

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 2023 Newsletter

Volume 12-2023

Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez



As this year winds down, I thank all of you for supporting my efforts and tolerating my clumsiness as I have tried to fill the role of Big Sir. I would especially like to thank the board for helping me understand the rules and protocols we need to follow as we conduct our board meetings.

As a branch we have been able to maintain our membership at an acceptable level as we have lost members and added a few new ones. As a branch we should be proud that we have been able to continue as a functioning branch. This is due to all your support in attending our lunches and accepting having to increase the cost of our lunches.

As the New Year approaches, I need your help in finding speakers for our lunch meetings. Please send me your ideas on what topics or who you think we should invite to speak. I will follow up on these suggestions and call anyone that you can suggest.

As we go through this year-end holidays it is an opportunity to invite anyone we meet to attend a lunch meeting and find out about our branch.

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144

NEW MEMBER



Pictured L-R: (Sp) Jay Norris, Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez, (NM) Dave Karlin.
He was a Quality Control Tech for New United Motors/ Tesla.
He enjoys Antique Cars and Golf.

SPECIAL DECEMBER LUNCHEON DATE:
The December Ladies Day Luncheon will be on the second Thursday: December 14.

\$24 dues are due in January. Please pay in January 2024 if possible. 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!

SIR INC
BRANCH 144 BEC MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:34 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, Vince Sereno, Jerry Strain, Andre Dodd, Absent: Anthony Butera.

GUESTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Julius Manrique, Gary Williams, Sam Graham, Richard Provost – Area 18 State Representative, Absent: Bill Burchell, Jay Norris and Ed Santwier.

Motion to approve minutes from October 19, 2023: MSP.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Checkbook Balance as of October 1, 2023.....	\$ 3,806.27
Total Receipts.....	\$ 1,435.00
Disbursements.....	\$ 1,621.31
Checkbook and cash as of October 31, 2023.....	\$ 3,819.96

Motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report and the voucher requests for: 1 Bob Lewis in the amount of \$18.69, and 2 Branch 144 Caterer in the amount of \$1,364.62. MSP.

Membership Report:

Gaylan King gave the Membership Report as of November 16, 2023: 110 Active members, 4 Disabled members, 0 Pending Member, 136 Unused Badges, 250 Total Badges. October attendance: 64 attending, 1 guest, 0 visitors, 57 absent. Discussion was held on what constitutes an "ACTIVE MEMBER" of Branch 144. A motion was made stating that: Any member who has paid his dues is to be considered an "ACTIVE MEMBER" of Branch, 144 regardless of his attendance record. MSP. A corrected membership report will be forthcoming. 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 – Proceeding well.

Golf: Jerry Strain – Going well. January 1 through January 31 is the pay period for 2024 golf dues.

Travel: No Report - However, current information is in the newsletter.

Dining: Vince Sereno - All groups are functioning well. Still looking for a new Thursday Director.

Sunshine: Julius Manrique – All seems to be well. Nothing to report.

Walking Group: Anthony Butera – Absent. No report.

Old Business: Reminder – Ladies Day will be December 14, 2023.

New Business: Discussion was held on the need to start collecting Branch 144 dues on January 1, 2024. Termination date is March 31, 2024.

Meeting adjourned by big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at: 10:23 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be at 10:45 AM, December 14, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Toepfer, Secretary.



SIR TRAVEL



JOHN CARDOZA – TRAVEL CHAIRMAN 209-483-7722 or email: johncardoza@hotmail.com

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

OPEN HERE (CONTROL + CLICK)



SIR Cruise
Brochure.pdf



SIR TRAVEL TRAIN

**Train Experience – Turlock to Reno February 1 – 2, 2024
\$110/person - Roundtrip (rates subject to change)**

OPEN HERE (DOUBLE CLICK)



Turlock SIR Train
.pdf



Deane Cook won the Birthday Drawing



November speaker Gina Innes receives a
Certificate of Appreciation from Big SIR
Fernando Gonzalez



DINING OUT CLUB

3 Evening Dining Out Clubs

2nd Tuesday Evening Club:

Tues. Dec. 12th— Christmas Party

Tues. January 16th--Note Date Change El

Rosal--Tully Road & Staniford Ave.

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

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

NO December Dinner Due to Holidays

Tues. Jan. 23rd – Johnny Carino's

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

NO December Dinner Due to Holidays

Thurs. Jan. 25th—Bella Italia

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

December Chuckles :

"12 Commandments for Seniors"

1. *Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.*
 2. *"In Style" are clothes that still fit.*
 3. *You don't need anger management. You just need people to stop ticking you off.*
 4. *Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.*
 5. *The biggest lie you tell yourself is, I don't need to write that down. I will remember it.*
 6. *"On time" is when you get there.*
 7. *Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound.*
 8. *It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?*
 9. *Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.*
 10. *Growing old should have taken longer.*
 11. *Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.*
 12. *You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.*
- . . . And one more: "One for the road" means a restroom stop before you leave the house.*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<i>Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>
Fred	Bistodeau	12/14/48	75
David	Yarbrough	12/03/46	77
Anthony	Butera	12/05/55	68
Pete	Dutton	12/23/35	88
Patton	Brooks	12/24/39	84



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Name</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Paul	Moran	Marie	12/28/84	39
Jerry	Strain	Merlyne	12/30/60	63





December 2023 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 9 October 31

Series: Jeff Chin 591

Jeff Chin 723

Game: David Brown 222

Steve Holly 254

Week 10 November 7

Series: Bob Abujen 629

Jerry Hott 702

Game: Bob Abujen 237

John Santillano 263

Week 11 November 14

Series: David Brown 602 Marv VanMiddendorp 696

Game: David Brown 225 Marv VanMiddendorp 265

Week 12 November 21

Series: Joe Miceli 594

Rick Wilcox 678

Game: Joe Miceli 224

Jerry Hott 273

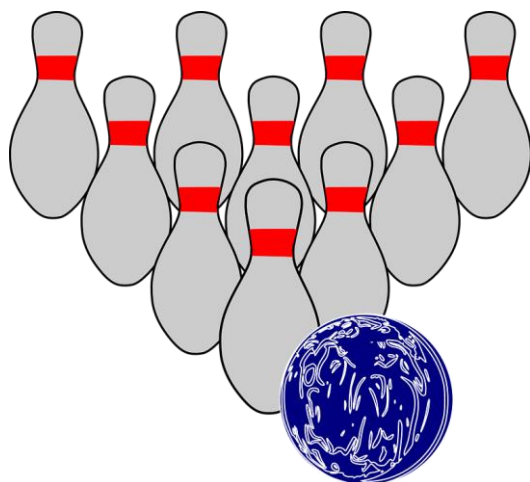
Come out for our hometown tournament.

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

There are no more tournaments in 2023. 2024 schedule to be determined. Will post when available.

Branch 144 Bowling Chairman:

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



December 2023 Golf News



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

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

MON. DEC. 4	ELKHORN	COST: \$48.00
HOST: 103	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. DEC. 11	DRYDEN	COST: \$52.00
HOST: 144	9:00 AM	CARTS: PREPAID \$20
TUE. JAN. 2	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$54.00
HOST: 103	9:00 AM	CARTS: PREPAID \$20
MON. JAN. 8	ELKHORN	COST: \$53.00
HOST: 144	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
TUE. JAN. 16	MANTECA	COST: \$49.00
HOST: 103-B	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED

IT'S TIME AGAIN TO RENEW NCGA DUES. THEY NEED TO BE PAID BY THE END OF THE YEAR. \$55.00 PAYABLE TO "SIR GOLF". NOTE THAT WE PLAY ON 2 TUESDAYS IN JANUARY. THE REST OF NEXT YEAR'S SCHEDULE WILL BE AT OUR JANUARY MEETING ON JANUARY 18. SEE YOU THERE.

JAY NORRIS Br#144 GOLF CHAIRMAN

Sirgolfer144@gmail.com

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





MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID DUES IN 2023:

John Choi	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
Hal Conkey	James Duran	Blaine Duran	Mike Martinez
Dave Karlin	Ron Brown		

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.

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 209-601-8204

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 209-222-1910

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:.....John Cardoza 209-483-7722
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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2024:

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

Directors: Anthony Butera, Andre Dodd, Gaylan King, Bob Lewis, Vince Sereno, and Jerry Strain.

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

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