

SIR INC. MODESTO BRANCH 144 THE ALMOND CAPITAL BULLETIN

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



December 2022 Newsletter

Volume 12-2022

Message from Big Sir Biff Galbraith



I am personally wishing all of you a most joyous December. Where did 2022 disappear to? I hope all of you had a great Thanksgiving. Last month I was pleased to honor our veterans, thank you to all who took part. I know that not all our members were able to attend our November meeting, our branch would like to thank all of you that served in our armed forces. December 7th is our National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day; we now have fewer and fewer of our WWII vets left. Please never forget the sacrifices of that day and the soldiers who fought and died in two different theaters of war.

Did you know that Nobel prizes are awarded, in December each year? Each recipient receives over one million dollars and a gold medal. Another major happening in December is the winter solstice. The solstice is on December 21st this year and is the official beginning of Winter. Winter solstice is the shortest daylight in the northern hemisphere.

My December BIG SIR award goes to Anthony Butera. Remember that Anthony was BIG SIR for two years, and even during the pandemic conducted our meetings via zoom. Our Branch 144 BEC conducted business, and we had a guest speaker each month. Thank you, Anthony, for all your efforts and continued leadership as a board of director member for Branch 144.

I look forward to seeing all of you that who have purchased tickets in advance of the December 15th Ladies Day Luncheon. Because of table service our caterer required a November 30th deadline. For those who did not purchase tickets, we will see you in January.

It has been a profound honor to serve as your BIG SIR this year. I will continue to be your BIG SIR and look forward to seeing more of our members next year. Because there has been a decline in membership, I encourage all of you to invite prospective new SIRS to our monthly luncheons. Remember that your guest receives a free meal, and should they join, you will get one too!

I hope that all of you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Big Sir Biff Galbraith Branch 144

BIG SIR AWARD



Nilo Casiano(R) receives the BIG SIR AWARD from BIG SIR Biff Galbraith.

**Ann Martin & Megan Torkelson (violins)
with Ryan Gurule (cello) will play
Christmas music for Ladies Day.**

**REMEMBER, if you cannot attend
the luncheons, please call
Gaylan King at **209-380-9896** by
**Sunday December 11 (Luncheon
is December 15). Thank you!****

SIR INC
BRANCH 144 BEC MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 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, Assistant Treasurer John Santillano.

DIRECTORS: Bob Lewis, Andre Dodd, Anthony Butera, Vince Sereno.

GUESTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Julius Manrique, Gary Williams, Richard Provost, Sam Graham, Jack O'Brien, Bill Burchell.

Motion made to approve minutes from October 20 meeting. 1st John Santillano 2nd Bob Lewis. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report:

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

Checkbook Balance as of October 1, 2022.....	\$6,365.63
Total Receipts.....	\$1,331.00
Disbursements.....	\$1,724.43
Checkbook and cash as of October 31, 2022.....	\$6,172.20

Motion made to approve the Treasurer's report and voucher requests for Bob Lewis in the amount: \$17.18 and for Biff Galbraith in the amount: \$48.49 1st Andre Dodd 2nd John Santillano Motion Passed.

Membership Report:

Gaylan King Absent. The Membership Report as of November 17, 2022, was given by Bob Lewis: 116 Active members, 6 Disabled members, 0 Pending Member, 128 Unused Badges, Total Badges 250.

Motion made to accept the membership report, 1st Bob Lewis, 2nd Andre Dodd. Motion passed.

SHLM: Julius Manrique

STATE HLM: Jerry Strain

HLM: Gary Williams and Sam Graham

Committee Reports:

Bowling: Bob Lewis: Nothing new to report.

Golf: Jerry Strain: Absent. Richard Provost presented a new website for area 18 golf:

www.sirinc2.org/area18golf (all lowercase)

Travel: Bill Stires: Absent: however, there are still two trips for next year. Ireland and Northern Ireland, and Autumn Colors trip to East Coast.

Dining: Vince Sereno: Dining is Continuing to run smoothly.

Sunshine: Edd Santwier: (Sunshine Chair): Not Present.

Walking Group: Anthony Butera: "Walking Panthers", East La Loma Park on December 3rd and walk at 10:30 AM after the airport breakfast on December 10, 2022. Meet at Tuolumne Regional Park.

Old Business: Short discussion on Ladies' Day luncheon in December.

New Business: Ann Martin with her students to perform at the December 15 Meeting. One Hundred dollars will be paid to each student. Maximum of three students. Motion to accept: 1st Bob Lewis 2nd Anthony Butera. Motion Passed. Fernando Gonzalez presented a survey result, 80% of members do not want women to join the SIR organization. If women did join, there could be legal ramifications.

Meeting adjourned By Big Sir Biff Galbraith at: 9:53 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting (short one) will be at 9:50 AM, December 15, 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

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

Trip is sold out and any new reservations will be on the wait list.

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

\$500.00 Deposit to hold your place.

Final payment due on December 15, 2022

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

\$50.00 Discount extended to November 30, 2022. Still room for the trip.

Airfare and transportation to and from the airport is included

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

Highlights: 12 nights in First Class Hotel Accommodations

1 night in Limerick, 1 night in Clifden, 1 in Sligo, 2 nights in Belfast in Northern Ireland, 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 to receive brochure.



DINING OUT CLUB

Dining Out Club + Humor

The next meetings will be in January 2023. Check the January 2023 Newsletter or with your Evening Dining Club Host and Restaurant Coordinator for further information.

2022 was a new beginning for each of the 3 evening Dining Out Clubs. Thank you for making our dinners a happy enjoyable social event. I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. May you have a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a Happy Kwanzaa & a Happy New Year—2023.

HUMOR: *Prepare to Groan:*

I never thought orthopedic shoes would really work for me. But I stand corrected.

Once upon a time there was a king who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible king, but he made a great ruler.

A Mexican magician says he will disappear on the count of 3. He says: "Uno, dos ..." Poof. He disappeared without a tres.

I wrote a book on how to fall down the stairs. It's a step-by-step guide.

My son was chewing on electric cords, so I had to ground him. It's OK, though. He's doing better and conducting himself properly.

My friend claims that he "accidentally" glued himself to his autobiography, but I don't believe him. But that's his story and he's sticking to it.

An armed man ran into a real estate agency and shouted: "Nobody move."

Got drunk yesterday and threw up in the elevator on my way back home. It was disgusting on so many levels.

Why did the Mexican take anti-anxiety medication? For Hispanic attacks.

I asked the surgeon if I could administer my own anesthetic. He said, "Sure. Knock yourself out!"

I got into a fight today with 1,3,5,7 and 9. The odds were really against me.

In Britain it's called a lift, but Americans call it an elevator. I guess we were just raised differently.

97% of people are stupid. Glad I'm in the other 5%.

The Lord said to John, "Come forth and ye shall receive eternal life." But John came fifth and got a toaster instead.

AND FINALLY,

I have 2 unwritten rules:

- 1.
- 2.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<i>Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>
Anthony	Butera	12/05/55	67
Fred	Bistodeau	12/14/48	74
David	Yarbrough	12/03/46	76
Patton	Brooks	12/24/39	83
Pete	Dutton	12/23/35	87
Glenn	Davis	12/18/34	88



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Name</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>
Paul	Moran	Marie	12/28/84 38
Richard	Provost	Elizabeth	12/24/83 39
Vernon	Jones	Rochon	12/29/79 43
Scott	Anderson	Janice	12/30/74 48
Biff	Galbraith	Veeann	12/19/81 41
Max	Maxwell	Melissa	12/29/62 60
Jerry	Strain	Merlyne	12/30/60 62





December 2022 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 9 November 1

Series: Arnold Fidalgo 574 Rick Wilcox 661
Game: Joe Miceli 230 Gary Del Nero 262

Week 10 November 8

Series: Bob Abujen 649 Jerry Strain 692
Game: Bob Abujen 258 Bob Abujen 258

Week 11 November 15

Series: Joe Miceli 665 Joe Miceli 704
Game: Joe Miceli 244 Joe Miceli 257

Week 12 November 22

Series: David Brown 614 Dom Genova 663
Game: David Brown 210 Dom Genova 254
Clark Pearson 254

Come out for our hometown tournament.

----- 2023 UPCOMING STATE TOURNAMENTS-----

January 17-18 Napa Bowl, Napa/65
Dave Ellingson 707-637-3008

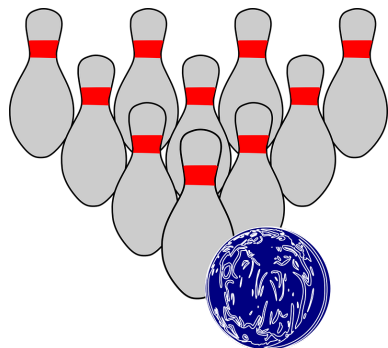
February 16-17 Country Club Lanes,
Sacramento/69 Conner Chin 916-601-1854

March 21-22 Clayton Valley Bowl, Concord
Mike Kropf 925-689-1453

April 17 & 20 Gold Dust West, Carson City,
NV/160 Tim Hall 775-241-9080
Dave Moore 510-825-2654

Branch 144 Bowling Chairman:

Bob Lewis 209-523-7387 bobalew69@msn.com



December 2022 Golf News



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

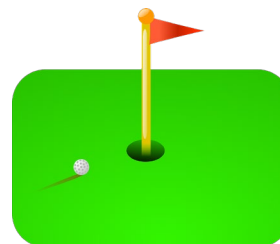
<https://sirinc2.org/area18golf/>

MON. DEC. 5	ELKHORN	COST: \$ 48.00
HOST: 164	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. DEC. 12	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$ 49.00
HOST: 103	9:00 AM	CARTS: PREPAID
MON. DEC. 19	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$ 49.00
HOST: 144	9:00 AM	CARTS: PREPAID

HOPE EVERYONE HAD A GOOD THANKSGIVING AND HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS. THE 2023 SCHEDULE WILL BE OUT SOON, THE DRYDEN COURSE IS CLOSED UNTIL FEBRUARY OR MARCH. ALL DRYDEN TOURNAMENTS WILL BE PLAYED AT CREEKSIDE. REMEMBER, NCGA DUES ARE DUE BY THE END OF DECEMBER.

JAY NORRIS Br#144 GOLF CHAIRMAN
Sirgolfer144@gmail.com

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



BRANCH 144 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VETERANS



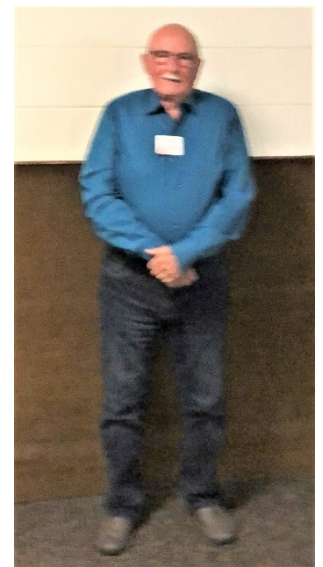
ARMY



MARINES



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD



NAVY

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
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
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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2023:



L-R: Big SIR Biff Galbraith, Directors: Gaylan King & Jerry Strain, Little SIR Fernando Gonzalez, Treasurer John Santillano, Secretary Jim Toepfer, Director Andre Dodd, Assistant Secretary Jack O'Brien, Directors Anthony Butera & Bob Lewis. Not pictured Director Vince Sereno.

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

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

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!

Wes Hall is recuperating.

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