

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 2025 Newsletter

Volume 01-2025

Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez



Why should we advertise? I understand that we may feel this is a wasted effort, but we have not at least attempted it. By advertising and promoting our organization it is important for both the success of our group, and the personal fulfillment of our members.

We all have a lifetime of experience and knowledge and by sharing our story with others we can attract others who are looking for a place where they matter, and their voice can be heard and where they still make a difference.

By letting people know that spending time with others who share their interests can help reduce the feelings of loneliness and keep their minds engaged.

We can explain that as we age it's easy to feel disconnected but being a member of SIR makes this less of an issue.

So, let's all contribute \$20 to this advertising campaign and please if you are going to pay with a check, please make it separate from the annual dues, so we make our treasurer's accounting efforts easier.

Please remember to pay your dues of \$24 by March of 2025 if not sooner.

And last thank you for your support in our Ladies Luncheon, I heard many positive comments about the seating arrangement and the ability to easily communicate. And a few complained about the prime rib slices being a little too thin, but overall, it seemed that everyone enjoyed themselves.

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144

Certificate of Appreciation



Kathy Norris & Hall Eubank(R) receive a Certificate of Appreciation from Vince Sereno for Dining Club Leadership

Speaker for January: Nick Bavaro: Modesto City Councilmember – District 4 and will discuss what are the plans for City of Modesto in 2025 and open to any questions.

\$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
DECEMBER 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 10:00 AM.

A quorum was established with the following members present:

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

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

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

Minutes were corrected to show that Secretary Jim Toepfer was present at the November 21, meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from November 21, 2024. MSP.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Checkbook Balance as of November 1, 2024.....	\$ 3,411.14
Total Receipt.....	\$ 1,154.00
Disbursements.....	\$ 1,630.32
Checkbook and cash as of November 30, 2024.....	\$ 3,134.82

A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report. 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 – Starts January 7, 2025.

Golf: Jerry Strain – Will start again in 2025.

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

Dining: Vince Sereno – All groups are finished for the year. Meetings will restart in January of 2025.

Sunshine: Edd Santwier – Nothing to report.

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

The walking group meets on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Saturday of each month. The 2nd Saturday of each month, we meet at the Modesto Airport for breakfast. Breakfast is served from 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM. \$10:00 PER PERSON is the charge for breakfast.

OLD BUSINESS: No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS: No discussion.

Meeting adjourned by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 10:12 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be 9:30 AM, January 16, 2025

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](#)



Cruise the Lower Mississippi in style from Memphis to New Orleans aboard the 180 guest American Splendor 9 Days...September 30- October 8, 2025

CONTROL + CLICK TO OPEN
[Mississippi River Cruise](#)



Ladies Day Pictures



Jerry and Merlyne celebrated their 64th anniversary on December 30.



DINING OUT CLUB

3 Evening Dining Out Clubs

2nd Tuesday Evening Club

Tues. Jan. 14th – Papapoloni Medit. Bistro

Tues. Feb.11th –Strings Italian Cafe

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

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

Tues. Jan. 28, 2025 – Outback Steakhouse

Tues. February 25th—Fuzio’s Universal Bistro

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

Thurs. January 23rd – Bella Italia

Thurs. Feb. 27th—Marcella’s

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

Thoughts--Chuckles---Quotes

TRUTH does not mind being questioned.

A LIE does not like being challenged.

TOLERANCE will reach such a level that intelligent people will be banned from thinking so as not to offend the imbeciles.

IDOLIZING a politician is like believing the stripper really likes you!

MARK TWAIN—No amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot.

IF you don’t want the truth, don’t ask me. IF you want something “Sugarcoated,” go eat a donut!

MARK TWAIN—The truth has no defense against a fool determined to believe a lie.

DO Y’ALL remember before the internet that people thought the cause of stupidity was the lack of access to information? Yeah, it wasn’t that!

IF I DISAGREE with you, it doesn’t mean I dislike you, or that I’m mad at you. It just means that like you, I have my own opinions. I won’t treat you disrespectfully just because we share differing opinions. Give me the same respect.

REMEMBER: When something goes wrong in the circus, they send in the clowns to distract the audience. Well, something has gone very wrong with this circus, and the clowns are everywhere.

“DUNNING--KRUGER –EFFECT” is a type of cognitive bias, where people with little expertise or ability assume they have superior expertise or ability. This overestimation occurs as a result of the fact that they don’t have enough knowledge to know that they don’t have enough knowledge.

MOST PEOPLE don’t really want the truth.

They just want the constant reassurance that what they believe is the truth.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Name		Date	Years
John	Santillano	01/09/52	73
Jeff	Mountain	01/19/48	77
Mike	Martinez	01/31/39	86
Vince	Sereno	01/25/39	86
Don	Rovere	01/17/38	87
Larry	Parks	01/08/34	91
Bill	Burchell	01/10/34	91
Hal	Conkey	01/19/24	101

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Spouse	Date	Years	
Fred	Bistodeau	Barbara	01/27/85	40
William	Cardoza	Karen	01/18/75	50
Edd	Santwier III	Sharon	01/09/65	60

JANUARY INDUCTIONS

Name		Date	Years
Bill	Stires	01/18/24	1
Craig	Persons	01/20/22	3
Jim	Sterling	01/16/20	5
Jim	Walker	01/16/20	5
Cecil	Brown	01/18/18	7
Chuck	Gentry	01/17/16	9
Thomas	Weiss	01/06/11	14
Joe	Miceli	01/04/07	18
Ernie	Lewis	01/17/02	23
Lor	Salvi	01/18/01	24

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

January 2025 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 13 November 26

Series: Bob Lewis 603 Bob Lewis 681
 Game: David Brown 230 David Brown 251

Week 14 December 3

Series: Bob Lewis 605 Bob Lewis 674
 Game: Arnold Fidalgo 244 Arnold Fidalgo 255

Week 15 December 10

Series: Arnold Fidalgo 653 Arnold Fidalgo 686
 Game: Arnold Fidalgo 266 Arnold Fidalgo 277

Week 16 December 17

Series: David Brown 611 Steve Holly 680
 Game: David Brown 237 David Brown 255

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



January 2025 Golf News



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

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

MON. JAN. 6	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$56.00/\$ 29
HOST: 103-A	9:00 AM	CARTS: \$ 20.00
MON. JAN. 10	ELKHORN	COST: \$53.00
HOST: 103-B	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
TUE, JAN. 21	MANTECA	COST: \$50.00
HOST: 144	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. JAN. 24	DRYDEN	COST: \$54/29.00
HOST: 103-A	9:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00
MON. FEB. 3	SWENSON	COST: \$54.00
HOST: 103-B	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED

Hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Don't forget about the new money you can make in 2025. 10 points for every time you play, 10 for being 1st in your flight, 7 for being 2nd, 5 for being 3rd. But more important, signing up at our luncheons. So come on out and play. See you at our next meeting on Jan. 16th.

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

Sirgolfer144@gmail.com 209-606-1475



Make friends for life.



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
2024 Fernando Gonzalez



Modesto Branch 144 Officers

OFFICERS FOR 2025

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 2025

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 2025

STATE PRESIDENT OF SIR IncRich Carlston 925-324-0838
STATE VICE PRESIDENT OF SIR Inc ...Lee Lamp 530-921-1375
AREA 18 REPRESENTATIVE.....Anthony Butera 209-985-3473

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 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