

SIR INC.

MODESTO BRANCH 144

Dedicated to enriching the lives of members through social activities while making friends for life



April 2021 Newsletter

Volume 04-2021

Message from Big Sir Anthony Butera



Hello fellow SIR Members. I trust that all are well especially after a year of isolation and oppressively endless Zoom sessions, many of the newly vaxxed feel the same way. But it's not a **get-out-of-jail-card** quite yet. Let us see why? **Where can I go?** In most places, the rules haven't changed. Only a few countries are letting U.S. visitors bypass testing and quarantine rules if they have been vaccinated. More countries should join the list later this year. Even if your destination still requires a recent negative test, being vaccinated greatly reduces the odds you'll test positive and end up in quarantine. **Where are the deals?** In a crisis year, bargains abound. With flights still down about 50% from before the pandemic, it might take time for airlines to restore capacity to their route networks. You might still score some good deals, according to the fare prediction site Hopper, which is betting that the window for finding the lowest domestic fares for summer will be from April 27 to May 7. International airfares will be lowest in the last weeks of both June and July, and in mid to late August. **What if I am inoculated but my kids or grandkids aren't?** That's a tough one. There's currently no approved vaccine for those under 16 years old. For some travel suppliers, including a few cruise lines, minors traveling with a parent or guardian may be exempt from vaccine requirements if they have a negative test. "The most likely scenario for some time will be vaccinated parents traveling with kids who aren't," said Misty Belles, of the travel agency consortium Virtuoso. **Is it safe to travel after being vaccinated?** "The CDC at University of California, San Diego is being a bit conservative on restricting travel for vaccinated folks. Data is still coming in to help them make these decisions, travel restrictions for fully vaccinated people will be lifted soon. And 'safe' is a relative word. Everyone has different risk assessments. "Your risk isn't zero, even if you do get the vaccine." According to an Infectious disease's specialist and epidemiologist at Columbia University, we can't take our foot off the gas and get complacent.

(Continued on next column)

You still have to take all the **same measures and protections** we had to do before. But we are encouraged by early results from the rollout; the vaccines we have in the U.S. provide excellent protection against a severe case of Covid. To have that fear (of getting severely ill) taken off your shoulders is great!!!

In the meantime, Tune to our next Zoom Meeting on April 15th at 12pm

Topic "Prospecting for Gold in Alaska Zoom

Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85066128944>

Meeting ID: 850 6612 8944

Mobile +16699009128,,82390107949# US (San Jose)

Big SIR Anthony Butera Branch 144

\$16 dues starting in May are due by May 31. Make check payable to "SIR Branch 144" and mail it to: SIR at 3549 Fawndale Drive, Modesto, CA 95356. Thank You!



**There will be
NO Luncheon at
Season's on
April 15, 2021
(Zoom - Yes)**

SIR, INC.
BRANCH 144 BEC MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order, by Anthony Butera, at 9:30 AM. Roll Call.

A quorum was established with the following present:

Big Sir Anthony Butera, Little Sir Biff Galbraith, Secretary Fernando Gonzalez

Directors: Gaylan King, Sam Graham, Andre Dodd, Jim Toepfer and Bob Lewis

Guests and Committee members present: Vince Sereno, Bill Burchell

Treasurers Report:

The Treasurer's Report for December was Presented by Fernando Gonzalez (in absence of Treasurer Nilo Casiano)

Checkbook Balance as of January 31, 2021.....	\$ 5,732.10
Receipts.....	\$ 0.00
Disbursements.....	\$ 0.00
Checkbook and cash as of January 31, 2021.....	\$ 5,932.10

Motion to approve to approve the Treasurer's report. 1st Andre Dodd, 2nd Bob Lewis, Motion Passed

Minutes from January: Minutes had no corrections.

Motion to approve the minutes. 1st Bob Lewis, 2nd Jim Toepfer

Big Sir Report: New Business:

Discussed the protocol for opening golf for our branch regarding the communication sent by state SIR. A motion was made follow the guidelines from the state SIR. There was discussion whether to suspend dues.

Motion was made to accepts this. 1st Biff Galbraith, 2nd Sam Graham. Motion passed.

Discussed the naming of the newsletter. We will have a contest for choosing the name, Bob Lewis will send out an email to all members regarding the contest with a prize of \$50 worth of merchandise from the SIR store. If a name from a BEC member wins the prize will be donated back to the branch fund.

Motion to approve this approach. 1st. Bob Lewis, 2nd. Jim Toepfer. Motion passed.

Seasons Communication: Sam Graham will contact Seasons to find out their status regarding their opening for service.

Little Sir Report:

Biff reported that he had lined several speakers for the next several months. For March, Ken Hughes from Nome Alaska, gold mining in Alaska. For April, Marlon Ignacio from AIG on living to be a 100 presentation. For May, Greg Silva his pro-life and plans for River Oaks.

Biff also was arranging several more speakers. He was going to provide the details to Bob Lewis to include in the newsletter.

Membership Report

Gaylan reported 121 active members, 4 disabled.

SHLM: Julius Manrique, Ted Nagel; **STATE HLM:**

Jerry Strain

HLM: Gary Williams and Sam Graham

Committee Reports:

Travel: Bill Stires: Nothing to report

Bowling: Bob Lewis: Nothing to report

Golf: Jay Norris: Nothing to report

Dining: Vince Sereno: Nothing to report.

Newsletter: Doing fine.

Sunshine: Edd Santwier: Nothing to report.

Walking: Anthony Butera: Still meeting on Saturdays

Next Meeting will be March 18, 2021.

Meeting adjourned: 10:15 AM

Respectfully submitted by Fernando Gonzalez Secretary

Area 18 Travel

If interested in any trips call Bill at home phone 209-544-2684, cell phone 209-988-5445 or email bstires46@gmail.com to receive a reservation form. Friends, neighbors & relatives can go on any of the SIR trips.

Trip to Louisville to Nashville: September 16-24, 2021

Featuring a tour of Churchill Downs and the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Including 2 nights in Louisville, Ashville, and Nashville. Tour Features Included:

Roundtrip airport transfers, Airfare into Louisville, returning from Nashville
8 day Guided tour with Tour Manager, Guided Tour of Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. 9 nights first class accommodations. 12 meals

Gratuities on all included features, bus driver and tour guide

Price: \$3,895 per person double occupancy -- \$4,893 single occupancy

\$550 per person deposit required to hold space

\$850 per person deposit required after May 20, 2021

Space is limited and sold on first come basis only

Final Payment due June 1, 2021

Laguna Arts Festival Pageant of the Masters in Southern California: July 25-28, 2021

Price: \$1,995 Double; \$2,490 Single. Deposit of \$500 to hold spot. Final payment due May 1, 2021

COVID-19 VACCINATION NEEDED FOR TRIP

Private bus for our group will be provided

Trip Includes:

- Round trip airfare
- Deluxe Motorcoach transportation
- 3 night stay at Best Western Plus in Long Beach
- Tour of Ronald Reagan Library
- Gondola Cruise, Dinner at Naples Rib Company
- Roundtrip transportation aboard the Catalina Express
- Avalon Scenic tour of Catalina Island
- Tour of Mission San Juan Capistrano
- Admission into the Sawdust Festival
- Dinner at Terra Laguna Beach
- Reserved Main Tier Center seats for Pageant of the Masters "Made in America theme"
- Guided tour of Los Angeles
- Admission to the Space Shuttle Endeavour exhibit
- 5 meals: 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners
- All taxes for features, all gratuities for bus driver and guides

EARLY RESERVATION IS URGED TO INSURE MAIN TIER CENTER SEATING

This trip was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 and is rescheduled.

Holland Tulip Festival Tour Featuring Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel May 12-19, 2022

Price: \$3,565 Per Person Double Occupancy \$4,715 Single

Price is based on a discount group airfare of \$249 roundtrip

This airfare expires on March 31, 2020, so sign up before this date.

Trip Highlights:

- Airfare into Chicago, returning from Detroit
- Gratuities for Tour Manager and Bus Driver
- Spend 1 night in Chicago with a guided tour of the city
- Attend the annual Tulip Festival in Holland, Michigan
- Visit Veldheer-DeKlomp Musiekparade (Music Parade)
- Spend 2 nights at the Grand Hotel, the crown jewel of Macinac Island
- Tour Macinac Island via a horse-drawn carriage
- Take the River Rouge Ford Factory Tour
- \$40 in Mayflower Money

As this trip was cancelled it will fill up fast with all those that did not get to go on the trip in 2020.

So, sign up early and get your reservation form and deposit to Bill Stires by March 31, 2021 to get this great price. The airfare could go up as much as \$500 or more on April 1, 2021. Call Bill at 209-988-5445 or 209-544-2684 to reserve your spot.

Top of Switzerland, Austria, Germany with Oberammergau and the Passion Play is postponed until August 27 – September 7, 2022

DINING OUT CLUB NEWS

Humor/Puns



THE POLISH DIVORCE: A Polish man moved to the USA and married an American girl. Although his English was far from perfect, they got along very well. One day he rushed into a lawyer's office and asked him if could arrange a divorce for him. The lawyer said that getting a divorce would depend on the circumstances, and asked him the following questions: (Lawyer Questions & his answers.) "Have you any grounds?" "Yes, an acre and half and a nice little home." "No, I mean what is the foundation of the case?" "It is made of concrete." "Do either of you have a real grudge?" "No, we have a carport, and not need one." "I mean what are your relations like?" "All my relations are still in Poland." "Is there any infidelity in your marriage?" "We have hi-fidelity stereo and good DVD player." "Does your wife beat you up?" "No, I always up before her." "Why do you want this divorce?" "She is going to kill me." "What makes you think that?" "I got proof." "What kind of proof?" "She is going to poison me." "She bought a bottle at drugstore and put it on shelf in bathroom. I can read English pretty good and the label said: "Regular POLISH REMOVER"

How Do Court Reporters Keep Straight Faces?
These exchanges actually said in court, word for word, were taken down by court reporters.
ATT. Is for ATTORNEY & WIT. Is for WITNESS.

1. ATT: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning? WIT: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?
 ATT: And why did that upset you?
 WIT: My name is Susan!
2. ATT: What gear were you in at the moment of of the impact? WIT: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.
3. ATT: Are you sexually active? WIT: No, I just lie there.
4. ATT: What is your date of birth? WIT: July 18th.
 ATT: What year? WIT: Every year.
5. ATT: How old is your son, the one living with you?
 WIT: 38 or 35, I can't remember which.
 ATT: How long has he lived with you?
 WIT: 45 years.
6. ATT: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all? WIT: Yes. ATT: And in what ways does it affect your memory? WIT: I forget.
 ATT: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?
7. ATT: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning? WIT: Did you actually pass the bar exam?
8. ATT: The youngest son, the 20 year old, how old is he? WIT: He's 20, much like your IQ.
9. ATT: She had 3 children, right? WIT: Yes.
 ATT: How many were boys? WIT: None.
 ATT: Were there any girls? WIT: Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a different attorney?

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Name		Date	Age
Fairfield	Bernie	04/09/48	73
Hubbard	Gary	04/14/46	75
King	Gaylan	04/25/46	75
Gasper	John	04/16/47	74
Manrique	Julius	04/08/32	89

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Name		Spouse	Date	Years
Gary	Williams	Susan	04/10/96	25
Tom	McNett	Elizabeth	04/05/81	40
Kent	Faulkner	Truda	04/01/78	43
Jerry	Thomason	Renate	04/20/74	47
Larry	Zabel	Muggs	04/09/72	49
Larry	Parks	Clara	04/22/66	55
Glenn	Davis	Jo Anne	04/09/60	61

APRIL SIR ANNIVERSARIES

Last Name	First Name	Inducted	Years
Kissee	Patrick	04/18/19	2
Holder	Jeff	04/18/19	2
Fix	Terry	04/20/17	4
Dutton	Pete	04/20/17	4
Jackson	Ed	04/21/16	5
Fairfield	Bernie	04/03/14	7
Campbell	Cal	04/04/13	8
Cardoza	Bill	04/01/10	11
Sheaffer	Chuck	04/01/10	11
Stroud	Gary	04/03/09	12
Pinkston	Ernie	04/07/08	13
Bica	Gus	04/07/08	13
Bernard	John	04/01/04	17
Yanko	Bob	04/20/00	21
Hardison	Roy	04/20/00	21
Nagel	Ted	04/04/96	25



April 2021 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games Handicap Games

Week 30 June 16

Series: David Brown 653 John Schamante 678

Game: John Schamante 277 John Schamante 291

Week 31 June 23

Series: Dan Erreca 679 Dan Erreca 679

Game: David Brown 235 Clark Pearson 24

Playoffs:

Team 4 def. Team 9---Team 12 def. Team 1

Championship: Team 12 (Chuck Nichols & Tom Mickelson) def. Team 4 (Gene Cox, Bick Wooley & Steve Bruce)

XX

Team 1(Clark Pearson, Dave Conley, Jerry Hott & Steve Gibson) won the 1st/3rd. Team 4(Gene Cox, Bick Woolley, Wes Rash & Steve Bruce) won the 2nd/3rd. Team 12(Chuck Nichols, Tony Ferro, Tom Mickelson & Larry Zabel) won the 3rd/3rd. Team 9 (Fred Sherman, Michael McClellan, Don Binney & Jerry Strain) won the Wild Card.

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Come out for our hometown tournament.

---- 2021 UPCOMING STATE TOURNAMENTS----

April 29-30 Knotty Pine Lanes, Pollock Pines
Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727

May 27-28 Paddock Lanes, Pacheco
Jack Evans 510-724-8840

**ALL TOURNAMENTS SUBJECT
TO CANCELLATION**

Branch 144 Bowling Chairman:

Bob Lewis 523-7387 bobalew69@msn.com

**MCHENRY BOWL HAS OPENED
FROM 12:00-10:00PM EVERY
DAY. NO LEAGUES YET. IT IS
BEING USED AS AN EXERCISE
FACILITY.**

APRIL 2021 GOLF



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

https://sirinc2.org/public_html/area18golf/

MONDAY MAY 3	CREEKSIDE	CARTS: \$15.00
HOST: 144	\$ 33.00	8:00 AM SG
MONDAY MAY 10	SWENSON	CARTS: \$15.00
HOST: 143	\$29.00	8:00 AM SG
MONDAY MAY 17	MANTECA	CARTS: INCLUDED
HOST: 164	\$45.00	8:00 AM SG
MONDAY MAY 24	DRYDEN	CARTS: \$15.00
HOST: 103	\$32.00	8:00 AM SG
TUESDAY JUNE 1	TRACY CC	CARTS: INCLUDED
HOST: 144	\$54.00	8:00 AM SG

JERRY STRAIN HAS PUT TOGETHER A SCHEDULE FOR GOLF STARTING MAY 3(SHOTGUN STARTS). ALSO, CREEKSIDE'S GREEN FEE'S ARE INCREASING BY \$1.00 ON JULY 1ST. PUNCH CARD'S WILL ALSO RISE IN COST \$10.00-\$20.00. STAY SAFE. HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON.

JAY NORRIS BR# 144 GOLF CHAIRMAN

Sirgolfer144@gmail.com

3328 VINE CLIFF WAY MODESTO, CA 95355 209-606-1475

SENIOR MEN & LADIES GOLF CLUB

Henry Solario will be putting on tournaments at River Oaks Golf Course on Fridays. The groups will be playing the bottom 9. The starting time is 10:00 AM (check in early).

Questions: call Henry at 578-5607

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THIS ARTICLE IS COURTESY OF JEFF CHIN BRANCH 103

All of us are under attack right now by a virus, COVID-19. We, as all those over 65 years old, are susceptible to this virus, which could cause death. We need to take action now by seeking a vaccine. This special edition newsletter has been produced to give you information about the vaccine and where you can go to begin the process. Vaccines help our immune system fight infections in the future. COVID19 vaccines will protect us from the virus that causes COVID-19 without having to get the illness. It typically takes a few weeks after the last dose in a series to become fully protected. On the days after taking the vaccine, you may have a sore arm, aches, fatigue or fever, but these are not harmful. These symptoms signal that your immune system is developing protection from the virus.

In a race to produce a COVID-19 vaccine, scientists turned to a new technology involving our body's own genetic process. Inside our cells, DNA produces RNA that produces proteins. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines transport RNA in a lipid or fat membrane to our cells via the vaccine. That RNA then instructs our cells to produce a protein like the one found on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19. Our immune system recognizes the virus's protein as an invader and produces antibodies to block the protein from proliferating in a future infection. People typically get infected by breathing in airborne droplets from a person who is carrying the virus. The droplets are spread if the carrier coughs, sneezes, talks or just breathes. SARS-CoV-2 has spike proteins on its surface, giving it a "corona" or crown shape. The proteins latch onto receptors on human cells, allowing the virus to invade the cell. As the spike protein attaches to one of our cells, it dramatically changes its shape. Peptides shoot into the cell and pull the cell wall apart, allowing the virus to invade. Once inside, RNA in the virus uses the cell's own genetic process to replicate large quantities of the virus that eventually burst out of the cell. In our bodies, DNA produces RNA that produces proteins. This happens inside our cells. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines take advantage of this natural process by transporting RNA in a lipid or fat membrane to our cells and then instructing our cells to produce a spike protein like the one found on the surface of the virus. RNA vaccines work by getting our cells to produce the spike protein free of any virus. Our immune system recognizes the protein as an invader and produces antibodies to block the protein from binding with receptors in a future attack. In a major breakthrough, scientists at National Institutes of Health and the University of Texas realized that making a vaccine with the proper shaped protein could be much more effective. The antibodies produced as a result of the vaccine remain in our system, ready to bind with the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 in the event of exposure. This blocks the spike protein from binding with healthy cells. The virus is unable to invade our cells. The virus is rendered harmless and is flushed out of our bodies. As we wait to be vaccinated, we can effectively prevent the spread of the virus: Wear a mask in public. Stay at least 6 feet away from others. Wash your hands frequently. Avoid touching your face. Get tested and quarantine if you suspect you may be infected.

WHERE CAN I GET A VACCINE?

Stanislaus County has COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics available to all residents of Stanislaus County. There are clinics in Modesto, Turlock, Oakdale and Patterson. The days and times that the clinics are open at listed on the website for Stanislaus County Public Health, www.schsa.org/coronavirus/vaccine. No appointment is necessary. Proof of residence is required. Stanislaus County is in the process of developing a procedure for those who are unable to wait in lines for a vaccine. Information will be available in the upcoming weeks. If your insurance provider is Sutter Health. Sutter Health provides vaccines for health care workers and for people over 75 years old. You can call (844) 987-6115, Mon-Fri. 7:00 am—6:00 pm, Sat-Sun. 8:00 am-5:00 pm to schedule an appointment. Do not contact your provider's office, they are not able to book appointments or provide scheduling exceptions. If your insurance provider is Kaiser Permanente. Kaiser provides vaccinations for health care workers and people 75 years and older. You need to go to Kaiser's website, www.kaiserpermanente.org/healthwellness/coronavirus, to log on to access the code to make an appointment. If your insurance provider is Alignment Healthcare Insurance. The AllCare Granger Clinic is at 205 W. Granger Ave., Modesto. Call 209-622-4680 for vaccination appointments.

Calendar of Events

LAGUNA ARTS FESTIVAL PAGEANT OF THE MASTERS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JULY 25-28, 2021---LOUISVILLE, ASHVILLE AND NASHVILLE SEPTEMBER 16-24, 2021--- HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL (MICHIGAN) MAY 12-19, 2022---SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA, AND GERMANY FOR THE PASSION PLAY. STAY IN OBERAMMERGAU, GERMANY AUGUST 27- SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

Speaker for April 15, 2021: Ken Hughes from Nome, Alaska will talk about gold prospecting in Alaska. (His resume is an attachment in the email)

Past Big Sirs

1988 Lynn Wood
1989 Elbow Jones
1990 Dick Benevento
1991 Warren Lawson
1992 Al Evans
1993 Joe Underwood
1994 Homer Jorgensen
1995 Don Singer
1996 Max Norton
1997 Charles Cox
1998 Dick Bachman
1999 George Harden
2000 John Shores
2001 Bob Curley
2002 Frank Pierson
2003 Julius Manrique
2004 Ed Boyle
2005 Ted Nagel
2006 George Ditman
2007 Herman Vigil
2008 Michael Mensinger
2009 Charles Shoup
2010 Gary Williams
2011 Jerry Strain
2012 Sam Graham
2013 Jerry Emery
2014 Leonard Davis
2015 Patton Brooks
2016 Bill Burchell
2017 Gary Williams
2018 Sam Graham
2019 Jerry Emery
2019 Jerry Strain
2020 Anthony Butera



Modesto Branch No. 144 Officers

OFFICERS FOR 2021

Big Sir:..... Anthony Butera 985-3473
Little Sir:..... Biff Galbraith 575-2724
Secretary:..... Fernando Gonzalez 415-420-2440
Assistant Secretary:..... Jack O'Brien 221-3691
Treasurer:..... Nilo Casiano 324-5926.
Assistant Treasurer:..... Open

DIRECTORS FOR 2021

Andre Dodd 527-0482	Sam Graham 552-0960
Gaylan King 380-9896	Bob Lewis 523-7387
Jerry Strain 551-8220	Jim Toepfer (360) 477-0930

STATE, REGION, & AREA OFFICERS FOR 2021

STATE PRESIDENT OF SIR, Inc ...Stu Williams 510-865-5000
STATE VICE PRESIDENT OF SIR, Inc ...Rick Kindle 652-8608
DIRECTOR, REGION 2.....Dale Decker 533-0455
GOVERNOR AREA 18.....Richard Provost 222-1910

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

RAMP

Recruitment:.....Open
Activities:.....Open
Member Relations:....Gary Williams 578-3471
Publicity/Relations:...Sam Graham 552-0960

Accessories:.....Sam Graham 552-0960
Travel: Area 18:.....Bill Stires 544-2684
Area 18 Golf Chairman:.....Jerry Strain 551-8220
Assistant:.....Jay Norris 606-1475
Branch 144 Golf Chairman: Jay Norris 606-1475
Assistant:.....Gary Hubbard 551-5253
Area 18 Bowling Chairman:.....Vern Masse 538-4275
Branch 144 Bowling Chairman: Bob Lewis 523-7387
Programs:..... Biff Galbraith 575-2724
Newsletter: ... Bob Lewis 523-7387
Data:..... Gary Williams 578-3471
Chaplain:...Vernon Jones 683-8033
Dining: Vince Sereno 524-9630, Henry Solario 578-5607
Attendance:.....Tony Salonga 505-0915
Sunshine:...Edd Santwier 605-9638 **Assistant:** Julius Manrique 576-1077
Nominating Committee Chairman: Gary Williams 578-3471
Members: Julius Manrique, Patton Brooks, Bill Burchell, and Sam Graham
Membership:.. Gaylan King 380-9896
Book Club:.....Joe Venturini 524-6577

Here are future speakers for Zoom meetings:

For our April 15th meeting Ken Hughes from Nome, Alaska will speak about Gold Prospecting in Alaska.

For May 20th meeting Greg Silva will talk about his Golf life and adventure.

For June 17th Dr. Michael Brady will speak about Alzheimer's disease.

Please visit our website at www.sirinc2.org/branch144

The SIR website for the latest edition of SIR Happenings at: [Sir Happenings - February 2021](#)

If anyone knows if someone has an illness, accident, or passes, please let Edd Santwier (605-9638) or Julius Manrique (576-1077) know. Thanks!

Don Binney's widow Penny passed away. RIP Penny.

SHLM: Julius Manrique and Ted Nagel HLM: Gary Williams and Sam Graham

STATE HLM: Jerry Strain