

# 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 2024 Newsletter

Volume 09-2024

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



We have discussed having women join our Branch and have unanimously voted no. I wanted to understand why we may feel that way and there are

a variety of reasons.

One reason is tradition and cultural norms. Our group was established when social norms were more rigidly divided by gender, this tradition has continued in our branch.

Another reason is comfort and camaraderie, we all feel more comfortable discussing personal and sensitive topics with other men. Our branch is a space where we can connect over shared experiences, many of which are gender specific.

Another reason is our branch is centered around activities or interests that are traditionally male dominated and it preserves the focus and dynamic of the group activities.

Another reason many of us feel more at ease discussing personal challenges, health issues or other topics in a man only group. We feel less pressure to conform to social expectations around mixed gender interactions.

Another reason is that changing the branch's composition would alter the group's dynamics and we are used to the status quo.

And the last reason is that we have grown accustomed to socializing in male only environment especially since we have been men only for such a long time. And we prefer familiarity and continuity of the environment of our branch.

*Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144*

### **BIRTHDAY WINNER**



Bruce Fetzer(L) won the Birthday Drawing

The Speakers will be Jose Michel and Gina Innes from the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency. The presentation will be about the Local Aging and Disability Action Plan program. The presentation will be an overview of the program and review the county's goal to become more age and disability friendly.

**REMEMBER, if you cannot attend the luncheon, please call *Gaylan King* at 209-380-9896 by Sunday September 15. (Luncheon is September 19). Thank you!**

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

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:30 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 – dropped on 8-15-2024.

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

**GUESTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Gary Williams, Sam Graham. Absent: John Cardoza, Edd Santwier.

Motion to approve minutes from July 18, 2024. MSP.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report for July 2024, was presented by Treasurer John Santillano:

Checkbook Balance as of July 1, 2024.....	\$3,916.16
Total Receipts.....	\$1,293.00
Disbursements.....	\$1,609.27
Checkbook and cash as of July 31, 2024.....	\$3,789.99

A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report and a voucher request for: Bob Lewis in the amount of \$14.99. MSP.

**Membership Report:**

Gaylan King gave the membership report as of August 15, 2024: Active members 83, Pending members 0, Unused badges 167, Total badges 250. Members dropped as of August 15, 2024: Ron Brown, Ron Harris, Walter Masciorini, Ken Oehrlein, Jack O'Brien, and Bob Watson. MSP.

**STATE HLM:** Jerry Strain

**HLM:** Gary Williams and Sam Graham

**Committee Reports:**

**Bowling:** Bob Lewis – New season starts on September 3, 2024.

**Golf:** Jerry Strain – Going well.

**Travel:** John Cardoza – Absent. However, there is a pending cruise coming for Panama Canal in January of 2025. Stay tuned.

**Dining:** Vince Sereno – Proceeding as usual.

**Sunshine:** Edd Santwier – Absent.

**Walking Group:** Anthony Butera – The walking group will resume on September 21, 2024.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Most local Branches of SIR oppose the need for a name and organizational change as suggested by the state. A vote by total state branches has been suggested.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Advertising for SIR is at a dead end. The BEC of Branch 144 has voted for Anthony Becera to fill the position of Area Representative. Anthony has accepted.

Meeting adjourned by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:59 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be 9:30 AM, September 19, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by: Secretary Jim Toepfer.



# SIR TRAVEL



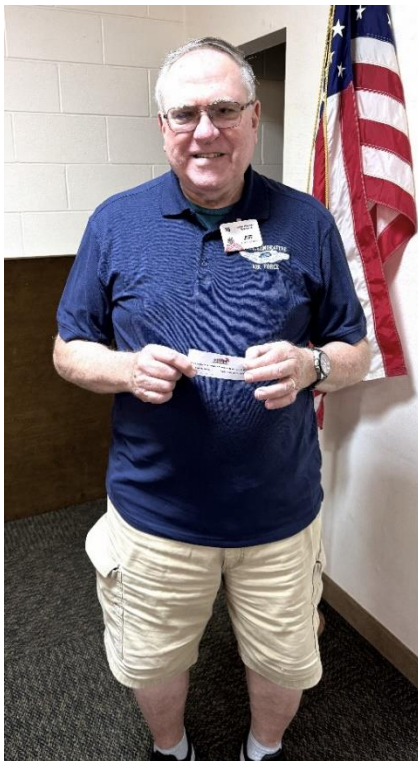
JOHN CARDOZA – TRAVEL CHAIRMAN 209-483-7722 or email: [johncardoza@hotmail.com](mailto:johncardoza@hotmail.com)

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

### CONTROL + CLICK TO OPEN [SIR Panama Canal Cruise](#)

There is a married SIR from Turlock that would like to find someone to share a cabin for the cruise. He really wants to go but his wife doesn't have any interest. Contact John Cardoza. Thank you.

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**Also, Reno Snow Train which we are planning on leaving Turlock & Modesto on Thursday the 9th of January and returning Friday the 10th of January 2025.**  
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Jeff Mountain won the Luncheon Drawing



August speaker Denise Skidmore receives Certificate of Appreciation from Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez



## DINING OUT CLUB

### 3 Evening Dining Out Clubs

#### 2nd Tuesday Evening Club

**Tues. Sept. 10th – Skewers**

**Tues. Oct. 8th – JAVI'S MEXICAN**

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

#### 4th Tuesday Evening Club:

**Tues. Sept. 24th—George's Steakhouse.**

**Tues. Oct. 22nd – TO BE DETERMINED**

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

#### 4th Thursday Evening Club:

**Thurs. Sept. 26th—Carino's Italian**

**Thurs. Oct. 24th – MIMI'S CAFE**

*For Reservations: Contact Vince Sereno at: 209-524-9630, or Cell at: 209-552-1539*

#### A Retiree's Last Trip to Kroger's

Yesterday I was at my local Kroger buying a large bag of Purina dog chow for my loyal pet, Jake the Wonder Dog, and was in the check-out line when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog.

*What did she think I had, an elephant?*

So because I'm retired and have little to do, on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Purina Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms. I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way that it works is, to load your pants pockets with Purina Nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete, so it works well, and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.) Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care, because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stopped to Pee on a Fire Hydrant and a car hit me.

I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard.

*Kroger won't let me shop there anymore!* Better watch what you ask retired people. They have all the time in the World to think of crazy things to say!

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Name		Date	Years
Vietor	Gerry	09/13/56	68
Walker	Jim	09/23/48	76
Gonzalez	Fernando	09/25/46	78
Brown	Cecil	09/10/44	80
DeArmond	Hal	09/30/43	81
Hardison	Roy	09/05/29	95

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name		Spouse	Date	Years
David	Yarbrough	Melba	09/10/77	47
Chuck	Sheaffer	Cherie	09/09/72	52
Jim	Sterling	Sue	09/05/64	60

## SEPTEMBER INDUCTIONS

Name		Date	Years
Mike	Martinez	09/15/22	2
John	Santillano	09/16/21	3
Bob	Abujen	09/16/21	3
Bill	Burchell	09/05/13	11
Norm	Lawrence	09/02/99	25
Hal	Conkey	09/23/90	34

***CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL  
BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY,  
AND INDUCTION MEMBERS!***

## September 2024 Bowling Report

*THE SIR LEAGUE  
STARTED  
SEPTEMBER 3RD.  
THERE'S STILL TIME  
TO JOIN IF YOU  
WANT TO BOWL. 1:00  
PM TUESDAYS AT  
MCHENRY BOWL.*

**Come out for our hometown tournament.**

**----- 2024 UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS-----**

**September 9-10 Home Grown Bowl,  
Carson City, NV  
Dave Moore 510-825-2654**

**October 15 Bolero Brentwood, Brentwood  
Ron Wilson 925-354-6647  
Keith Jones 925-628-9577**

**November 7-8 McHenry Bowl, Modesto  
Vern Masse 209-538-3640**

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

**Ad for Anthony Butera:**



**Anthony Butera**  
Regional Vice-President at  
Primerica Financial Services



## September 2024 Golf News



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

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

<b>MON. SEPT. 9</b>	SWENSON	COST: <b>\$49.00</b>
HOST: 103-A	<b>8:00 AM</b>	CARTS: <b>INCLUDED</b>
<b>MON. SEPT.16</b>	DRYDEN	COST: <b>\$54.00</b>
HOST: 103-A	<b>8:00 AM</b>	CARTS: <b>OPTIONAL</b>
<b>MON. SEPT.23</b>	MANTECA	COST: <b>\$40.00</b>
HOST: ALL	<b>8:00 AM</b>	CARTS: <b>INCLUDED</b>
<b>MON. SEPT.30</b>	CREEKSIDE	COST: <b>\$56.00/\$29.00</b>
HOST: 144	<b>8:00 AM</b>	CARTS: <b>OPTIONAL \$20</b>
<b>MON. OCT. 7</b>	CASTLE OAKS	COST: <b>\$58.00</b>
HOST: 103A	<b>8:00 AM</b>	CARTS: <b>INCLUDED</b>

THE END OF YEAR TOURNAMENT WILL BE AT MANTECA ON SEPT. 23. LET'S HAVE A GOOD TURN-OUT. I NEED A HEAD COUNT BY SEPT. 16, FOR THOSE PLAYING. NEW BUSINESS: STARTING OCT. 1, THERE WILL BE A \$5.00 CHARGE FOR ANYONE NOT PAYING AT THE MEETINGS. THIS SHOULD HELP TO GET MORE PEOPLE TO THE MEETINGS.

JAY NORRIS BRANCH 144 GOLF CHAIRMAN  
3328 VINE CLIFF WAY MODESTO, CA 95355  
209-606-1475

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



## 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
Cardoza	Bill
Davis	Leonard
Hubbard	Gary
Medrano	John
Solario	Henry
Bernard	John
DeArmond	Hal

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
Carrington	Glenn
Fallentine	Wayne
Hockenberry	Larry
Parks	Larry
Sereno	Vince
McNett	Tom
Bennett	Thomas

Rovere	Don
Salonga	Tony
Salvi	Lor
Santillano	John
Sheaffer	Chuck
Shoup	Chuck
Slocum	Michael
Sterling	Jim
Stires	Bill
Strain	Jerry
Stroud	Gary
Toepfer	Jim
Alford	Randy
Walker	Jim
Weiss	Thomas
Williams	Gary
Yarbrough	David
Santwier	Edd
Burchell	Bill
Casiano	Nilo
Faulkner	Kent
Karlin	Dave
Prescott	Kevin
Vietor	Gerald
Miller	Brian

## 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:**.....Open  
**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 ...Lee Lamp 530-921-1375  
AREA 18 REPRESENTATIVE.....Rick Kindle 209-652-8608

### 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:**....Charlie Leffingwell 209-543-2107  
**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 2025:**

Big Sir: Fernando Gonzalez, Little SIR/Treasurer: John Santillano,  
Secretary: Jim Toepfer, 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: [SIR Happenings August 2024](#)**

**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**