

SIR INC. MODESTO BRANCH 144

THE ALMOND CAPITAL BULLETIN

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



March 2025 Newsletter

Volume 03-2025

Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez



I thank all of our SIR members who contributed to the advertising campaign, we have collected \$910 of the \$1000 we committed to from a show of hands at our luncheon last year.

We are still encouraging you to pay your annual dues this month by sending a check to SIR Branch 144, to 2509 Portofino Dr. Modesto, CA 95356.

Some of our branch's plans on having a picnic luncheon at a community park this summer and as these plans become firmer, I will pass on the information. We should try and meet and engage with other branches when possible.

With Gaylan King now stepping down from the Membership Director, I am asking for someone in our branch to volunteer to step in. It will not require a significant amount of time. We on the board cannot assume taking on all of these roles, we need members to step in, even if it is only for 6 months.

Please consider this and at our next meeting please meet with me or contact me on my cellphone 415-420-2440 or email fgonza925@aol.com

Whenever you encounter anyone who you think would benefit from becoming a SIR member, invite them to join us for lunch and point out our bowling, golf, and dining out activities.

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144

Luncheon Winners



Bruce Fetzter(L) won the Luncheon Drawing & John Medrano won the Birthday Drawing.

Speaker for March: Randy Marnell, Independent Senior Mortgage Advisor. He will be discussing reverse mortgages. See the last page for more information.

\$24 dues are due. If not paid by March 31, you could be dropped from membership. 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
FEBRUARY 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:31 AM.

A quorum was established with the following members present:

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez, Little SIR/Treasurer John Santillano, Secretary Jim Toepfer.

DIRECTORS: Gaylan King, Bob Lewis, Vince Sereno, Jerry Strain, Andre Dodd. Director/Area 18 Rep Anthony Butera.

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

Motion to approve minutes from January 16, 2025. MSP.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report for January 2025 was presented by treasurer John Santillano:

Checkbook Balance as of January 1, 2025.....	\$ 2,862.86
Total Receipts.....	\$ 2,803.00
Disbursements.....	\$ 1,349.68
Checkbook and cash as of January 31, 2025.....	\$ 4,516.18

A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report and voucher requests for: Bob Lewis \$ 8.99, Kindle and Associates LLC, for advertising in the amount of \$ 587.50. MSP.

Membership Report:

Gaylan King gave the membership report as of January 16, 2025: 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. Still rolling along.

Golf: Jerry Strain – The Manteca Golf Course has dropped Branch 144.

Travel: John Cardoza – Pending cruises coming for 2025: The Mississippi River, the Rose Parade, Korea, Japan, and Australia.

Dining: Vince Sereno – All groups are functioning well.

Sunshine: Edd Santwier – Absent. Jerry Strain reported that Norman Lawrence has passed.

Walking Group: Anthony Butera – We will be walking if it is not raining.

OLD BUSINESS: Big Sir Fernando will remind members to pay dues by the end of March and for the need to continue collecting money for advertising.

NEW BUSINESS: Gaylan King put in his resignation as Membership Committee Chairman, a new MCC is now in order. Edd Santwier has volunteered to fill the position of Little Sir for the rest of the year. Joseph Miceli is to replace Jerry Miller as assistant treasurer. A motion was made to accept these changes. MSP. Big Sir Fernando mentioned that we are now looking for a new CIO at the state level.

Meeting adjourned by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:54 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be 9:30 AM, March 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. March 11th –Mimi's Cafe

Tues. April 8th –El Cazador Mexican Rest.

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

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

Tues. March 25th—El Cazador Mexican

Tues. April. 22nd, – Tasty Thai Restaurant

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

Thurs. March. 27th—La Huerta Vieja

Thurs. April 24th – Olive Garden.

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

Do you remember the 50's?

(A journey into the past.)

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or Spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

A take-away was a mathematical problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower.

Bananas & oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All chips were plain.

Oil was for lubricating; fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognized food.

"Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly, muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughingstock.

*The one thing that we never ever had on or at our table in the fifties.....
was elbows, hats and cell phones.*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

<i>Name</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>
Abujen	Bob	03/29/51	74
Sheaffer	Chuck	03/17/49	76
Norris	Jay	03/18/46	79
Casiano	Nilo	03/04/42	83
Dodd	Andre	03/25/42	83
Gillum	Frank	03/24/40	85
Shoup	Chuck	03/13/39	86
Weiss	Thomas	03/29/38	87

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Name</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Bill	Stires	Mary	03/31/22	3
Charlie	Leffingwell	Jan	03/21/98	27
Bruce	Fetzer	Debbie	03/30/96	29
Kevin	Prescott	Anita	03/15/86	39

MARCH INDUCTIONS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>	
Vietor	Gerry	03/16/23	2
Gonzalez	Fernando	03/21/19	6
King	Gaylan	03/05/09	16
Rovere	Don	03/07/07	18
Davis	Leonard	03/07/07	18
Williams	Gary	03/04/04	21

March 2025 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 21 February 4

Series: Rick Wilcox 570 Rick Wilcox 714
 Game: Gene Cox 223 Gene Cox 259

Week 22 February 11

Series: Lor Salvi 611 Lor Salvi 734
 Game: Joe Bradley 225 Lor Salvi 262

Week 23 February 18

Series: Al Sterling 582 Juan Salinas 707
 Game: Al Sterling 236 Juan Salinas 286

Week 24 February 25

Series: Joe Miceli 631 Joe Miceli 676
 Game: Vern Masse 229 Vern Masse 272

Come out for our hometown tournament.

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

March 25-26 Clayton Valley Bowl, Concord
Mike Kropf 925-689-1453

April 21-23 Gold Dust West, Carson City, NV
Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727

SIR ANNUAL STATE TOURNAMENT:

May 12-13 Country Club Lanes, Sacramento
Tod Davis 916-722-3575
Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727

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



March 2025 Golf News



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

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

MON. MAR. 10	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$56.00/\$29.00
HOST: 103-A	8:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00
MON. MAR. 17	TRACY C.C.	COST: \$59.00
HOST: 103-B	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. MAR. 24	DRYDEN	COST: \$54.00/\$29.00
HOST: 144	8:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00
MON. MAR. 31	SWENSON	COST: \$54.00 /\$29.00
HOST: 103A	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. APRIL 7	DRYDEN	COST: \$54.00
HOST: 103B	8:00 AM	CARTS: \$20.00

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, WE WILL NO LONGER BE PLAYING MANTECA. THERE WILL BE CHANGES TO THE SCHEDULE AS NEEDED. ON MARCH 3RD WE WILL BE AT SWENSON.

IN APRIL WE WILL BE AT DRYDEN ON APRIL 7TH. ELKHORN WILL MOVE TO APRIL 28TH. ANY QUESTIONS: CALL, TEXT, OR EMAIL. SEE YOU AT THE MARCH MEETING ON THE 20TH. DON'T FORGET YOUR CHECKBOOK. **PS: MARCH STARTS THE 8:00 AM TEE TIMES.**

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:..... Edd Santwier 209-605-9638
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

His Agenda:

- I address the fears of the reverse mortgage.
- I answer the question on why a reverse mortgage.
- I go into the benefits and or uses of a reverse mortgage. I have a reverse mortgage and disclose how I use mine.
- I introduce the power of the reverse mortgage as a financial tool. I have built a program to demonstrate the benefits, today, tomorrow and into the future.
- Most people that have seen one of my presentations sees the reverse mortgage as a lifeline verse something to fear.
- When the community is educated and understands, they could know of someone or even a member that is faced with the economic anxiety that all of us are experiencing.

My purpose is to help, first through education, and once informed seniors will explore their options, I see it as freeing a big weight off their shoulders which is very powerful.

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