

SIR INC. MODESTO BRANCH 144

THE ALMOND CAPITAL BULLETIN

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



November 2024 Newsletter

Volume 11-2024

Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez



I know I keep mentioning at our luncheons the importance of attracting new members to join SIR. The positive point of belonging to SIR is that it helps prevent social isolation due to work related social networks or friends moving away or passing on. It helps with finding fulfilling activities to stay engaged and maintain a sense of purpose.

Being a member of SIR helps with avoiding depression or anxiety which helps significantly impact quality of life. What we do not address or discuss is Financial Security dealing with sufficient savings or unexpected healthcare costs.

So, this is an area where I am going to try and find a speaker to discuss this issue. Also housing and living arrangements, deciding whether to age in place. Move to a retirement community or consider assisted living arrangements. This is another area where I will try and find speakers in the future to discuss at our luncheons.

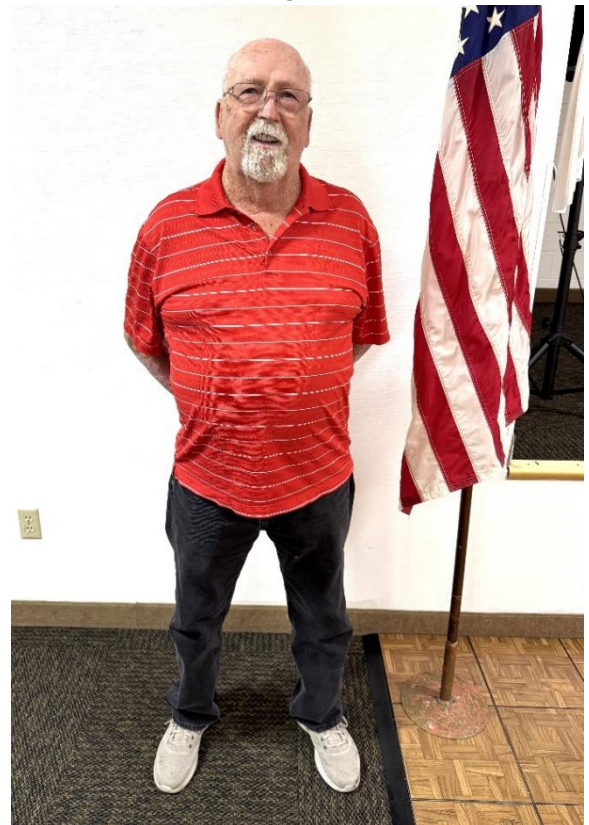
Also, we are all dealing with family dynamics such as dealing with adult children and grandchildren and navigating changing family roles. And finally dealing with legal and estate planning, ensuring wills, powers of attorney and healthcare directives.

Again, I will be seeking speakers to discuss this area. And in the coming year I will also try and find speakers that present more enjoyable topics that do not deal with just aging. Again, I thank you for your support and open to suggestions for future speakers.

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144

[Information for Ladies Day on page 8](#)

BIRTHDAY WINNER



Jerry Strain won the Birthday Drawing

Speaker for November is: Victoria Anago, President, Life Care Coalition will present The LCCO Foster Family Agency which is a branch of the organization's social service programs. The LCCO Foster Family Agency program seeks to provide each child under its stewardship with high quality care in the home with the family they are matched with.

REMEMBER, if you cannot attend the luncheon, please call *Gaylan King* at 209-380-9896 by Sunday November 17. (Luncheon is November 21). Thank you!

SIR INC
BRANCH 144 BEC MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:35 AM.

A quorum was established with the following members present:

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

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

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

Motion to approve minutes from September 19, 2024. MSP.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report for September 2024 was presented by treasurer John Santillano:

Checkbook Balance as of September 1, 2024.....	\$ 3,494.70
Total Receipt.....	\$ 1,382.00
Disbursements.....	\$ 1,387.82
Checkbook and cash as of September 30, 2024.....	\$ 3,688.88

A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report and a voucher request for: Bob Lewis in the amount of \$10.49. MSP.

Membership Report:

Gaylan King gave the membership report as of October 17, 2024: Active members 77, Pending members 0, Unused badges 173, Total badges 250. A motion was made to accept the membership report. MSP.

STATE HLM: Jerry Strain

HLM: Gary Williams and Sam Graham

Committee Reports:

Bowling: Bob Lewis – Going well as usual.

Golf: Jerry Strain – Going well.

Travel: John Cardoza – Absent. Pending cruise coming for Panama Canal in January of 2025. Stay tuned.

Dining: Vince Sereno – Proceeding as usual. Two groups will finish for the year this month. They will restart in January of 2025.

Sunshine: Edd Santwier – Absent. No report.

Walking Group: Anthony Butera – We are “up and running” again at East La Loma Park in Modesto.

OLD BUSINESS: Big SIR Fernando reported on the annual meeting held in Lafayette, Ca. As a Branch, we need to present ourselves to our community and we need to develop a plan for this. There is a big problem with declining enrollment over all branches. Anthony Butera – Area Representative – suggested the possibility of forming a women's auxiliary branch for 144. More discussion to follow. The speaker for November 21, 2024, will be from the City Council.

NEW BUSINESS: Ladies' day luncheon in December will be the same as last year. Meal choice will be: Prime Rib or Chicken. Bring your own wine if you like. Price is \$25.00 per meal. Pay by 11-21-2024 or mail in now. Bob Lewis will be sending an E-Mail to all members.

Meeting adjourned by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 10:06 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be 9:30 AM, November 21, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by: Jim Toepfer Secretary.



SIR TRAVEL



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

Modesto SIR Branch #103 & #144 Train Experience – Turlock to Reno January 9 – 10, 2025

CONTROL + CLICK TO OPEN
[TRAIN TO RENO](#)

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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](#)

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Bob Lewis won the Luncheon Drawing



CHP Officer Tom Olsen receives Certificate of Appreciation from Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez



DINING OUT CLUB

3 Evening Dining Out Clubs

2nd Tuesday Evening Club

Tues. Nov 12th – Olive Garden

Tues. Dec. 10th – Christmas Party at the Norris's

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

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

Nov. & Dec. -- "No Dinner Meetings!"

January 28, 2025 – Outback Steakhouse

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

Nov. & Dec. -- "No Dinner Meetings!"

January 23rd – Bella Italia

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

A SENIOR MOMENT!

Two elderly folks at Trailer Estates—he a widower, she a widow—had known each other for years. One evening, at a big community supper, they found themselves sitting across from each other, making small talk. Between bites of mashed potatoes, he kept sneaking admiring glances at her, his heart racing like a teenager at a prom. Finally, he mustered the courage to ask, "Will you marry me?"

She paused for a dramatic six seconds, probably weighing the pros and cons, and then with a smile, said, "Yes! Yes I will."

The rest of the meal went by pleasantly, and they eventually headed back to their respective trailers, happy with their evening.

The next morning, though, panic set in. The poor guy couldn't remember if she had said "yes" or "no"! He wracked his brain, but it was like trying to recall where he put his glasses—hopeless. Feeling nervous, he picked up the phone and dialed her number.

"Uh, hi there...I've got a bit of confession," he started. "I don't remember things as well as I used to, and I was wondering... uh, when I asked you to marry me last night, did you say 'yes' or 'no'?"

To his absolute relief, she replied, "Oh, I said 'yes,' dear! I meant it with all my heart."

Then, after a brief pause, she added, "And I'm so glad you called because I couldn't remember who had asked me!"

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Name		Date	Years
Bennett	Thomas	11/25/48	76
Stires	Bill	11/30/46	78
Jackson	Ed	11/12/44	80
Salonga	Tony	11/21/40	84
Sterling	Jim	11/09/39	85
Chalk	Gary	11/21/39	85
Cook	Deane	11/04/38	86
Toepfer	Jim	11/01/37	87
Williams	Gary	11/09/36	88

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name		Spouse	Date	Years
Gaylan	King	Cathey	11/18/00	24
Randy	Alford	Suzanne	11/24/87	37
Norm	Lawrence	Janet	11/30/55	69

NOVEMBER INDUCTIONS

Name		Date	Years
Karlin	Dave	11/16/23	1
Butera	Anthony	11/16/17	7
Chalk	Gary	11/17/16	8
Eubank	Hall	11/17/16	8
Graham	Sam	11/06/08	16

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

November 2024 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games Handicap Games

Week 5 October 1

Series: Bob Abujen 652 Joe Bradley 690
Game: Bob Abujen 233 Joe Bradley 257

Week 6 October 8

Series: David Brown 629 David Brown 710
Game: Arnold Fidalgo 249 David Brown 275

Week 7 October 15

Series: Arnold Fidalgo 644 Arnold Fidalgo 689
Game: Bob Abujen 222 Jerry Strain 259

Week 8 October 22

Series: Bob Abujen 654 David Brown 670
Game: Bob Abujen 258 David Brown 267

Week 9 October 29

Series: Arnold Fidalgo 611 Arnold Fidalgo 644
Game: Bob Abujen 248 Bob Abujen 249

Come out for our hometown tournament.

---- 2024 UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS----

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

Branch 144 Bowling Chairman:

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

Ad for Anthony Butera:



Anthony Butera

Regional Vice-President at
Primerica Financial Services



November 2024 Golf News



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

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

MON. NOV. 11	DRYDEN	COST: \$54/29.00
HOST: 144	9:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00
MON. NOV. 18	SWENSON	COST: \$49.00
HOST: 103A	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. NOV. 25	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$56/29.00
HOST: 103A	9:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00
MON. DEC. 2	MANTECA	COST: \$49.00
HOST: 144	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. DEC. 9	DRYDEN	COST: \$54/29.00
HOST: 103A	9:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR TO RENEW YOUR NCGA DUES. RENEWAL & NEW MEMBER IS \$55.00. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SIR GOLF. **TEE TIME FOR MANTECA WILL BE 8:00 AM.** **IF YOU CAN'T MAKE A TOURNAMENT, REMEMBER TO CALL AND CANCEL. THERE WILL BE A \$9.00 CHARGE IF YOU DON'T CALL.**

JAY NORRIS GOLF CHAIR BR# 144
3328 VINE CLIFF WAY MODESTO,
CA 95355

Sirgolfer144@gmail.com 209-606-1475



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 IncRich Carlston 925-324-0838
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

Please respond ASAP.

Ladies Day is December 19th. Tickets are \$25 per person. The choices of entrée are Prime Rib or Chicken. Meal will be served. You can bring your own wine if you care to. You may bring your payment to the November 21st luncheon. You may also mail a check to “**SIR**” at **2509 Portofino Drive Modesto, CA 95356**.

Please enclose your choice of entrée with your check.

Please visit our website at 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