

# SIR INC. MODESTO BRANCH 144 THE ALMOND CAPITAL BULLETIN

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



February 2024 Newsletter

Volume 02-2024

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



I want to make some observations about men's friendships. These friendships go against rigid stereotypes and conventional expectations. They transcend barriers of age, race, culture, and background, thriving on the foundation of mutual respect and acceptance as we share in SIR. In a society that often emphasizes competition and individualism, our friendships remind us of the profound power of connection and solidarity.

In a world often fixated on individual achievements and competition, the significance of genuine male friendships cannot be overstated. While society portrays us men as stoic or emotionally distant, the truth is that the bonds we share can be profound, enriching, and transformative.

One of the main features of men's friendships is their unwavering loyalty. Through the highs and lows of life, friends stand by each other, offering a listening ear, a comforting presence, or a helping hand. We celebrate triumphs together and provide solace during moments of despair. In a world that often demands stoicism, our friendships offer a safe space for emotional authenticity and vulnerability.

As we celebrate the bonds of our SIR friendships, it is crucial to recognize the importance of nurturing and cherishing these relationships. In a fast-paced world dominated by technology and superficial connections, we must prioritize the cultivation of authentic and meaningful bonds. We do this by being active members of SIR and attending our regular lunches and activities and our heartfelt conversations on these occasions, we deepen our connections and forge enduring friendships that enrich our lives immeasurably.

Thank you for being a friend.

*Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144*

## **100 YEARS YOUNG**



**HAL CONKEY TURNS 100 YEARS YOUNG!**

**Speaker for February is Ron Ramont, Unit Leader, Commemorative Air Force Central California Valley Squadron. He will be discussing the organization and its goals.**

**\$24 dues are due. Please pay as soon as 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!**

**REMEMBER, if you cannot attend the luncheon, please call *Gaylan King* at 209-380-9896 by Sunday February 11. (Luncheon is February 15). Thank you!**

**SIR INC**  
**BRANCH 144 BEC MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 15, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:36 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, Jerry Strain, Andre Dodd. Absent: Anthony Butera, Vince Sereno.

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

Motion to approve minutes from December 18, 2023: MSP.

**Treasurer's Report:**

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

Checkbook Balance as of December 1, 2023.....	\$ 3,420.21
Total Receipts.....	\$ 1,950.00
Disbursements.....	\$ 1,925.00
Checkbook and cash as of December 31, 2023.....	\$ 3,645.21

Motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report and voucher requests for Bob Lewis in the amount of \$35.94, and for Branch 144 state assessment in the amount of \$242.50 for ninety-seven members. MSP.

**Membership Report:**

Gaylan King: Hold till February. December 18 attendance: 64 attending, 0 guests, 0 visitors, 34 absent.

Motion to accept the membership report: MSP.

**STATE HLM:** Jerry Strain

**HLM:** Gary Williams and Sam Graham

**Committee Reports:**

**Bowling:** Bob Lewis – All in good order.

**Golf:** Jerry Strain – Going well.

**Travel:** John Cardoza – Pending cruises coming for Alaska and Panama Canal. Stay tuned.

**Dining:** Vince Sereno – Absent.

Sunshine: Edd Santwier – Absent.

Walking Group: Anthony Butera – Absent.

Old Business: Still some confusion on actual number of Branch 144 SIR membership. Treasurer John Santillano has submitted ninety-seven members for the purpose of state assessment. Membership correction will be forthcoming.

**New Business:** The passing of Area State Representative Richard Provost was noted. The search is underway for his replacement. A fifty-dollar donation will be made in Julius Manrique's name to the Boy Scouts of America. A discussion was held about the necessity of printing thirty new membership rosters for Branch 144. MSP. A celebration was held for SIR member Hal Conkey's one hundredth birthday. Hal turned 100 on January 19, 2024. We wish him many more.

Meeting adjourned by big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at: 10:01 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be at 9:30 AM, February 15, 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



## 16 NIGHT PANAMA CANAL CRUISE ABOARD THE CORAL PRINCESS. SAILING FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO FT. LAUDERDALE JANUARY 20- FEBRUARY 5, 2025

**OPEN HERE (DOUBLE CLICK)**



SIR Panama Canal  
Cruise.pdf



Larry Parks won the January birthday drawing.



Pictured L-R January speaker Arnold Chavez and Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez.





## DINING OUT CLUB

### 3 Evening Dining Out Clubs

#### 2nd Tuesday Evening Club

**Tues. Feb. 13 Outback SteakHouse**

**Tues. March 12th – MIMI'S Cafe**

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

#### 4th Tuesday Evening Club:

**Tues. Feb. 27th— SKEWER'S KABOB**

**Tues. Mar. 26th – Outback Steakhouse)**

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

#### 4th Thursday Evening Club:

**Thurs. Feb. 22nd—Marcella's**

**Thurs. Mar. 28th—Red Lobster**

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

#### January Chuckles Continued. . .

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

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

#### Spelling has been left intact.

11. *Irving was absent yesterday because he missed his bust.*

12. *Please excuse jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.*

13. *I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wear.*

14. *Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday. We thought it was Sunday.*

15. *Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.*

16. *My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent a weekend with the marines.*

17. *Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.*

18. *Please excuse Mary for being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps.*

19. *Gloria was absent yesterday as she was having a gangover.*

20. *Please excuse Brenda. She has been sick and under the doctor.*

21. *Maryann was absent December 11 – 16, because she had a fever, sorethroat, headache and upset stomach. Her sister was also sick, fever an sore throat, her brother had a low grade fever and ached all over. I wasn't the best either, sore throat and fever... There must be something going around, her father even got hot last night.*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<i>Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>
Chuck	Gentry	02/14/54	70
Michael	Slocum	02/19/53	71
Glenn	Carrington	02/13/52	72
Keith	Rogers	02/22/49	75
Craig	Persons	02/23/45	79
John	Medrano	02/18/44	80
Larry	Hockenberry	02/11/43	81
Kent	Faulkner	02/18/42	82
John	Kincanon	02/06/39	85
Jerry	Miller	02/09/37	87
Henry	Solario	02/07/32	92

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Name</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Jim	Duran	Anita	02/14/10	14
Arnold	Fidalgo	Terri	02/14/04	20
Hal	DeArmond	Jan	02/16/91	33
Lor	Salvi	Helen	02/12/76	48
Jim	Walker	Joyce	02/27/70	54
James	Persons	Martha	02/28/68	56
Hal	Conkey	Lucile	02/11/66	58
Gary	Hubbard	Virginia	02/06/65	59
Doug	Hodge	Margaret	02/02/62	62

## FEBRUARY INDUCTIONS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Kevin	Prescott	02/17/22	2
Thomas	Brawley	02/17/22	2
Tom	McNett	02/15/18	6
Jim	Toepfer	02/15/18	6
Bruce	Fetzer	02/15/18	6
Glenn	Carrington	02/04/16	8
Ron	Harris	02/06/14	10
Gary	Hubbard	02/07/13	11
Kent	Faulkner	02/07/13	11
Jeff	Mountain	02/01/07	17
Jack	Hawes	02/02/06	18



## February 2024 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

### Week 18 January 2

Series: Al Sterling 604      Al Sterling 697

Game: Al Sterling 255      Al Sterling 286

### Week 19 January 9

Series: David Brown 608      Joe Bradley 703

Game: David Brown 237      David Brown 252

### Week 20 January 16

Series: David Brown 658      David Brown 700

Game: David Brown 239      David Brown 253

### Week 21 January 23

Series: Bob Abujen 619      Bill Dague 731

Game: Bob Abujen 231      Bill Dague 272

### Week 22 January 30

Series: Bob Abujen 579      Don Reed 714

Game: Steve Gibson 211      Steve Gibson 247  
Jerry Hott 247

Come out for our hometown tournament.

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

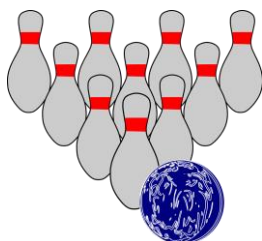
February 15-16 Country Club Lanes,  
Sacramento. Tod Davis 916-722-3575  
Jim Smalling 916-501-2643

March 6-7 Fireside Lanes, Citrus Heights  
Art Tourtillot 916-635-6148  
Ron Johnson 916-206-1483

March 19-20 Clayton Valley Bowl, Concord  
Mike Kropf 925-689-1453

Branch 144 Bowling Chairman:

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



## February 2024 Golf News



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

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

MON. FEB. 5	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$ 54.00
HOST: 144	9:00 AM	CARTS: OPTIONAL \$20
MON.FEB. 12	ATWATER	COST: \$ 54.00
HOST: 103	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
TUE. FEB. 20	DRYDEN	COST: \$52.00
HOST: 103-B	9:00 AM	CARTS: OPTIONAL\$20
MON. FEB. 26	MANTECA	COST: \$ 49.00
HOST: 144	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. MAR. 4	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$54.00
HOST: 103	9:00 AM	CARTS: OPTIONAL\$20

NOT TOO MUCH GOING ON AT THIS TIME. WE STILL NEED MORE PLAYER'S ON MONDAY. THE WEATHER IS IMPROVING, SO COME OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN. SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON FEB. 15<sup>TH</sup>.

JAY NORRIS Br#144 GOLF CHAIRMAN

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

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





*Make friends for life.*

## MEMBERS WHO PAID DUES IN 2024:

Abujen	Bob
Bistodeau	Fred
Brawley	Tom
Brooks	Patton
Brown	Cecil
Butera	Anthony
Chalk	Gary
Conkey	Hal
Cook	Deane
Dodd	Andre
Duran	Jim
Dutton	Pete
Eubank	Hall
Fetzer	Bruce
Fidalgo	Arnold
Gentry	Chuck
Gonzalez	Fernando
Graham	Sam
Grieshaber	Howard

Hardison	Brad
Hardison	Roy
Hawes	Jack
Jackson	Ed
Kincanon	John
King	Gaylan
Lawrence	Norm
Leffingwell	Charlie
Lewis	Bob
Lewis	Ernie
Martinez	Mike
Masse	Vern
Miceli	Joe
Miller	Jerry
Mountain	Jeff
Norris	Jay
Persons	Craig
Pinkston	Ernie
Rogers	Keith

Rovere	Don
Salonga	Tony
Salvi	Lor
Santillano	John
Sheaffer	Chuck
Shoup	Chuck
Slocum	Michael
Sterling	Jim
Stires	Bill
Strain	Jerry
Stroud	Gary
Toepfer	Jim
Toschi	Gene
Walker	Jim
Weiss	Thomas
Williams	Gary
Yarbrough	David

### 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  
2023 Fernando Gonzalez



## Modesto Branch 144 Officers

### OFFICERS FOR 2024

**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 2024

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 2024

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!

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