

# SIR INC. MODESTO BRANCH 144 THE ALMOND CAPITAL BULLETIN

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



August 2022 Newsletter

Volume 08-2022

## Message from Big Sir Biff Galbraith



August is here, Gentleman, I can tell you that August is significant because my birthday is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Wishful thinking, but August does have an interesting bunch of dates.

August 2, 1776: most of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the Declaration of Independence. August 5, 1845: the cornerstone was laid for the Statue of Liberty. August 6, 1945: the United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. A second bomb was dropped on August 9, 1945. Japan surrendered on the same day ending the War in the Pacific.

Another August fact, in a regular year, no other month starts and ends on the same day of the week. August has a unique birthstone. Peridot is a stunning green gem. Peridot is forged in volcanic lava and is also found in some meteorites. Finally, August is the month of sandwiches, because the sandwich was invented in August of 1762 when the Earl of Sandwich requested two pieces of bread with meat inside.

My Big SIR award this month goes to Fernando Gonzalez. Fernando is our Little SIR. For many months he was acting as Secretary, Treasurer, and Little SIR at the same time. Fernando has arranged for many of our great lunch speakers, this last month Craig Hilliker from Sciabica Olive Oil was arranged by Fernando. I am happy to say that Jim Toepfer has stepped up for the Secretary job, thank you Fernando for all you do. Thanks also to Jim for stepping up.

This month we are pleased to announce that Chris Murphy from the Modesto View will be our noon speaker. Chris is free to talk about all events happening in the Modesto area, but I have asked that he spend most of his time talking about the Graffiti Museum in Modesto. Gentleman, I hope that you have a great August, and I hope to see you on August 18<sup>th</sup> at Seasons in Modesto.

*Big Sir Biff Galbraith Branch 144*  
See page 6 for information on New Member Procedures

## Big SIR Award



Sam Graham (L) receives the Award from Big SIR Biff Galbraith.

**Speaker will be Chris Murphy from the Modesto View and will talk about the Graffiti Museum. Bio page 8.**

**BIG THANK YOU TO ALL  
THE MEMBERS WHO  
HAVE PAID THEIR DUES!**

**REMEMBER, if you cannot attend the luncheons, please call *Gaylan King* at 209-380-9896 by Sunday August 14 (Luncheon is August 18). Thank you!**

**SIR INC**  
**BRANCH 144 BEC MEETING MINUTES**  
**JULY 21, 2022**

The meeting was called to order, by Big SIR Biff Galbraith at 9:30 AM.

**A quorum was established with the following members present:**

Big Sir Biff Galbraith, Little SIR Fernando Gonzalez, Secretary Jim Toepfer, Assist. Treasurer John Santillano.

**DIRECTORS:** Gaylan King, Bob Lewis, Andre Dodd, and Jerry Strain, Vince Sereno.

**GUESTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Julius Manrique, Gary Williams, Sam Graham, Pat Brooks, Bill Burchell, Bill Stires, Area 18 Governor Richard Provost.

Motion to approve minutes from June meeting. Motion made: 1<sup>st</sup> Gaylan King, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andre Dodd: Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report for June was presented by: Acting Treasurer Fernando Gonzalez

Checkbook Balance as of June 1, 2022.....	\$7,152.63
Total Receipts.....	\$1,313.00
Disbursements.....	\$1,342.87
Checkbook and cash as of June 30, 2022.....	\$7,322.76

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report and voucher request for Bob Lewis, amount: \$16.03 and Fernando Gonzalez, amount: \$36.00. 1<sup>st</sup> Jerry Strain, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Lewis. Motion Passed.

**Membership Report:**

Gaylan King gave the Membership Report as of July 21, 2022: 118 Active members, 6 Disabled members, 0 Pending Members.

Motion to accept report: 1<sup>st</sup> Andre Dodd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Lewis. Motion passed.

**SHLM:** Julius Manrique

**STATE HLM:** Jerry Strain

**HLM:** Gary Williams and Sam Graham

**Committee Reports:**

**Bowling:** Bob Lewis: League over. New league will start the day after Labor Day.

**Golf:** Jerry Strain: State qualifying is done. Additional information to follow.

**Travel:** Bill Stires: Final trip this year to Germany. Ireland trip in April 2023, is filling fast.

**Dining:** Vince Sereno: No news. All is well

**Sunshine:** Edd Santwier (Sunshine Chair): Reported that John Bree passed away.

**Walking Group:** Anthony Butera, not present.

**Old Business:** Discussion on treating senior members to free meals (not to include special events) who attain the age of 95. Motion made, 1<sup>st</sup> Jerry Strain, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Lewis. Motion Passed. Bob Lewis moved that any SIR member 95 or older will have their dues paid, for the YEAR FOLLOWING THEIR 95<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vince Sereno. Motion Passed.

**New Business:** Area Governor 18, Richard Provost, recommended Jeff Chin to fill this position. There being no interest from anyone in attendance.

**Meeting adjourned By Big Sir Biff Galbraith at: 10:14 AM.**

**The time of the next BEC meeting will be at 9:30 AM, August 18, 2022.**

Respectfully submitted by Jim Toepfer, Secretary



# SIR TRAVEL



BILL STIRES – TRAVEL CHAIRMAN 209-544-2684, cell phone 209-988-5445 or email [bstires46@gmail.com](mailto:bstires46@gmail.com)

## **Scenic Ireland Trip through Ireland and Northern Ireland April 14-27, 2023**

**Price: \$5,395 Double Occupancy Single \$6,195**

**\$500.00 Deposit to hold your place. Sign up by August 31, 2022 to get \$50.00 discount**

**Final payment due on December 15, 2022**

**This is a small group Departure limited to 24 passengers.**

**Sign up early to reserve your spot on this exciting trip.**

Highlights: 12 nights in First Class Hotels Accommodations. **Airfare included.**

1 night in Limerick, 1 night in Clifden, 1 in Sligo, 2 nights in Belfast in Northern Ireland, 2 nights in Dublin, 1 night in Waterford, 1 night in Kinsale, 2 nights in Killarney, 1 night in Limerick

**18 meals. Includes gratuities on tour for Tour Manager & Bus Driver**

Visit Cliffs of Moher, local farms, an Abbey, Giant's Causeway, Titanic Experience, Hillsborough Castle, Belfast's O'Connell Street, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College, House of Waterford Crystal, Blarney Castle and the Kissing Stone, Garnish Island, Ring of Kerry, Dingle Peninsula, and **much, much more.**

Leisure time to explore most of the towns and villages.



## **Autumn Colors trip to East Coast**

October 13 - 22, 2023. Price: \$4,330 double occupancy

Air Fare to be added in December 2022

Deposit of \$500 per person to hold reservation

Highlights: 2 nights stay in Boston. Tour of city, free time on own.

Visit Manchester, Vermont; Burlington, Vermont; North Conway, New Hampshire; Bar Harbor, Maine; Acadia National Park; Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Scenic drives along the Mohawk Trail and Kancamagus Highway.

Professional local tour guide for entire trip.

9 nights of First-Class Hotel accommodations.

14 meals including a regional lobster feast.

This trip will fill up fast, so sign up early.

Call Bill Stires at 209-988-5445 or email at [bstires46@gmail.com](mailto:bstires46@gmail.com) to receive brochure.



## DINING OUT CLUB

### Dining Out Clubs Dates + Humor

**2nd Tues. Aug. 9th: Strings**

**Sept. 13: George's Steakhouse**

**4th Tuesday: Aug. 23rd: Outback**

**Sept. 27th: Bella Italia**

**4th Thurs: Aug. 25th: George's Steakhouse.**

**Sept. 22nd Outback Steakhouse.**

**Questions? Call Vince at 209-524-9630**

### **ADULT TRUTHS**

1. Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
2. Nothing is worse more than that moment during an argument when you realize that you are wrong.
3. I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
4. There is a great need for a sarcasm font.
5. How the heck are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
6. Was learning cursive really necessary?
7. Map Quest really needs to start their directions on #5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.
8. Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.
9. I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind-of-tired.
10. Bad decisions make good stories.
11. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment at work when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
12. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blue Ray? I don't want to have to start my collection. . . . again.
13. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my 10 page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.
14. I disagree with Kay Jewelers. I would bet on any given Friday or Saturday night more kisses begin with Miller Light than Kay.
15. I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.
16. How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?
17. I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front of the line.
18. Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey. But I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button on the alarm from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

<b>Name</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Age</b>
Biff	Galbraith	08/01/58	64
Bruce	Fetzer	08/19/56	66
Ed	Tabacco	08/31/46	76
Wayne	Fallentine	08/25/46	76
Bob	Watson	08/16/45	77
Joe	Martinez	08/19/41	81
Merle	Liebert	08/05/40	82
John	Griffin Jr.	08/13/39	83
John	Bernard	08/13/37	85
Doug	Hodge	08/18/36	86
Norm	Lawrence	08/06/36	86

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

<b>Name</b>	<b>Spouse</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Years</b>	
Deane	Cook	Sigrid	08/28/99	23
Larry	Hockenberry	Bridget	08/12/87	35
Tony	Castillo	Shelly	08/13/82	40
Howard	Grieshaber	Theresa	08/08/76	46
Cal	Campbell	Marina	08/02/75	47
Keith	Rogers	Elaine	08/04/73	49
Bob	Watson	Flora	08/08/71	51
Roger	Townsend	Ruth	08/23/69	53
Rick	Irwin	Bonnie	08/10/68	54
Conrad	Haines	LaDean	08/25/67	55
Chuck	Adams	Linda	08/10/63	59
Red	Bell	Sharon	08/18/62	60
Chuck	Shoup	Karen	08/18/62	60
Vince	Sereno	Kathy	08/26/61	61
Jerry	Miller	Kathy	08/10/57	65

## AUGUST SIR INDUCTIONS

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Inducted</b>	<b>Years</b>
Arnold	Fidalgo	08/19/21	1
Jerry	Miller	08/19/19	3
Scott	Elliott	08/16/18	4
Jay	Norris	08/07/14	8
Ed	Tabacco	08/07/14	8
Howard	Grieshaber	08/04/11	11
Patton	Brooks	08/04/11	11
Keith	Rogers	08/05/10	12

## August 2022 Bowling Report

**SIR LEAGUE WILL START SEPTEMBER 6, WITH THE MEETING AT 12:00. LEAGUE PLAY WILL START AFTER THE MEETING.**

**Playoffs: 4/26/2022 --Team 3(Dom Genova, Jim Sterling, Jim Wirowek, & Jeff Chin) defeated Team 8(Fred Sherman, Gene Cox, Norma Brey, & Jerry Strain). Team 1(Al Sterling, Jim Long, Jerry Hott, & Steve Gibson) Defeated Team 7(Don Reed, John Togliatti, Joe Bradley, & Joe Miceli).**

**Playoffs: 5/3/2022--Team 3 defeated Team 1 for the Championship.**

**Come out for our hometown tournament.**

**----- 2022 UPCOMING STATE TOURNAMENTS-----**

**August 8-10 National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV  
Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727**

**August 24-25 Prosperity Lanes, Grass Valley  
Charlie Babiarz 530-470-8964**

**September 12-14 Gold Dust West, Carson City, NV  
Tim Hall 775-241-9080—Dave Moore 510-825-2654**

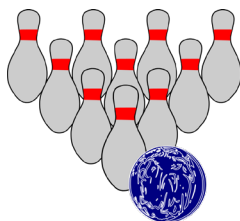
**September 27 Harvest Park Bowl, Brentwood  
John Fry 925-783-5614**

**October 18-19 Fireside Lanes, Citrus Heights  
Art Tourillot 916-635-6148  
Ron Johnson 916-206-1483**

**Branch 144 Bowling Chairman:**

**Bob Lewis 209-523-7387**

**[bobalew69@msn.com](mailto:bobalew69@msn.com)**



## August 2022 Golf News



**This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:**  
[https://sirinc2.org/public\\_html/area18golf/](https://sirinc2.org/public_html/area18golf/)

<b>MON. AUG. 8</b>	<b>DRYDEN</b>	<b>COST: \$ 47.00</b>
<b>HOST: 144</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CARTS: INCLUDED</b>
<b>MON. AUG. 15</b>	<b>ATWATER</b>	<b>COST: \$ 47.00</b>
<b>HOST: 103</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CARTS: PREPAID</b>
<b>MON. AUG. 22</b>	<b>CREEKSIDE</b>	<b>COST: \$49.00</b>
<b>HOST: 144</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CARTS: INCLUDED</b>
<b>MON. AUG. 29</b>	<b>TRACY C.C.</b>	<b>COST: \$52.00</b>
<b>HOST: 103</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CARTS: INCLUDED</b>
<b>TUE. SEPT. 6</b>	<b>DRYDEN</b>	<b>COST: \$47.00</b>
<b>HOST: 144</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CARTS: INCLUDED</b>

THE TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIER ARE BOTH BEING PLAYED THIS MONTH AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup> FOR THE TEAM AND AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> FOR THE INDIVIDUAL. HOPE EVERYONE WHO QUALIFIED WILL PLAY. GOLF IS STILL LOW ON PLAYER'S WE NEED TO GET MORE PEOPLE OUT OF THERE HOUSE AND ON THE COURSE.

**JAY NORRIS Br#144 GOLF CHAIRMAN  
AND ASST. HANDICAP CHAIRMAN**

**[Sirgolfer144@gmail.com](mailto:Sirgolfer144@gmail.com)**

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

**There is a SIR State Golf Tournament at the Blue Rock Springs golf courses in Vallejo, September 14th and 15th.**

**Press control and click to open below:**

**State Golf Website**

**Tournament Info**



## **THE BEGINNING OF SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC.**

Realizing the social nature of man and his desire for the company of others, particularly those retired from gainful employment in commercial and professional life, the late Damian L. Reynolds conceived the idea of Sons In Retirement in the spring of 1958. From time to time, three friends, all retired, would meet with Mr. Reynolds for a friendly luncheon. He suggested to those three, Messrs. Claus Hinks, Lorenz Hansen and Wallace Plummer, that they join him in his idea of a monthly luncheon club for retired men for the purpose of maintaining old friendships, making new acquaintances and avoiding the boredom caused by inactivity. A kickoff luncheon was held in the Clarimar Restaurant in San Mateo, California on July 29, 1958. Five additional friends of the four founders came to the luncheon. They were Messrs. George Rogers, Clarence Johnson, Conrad Lange, Lloyd Cartmill and William Torello. The name Sons In Retirement was unanimously adopted by eighteen members of the club at a second meeting on August 12, 1958. Consideration was given to several other names, none of which seemed to make clear the purpose of this fledgling group. Because most retired men wish for nothing to do with things pertaining to inactivity or laziness, the chosen name seemed to enunciate and give dignity to retirement. Since the name of the group was Sons In Retirement, one of the original group proposed that the club's executive officer be designated as the Big Sir, a salutation "indicating maturity and respect". Second in command would be known as the Little Sir. Rules for the club were adopted on October 28, 1958. Among them were that members were not to be solicited for donations for outside groups or purposes. On January 10, 1962, this was further clarified to state solicitation was permitted only to provide funds to carry out the purposes of the club. The corporation's copyrighted insignia is the rooster. Mr. Reynolds stated, "Of all the creatures on earth, none expresses independence and dignity with more sureness and aplomb than a rooster. The majesty of his presence is felt in every barnyard, and when he crows, he can be heard for miles, not a fainthearted crow, but with a noise that calls attention to his majestic being." The new club's first bulletin was called "Yes Sir" and its publication was financed entirely by voluntary contributions, a tradition which continues to this day. The club's slogan, "Promoting the Independence and Dignity of Retirement" speaks to the purpose and the long-range goals of Sons In Retirement, Inc., that were set forth by our founders in 1958.

## **Calendar of Events**

**SCENIC IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND, APRIL 14-27, 2023.  
OCTOBER 13-22, 2023, AUTUMN COLORS TRIP TO THE EAST COAST.**

### **NEW MEMBER PROCEDURE**

A prospective member will attend a luncheon with a member as a guest. During the luncheon he will be introduced to the group, and he will be given a membership application. New members will fill out the application and submit it to the front desk after the meeting or mail the completed application to SIR at 3549 Fawndale Drive Modesto Ca. 95356. The application will be submitted to the Branch Executive Committee for acceptance. Upon acceptance the new member shall attend an Orientation session prior to the next meeting. At the luncheon the new member will be introduced to the membership.

## 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  
2021 Anthony Butera



## Modesto Branch 144 Officers

### OFFICERS FOR 2022

**Big Sir:**..... Biff Galbraith 209-575-2724  
**Little Sir:**..... Fernando Gonzalez 415-420-2440  
**Secretary:**.....Jim Toepfer (360) 477-0930  
**Assistant Secretary:**.....Open  
**Treasurer:**.....Nilo Casiano 209-324-5926.  
**Assistant Treasurer:**.....John Santillano 209-544-1953

### DIRECTORS FOR 2022

Anthony Butera 209-985-3473      Andre Dodd 209-527-0482  
Gaylan King 209-380-9896      Bob Lewis 209-523-7387  
Jerry Strain 209-551-8220      Vince Sereno 209-524-9630

### STATE, REGION, & AREA OFFICERS FOR 2022

STATE PRESIDENT OF SIR Inc ..... Rick Kindle 209-652-8608  
STATE VICE PRESIDENT OF SIR Inc ...Dale Decker 209-533-0455(TBD)  
DIRECTOR, REGION 2.....Dale Decker 209-533-0455  
GOVERNOR AREA 18.....Richard Provost 209-577-8219

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

#### RAMP

**Recruitment:**.....Open  
**Activities:**.....Open  
**Member Relations:**....Gary Williams 209-578-3471  
**Publicity/Relations:**...Sam Graham 209-552-0960  
**Accessories:**.....Sam Graham 209-552-0960  
**Travel: Area 18:**.....Bill Stires 209-544-2684  
**Area 18 Golf Chairman:**.....Jerry Strain 209-551-8220  
**Assistant:**.....Jay Norris 209-606-1475  
**Branch 144 Golf Chairman:** Jay Norris 209-606-1475  
**Assistant:**.....Gary Hubbard 209-551-5253  
**Area 18 Bowling Chairman:**.....Vern Masse 209-538-4275  
**Branch 144 Bowling Chairman:** Bob Lewis 209-523-7387  
**Programs:**.....Fernando Gonzalez 415-420-2440  
**Newsletter:** ... Bob Lewis 209-523-7387  
**Data:**..... Gary Williams 209-578-3471  
**Chaplain:**...Jack O'Brien 209-542-7177  
**Dining:** Vince Sereno 209-524-9630, Henry Solario 209-578-5607  
**Attendance:**.....Tony Salonga 209-505-0915  
**Sunshine:**..Edd Santwier 209-605-9638  
**Assistant:** Julius Manrique 209-576-1077  
**Nominating Committee Chairman:** Gary Williams 209-578-3471  
**Members:** Julius Manrique, Patton Brooks, Bill Burchell, and Sam Graham  
**Membership:**Gaylan King 209-380-9896  
**Book Club:**.....Gaylan King 209-380-9896

Chris Murphy is the President and CEO of Sierra Pacific Warehouse Group and Publisher and Founder of Modesto View Inc. Chris worked globally in the cycling industry returning to Modesto in 1996. He is also the founder of the Modesto Historic Graffiti Cruise Route, Legends of the Cruise Walk of Fame, Modesto Rockin' Holiday, the Modesto Music History Organization, and co-founder of the Modesto Area Music Association. Chris is married to his artist wife Rebecca since 1985 and has two daughters Madison and Abigail, both graduating from Modesto High and UC Berkeley. He is lead singer and guitarist for his band, Third Party that donates their performances to non-profits.

**Please visit our website at [www.sirinc2.org/branch144](http://www.sirinc2.org/branch144)**

**The SIR website for the latest edition of SIR Happenings at: [SIR Happenings-August 2022](#)**

**If anyone knows if someone has an illness, accident, or passes, please let Edd Santwier (209-605-9638) or Julius Manrique (209-576-1077) know. Thanks!**

**John Bree passed away. RIP**

**SHLM: Julius Manrique; HLM: Gary Williams and Sam Graham; STATE HLM: Jerry Strain**