

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 2025 Newsletter

Volume 02-2025

Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez



I feel like the village preacher constantly asking the congregation to contribute to the church building fund. But as Big Sir I realize this is part of my role in helping our branch to continue to operate. So please excuse my plea to remind you to pay your \$24 dues for 2025 and remind you that we all agreed by a show of hands to contribute \$20 for the advertising effort. Some members have been more than generous in their contributions, and it is very much appreciated. We have so far collected \$500 which is halfway there. Please plan on making these contributions at our next meeting or mailing a check made out to SIR Branch 144 to my home address of 2509 Portofino Dr., Modesto, CA, 95356. At the next lunch I will cover how your annual \$24 dues are used at the branch and state level because I believe you have a right to know.

At our last lunch meeting I had the speaker start his presentation during the meal after all tables had been served. It appeared that this helped keep members present during the speaker's presentation and did not seem to interfere with everyone eating their meal. So, at our next meeting I will ask the speaker to start his presentation during our mealtimes. Next month our speaker will be Gary Garcia CEO of Stanislaus Latino Chamber of Commerce. He will discuss what this organization does and the successes it has had in our community.

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144

NEW MEMBER



New Member Frank Gillum(L) with sponsor John Santillano(R). Bio on the last page.

Speaker for February: Gary Garcia, CEO of Stanislaus Latino Chamber of Commerce. He will discuss what this organization does and the successes it has had in our community.

\$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!

SIR INC
BRANCH 144 BEC MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 10:35 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.

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

GUESTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Sam Graham, John Cardoza and Roger Jackson – Branch 143. Absent: Edd Santwier, Gary Williams.

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

Treasurer's Report:

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

Checkbook Balance as of December 1, 2024.....	\$ 2,934.82
Total Receipt.....	\$ 1,779.00
Disbursements.....	\$ 1,850.96
Checkbook and cash as of December 31, 2024.....	\$ 3,062.86

A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report and voucher requests for: Bob Lewis \$20.98, Gary Williams \$26.50, State Assessment \$211.75. MSP.

Membership Report:

Gaylan King gave the membership report as of December 19, 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 – New Year – going well.

Golf: Jerry Strain – New, starting in January, a point system for determining end of year champion.

Travel: John Cardoza – Pending cruises coming for 2025: Mississippi River. and a trip to the Rose Parade is in the works.

Dining: Vince Sereno – All groups have restarted for 2025.

Sunshine: Edd Santwier – Absent.

Walking Group: Anthony Butera – Absent.

OLD BUSINESS: The annual financial review has been completed. Branch 144 is continuing to collect money for the state advertising campaign. We need a table for dues collection.

NEW BUSINESS: Big SIR Fernando will remind members to pay dues by end of March and for the need to continue collecting money for advertising. As a result of the State Technology meeting, Big SIR Fernando has been appointed along with four other SIR members to review and update all forms used by the SIR organization.

Meeting adjourned by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 11:04 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be 9:30 AM, February 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted by: Jim Toepfer Secretary.



SIR TRAVEL



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

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](#)



RV Travel

**Jackson Rancheria RV Park 11407 Dalton Road,
Jackson, CA 95642**

Deadline to book is March 15th, 2025

Sunday, April 27 – Friday, May 2, 2025

**1. Call to make your reservation: (800) 822-9466
Mention you are with SIRS2025**

**2. Once you have confirmed your reservation Call or
text Roger, RV Chair at 209-658-2673 or
Email: rogjaxn@me.com**

**3. IMPORTANT: Reservations are transferable:
Please call Roger before cancelling
10 rigs = a 15% group discount**



DINING OUT CLUB

3 Evening Dining Out Clubs

2nd Tuesday Evening Club

Tues. Feb. 11th – Strings Italian Cafe

Tues. March 11th -Mimi's Cafe

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

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

Tues. Feb. 25th, – Fuzio's Bistro

Tues. March 25th—El Cazador Mexico Restaurant

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

Thurs. February 27 – Outback Steakhouse

Thurs. March. 27th—La Huerta Viejo

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

Philosophical Observations, Etc.

1. My girlfriend says I'm cheap, so I took her out to for tea and biscuits. It was quite exciting as she had never given blood before!
2. My wife wants me to wear a bracelet that belonged to her grandfather. It says "Do Not Resuscitate."
3. It's been months since I bought the book, "How To Scam People Online." It still hasn't arrived yet.
4. When someone recommends a book to me and says, "It's a page turner!" I say, "Yeah, I know how books work."
5. If you have a red wine stain on your carpet, get some white wine and drink it until you don't care anymore.
6. One good thing about being wrong is the joy it brings to others.
7. If your outgoings exceeds your income, then your upkeep will be your downfall.
8. Even rarer than a doctor who can't stand the sight of blood is a lawyer who can't stand the sight of money.
9. This is what irony means. You buy an electric car to save the planet and a tree falls on it and totals it out.
10. Due to inflation, you can now eat food that has been on the floor for up to 7.3 seconds.
11. If you rent a house on a high hill that has a steep stairway that is a 5 minute walk to the beach, keep in mind that an accidental fall will get you there in 8 seconds.
12. A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked: "Why do you think I wear this collar?" One kid answered: "Because it kills ticks and fleas for up to 30 days!"
13. Japanese Wisdom: 1. If it's not yours, don't take it. 2. If it's not right, don't do it. 3. If it's not true, don't say it. 4. If you don't know, shut up.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<i>Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>
Gentry	Chuck	02/14/54	71
Slocum	Michael	02/19/53	72
Carrington	Glenn	02/13/52	73
Rogers	Keith A.	02/22/49	76
Persons	Craig	02/23/45	80
Medrano	John	02/18/44	81
Hockenberry	Larry	02/11/43	82
Faulkner	Kent	02/18/42	83
Kincanon	John	02/06/39	86
Miller	Jerry	02/09/37	88
Solario	Henry	02/07/32	93

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Name</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Duran	Jim	Anita	02/14/10	15
Fidalgo	Arnold	Terri	02/14/04	21
Gillum	Frank	Patrica	02/20/93	32
DeArmond	Hal	Jan	02/16/91	34
Salvi	Lor	Helen	02/12/76	49
Walker	Jim	Joyce	02/27/70	55
Persons	Craig	Martha	02/28/68	57
Miller	Brian	Kim	02/22/67	58
Conkey	Hal	Lucile	02/11/66	59
Hubbard	Gary	Virginia	02/06/65	60

FEBRUARY INDUCTIONS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Prescott	Kevin	02/17/22	3
Brawley	Tom	02/17/22	3
McNett	Tom	02/15/18	7
Toepfer	Jim	02/15/18	7
Fetzer	Bruce	02/15/18	7
Carrington	Glenn	02/04/16	9
Hubbard	Gary	02/07/13	12
Faulkner	Kent	02/07/13	12
Mountain	Jeff	02/01/07	18

February 2025 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 17 January 7

Series: Joe Miceli 583 Steve Gibson 629
 Game: Steve Gibson 232 Steve Gibson 262

Week 18 January 14

Series: Bob Lewis 574 Vern Masse 702
 Game: Gene Cox 231 Gene Cox 268

Week 19 January 21

Series: Marv VanMid 571 Marv VanMiddendorp 697
 Game: Marv VanMid 244 Marv VanMiddendorp 286

Week 20 January 28

Series: Joe Miceli 589 Tom Mickelsen 656
 Game: Gene Cox 233 Gene Cox 269
 Arnold Fidalgo 233

Come out for our hometown tournament.

----- 2025 UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS-----

**February 20-21 Country Club Lanes,
 Sacramento**

Tod Davis 916-722-3575

Jim Smalling 916-501-2643

March 5 Fireside Lanes, Citrus Heights

Ron Johnson 916-206-1483

Dale Collette 916-300-1807

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



February 2025 Golf News



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

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

MON. FEB. 10	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$56.00/\$29.00
HOST: 144	9:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00
TUE. FEB. 18	ATWATER	COST: \$59.00
HOST: 103-A	9:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. FEB. 24	DRYDEN	COST: \$54/29.00
HOST: 103B	9:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00
MON. MAR 3	TBA	COST:
HOST:	TBA	CARTS:
MON. MAR. 10	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$56.00/\$29.00
HOST: 103A	8:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR BRANCH DUES THEY ARE \$24.00 FOR THE YEAR. IF ANYONE HAS AN IDEA OF ANOTHER GOLF COURSE THEY WOULD LIKE TO PLAY, LET ME KNOW AND WE WILL CHECK IT OUT. WE NEED TO FIND MORE COURSES TO PLAY.

SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON FEB.20.

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

Sirgolfer144@gmail.com 209-606-1475

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

Frank Gillum Bio: He worked for the City of Modesto as a Civil Engineer. Activities: Bridge-Basic, Golf, Investments, Pickleball, Pinochle, Poker, Travel and Veterans. He served 2 years in the Army during the Vietnam War. His wife is Patricia.

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!

Norm Lawrence passed away. R.I.P.

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