

SIR INC. MODESTO BRANCH 144 THE ALMOND CAPITAL BULLETIN

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



September 2023 Newsletter

Volume 09-2023

Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez



I have been experimenting with Artificial Intelligence and asked it to write a reason for joining social organizations.

This was part of the reply, we could take some of the points and use them when we have an opportunity to invite men, we meet to join SIRS.

Retirement is a unique phase of life that should be embraced wholeheartedly. Joining social organizations designed for retired men can significantly enhance this phase by offering opportunities for social engagement, exploration of new interests, community service, mental and emotional well-being, physical health, travel, and a supportive network. As retirees step away from the professional world, these organizations provide a platform to build new connections, pursue passions, and lead a purposeful and fulfilling life. So, as the golden years unfold, consider joining a social organization – for it might just be the key to unlocking a retirement that is vibrant, meaningful, and truly golden.

I will continue to try and limit the lunch presentations to a time frame so that we end our lunches at 1:00 pm and I would also ask members to please keep their private conversations quiet during the presentations, it is becoming a distraction.

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144

NEW MEMBER



Blaine Duran was a Carpenter for James Roberts Obayashi. He likes Antique Cars, Baseball Day, Biking, Bowling, Crab Feed, Fishing, Football Day, Game Night, Golf, Hiking-Easy, Horseshoes, Pickleball, Pool-Billiards, Recreational Vehicles, Travel, Woodworking & Corn Hole. His Wife is Marta. His sponsor is his father, James Duran.

The speaker for September will be Laurie A. Smith Director: Parks, Recreation & Neighborhoods Dept. She will speak about the TRRP (Tuolumne River Regional Park) and Measure H Projects (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 September 17th. (Luncheon is September 21st). Thank you!

SIR INC
BRANCH 144 BEC MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:48 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, Jerry Strain.

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

Motion to approve minutes from July 20, 2023: MSP.

Treasurers Report:

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

Checkbook Balance as of July 1, 2023..... \$ 4,387.57

Total Receipts..... \$ 1,476.00

Disbursements..... \$ 1,554.55

Checkbook and cash as of July 31, 2023..... \$ 4,509.02

Motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report and the voucher requests for: 1 Bob Lewis in the amount of \$16.67, and 2 Branch 144 Caterer in the amount of \$1,538.30. MSP.

Membership Report:

Gaylan King gave the Membership Report as of August 17, 2023: 109 Active members, 5 Disabled members, 1 Pending Member, 135 Unused Badges, 250 Total Badges. A motion was made to drop the following members: Ron Quintanal, Scott Anderson, Cal Campbell, John Sai and Paul Moran. Glenn Davis and Vinnie Altadonna have resigned, vote from BEC required. July attendance: 52 attending, 1 guest, 57 absent. 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: Jerry Strain – Going well.

Travel: Bill Stires – Absent

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

Sunshine: Julius Manrique – Wes Hall fell. Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez will call.

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

Old Business: We still have 21 non-paying members, those with 8 misses will receive a letter. State board survey regarding women joining SIR branches: 86% **NO**. Item tabled. Branch auxiliary for women could be a possibility. More discussion is required in this regard. Result of joint meeting between Branch 103 and 144 on August 15, 2023 in-regard to a possible merger, decision was made to continue meeting jointly on a yearly basis for further discussion. Big SIR from each branch will attend meetings of the other branch.

New Business: Speaker this month will be speaking on topics relating to China and China's future impact on the United States of America as well as the rest of the world.

Meeting adjourned by big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at: 10:24 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be at 10:00 AM, September 21, 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

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.



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

Cell: 209-483-7722

OPEN HERE



SIR Cruise Brochure.pdf

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



OPEN HERE



Golden Gate Fields-2.pdf

From Lee Moy: Golden State Fields (9/25/2023 12PM)



DINING OUT CLUB

3 Evening Dining Out Clubs

2nd Tuesday Evening Club:

Tues. Sept 12th – George's Steakhouse

Tues. Oct. 10th— MIMI'S Cafe

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

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

Tues. Sept. 26th – George's Steakhouse.

Tues. Oct. 24th—La Parrilla/Oakdale Rd.

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

Thurs. Sep. 28th –Outback Steakhouse

Thurs. Oct. 26th—Mimi's Cafe

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

From the book: "Library of Laughter"

Golf Notes:

"Golf sure is a stupid game!" "You're absolutely right! I'm glad I don't have to play again until tomorrow."

GOLFER—One who can tote 25 pounds of equipment several miles but needs Junior to bring him the ash tray.

A stranger joined a threesome on a public course on the first tee. "What do you shoot?" they asked. "78!" he replied. On the first hole he got a seven. On the second hole he got a six. When they got to the twelfth hole, he picked up his ball and said, "So long, fellows, I got my 78!"

"That man cheats," cried Washburn as he entered the clubhouse. "He lost his ball in the rough and played another ball without losing a stroke." "How do you know he didn't find his ball?" asked a friend. "Because I've got it in my pocket."

Did you hear about the rich Texan who hired a full time caddy for his electric putting machine?

GOLFERS ANONYMOUS: When you get the urge to play golf, they send someone over to drink with you until the urge passes.

Jim and Ethel, married 23 years, were having a heated argument. "You're always talking about golf! Golf! Golf! she screeched. "You can't even remember what day we got married." "Sure I do, "yawned Jim, "it was the day after I sank that 30 foot putt on the 16th hole."

GOLF: A game in which a little white ball is chased by a lot of gaffers too old to chase anything else.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<i>Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>
Choi	John	09/01/61	62
Harris	Ron	09/03/58	65
Vietor	Gerald	09/13/56	67
Gonzalez	Fernando	09/25/46	77
Brown	Cecil	09/10/44	79
DeArmond	Hal	09/30/43	80
Brown	Ron	09/15/34	89
Masciorini	Walt	09/13/31	92
Hardison	Roy	09/05/29	94

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Name</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Griffin Jr.	John	Jean Marie	09/16/00	23
Yarbrough	David	Melba	09/10/77	46
Sheaffer	Chuck	Cherie	09/09/72	51
Sterling	Jim	Sue	09/05/64	59

SEPTEMBER INDUCTIONS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Martinez	Mike	09/15/22	1
Santillano	John	09/16/21	2
Abujen	Bob	09/16/21	2
Zabel	Larry	09/19/19	4
Bica	Daryl	09/05/13	10
Burchell	Bill	09/05/13	10
Brown	Ron	09/20/01	22
Lawrence	Norm	09/02/99	24
Hall	Wes	09/16/91	32
Conkey	Hal	09/23/90	33



September 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-----**

**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**

**Branch 144 Bowling Chairman:
Bob Lewis 209-523-7387 bobalew69@msn.com**



Nan Su(L) receives Letter of Appreciation from Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez for speaking at our August Luncheon

September 2023 Golf News



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

MON. SEPT. 11	SWENSON	COST: \$ 46.00/29.00
HOST: 103	8:00 AM	CARTS: PREPAID \$15
MON. SEPT. 18	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$54.00
HOST: 143	8:00 AM	CARTS: PREPAID \$20
MON. SEPT. 25	MANTECA	COST: \$38.00
HOST: ALL	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. OCT. 2	CASTLEOAKS	COST: \$49.00
HOST: 103	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. OCT. 9	DRYDEN	COST: \$52.00
HOST: 144	8:00 AM	CARTS: PREPAID \$20

THE COST OF CARTS AT CREEKSIDE AND DRYDEN ARE NOW \$20.00 PER RIDER. REMEMBER WHEN MAKING OUT YOUR CHECKS. THE YEAR END TOURNAMENT WILL BE AT MANTECA ON SEPT.25. THE COST IS \$38.00 PER PLAYER. **NO FREE GOLF**. I WILL BE AWAY FROM AUG. 21 UNTIL SEPT 10. SEE ROGER OR JERRY FOR GOLF ISSUES.

JAY NORRIS Br#144 GOLF CHAIRMAN
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



Make friends for life.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID DUES IN 2023:

Table with 4 columns and 20 rows listing member names: Chuck Adams, John Bernard, Tom Brawley, Patton Brooks, Anthony Butera, Bill Cardoza, Nilo Casiano, Gary Chalk, Deane Cook, Hall Eubank, Bernie Fairfield, Bruce Fetzer, Bill Burchell, Gary Hubbard, Mike Martinez, Keith Rogers, Gary Williams, Edd Santwier, Jerry Vietor, Kevin Prescott, David Yarbrough, Kent Faulkner, Fernando Gonzalez, Sam Graham, Howard Grieshaber, John Griffin Jr., Brad Hardison, Roy Hardison, Ron Harris, Larry Hockenberry, Doug Hodge, John Kincanon, Gaylan King, Norm Lawrence, Glenn Davis, Ed Jackson, Jerry Miller, Lor Salvi, Thomas Weiss, Fred Bistodeau, Wayne Fallentine, Tom McNett, Walt Masciorini, Chuck Gentry, Charlie Leffingwell, Julius Manrique, Vern Masse, Joe Miceli, Jeff Mountain, Jay Norris, Jack O'Brien, Ken Oehrlein, Ernie Pinkston, Richard Provost, Don Rovere, Randy Alford, John Gasper, Bob Lewis, Larry Parks, Jerry Strain, Andre Dodd, Leonard Davis, Wes Hall, Merle Liebelt, Cecil Brown, Bryan Harrison, Tony Salonga, John Santillano, Vince Sereno, Chuck Sheaffer, Chuck Shoup, Michael Slocum, Henry Solario, Gary Stroud, Jim Toepfer, Jim Walker, Bob Abujen, Pete Dutton, Jack Hawes, Ernie Lewis, Craig Persons, Gene Toschi, Jim Sterling, Arnold Fidalgo, Bob Watson, Glen Carrington, Hal DeArmond, 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

Bio of Laurie A. Smith:

Born in Bermuda; on an Air Force Base. My father served in the USAF for 27 years. High School in Bossier City, Louisiana. Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Cal State Long Beach. Employed by the City of Modesto since 1995 (28 years). Director of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhoods since 2018 (5 years).

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

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

Wes Hall is recovering from a fall.

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