

SIR INC. MODESTO BRANCH 144

THE ALMOND CAPITAL BULLETIN

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



March 2023 Newsletter

Volume 03-2023

Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez



I want to keep our Branch 144 members informed about the expenses we incur in maintaining our branch. Last year we had some unplanned expenses such as purchasing a projector for our lunch presenters. When we were at Seasons we were able to use theirs. This along with some other expenses caused us to run a deficit of \$784 which we were able to pay for from the money in our fund. This year we had to raise the lunch costs to \$23 as expenses went up for our caterer. We have to pay for a minimum of 65 paid lunches, so it is important that we have as many members as possible attend our lunch meetings. The \$23 does not cover the additional tax we need to pay so we should be able to cover it from our membership dues and raffle sales.

As I learn how to conduct our lunch meeting, I still make some missteps and need to apologize to Ron Brown for not asking him to lead the pledge and to Les Hall for failing to acknowledge his 100th birthday.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144

Note from VeeAnn Galbraith:

Dear SIR's Branch 144 members,
Thank you for the beautiful floral spray that you sent in memory of Biff. He so enjoyed getting to know all of you, and being involved in your organization. I was very humbled to see how many were able to come to say one last goodbye.

Sincerely,
VeeAnn Galbraith

BIG SIR AWARD



Chuck Sheaffer (R) receives The Award from Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez

Speaker for March is Modesto City Manager Joe Lopez: "Modesto, Our Town". He will discuss what is happening in the city and where we are headed.

\$24 dues are due by March 31. If paying by check, make it payable to: "SIR Branch 144" & mail it to: "SIR" at 2509 Portofino Dr. Modesto, CA 95356 or bring check or cash to the luncheon. Thank You!

REMEMBER, if you cannot attend the luncheon, please call *Gaylan King* at 209-380-9896 by Sunday March 12 (Luncheon is March 16). Thank you!

SIR INC
BRANCH 144 BEC MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order, by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:40 AM.

A quorum was established with the following members present:

Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez, Little SIR/Treasurer John Santillano, Secretary Jim Toepfer, Assistant Treasurer Jerry Miller, Assistant Secretary Jack O'Brien.

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

GUESTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Julius Manrique, Gary Williams, Sam Graham Bill Stires.

Motion to approve minutes from January 19, 2023 meeting: MSP

Treasurers Report:

The Treasurer's Report for January 19, 2023, was presented by Acting Treasurer Fernando Gonzalez:

Checkbook Balance as of January 1, 2023.....	\$ 4,801.61
Total Receipts.....	\$ 2,605.00
Disbursements.....	\$ 2,270.41
Checkbook and cash as of January 31,2023	\$ 5,336.20

Motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report and the voucher request for Bob Lewis in the amount of \$34.60. MSP.

Membership Report:

Gaylan King gave the Membership Report as of February 16, 2023: 109 Active members, 5 Disabled members, 0 Pending Member, 136 Unused Badges, Total Badges 250. Motion to accept the membership report: MSP.

SHLM: Julius Manrique

STATE HLM: Jerry Strain

HLM: Gary Williams and Sam Graham

Committee Reports:

Bowling: Bob Lewis: All is well.

Golf: Jerry Strain: Everything is functioning smoothly.

Travel: Bill Stires: Scenic Ireland Trip is sold out. However, there is a waiting list available. The Autumn Colors Trip to East Coast, October 13 – 22, 2023 still has 8 spots available.

Dining: Vince Sereno: Dining is doing fine.

Sunshine: Jerry Strain reported that Pete Dutton is still in the hospital.

Walking Group: Anthony Butera – absent.

Old Business: Fernando Gonzalez reported that Form 20 has been completed and submitted to the State Roster Subcommittee.

New Business: Short discussion on admitting women for SIR membership. More information will be forthcoming from the state level. City Manager Joe Lopez will be our speaker for the month of March. Fernando Gonzalez reported that John Santillano is now the acting treasurer.

Meeting adjourned by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at: 9:55 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be at 9:30 AM, March 16, 2023.

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

Trip is sold out at this time. Wait list for new passengers!

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 early to reserve your spot on this exciting 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: \$5,130 double occupancy Single: \$6,127
Final Payment due June 15, 2023**

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.

Remember that relatives and friends may also go on all trips.

Call Bill Stires at 209-988-5445 or email at bstires46@gmail.com to receive brochure.



DINING OUT CLUB

Dining Out Club + Humor

**2nd Tues. Mar. 14th: Javi's Mexican
April 11th Outback Steakhouse**

Phone Kathy Norris: 209-596-0416

**4th Tues: March 28th: Marcella's
Tues. April 25th: Tasty Thai**

Phone Hall Eubank at: 209-649-4148

**4th Thurs: March 23rd: Red Lobster
Thurs. April 27th: Marie Callender's**

Phone Vince at 209-524-9630

HUMOR:

Wishes!

A man walks into a bar and orders a drink. The bartender gives the man his drink and the man asks: "If I show you something crazy, would you let me have free drinks for the rest of the night?"

The bartender thinks for a minute and then says "It would have to be something spectacular to take that offer."

The man leans down and picks up a box and sets it on the bar. He opens the box and inside is a small piano man, who is only 1 foot tall, and a little piano. The piano man starts playing classical music like Beethoven and Chopin.

Once he finishes, the bartender is in utter disbelief.

He tells the man "You can have free drinks for the rest of the night, but only if you tell me where you got this." The man says: "In the alleyway behind your bar, there is a Genie who is granting free wishes to everyone who wants them." Elated, the bartender heads behind his bar to see if it was true. A few minutes pass, and out of the alleyway erupts a cacophony of quacking. The bartender rushes back into the bar and shuts his door against a wave of thousands of ducks. He manages to secure the door and says to the man: "I think that the Genie is hard of hearing because after I asked for a million bucks, these ducks appeared by the thousands." The man chuckles and says: "Did you really think I wished for a 12-inch pianist?"

HOW SMART IS YOUR RIGHT FOOT?

TRY THIS! It is absolutely true.

1. While sitting in a chair, lift your right foot off the Floor and make clockwise circles.
2. Now while doing this, draw the number '6' in the Air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction.

There is nothing that you can do about it! This may seem odd, but I bet you will try it again, if you have not already done so.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

<i>Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>
Danny	Erreca	03/23/55	68
Bob	Abujen	03/29/51	72
Tom	Hollander	03/16/50	73
Chuck	Sheaffer	03/17/49	74
Jay	Norris	03/18/46	77
Nilo	Casiano	03/04/42	81
Andre	Dodd	03/25/42	81
Chuck	Shoup	03/13/39	84
Thomas	Weiss	03/29/38	85
Fred	Sherman	03/22/33	90

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Name</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Charlie	Leffingwell	Jan	03/21/98	25
Bruce	Fetzer	Debbie	03/30/96	27
Kevin	Prescott	Anita	03/15/86	37
Ken	Oehrlein	Sochi	03/14/64	59
Walt	Masciorini	Ann	03/03/56	67

SIR MARCH INDUCTIONS

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Inducted</i>	<i>Years</i>
Fernando	Gonzalez	03/21/19	4
Jack	O'Brien	03/15/18	5
Tom	Hollander	03/15/18	5
Bob	Watson	03/07/13	10
Gaylan	King	03/05/09	14
John	Sai	03/05/09	14
Don	Rovere	03/07/07	16
John	Griffin Jr.	03/07/07	16
Leonard	Davis	03/07/07	16
Gary	Williams	03/04/04	19
Julius C.	Manrique	03/18/99	24
Fred	Sherman	03/07/96	27
Bryan	Harrison	03/02/95	28



March 2023 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 22 January 31

Series: David Brown 590 Lor Salvi 665
Game: David Brown 216 John Kincanon 252

Week 23 February 7

Series: Bob Abujen 627 Al Sterling 699
Game: Arnold Fidalgo 255 Arnold Fidalgo 278

Week 24 February 14

Series: Bob Abujen 619 Marv VanMiddendorf 669
Game: Bob Abujen 226 Gene Cox 261

Week 24 February 21

Series: Bob Abujen 634 Jerry Hott 721
Game: Jerry Hott 226 Jerry Hott 280

Come out for our hometown tournament.

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

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

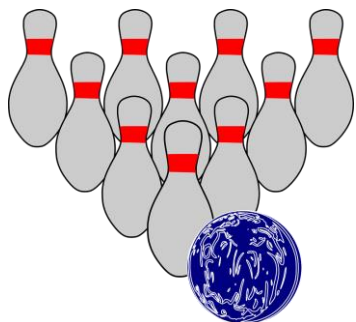
April 17 & 20 Gold Dust West, Carson City,
NV/160 Tim Hall 775-241-9080
Dave Moore 510-825-2654

May 17-18 Fireside Lanes, Citrus Heights
Art Tourtillot 916-635-6148
Ron Johnson 916-206-1483

June 8-9 Gold Country Lanes, Sutter Creek
Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727

Branch 144 Bowling Chairman:

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



March 2023 Golf News



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

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

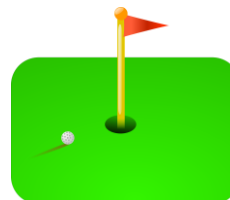
MON. MAR. 6	MANTECA	COST: \$ 47.00
HOST: 144	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. MAR. 13	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$ 49.00
HOST: 103B	9:00 AM	CARTS: OPTIONAL
MON. MAR. 20	TRACY C.C.	COST: \$ 52.00
HOST: 103	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. MAR. 27	DRYDEN	COST: \$ 47.00
HOST: 144	9:00 AM	CARTS: OPTIONAL
MON. APR. 3	DRY CREEK	COST: \$52.00
HOST: 103	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED

THE RON RETORT MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT WILL BE AT CREEKSIDE ON MARCH 13TH, LET'S HAVE A GOOD TURN-OUT. THE FAMILY WILL HAVE PRIZES AND GODDIES FOR EVERYONE. WE NEED TO SIGN UP FOR GOLF AT THE MEETINGS, PAY FOR YOUR GOLF THEN. WE HAVE TOO MANY PEOPLE BRINGING CHECKS TO THE COURSE. MORE WORK FOR THE HOST.

JAY NORRIS Br#144 GOLF CHAIRMAN

Sirgolfer144@gmail.com

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





Make friends for life.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID DUES IN 2023:

Chuck Adams	Fernando Gonzalez	Charlie Leffingwell	Tony Salonga
John Bernard	Sam Graham	Julius Manrique	John Santillano
Tom Brawley	Howard Grieshaber	Vern Masse	Vince Sereno
Patton Brooks	John Griffin Jr.	Joe Miceli	Chuck Sheaffer
Anthony Butera	Brad Hardison	Jeff Mountain	Chuck Shoup
Bill Cardoza	Roy Hardison	Jay Norris	Michael Slocum
Nilo Casiano	Ron Harris	Jack O'Brien	Henry Solario
Gary Chalk	Larry Hockenberry	Ken Oehrlein	Gary Stroud
Deane Cook	Doug Hodge	Ernie Pinkston	Jim Toepfer
Hall Eubank	John Kincanon	Richard Provost	Jim Walker
Bernie Fairfield	Gaylan King	Don Rovere	Bob Abujen
Bruce Fetzer	Norm Lawrence	Randy Alford	Patton Brooks
Bill Burchell	Glenn Davis	John Gasper	Jack Hawes
Gary Hubbard	Ed Jackson	Bob Lewis	Ernie Lewis
Mike Martinez	Jerry Miller	Larry Parks	Craig Persons
Keith Rogers	Lor Salvi	Jerry Strain	Gene Toschi
Gary Williams	Thomas Weiss	Andre Dodd	Jim Sterling
Edd Santwier			

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.

Calendar of Events

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

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
2022 Biff Galbraith



Modesto Branch 144 Officers

OFFICERS FOR 2023

Big Sir:..... Fernando Gonzalez 415-420-2440
Little Sir:..... John Santillano 209-544-1953
Secretary:.....Jim Toepfer 360-477-0930
Assistant Secretary:.....Jack O'Brien 209-542-7177
Treasurer:.....John Santillano 209-544-1953
Assistant Treasurer:.....Jerry Miller 209-521-1359

DIRECTORS FOR 2023

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 2023

STATE PRESIDENT OF SIR Inc Dave Gonzales 916-587-3538
STATE VICE PRESIDENT OF SIR Inc ...Dale Decker 209-533-0455
AREA 18 REPRESENTATIVE.....Jeff Chin 209-602-3912

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



February speaker Gabriela Guerrini receives Certificate of Appreciation from Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez

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

The SIR website for the latest edition of SIR Happenings at: [February 2023 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!

Pete Dutton is home recovering.

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