

# 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 2023 Newsletter

Volume 08-2023

### *Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez*



This past month at the board meeting we discussed the possibility of merging with another branch. This is in the very early stage of discussion because there are many that need to be resolved such as the lunch meeting date, the cost of lunch, the merging of board members, etc. I will keep you informed as these discussions continue.

We currently have 82 members who have paid their annual dues and thank you to all of you that have been willing to continue to be a member of Branch 144.

Again, I would like to ask you to see if any of you have contact with any business that would be willing to advertise in our monthly newsletter for \$10 a month. If so, please let any board member know and we will follow up.

In this world where we are constantly facing scam efforts the latest one is rather unique. We now come to use QR codes to log on to the different web sites. A QR code is scrambling looking puzzle that we have encountered in restaurants to look at menus. These codes are used in parking garages and other locations where we must pay for services. Scammers are posting false QR codes over real ones to direct you to their website where they ask for credit card information. Now when you see a QR code see if you can peel it off and if it comes off it is a scam effort and don't use it. Let's continue to be vigilant.

*Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144*

### *Speaker for July*



Jessica Hill (R) receives Certificate of Appreciation from Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez.

The speaker for August will be Nan Su. He is an expert on China. He will be discussing topics on China. Possible topics in his bio. (Bio: Page 8)

**\$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 August 13th. (Luncheon is August 17th). Thank you!**

**SIR INC**  
**BRANCH 144 BEC MEETING MINUTES**  
**JULY 20, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 10:00 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, absent - Assistant Secretary Jack O'Brien.

**DIRECTORS:** Gaylan King, Bob Lewis, Andre Dodd, Vince Sereno, Anthony Butera, absent - Jerry Strain.

**GUESTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Julius Manrique, Sam Graham, Richard Provost - Area 18 Rep, Roger Smith – Branch 103, absent - Jay Norris, Ed Santwier, Bill Burchell, Gary Williams, and Bill Stires.

Motion to approve minutes from June 15, 2023, MSP.

**Treasurers Report:**

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

Checkbook Balance as of June 1, 2023.....	\$ 4,495.12
Total Receipts.....	\$ 1,447.00
Disbursements.....	\$ 1,554.55
Checkbook and cash as of June 31, 2023.....	\$ 4,387.57

Motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report and the voucher requests for: 1. Bob Lewis in the amount of \$16.25, and 2. Branch 144 Caterer in the amount of \$1,538.30. MSP.

**Membership Report:**

Gaylan King gave the Membership Report as of July 20, 2023: 114 Active members, 5 Disabled members, 1 Pending Member, 130 Unused Badges, Total Badges 250. The 5 disabled members include: Vinny Altadonna, Harold DeArmond, Bryan 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 – Bowling will start Sept. 5.

**Golf:** Andre Dodd reporting – Going well.

**Travel:** Bill Stires – Absent

**Dining:** Vince Sereno - All groups are up and running well.

**Sunshine:** Julius Manrique – No news is good news

**Walking Group:** Anthony Butera - Walking group will start again in September 2023.

**Old Business:** Further discussion was held on the membership status of nonpaying members.

President Fernando will contact these members by E-Mail and notify them that they will be dropped at the August SIR Branch 144 meeting if no response from them by August 17, 2023.

**New Business:** Modesto Branch 103 has expressed a desire to merge with Modesto Branch 144. Big SIR Fernando, with a small delegation from Branch 144, will meet and confer with Big SIR delegation from Modesto Branch 103 and will report back to Branch 144 later. Possible merger by early 2024.

**Meeting adjourned by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at: 10:20 AM.**

**The time of the next BEC meeting will be at 10:00 AM, August 17, 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](mailto:bstires46@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:bstires46@gmail.com) to receive brochure.

////////////////////////////////////  
**This is a new trip from John Cardoza. He is the new Travel Chairman for Area 18, officially starting January 1, 2024.**

Email: [johncardoza@hotmail.com](mailto:johncardoza@hotmail.com)

Cell: 209-483-7722

OPEN HERE



SIR Cruise  
Brochure.pdf

**11 NIGHT INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE ABOARD THE CROWN PRINCESS.  
MAY 26- JUNE 6, 2024**



## DINING OUT CLUB

### 3 Evening Dining Out Clubs

#### 2nd Tuesday Evening Club:

**Tues. Aug. 8th—Outback Steakhouse**

**Tues. Sept 12th – To be determined!**

**For Reservations: Contact Kathy Norris at 209-596-0416**

#### 4th Tuesday Evening Club:

**Tues. Aug. 22nd– Tasty Thai**

**Tues. Sept. 26th – George's Steak Hse.**

**For Reservations: Contact Hall Eubank at: 209-649-4148**

#### 4th Thursday Evening Club:

**Thurs. Aug. 24th—George's Stk. House**

**Thurs. Sep. 28th –Outback Steakhouse**

**For Reservations: Contact Vince Sereno at: 209-524-9630**

#### From the book: "Library of Laughter"

*In early 2019, Logan, the owner of two lovebirds, sent for a veterinarian. "I'm worried about my birds," he announced. "They haven't gone potty all week." The doctor looked inside the cage and asked, "Do you always line this cage with maps of the United States?" "No," answered Logan. "I put that in last Saturday when I was out of newspapers." "That explains it!" replied the vet. "Lovebirds are sensitive creatures. They're holding back because they figure this country has taken all the crap it can stand."*

*Congressman Abraham Lincoln once attended a reception in his honor in Washington. Upon arriving, he placed his tall silk hat, open & up, on a chair in the corner of the hall. A lady, with a large physique & bountiful derriere, headed straight to the chair & sat down on the hat, crushing it badly. Lincoln rushed over . . . but too late. The damage had been done. The woman, taking the hat, thrust it into Lincoln's hands & said indignantly, "Here . . . is this yours?" "Yes, it is ma'am, but I wish you hadn't done that. I could have told you my hat would not fit you before you tried it on."*

*Did you hear about the sad case of the actor who fell off a ship passing a lighthouse? He drowned swimming in circles. He was trying to keep in the spotlight.*

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

<i>Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>
Fetzer	Bruce	08/19/56	67
Fallentine	Wayne	08/25/46	77
Watson	Bob	08/16/45	78
Martinez	Joe	08/19/41	82
Liebert	Merle	08/05/40	83
Griffin Jr.	John	08/13/39	84
Bernard	John	08/13/37	86
Hodge	Doug	08/18/36	87
Lawrence	Norm	08/06/36	87

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Name</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Deane	Cook	Sigrid	08/28/99	24
John	Choi	Misuk	08/15/90	33
Larry	Hockenberry	Bridget	08/12/87	36
Howard	Grieshaber	Theresa	08/08/76	47
Cal	Campbell	Marina	08/02/75	48
Keith	Rogers	Elaine	08/04/73	50
Bob	Watson	Flora	08/08/71	52
Chuck	Adams	Linda	08/10/63	60
Chuck	Shoup	Karen	08/18/62	61
Vince	Sereno	Kathy	08/26/61	62
Jerry	Miller	Kathy	08/10/57	66

## AUGUST INDUCTIONS

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>
Arnold	Fidalgo	08/19/21	2
Jerry	Miller	08/19/19	4
Jay	Norris	08/07/14	9
Howard	Grieshaber	08/04/11	12
Patton	Brooks	08/04/11	12
Keith	Rogers	08/05/10	13



## August 2023 Bowling Report

*SIR LEAGUE  
WILL START  
SEPTEMBER 5,  
WITH THE  
MEETING AT  
12:00. LEAGUE  
PLAY WILL  
START AFTER  
THE MEETING.*

**Come out for our hometown tournament.  
---- 2023 UPCOMING STATE TOURNAMENTS----**

**August 7-9 National Bowling Stadium, Reno  
Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727**

**August 23-24 Prosperity Lanes, Grass Valley  
Mark Nagafuchi 530-273-9717**

**September 11-13 Gold Dust West, Carson  
City, NV. Tim Hall 775-241-9080  
Dave Moore 510-825-2654**

**September 26 Bolero, Brentwood  
John Fry 925-783-5614**

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

**November 2-3 McHenry Bowl, Modesto  
Vern Masse 209-538-3640**

**Branch 144 Bowling Chairman:  
Bob Lewis 209-523-7387 [bobalew69@msn.com](mailto:bobalew69@msn.com)**

## August 2023 Golf News



**This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:**  
<https://sirinc2.org/area18golf/>

<b>MON. AUG. 7</b>	MANTECA	<b>COST: \$ 47.00</b>
HOST: 103-B	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CARTS: INCLUDED</b>
<b>MON. AUG. 14</b>	DRYDEN	<b>COST: \$ 47.00</b>
HOST: 103	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CARTS: PREPAID \$15</b>
<b>MON. AUG. 21</b>	ATWATER	<b>COST: \$ 49.00</b>
HOST: 143	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CARTS: INCLUDED</b>
<b>MON. AUG. 28</b>	CREEKSIDE	<b>COST: \$ 49.00</b>
HOST: 103	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CARTS: PREPAID \$15</b>
<b>TUE. SEPT 5</b>	DRYDEN	<b>COST: \$47.00</b>
HOST: 103	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CARTS: PREPAID \$15</b>

THE END OF YEAR TOURNAMENT WILL BE ON SEPT. 25 AT MANTECA. THE COST IS \$38.00 PER PLAYER, NO FREE GOLF. THE LUNCH IS FREE, AFTER GOLF. LET'S HAVE A GOOD TURNOUT. THERE WILL BE PRIZES. I WILL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY FROM AUG. 21 THRU SEPT. 10. FOR GOLF BUSINESS CALL ROGER SMITH OR JERRY STRAIN. SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON AUG. 17.

JAY NORRIS Br#144 GOLF CHAIRMAN  
[Sirgolfer144@gmail.com](mailto:Sirgolfer144@gmail.com)  
3328 VINE CLIFF WAY MODESTO, CA 95355 209-606-1475

### State Golf Tournament Information:

[Reno Tournament](#)  
[State Team Championship](#)  
**For more information go to:**  
[www.sirgolf.org](http://www.sirgolf.org)





**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	Pete Dutton
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	Wayne Fallentine	Wes Hall	Bob Watson
Kevin Prescott	Tom McNett	Merle Liebelt	Glen Carrington
David Yarbrough	Walt Masciorini	Cecil Brown	Hal DeArmond
Kent Faulkner	Chuck Gentry	Bryan Harrison	John Medrano

**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**

**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 209-573-0833  
AREA 18 REPRESENTATIVE.....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:** 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



Mr. Su has been a China expert, and news commentator for over 20 years serving NTD TV network and SOH radio network. His presentations in the past have covered a wide range of topics related to traditional Chinese culture, China's human rights, forced organ harvesting, economy and politics in China, Sino-US relation, COVID, and so on. He has given over 300 presentations to various groups in Northern California.

Nan Su currently is a senior investigative reporter at the Epoch Times, a newspaper published in 36 countries and in 21 languages.

Titled "China's Global Expansion, past and future", his most recent presentation covers the motives and strategy of China's recent escalating efforts on its global expansion, and answers questions such as "What does China's global expansion mean to Americans"?

**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: [May 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!**

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