

# SIR INC. MODESTO BRANCH 144 THE ALMOND CAPITAL BULLETIN

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



January 2024 Newsletter

Volume 01-2024

## **Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez**



I want to thank all the members of Branch 144 for your support in helping keep our branch healthy and active and especially for your patience and support in helping me to be a success as your Big SIR.

We ended the year with \$3706 in the bank plus \$200 cash in our treasury. The board has made successful efforts in managing our expenses. We started the year with \$5136 in the bank and though the year we had fewer members attend the luncheon than what we had contract to pay for usually we were short 4 to 5 people each month. Also, the luncheon charge was \$23 for the first half the year, which did not cover the sales tax. Now that we have adjusted the cost to \$25 and negotiate the minimum number of lunches that we have to pay for and adjusted down the number of active members that we report to the state SIR reducing our assessments charge, we should be able to keep our bank account healthy and maybe even grow it to match what we started January 2023 with in. My goal in explaining this is to keep our members aware of our financial status.

In this coming year let us continue to try and bring in new members and maybe help find companies willing to advertise in our newsletter for a small fee. Also, please help me find speakers for our lunches, just send me the names of people or businesses you think I should contact. Thank you.

*Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144*

## **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**



Hall Eubank(L) & Kathy Norris(R) receive a Certificate of Appreciation from Vince Sereno for taking charge of their respective days for Dining Club. (Kathy is Jay's wife)

Speaker for January is Arnold Chavez from the Great Valley Museum to present what is currently going on with the museum and future plans with it.

*Bill Stires is transferring from Branch 143 to Branch 144. Welcome Bill!*

**\$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**  
**DECEMBER 14, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 10:49 AM.

**A quorum was established with the following members present:**

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

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

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

Motion to approve minutes from November 16, 2023: MSP.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report for November 2023, was presented by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez:

Checkbook Balance as of November 1, 2023.....	\$3,619.96
Total Receipts.....	\$1,281.00
Disbursements.....	\$1,480.75
Checkbook and cash as of November 30, 2023.....	\$3,620.21

Motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report. MSP.

**Membership Report:**

Gaylan King gave the Membership Report as of December 14, 2023: 97 Active members, 0 Pending Member, 153 Unused Badges, 250 Total Badges. November 16 attendance: 64 attending, 0 guests, 0 visitors, 34 absent. Motion to accept the membership report: MSP.

**SHLM:** Julius Manrique: Deceased.

**STATE HLM:** Jerry Strain

**HLM:** Gary Williams and Sam Graham

**Committee Reports:** No reports presented.

**Bowling:** Bob Lewis

**Golf:** Jerry Strain

**Travel:** No Report

**Dining:** Vince Sereno

**Sunshine:** Edd Santwier

**Walking Group:** Anthony Butera

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

Meeting adjourned by big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at: 10:54 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be at 9:30 AM, January 18, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by: Jim Toepfer Secretary.



# SIR TRAVEL



JOHN CARDOZA – TRAVEL CHAIRMAN 209-483-7722 or email: [johncardoza@hotmail.com](mailto:johncardoza@hotmail.com)

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

**OPEN HERE (DOUBLE 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)**



Modesto Sir Train  
departure time.pdf



Turlock SIR Train  
\_1.pdf



## LADIES DAY PICTURES 2023





## DINING OUT CLUB

### 3 Evening Dining Out Clubs

#### **2nd Tuesday Evening Club**

**Tues. January 16th** (Note Date Change)

**El Rosal--Tully Road & Staniford Ave.**

**Tues. Feb. 13 Outback SteakHouse**

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

#### **4th Tuesday Evening Club:**

**Tues. Jan. 23rd – Johnny Carino's**

**Tues. Feb. 27th—** (See Feb. Newsletter)

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

#### **4th Thursday Evening Club:**

**Thurs. Jan. 25th—Bella Italia**

**Thurs. Feb. 22nd—Marcella's**

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

### **January Chuckles . . . . :**

#### ***"Absent Excuses, Parents to Teachers"***

*"These are real notes written by parents in the Grand Rapids public Schools."*

**Spelling has been left intact.**

1. My son is under a doctor's care & should not take PE today. Please execute him.
2. Please excuse Lisa for being absent she was sick and I had her shot.
3. Dear school: please excuse John being absent on Jan... 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.
4. Please excuse Gloria from Jim today. She is administrating.
5. Please excuse Roland from p.e. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.
6. John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
7. Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.
8. Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.
9. Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side.
10. Please excuse ray Friday from school... He has very loose vowels.
10. Please excuse tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea, and his boots leak.

***(To be Continued in February Newsletter.)***

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

<i>Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>
Blaine	Duran	01/17/61	63
John	Santillano	01/09/52	72
Jeff	Mountain	01/19/48	76
Mike	Martinez	01/31/39	85
Vince	Sereno	01/25/39	85
Don	Rovere	01/17/38	86
Larry	Parks	01/08/34	90
Bill	Burchell	01/10/34	90
Hal	Conkey	01/19/24	100

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Name</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Fred	Bistodeau	Barbara	01/27/85	39
Bill	Cardoza	Karen	01/18/75	49
Tom	Hollander	Shaarn	01/27/74	50
Edd	Santwier III	Sharon	01/09/65	59

## JANUARY INDUCTIONS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Persons	Craig	01/20/22	2
Sterling	Jim	01/16/20	4
Walker	Jim	01/16/20	4
Brown	Cecil	01/18/18	6
Irwin	Rick	01/19/17	7
Gentry	Chuck	01/17/16	8
Weiss	Thomas	01/06/11	13
Miceli	Joe	01/04/07	17
Lewis	Ernie	01/17/02	22
Salvi	Lor	01/18/01	23



## January 2024 Bowling Report

### High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

#### Scratch Games

#### Handicap Games

#### Week 13 November 28

Series: Bob Abujen 612    Ernie Lewis 682  
Game: Joe Miceli 266    Joe Miceli 284

#### Week 14 December 5

Series: Arnold Fidalgo 691    Arnold Fidalgo 760  
Game: Arnold Fidalgo 256    Arnold Fidalgo 279

#### Week 15 December 12

Series: Bob Lewis 581    Jerry Strain 729  
Game: Bob Lewis 222    Jerry Strain 277  
Joe Miceli 222

#### Week 16 December 19

Series: Joe Miceli 638    Joe Miceli 686  
Game: Joe Miceli 226    Joe Miceli 242

#### Week 17 December 26

Series: Bob Abujen 554    Tom Mickelsen 693  
Game: Bob Abujen 213    Tom Mickelsen 252

**Come out for our hometown tournament.**

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

**January 16-17 Napa Bowl, Napa**

**Dave Ellingson 707-637-3008**

**February 15-16 Country Club Lanes,  
Sacramento. Tod Davis 916-722-3575**

**Jim Smalling 916-501-2643**

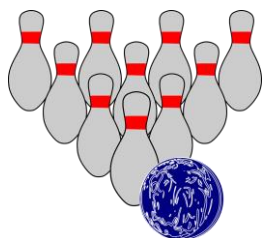
**March 6-7 Fireside Lanes, Citrus Heights**

**Art Tourtillot 916-635-6148**

**Ron Johnson 916-206-1483**

**Branch 144 Bowling Chairman:**

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



## January 2024 Golf News



**This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:**

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

<b>TUE. JAN. 2</b>	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$ 54.00
HOST: 103	9:00 AM	CARTS: OPTIONAL \$20
<b>MON. JAN. 8</b>	ELKHORN	COST: \$ 53.00
HOST: 103-B	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
<b>TUE. JAN. 16</b>	MANTECA	COST: \$49.00
HOST: 144	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
<b>MON. JAN. 22</b>	DRYDEN	COST: \$ 52.00
HOST: 103	9:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00
<b>MON. JAN. 29</b>	SWENSON	COST: \$49.00
HOST: 103-B	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED

HOPE EVERYONE HAD A GREAT CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. WE STILL HAVE A FEW PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED THEIR NCGA DUE'S FOR 2024. JUST \$55.00 FOR THE YEAR. THE 2024 GOLF SCHEDULE IS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE. TAKE A LOOK AND SIGN UP.

JAY NORRIS Br#144 GOLF CHAIRMAN

[Sirgolfer144@gmail.com](mailto:Sirgolfer144@gmail.com)

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



# LADIES DAY PICTURES 2023



## 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  
2023 Fernando Gonzalez



## 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 .....Dale Decker 209-573-0833  
STATE VICE PRESIDENT OF SIR Inc ...Stu Williams 510-865-5000  
AREA 18 REPRESENTATIVE.....Open

### 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:** Fernando Gonzalez 415-420-2440  
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  
**Nominating Committee Chairman:** Gary Williams 209-578-3471  
**Members:** 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](http://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) know. Thanks!

Julius Manrique passed away. RIP Julius.

Bryan Harrison passed away. RIP Bryan.

Richard Provost passed away. RIP Richard.

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