

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 2024 Newsletter

Volume 12-2024

Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez



At the board meeting on November 21 Rick Kindle presented an advertising approach that would involve all 4 branches Lodi/Stockton, Turlock and the two in Modesto. Each branch would contribute \$1000 next year for this effort. At the board meeting we discussed our budget and how we currently have after our November lunch expenses, \$2909. We did not feel that we could safely contribute the \$1000 even after we collect the dues for next year. A motion was made to present at the luncheon the following approach, which was to ask for a show of hands if they would support asking each member to contribute \$20 next year, which is equivalent to \$1.67 a month. We need to do something to increase our declining membership by making our presence known through social media and some local print media. Everyone raised their hands in support of doing this and collecting \$20 next year for this effort. You can do this either at our December lunch or mail a check made out "SIR Branch 144" to my address "2509 Portofino Dr, Modesto, CA 95356". If you would like to speak to me directly my cell phone number is 415-420-2440. Thank you for all your support.

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144

BIRTHDAY WINNER



Jim Sterling won the Birthday Drawing

There is no speaker for Ladies Day (12/19). We will have music.

\$24 dues are due in January. Please pay in January 2025 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 21, 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, Little SIR/Treasurer John Santillano. Absent: Secretary Jim Toepfer, Assistant Treasurer Jerry Miller.

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

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

Motion to approve minutes from October 17, 2024. MSP.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Checkbook Balance as of October 1, 2024.....	\$3,488.88
Total Receipt.....	\$1,260.00
Disbursements.....	\$1,337.74
Checkbook and cash as of October 31, 2024.....	\$3,611.14

A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report and a voucher request for: Bob Lewis in the amount of \$10.49, and the state assessment in the amount of \$242.50. MSP.

Membership Report:

Gaylan King gave the membership report as of November 21, 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 – All groups are finished for the year this month (except 2nd Tuesday Club). 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: Ladies' day luncheon in December will be the same as last year. Meal choice will be: Prime Rib or Chicken. Bring your own preferred beverage. The price is \$25.00 per meal. Pay by 11–21–2024 or mail in now. There will be no speaker for our December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Rick Kindle presented the approach for a marketing campaign requesting \$1000.00 from next year's budget to support this effort. The other three branches will be contributing the same amount plus state will add up to \$4,500.00. There was discussion among the BEC, but no final agreement was reached. Fernando will present to the members at large the cost of the marketing campaign and ask for their approval with each member contributing \$20.00 toward this effort.

Meeting adjourned by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 10:25 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be 10:00 AM (15 minutes long), December 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](#)



Ernie Pinkston won the Luncheon Drawing



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.



DINING OUT CLUB

3 Evening Dining Out Clubs

2nd Tuesday Evening Club

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

Tues. Jan. 14th – Papapolloni Medit. Bistro

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

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

Dec. 2024- - "No Dinner Meeting!"

January 28, 2025 – Outback Steakhouse

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

Dec. 2024 -- "No Dinner Meeting!"

January 23rd – Bella Italia

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

Julie Andrews sang this song for AARP on her 70th Birthday.

MY FAVORITE THINGS

Botox and nose drops & needles for knitting, Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,

Bundles of magazines tied up in string,

These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs & cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,

Polident & Fixodent and false teeth in

glasses,

Pacemakers, golf carts, & porches with swings,

These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,

When the knees go bad, I simply remember my favorite things,

And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets & corn pads for bunions,

No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,

Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,

These are among my favorite things.

Back pain, confused brains, and no need for sinnin',

Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin'

And we won't mention our short-shrunken frames,

When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,

When the eyes grow dim,

Then I remember the great life I've had, and then I don't feel so bad.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Name		Date	Years
Anthony	Butera	12/05/55	69
Fred	Bistodeau	12/14/48	76
David	Yarbrough	12/03/46	78
Patton	Brooks	12/24/39	85
Pete	Dutton	12/23/35	89



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Name	Spouse	Date	Years
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Jerry	Strain	Merlyne	12/30/60	64
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Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
to all!

December 2024 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 10 November 5

Series: Joe Miceli 603

Tom Mickelson 711

Game: Arnold Fidalgo 246 Tom Mickelson 272

Week 11 November 12

Series: Joe Bradley 572

Phil Reed 654

Game: Bob Lewis 232 Murle Webb 272

Week 12 November 19

Series: Arnold Fidalgo 595 Gene Cox 658

Game: Arnold Fidalgo 245 Arnold Fidalgo 255

Week 13 November 26

Series: Bob Lewis 603

Bob Lewis 681

Game: David Brown 230 David Brown 251

Come out for our hometown tournament.

---- 2024 UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS ----

January 21-22 Napa Bowl, Napa

Dave Ellingson 707-637-3008

February 20-21 Country Club Lanes

Sacramento

Tod Davis 916-722-3575

Jim Smalling 916-501-2643

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



December 2024 Golf News



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

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

MON. DEC. 9	DRYDEN	COST: \$54/29
HOST: 103-A	9:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00
MON. DEC. 16	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$56.00/\$29
HOST: 103-B	9:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00
MON. JAN. 6	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$56/29.00
HOST: 103-A	9:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00
MON. JAN. 13	ELKHORN	COST: \$53.00
HOST: 144	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
TUE. JAN. 21	MANTECA	COST: \$50.00
HOST: 144	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED

STARTING JAN. 1ST, WE WILL HAVE THE GOLFER OF THE YEAR AWARD. IT WILL BE A POINTS BASED SYSTEM: 5 POINTS FOR PLAYING A TOURNAMENT, 10 POINTS FOR WINNING YOUR FLIGHT, 7 POINTS FOR 2ND, 5 POINTS FOR 3RD.

PRIZE MONEY AT END OF YEAR:

1ST: \$250.00- 2ND: \$150.00- 3RD:

\$125.00- 4TH: \$100.00- 5TH: 75.00.

THE MORE YOU PLAY THE MORE POINTS YOU CAN EARN.

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

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

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