manage the golf activities.

Big Sir Juan Salinas This year is going to be a great year. Thank you for your confidence in me. I hope I can continue to do my best as your Big Sir. I will see you at the luncheon on January 22, 2025.

SIR Branch 103 Membership Dues for 2025 are due NOW!! The total dues are \$25.00

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. Jan 13-Elkhorn, 9:00, \$53 (cart incl.) Host 103B

Tue. Jan 21-Manteca, 8:00, \$50 (cart incl.) Host 144

Mon. Jan 27-Dryden, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103A

Mon. Feb 3-Swenson, 9:00, \$54 (cart incl.) Host 103B

Mon. Feb 10-Creekside, 9:00, \$36 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144

Tue. Feb 18-Atwater, 9:00, \$59 (cart incl.) Host 103A

Mon. Feb 24-Dryden, 9:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103B

Mon. Mar 3-Manteca, 8:00, \$50 (cart incl.) Host 144

Mon. Mar 10-Creekside, 8:00, \$36 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103A

Mon. Mar 17-Tracy CC, 8:00, \$59 (cart incl.) Host 103B

Mon. Mar 24-Dryden, 8:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144

Mon. Mar 31-Swenson, 8:00, \$54 (cart incl.) Host 103A

Mon. Apr 7-Elkhorn, 8:00, \$53 (cart incl.) Host 103B

Mon. Apr 14-Creekside, 8:00, \$36 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144

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.



League Bowls Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

McHenry Bowl, 3700 McHenry Ave., Modesto

Team 9 (Strain, Salvi, Kincannon, and Fidalgo) won the first third of the league. Team 1 (Lewis, Del Nero, Holly, and Lewis) are in first place in the 17th week of bowling.

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Season High Scores

Scratch Series: Bob Abujen 661, Scratch Game: Arnold Fidalgo 266, Handicap Series: Lor Salvi 749, Handicap Game: Chuck Shoup 291

Scratch Series: Babara Webb 511, Scratch Game: Terri Wilcox 178, Handicap Series: Dolores Bavaro 637, Handicap Game: Debbie Chin 251



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.

Branch 103 General Membership Luncheon

January 22, 2024

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Masonic Temple

800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA

Luncheon Price \$25.00



Don von Buskirk	01/06/1937	88 Yrs. Old
Vincent Oo	01/12/1978	47 Yrs. Old
Don Reed	01/13/1935	90 Yrs. Old
John Faria	01/20/1947	78 Yrs. Old
Bob Kredit	01/27/1954	71 Yrs. Old

Couples Dine Out

The Couples' Dine Out will be at Famous Dave's BBQ, 3401 Dale Road, Modesto on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please call Jeff Chin (209)602-3912 or email jefferygar-yc@msn.com

New Activity Chairman

Lance Underwood will be the new Activity Chairman for 2025. He will schedule activities for the Branch throughout the year. Activities should be scheduled quarterly. Please contact Lance if there are activities you would like to participate in this year.



LADIES' DINE-OUT

The Ladies' Dine-Out will be at Javi's Restaurant at 1225 Standiford Ave., Modesto on January 23, 2025 at 11:00 am. No reservations required.



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 the hangar 1-S at 700 Tioga Dr., Modesto. The breakfast will be on January 11, 2025. There will be no lunch on January 25, 2025. The lunch will resume on February 22, 2025.

2025 SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

Big Sir—Juan Salinas
Little Sir-Brian Donahue
Secretary-Don Rowe
Assist. Sec.-Ray Tillery
Treasurer-Ted Bracht
Assist. Treas.-Brian Donahue
Director-Dick Nelson
Director-Vic Whaley
Director-Dennis Imhoff
Director-Roger Smith
Director-Kerry Newman
Director-Dave Cooper
Director-Lance Underwood
Past President-Paul Bender



Sunshine

By Gary Del Nero

1st of all Happy New Year to all. I hope we all have a prosperous and healthy New Year. Dick Imfield passed this last month. He is known to all that played Slow Pitch softball as one of our long time players and liked by all. One of our own, and according to Don Reed, was one of the founding members of our SIR Charter 103, Lon Loudermilk has passed. He had been a member since 1991. And until last year, was still active in Bowling. A card sent to his family. Lon will be missed. Mark Doniak just recently suffered a stroke and is presently on the mend. A card was sent to him. Former President Jimmy Carter passed this month.

Gary Del Nero Sunshine 103

The Ancient Roman Calendar

Today, we follow the [Gregorian calendar](#), but it's based on the ancient Roman calendar, believed to have been invented by Romulus, who served as the first king of Rome around 753 BC. The **Roman calendar**, a complicated lunar calendar, had 12 months like our current calendar, but only 10 of the months had formal names. Basically, winter was a "dead" period when the government and military weren't active, so they only had names for the time we think of as March through December.

[March](#) (*Martius*) was named for Mars, the god of war, because this was the month when active military campaigns resumed.

[May](#) (*Maius*) and [June](#) (*Junius*) were also named for goddesses Mio and Juno.

[April](#) (*Aprilis*) is thought to stem from the Latin *aperio*, meaning "to open"—a reference to the opening buds of springtime.

The rest of the months were numbered; their original names in Latin meant the fifth (*Quintilis*), sixth (*Sextilis*), seventh ([September](#)), eighth ([October](#)), ninth ([November](#)), and tenth ([December](#)) month. Eventually, [January](#) (*Januarius*) and [February](#) (*Februarius*) were added to the end of the year, giving all 12 months proper names. January was named after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and transitions. February's name is believed to stem from *Februa*, an ancient festival dedicated to ritual springtime cleaning and washing.

When Julius Caesar became *Pontifex Maximus*, he reformed the Roman calendar so that the 12 months were based on Earth's revolutions around the Sun. It was a solar calendar, as we have today. January and February were moved to the front of the year, and [leap years](#) were introduced to keep the calendar year lined up with the solar year.



Bring a book, take one!

Earl Glenn is using the new book cabinet to display selections. You are encouraged to bring in your used books and take something back to read.

There are usually some interesting and entertaining books available.

Branch 103 Website

www.sirinc2.org/branch103



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



Cruise the Lower Mississippi in style, from Memphis to New Orleans aboard the 180 guest *American Splendor*

9-Days..... September 30-October 8, 2025

MEMPHIS TO NEW ORLEANS - Embark on a voyage along the Lower Mississippi River, one brimming with excitement and discovery, stretching from the vibrant streets of New Orleans, Louisiana, to the soulful rhythms of Memphis, Tennessee. Our intimate Modern Riverboats accommodate no more than 180 guests, ensuring an immersive and personalized experience like no other. Feel the spirit of the region come alive through the passion and energy of our all-American crew, who eagerly await to guide you through nine days packed with unforgettable moments. A(n) onboard historian will share the many stories of Southern culture and history, while local guides will unveil hidden gems during shore excursions. Experience the heart of Civil War history at Vicksburg, then marvel at the opulence of grand estates like Houmas House and Rosedown Plantation. Indulge in the timeless elegance of Oak Alley, where 300-year-old trees whisper tales of centuries past, or explore the quaint charm of St. Francisville and Natchez, each with their own unique stories to tell. As the sun sets on another day of exploration, unwind **aboard** with daily cocktail hours, gourmet cuisine, and captivating evening shows that showcase the region's cultural vibrancy. Get ready for a journey unlike any other, where every bend in the river reveals something new.



Highlights

- *Roundtrip airfare from Sacramento
- *Transfers to and from the Sacramento Allport
- *1-night pre-cruise hotel stay at the Guest House at Graceland with free ground-transfers airport to hotel and hotel to ship
- *Post cruise Premium New Orleans City excursion with drop off at the New Orleans Allport
- *All meals and snacks
- *24/7 alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages and nightly evening cocktail hour with hors d' oeuvres and top shelf liquors
- *Wi-Fi
- *Prepaid gratuities
- *Onshore featured excursions
- *Full enrichment package with guest speakers and nightly entertainment

7 night cruise on the American
Splendor with all meals, drinks
and shipboard activities

Questions? Please contact John Cardoza (209) 483-7722

SIR STATE OFFICERS

State Pres. Rich Carlston..... 925 324-0838
State Vice Pres. Lee Lamp..... 530 921-1375
Area 18 Rep. Rick Kindle 209 652-8608

SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

Big Sir Juan Salinas.....209 605-6762
Little Sir Brian Donahue.....209 988-2748
Secretary Don Rowe209 634-0100
Asst. Secretary Ray Tillery209 499-0955
Treasurer Ted Bracht.....209 573-1690
Asst. Treas. Brian Donahue.....209 988-2748
Dick Nelson209 701-8108
Dennis Imhoff209 846-9529
Ray Tillery209 499-0955
Vic Whaley916 509-2483
Dave Cooper209 578-3789
Roger Smith209 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 Kredit209 672-0326
Bowling: Vern Masse 209 544-1953
Bowling: Jeff Chin 209 602-3912
Golf Chair: Roger Smith..... 209 614-8684
Golf Co-Chair: Kerry Newman209 579-7747
Golf Co-Chair: Gerald Hott209 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

Bob Kredit

SENIOR HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Don Reed

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jeffery Chin jefferygaryc@msn.com602-3912

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.

Stanislaus Branch #103
1613 Poust Rd.
Modesto, CA 95358-1084
A Non-Profit Organization

INCORPORATED



January

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Creekside Golf	Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto	
5	SIR Golf-Creekside	7	8	9	10	11
				Creekside Golf		CAF Breakfast-Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
12	SIR Golf-Elkhorn	14	15	16	17	18
			Couples' Dine Out- Famous Dave's BBQ	Creekside Golf	Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto	
19		21	22	23	24	25
		SIR Golf-Manteca	General Membership Luncheon	Creekside Golf Ladies Luncheon-Javi's	BEC Meeting-Denny's Restaurant	
26	SIR Golf-Dryden	28	29	30	31	
				Creekside Golf		