

SIR INC. MODESTO BRANCH 144

THE ALMOND CAPITAL BULLETIN

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



April 2023 Newsletter

Volume 04-2023

Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez



A little tech talk in this month's newsletter. The news around technology is all about Artificial Intelligence and an application called ChatGBT. This is an application that provides reports or information regarding any questions entered into. At the State level SIRS leaders are researching how to use this application to help in attracting new members by presenting analysis of what senior men are looking for in a social organization. Helping write brochures that would be of interest to senior men. Helping write headlines for newspaper articles that would be of interest to senior men. As the state SIRS continues to research this application, I will keep you updated. As an example, I entered the question to this application. How does an organization attract senior men to join an organization like Sons in Retirement. The following are some of the suggestions it responded with.

1. *Partner with other organizations: Look for opportunities to partner with other organizations that serve senior men, such as local veterans' groups, senior centers, or sports leagues. By collaborating with these groups, you can expand your reach and increase your visibility among your target demographics.*
2. *Leverage technology: While many senior men may not be as tech-savvy as younger generations, they are still increasingly comfortable with technology. Make sure to have a strong online presence, with a user-friendly website and active social media accounts. Consider offering virtual events or meetings, which may be more convenient for some seniors who have mobility issues or who live far away.*

Overall, attracting senior men to join a retirement organization requires a multifaceted approach that takes into account their interests, needs, and preferences. By emphasizing the benefits of membership, hosting social events, and using targeted messaging, you can increase the likelihood that senior men will be interested in joining your organization such as Sons in Retirement.

Let me ask you again to use every opportunity you have to invite senior men to come to our luncheon and learn about us. We all need to try and encourage more men to become member of SIRS to keep our chapter active.

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144

NEW MEMBER



Pictured L-R (SP) Jim Sterling, (NM) Jerry Vietor & Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez.

Jerry was a Hearing Aid Dispenser for Alliance Hearing Aids LLC. He enjoys Baseball Day, Genealogy, Pinochle, Poker, & Woodworking. His wife is Heidi.

Speakers for April:

Department of Aging and Veterans Services –
Area Agencies on Aging:
Ryan Kegley kegleyry@stancounty.com -
Veterans Services Manager:
Jose Garcia garciaj@stancounty.com –
Veterans Services Analyst

\$24 dues are past due. 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 April 16. (Luncheon is April 20). Thank you!

SIR INC
BRANCH 144 BEC MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:30 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, Bob Lewis, Jerry Strain, Andre Dodd, Anthony Butera. (Vince Sereno – absent).

GUESTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Julius Manrique, Gary Williams, Bill Burchell, Jay Norris, Area Representative Jeff Chin. (Bill Stires – absent).

Motion to approve minutes from February 16, 2023, meeting: MSP

Treasurers Report:

The Treasurer's Report for February 16, 2023, was presented by Treasurer John Santillano:

Checkbook Balance as of February 1, 2023.....	\$ 5,136.20
Total Receipts.....	\$ 1,945.00
Disbursements.....	\$ 1,920.61
Checkbook and cash as of February 28, 2023.....	\$ 5,360.59

Treasurer John expressed a need to address the price of Lunches as well as the sales tax on lunches. The present \$23.00 lunch price does not include sales tax.

Big SIR Fernando has name changes on the bank account for SIR Branch144 current and up to date.

Motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report and the voucher request for Bob Lewis in the amount of \$17.42. MSP.

Membership Report:

Gaylan King gave the Membership Report as of March 16, 2023: 111 Active members, 5 Disabled members, 1 Pending Member, 133 Unused Badges, Total Badges 250. The 5 disabled members include: Vinny Altadonna, Harold DeArmond, Brian Harrison, Ed Tabacco and Paul Moran. 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 – Absent. As per previous notice: 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 – Absent.

Sunshine: Ed Santwier -Absent

Walking Group: Anthony Butera: Walking group will be postponed until after April 15, 2023.

Old Business: Big SIR, Fernando Gonzales, presented a list of members who have not paid current dues and who have not been attending meetings. Fernando will contact every member on this list.

New Business: John Santillano addressed the issue of allowing women to join SIR branch 144. Per John, a decision should be made. Area Representative Jeff Chin mentioned that in making our decision to allow women to join Branch 144, we must remember that the state is over all branches of SIR. Also, to help in our recruitment of prospective members, Jeff reminded the Board that there are tri-fold flyers available from the state. More information and discussion to follow.

Meeting adjourned by big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at: 10:05 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be at 9:30 AM, April 20, 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 April 11th Outback Steakhse.
Tues. May 9th: Johnny Carino's
Reservations-- Kathy Norris: 209-596-0416

4th Tues: April 25th: Tasty Thai
Tues. May 23rd: Strings Italian Cafe
Reservations--Hall Eubank at: 209-649-4148

4th Thurs: April 27th: Marie Callender's
Thurs. May 25th: Modesto Sukiyaki
Reservations-- Vince at 209-524-9630

HUMOR:

Secrets to a Happy Marriage!

An old woman was sipping on a glass of wine while sitting on the patio with her husband, and she says, "I don't know how I could ever live without you" . . . Her husband asks, "Is that you, or the wine talking?" . . . She replies, "It's me . . . talking to the wine."

Amish Husband

An Amish husband, wife and son travel to city on vacation. They visit a shopping mall and while the mother is shopping, the father and son are standing in awe in front of an elevator (having no idea what it is). As they watch, an elderly lady walks into the strange silver doors and the doors close. The father and son watch as the numbers go up, & then back down. When the door open, a beautiful young woman walks out. The father leans over and whispers to his son, "Son, go get your mother!"

After All. . . It's Fifty Dollars

Morris and his wife Esther went to the state fair every year, and every year Morris would say, Esther, I'd like to ride in that helicopter." Esther always replied, "I know Morris, but that helicopter ride is fifty dollars, and fifty dollars is fifty dollars."

One year Esther and Morris went to the fair and Morris said, "Esther, I'm 85 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance." To this, Esther replied, "Morris that helicopter ride is fifty dollars, and fifty dollars is fifty dollars."

The pilot overheard the couple and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take you both for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say a word, I won't charge you! But if you say one word, it's fifty dollars." Morris & Esther agreed & up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy maneuvers, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over & over again, but still no words. When they landed, the pilot turned to Morris & said, "By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!" Morris replied, "Well to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Esther fell out, but you know, \$50 is \$50."

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>	
Fairfield	Bernie	04/09/48	75
Hubbard	Gary	04/14/46	77
King	Gaylan	04/25/46	77
Gasper	John	04/16/47	76
Manrique	Julius C.	04/08/32	91

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Name</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Gary	Williams	Susan	04/10/96	27
Tom	Brawley	Donna	04/21/91	32
Tom	McNett	Elizabeth	04/05/81	42
Kent	Faulkner	Truda	04/01/78	45
Larry	Zabel	Muggs	04/09/72	51

SIR APRIL INDUCTIONS

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Inducted</i>	<i>Years</i>
Hockenberry	Larry	04/21/22	1
Dutton	Pete	04/20/17	6
Jackson	Ed	04/21/16	7
Fairfield	Bernie	04/03/13	10
Campbell	Cal	04/04/13	10
Cardoza	Bill	04/01/10	13
Sheaffer	Chuck	04/01/10	13
Stroud	Gary	04/03/09	14
Pinkston	Ernie	04/07/08	15
Bica	Gus	04/07/08	15
Bernard	John	04/01/04	19
Yanko	Bob	04/20/00	23
Hardison	Roy	04/20/00	23



April 2023 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 25 February 28

Series: David Brown 678 David Brown 714
Game: David Brown 234 Gary Del Nero 251

Week 26 March 7

Series: Jeff Chin 550 Bob Lewis 648
Game: Bob Lewis 210 Bob Lewis 243

Week 27 March 14

Series: David Brown 643 David Brown 673
Game: David Brown 246 David Brown 256

Week 28 March 21

Series: Bob Abujen 593 Marvin VanMiddendorp 675
Game: Bob Abujen 223 Gene Cox 255

Week 29 March 28

Series: David Brown 655 David Brown 682
Game: David Brown 232 David Brown 241

Come out for our hometown tournament.

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

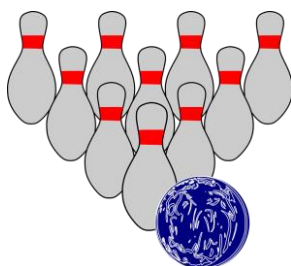
**April 17 & 20 Gold Dust West, Carson City,
NV/160 Tim Hall 775-241-9080
Dave Moore 510-825-2654**

**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



April 2023 Golf News



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

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

MON. APR. 10	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$49.00
HOST: 143	8:00 AM	CARTS: OPTIONAL
MON. APR. 17	SWENSON	COST: \$46.00 /\$29.00
HOST: 144	8:00 AM	CARTS: OPTIONAL \$15
MON. APR. 24	DRYDEN	COST: \$47.00
HOST: 103	8:00 AM	CARTS: PREPAID
MON. MAY 1	ATWATER	COST: \$49.00
HOST: 103	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. MAY 8	ELKHORN	COST: \$48.00
HOST: 144	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED

REMEMBER APRIL 1ST, TEE TIME'S CHANGE TO **8:00 AM**. THE RON WITORT MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT WILL BE AT CREEKSIDE ON APRIL 10TH. LET'S HAVE A GOOD TURNOUT.

NOW THAT SPRING IS HERE HOPEFULLY, WE CAN GET MORE PLAYERS OUT ON MONDAY.

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	Fred Bistodeau	Leonard Davis	Arnold Fidalgo
Jerry Vietor			

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: John Santillano 209-544-1953
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



March speaker Joe Lopez 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!

Bill Stires is recovering from surgery.

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