

# The Town Crower

Volume 42, Number 3

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

March 2025



INCORPORATED

## Modesto SIR Branch 103

DEDICATED to the PROMOTION of INDEPENDENCE and DIGNITY for MEN

Branch 103 Website: [www.sirinc2.org/branch103](http://www.sirinc2.org/branch103)

### Big Sir Crows



Well, February was a great month. We had no more frost delays on the golf course, and the Kansas City Chief lost in the Super Bowl. Congratulations to the Eagles. Our Couple's Dine Out was great. There were 9 couples that made it to the dinner. Next month, we will be going to the Olive Garden in Modesto. If you like to come and join us, please give me a call. I would like to tell you all about a new grocery store that open in Modesto call Vallarta. It is located across the street from the Costco where the old Save Mart was at 3900 Pelandale Ave. My wife and I checked it out. They have many things like fresh ceviche, carne asada, chicken all cut up and ready to cook, a Mexican bakery with freshly made corn and flour tortillas. A second location will be opening soon on Orangeburg Ave. and Oakdale Rd. in Modesto. Rick Kindle has posted some SIR advertising in a few magazines, Modesto View and the 209 magazine, to attract new members. I hope this works out for us. I would like our club to recruit new members. Our luncheon was good this past month. We had over 56 members show up for our monthly meeting. Hope to see you all this coming month.

**Big Sir Juan Salinas**

## Sunshine Report



By Gary Del Nero

Jack Faria ended up in the hospital with COVID, then a few days in rehab. Hopefully, all is ok. A card has been sent. Clark Pearson's brother passed. Our thoughts are with him and family. Tom Evans fell and was treated at the hospital, and then he found out he had COVID. Tom made our luncheon, a bit banged, but in great spirits. Jim Bickner will miss a few meetings and golf, as he has had a few lacerations in the head area to get rid of that dreaded cancer. Thoughts and prayers for speedy recovery.

# SIR Branch 103 BEC February Minutes

## Little Sir Brian Donahue (First Draft)

**Attending:** Big SIR Juan Salinas, Little Sir Brian Donahue, Treasurer Ted Bracht, Assistant Treasurer, Brian Donahue. Directors: Dave Cooper, Roger Smith, Dennis Imhoff, Paul Bender, Dick Nelson, and Lance Underwood.

**Committee Representatives Present:** Gary Del Nero, (Sunshine) and Roger Smith (Golf) .

**Absent:** Secretary Don Rowe, Assist. Sec. Ray Tillery, Director Vince Whaley.

**Guests:**

**Call to Order:** Big SIR Juan Salinas, called the meeting to order at 7:25 A.M. at Denny's. Ten Executive Board members present for a quorum.

**Reports:** Jan. 24 Minutes was offered for modification. Motion to accept: Bender, 2nd Bracht-PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Big SIR:**

**Little SIR:**

**Treasurer:** Ted Bracht reported that the Feb. 28 report showed the Beginning balance- \$3,025.42.

Receipts: luncheon proceeds less contribution portion- \$1,505.46 Raffle- \$66.00, 2025 dues, \$425.00, Merchandise- \$135.50. Checks written- Margarito's Catering, \$1,452.46. Ending balance is \$3,025.42. Motion to accept: Bracht- 2nd Salinas-PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Membership:** 1. Dave Cooper reported that we have 96 members. There are 32 unpaid members.

Motion to accept: Cooper- 2nd Rowe-PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Luncheon:** Pork was dry, the chicken was burnt and the pasta wasn't very good. Disappointing luncheon. \$5.00 FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT EACH LUNCH.

**Correspondence:** NA

**Program:** Tom has speakers from February to April 2025.

**Health and Safety:** NA

**Sunshine:** Coe Bernard is moving to Salinas to be closer to family. Kerry Newman is scheduled to have hip replacement surgery on March 13.

**Golf:** River Oaks will replace Manteca on the schedule. New schedule is out. Roger is talking to Micky Grove to add to schedule. NEED TO GET AN ASSISTANT FOR PAUL.

**Thursday Golf:** Juan Salinas reported that it is going great!

**Newsletter:** NA

**Bowling:** It is going well!

**Merchandising:** Dennis reported that new bowling shirts available.

**Travel:** NA

**Computer:** NA

**Activities:** Motion: Approve all activities as listed in the Newsletter- Motion to accept: Nelson 2nd Tillery PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Lance Underwood will take over as Activities Chairman.

**Dine Out:** Olive Garden restaurant will be the Couples' Dine Out site for March, contact Juan.

**Old Business:** Drop SIR Ad in periodicals for 2nd Quarter. Current Ad is not working.

**New Business:** Consider Board for next year. A new Big Sir, Little Sir, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer will be needed.

**Other:** Member Car Show will be held after a luncheon in the future.

**Adjournment:** 8:33 AM

# 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. 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-Dryden, 8:00, \$34 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103B
- Mon. Apr 14-Creekside, 8:00, \$36 (cart opt. \$20) Host 144
- Mon. Apr 21-Pheasant Run, 8:00, \$64 (cart incl.) Host 103A
- Mon. Apr 28-Elkhorn, 8:00, \$53 (cart incl.) Host 103B
- Mon. May 5-\_\_\_\_\_
- Mon. May 12-Tracy CC, 8:00, \$59 (cart incl.) Host 103A
- Mon. May 19-Creekside, 8:00, \$36 (cart opt. \$20) Host 103B
- Tue. May 27-\_\_\_\_\_

## 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.

# Bowling

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 3 (Wilcox, Wilcox, Salinas, Chin) are in first place in the 26th week of bowling.

### High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

#### Season High Scores

Scratch Series: Bob Abujen 661, Scratch Game: David Brown 248, Handicap Series: Lor Salvi 749, Handicap Game: Chuck Shoup 291

Scratch Series: Babara Webb 511, Scratch Game: Terri Wilcox 178, Handicap Series: Dolores Bava-ro 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

March 26, 2024

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Masonic Temple

800 Rose Ave. Modesto, CA

Luncheon Price \$25.00



## Couples' Dine Out

The Couples' Dine Out will be at Olive Garden, 2200 Plaza Parkway, Modesto on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 5:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please call Juan Salinas at 209-605-6762 or email at [juan-golfnut@yahoo.com](mailto:juan-golfnut@yahoo.com).



## LADIES' DINE-OUT

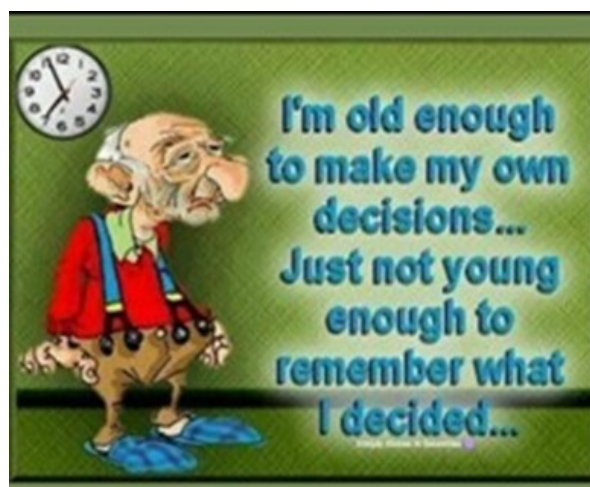
The Ladies' Dine-Out will be at Biscuit to Basket, 501 Bangs Ave., Modesto at 11:00 am on Thursday, March 27. No reservations required.

Chuck Bommarito	03/01/1932	93 Yrs. Old
Al Sterling	03/01/1950	75 Yrs. Old
Dave Prater	03/11/1947	78 Yrs. Old
James Laurenti	03/12/1945	80 Yrs. Old
David Cooper	03/19/1943	82 Yrs. Old
Mark Vashe'	03/20/1948	77 Yrs. Old
Tom Gianopoulos	03/21/1940	85 Yrs. Old
Steve Gibson	03/23/1948	77 Yrs. Old
Don Bak	03/25/1948	77 Yrs. Old
Charles Palmer	03/26/1937	88 Yrs. Old
Ed Guida	03/27/1954	71 Yrs. Old



COMMEMORATIVE  
AIR FORCE

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 March 8, 2025. The lunch will be on March 22, 2025.



## Branch 103 Website

[www.sirinc2.org/branch103](http://www.sirinc2.org/branch103)



# ALL ABOUT ME

Branch 103 has 96 members. A member will be chosen to tell all about themselves. Dick Nelson will interview members each month. The member who Dick interviewed is Tom Gianopoulos.

“I was lucky to survive. The Germans realized they were losing the war. As they retreated through the villages of Greece, they took everything. They devastated our village, executed 28 people as partisans and kidnapped my Dad, forcing him to be part of a human shield, protecting the Germans from attack by Greek Resistance fighters. A neighbor took me to the mountains for two weeks. I was 4 and a half years old. “

Years later, Tom Gianopoulos was stationed in Germany serving with the Third Infantry Division and asked, “What are we doing in Germany?” The standard reply, “Protecting the Germans from the Communists.” Tom’s response, “Protecting the Germans... why...They destroyed my village.”

“I grew up in a small village. My Dad was a shepherd with a small farm. I came to America when I was 15, with my father and brother. At Ellis Island, I had to sign a paper which said I would register for the draft when I was 18. We left from Grand Central Station and took the train across country . I remember seeing so many junk yards with smashed cars. I told my Dad, “In America they throw their cars away, maybe we could get one.” We were sponsored by my uncle in Oakland, who had a restaurant at 8th and Broadway, which was the first 24 hour diner in Oakland.”

After serving two years in the Army from 1962-1964, Tom worked in grocery stores and attended Merritt College in Oakland.

“I had two aunts and an uncle who lived in Modesto. They farmed peaches and apricots.

In 1977, I was working for Alpha Beta Grocery stores and was transferred to Modesto. I grew frustrated with the grocery business. I was playing golf with a friend who mentioned that he wanted to sell his dry cleaning business. I told him I did not know anything about the business. He said he would teach me everything I needed to know. I bought Cross Roads Cleaners and eventually owned two other stores as well. I retired in 1999.

Upon retirement, my wife and I decided that we would continue to live in Modesto, rather than going to Florida. I turned our backyard into an orchard with 19 fruit trees and raised vegetables as well.

I met my wife, Tina, in the Greek Orthodox Church in Oakland and married in 1972. We have two sons, a daughter and three grandchildren. We travel to Greece each year. My wife has a house there, which is a historical place which means any restoration has to be done in a way consistent with the original design.

I was brought into Sirs by Lon Loudermilk. My other interests are reading, history, and Greek mythology. My special joy.. playing golf with my two sons. My daughter does not play... she caddies.

# 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. An 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**

Turlock Branch 143 is inviting members and guests of Branches 103 and 144 to a special May dine-out at the Castle Noz.

## **“SIR Dine-Out”**

**May 16, 2025**

**5:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

**At**

### **The Castle**

6101 Keyes Rd, Snelling, CA

**Tickets are \$45 / person**

**Send Your Check payable to: S I R**

**To: Leonard Zumstein à no later than April 20th, 2025**

**2645 Mira Flores Dr. Turlock, CA 95380**

### **Dinner: Catered by Neto’s**

Tri-tip, Chicken Quarters, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad and Roll

Beer / Wine / Soda / Water

Music by: **“No Way Back”** 60s, 70s, 80s band



## SIR STATE OFFICERS

State Pres. Rich Carlston..... 925 324-0838  
State Vice Pres. Lee Lamp..... 530 921-1375  
Area 18 Rep. Anthony Butera..... 209 985-3473

## SIR BRANCH 103 OFFICERS

Big Sir Juan Salinas.....209 605-6762  
Little Sir Brian Donahue.....209 988-2748  
Secretary Don Rowe .....209 634-0100  
Asst. Secretary Ray Tillery .....209 499-0955  
Treasurer Ted Bracht.....209 573-1690  
Asst. Treas. Brian Donahue.....209 988-2748  
Dick Nelson .....209 701-8108  
Dennis Imhoff .....209 846-9529  
Ray Tillery .....209 499-0955  
Vic Whaley .....916 509-2483  
Dave Cooper .....209 578-3789  
Roger Smith .....209 614-8684  
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 Kredit .....209 672-0326  
Bowling: Vern Masse ..... 209 544-1953  
Bowling: Jeff Chin ..... 209 602-3912  
Golf Chair: Roger Smith..... 209 614-8684  
Golf Co-Chair: Kerry Newman .....209 579-7747  
Golf Co-Chair: Gerald Hott .....209 602-2910  
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 Goodman .....209 578-0848  
Meal Tickets: Don Rowe, Roy Bruk  
Raffle: Roy Bruk, Jim Bickner  
Table Setup: Don Rowe .....209 634-0100  
Table Setup: Jim Bickner .....209 522-4345  
Lead Singer:  
Backup Singer: Gary Goodman .....209 578-0848  
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.com .....602-3912

### 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

# March



# March

# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 SIR Golf-Swenson	4	5	6 Creekside Golf	7 Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto	8 CAF Breakfast-Modesto Airport Hangar 1S
9	10 SIR Golf-Creekside	11	12	13 Creekside Golf	14	15
16	17 SIR Golf-Tracy CC	18	19 Couples' Dine Out- Olive Garden	20 Creekside Golf	21 Pickleball-Beyer Park, Modesto	22 CAF Lunch-Modesto Air- port Hangar 1S
23	24 SIR Golf-Dryden	25	26 General Membership Luncheon	27 Creekside Golf	28 BEC Meeting-Denny's Restaurant	29
30	31 SIR Golf-Swenson					