

SIR INC. MODESTO BRANCH 144

THE ALMOND CAPITAL BULLETIN

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



April 2025 Newsletter

Volume 04-2025

Message from Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez



I wanted to take a moment to personally thank all of you for becoming more involved with Branch 144.

Your dedication and active participation truly make a difference, and it's wonderful to see all of you taking such an important role in our activities.

Whether it's through your contributions such as the advertising effort, your ideas, or simply your enthusiasm, you are helping shape the future of our branch in incredible ways. Your commitment inspires others to get involved, and it's that kind of energy that helps us grow and thrive as an organization. I appreciate the suggestions for speakers.

We're so fortunate to have all of you as a part of our team, and I'm excited to see what we can accomplish together moving forward. The board needs some volunteers to help with some director positions such as the membership director or the Assistant Secretary to take notes of the board meeting if the Secretary cannot attend. We need your involvement as a member of the board.

Thank you again for your dedication and passion. It truly means a lot to all of us.

Big Sir Fernando Gonzalez Branch 144

Luncheon Winners



Andre Dodd(L) won the Luncheon Drawing & Roy Hardison won the Birthday Drawing.

Speaker for April: Dominique Johnson
Executive Director 

(More on top of last page)

\$24 dues are past due. If not paid by 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
MARCH 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:36 AM.

A quorum was established with the following members present:

Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez, Little SIR Edd Santwier, Treasurer John Santillano, Assistant treasurer Joseph Miceli, Secretary Jim Toepfer.

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

GUESTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Sam Graham, Gary Williams, Roger Jackson Branch 143, Rick Kindle Branch 143.

Motion to approve minutes from February 20, 2025. MSP.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Checkbook Balance as of February 1, 2025.....\$ 4,316.18

Total Receipts.....\$ 2,090.00

Disbursements.....\$ 1,985.23

Checkbook and cash as of February 28, 2025.....\$ 4,620.95

A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report and voucher requests for: Bob Lewis \$10.49 and state assessment in the amount of \$211.75. MSP.

Membership Report:

Hold membership report till April 2025. A vote was taken to drop Bob Abujen.

STATE HLM: Jerry Strain

HLM: Gary Williams and Sam Graham

Committee Reports:

Bowling: Bob Lewis – Going well. Still rolling along.

Golf: Jerry Strain – All is proceeding normally.

Travel: John Cardoza – Absent - 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 - Jerry Strain reported that Bob Abujen is in the hospital.

Walking Group: Anthony Butera – Absent. A note has been posted by Anthony that all walking has been terminated till further notice.

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

NEW BUSINESS: SIR Branch 144 is still searching for a new Membership Committee Chairman. Rick Kindle, branch 143, gave a summary of State SIR advertising and marketing efforts. Rick is also conducting a survey and review of the State SIR marketing program thus far and gave a brief presentation on Vietnam Veterans.

Meeting adjourned by Big SIR Fernando Gonzalez at 9:58 AM.

The time of the next BEC meeting will be 9:30 AM, April 17, 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](#)

////////////////////////////////////

THE BEGINNING OF SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC. Realizing the social nature of man and his desire for the company of others, particularly those retired from gainful employment in commercial and professional life, the late Damian L. Reynolds conceived the idea of Sons In Retirement in the spring of 1958.

From time to time, three friends, all retired, would meet with Mr. Reynolds for a friendly luncheon. He suggested to those three, Messrs. Claus Hinks, Lorenz Hansen and Wallace Plummer, that they join him in his idea of a monthly luncheon club for retired men for the purpose of maintaining old friendships, making new acquaintances and avoiding the boredom caused by inactivity. A kickoff luncheon was held in the Clarimar Restaurant in San Mateo, California on July 29, 1958. Five additional friends of the four founders came to the luncheon. They were Messrs. George Rogers, Clarence Johnson, Conrad Lange, Lloyd Cartmill and William Torello.

The name Sons In Retirement was unanimously adopted by eighteen members of the club at a second meeting on August 12, 1958. Consideration was given to several other names, none of which seemed to make clear the purpose of this fledgling group. Because most retired men wish for nothing to do with things pertaining to inactivity or laziness, the chosen name seemed to enunciate and give dignity to retirement. Since the name of the group was Sons In Retirement, one of the original group proposed that the club's executive officer be designated as the Big Sir, a salutation "indicating maturity and respect". Second in command would be known as the Little Sir.

Rules for the club were adopted on October 28, 1958. Among them were that members were not to be solicited for donations for outside groups or purposes. On January 10, 1962, this was further clarified to state solicitation was permitted only to provide funds to carry out the purposes of the club.

The corporation's copyrighted insignia is the rooster. Mr. Reynolds stated, "Of all the creatures on earth, none expresses independence and dignity with more sureness and aplomb than a rooster. The majesty of his presence is felt in every barnyard, and when he crows, he can be heard for miles, not a fainthearted crow, but with a noise that calls attention to his majestic being."

The new club's first bulletin was called "Yes Sir" and its publication was financed entirely by voluntary contributions, a tradition which continues to this day.

The club's slogan, "Promoting the Independence and Dignity of Retirement" speaks to the purpose and the long range goals of Sons In Retirement, Inc., that were set forth by our founders in 1958.



DINING OUT CLUB

3 Evening Dining Out Clubs

2nd Tuesday Evening Club

Tues. April 8th –El Cazador Mexican

Tues. May 13th –George's Steakhouse

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

4th Tuesday Evening Club:

Tues. April. 22nd, – Tasty Thai Restaurant

Tues. May 27th—George's Steakhouse

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

4th Thursday Evening Club:

Thurs. April 24th – Olive Garden

Thurs. May 22nd—L'Gusto Cucina Italiana

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

CHUCKLES or Apologies in Advance

1. What noise does a 747 make when it bounces? — Boeing, Boeing, Boeing.

2. I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that woodwork.

I think I nailed it but nobody saw it.

3. I once dated a girl with a lazy eye.

I always thought she was seeing someone on the side.

4. I accidentally passed my wife a glue stick instead of a chap stick.

She's still not talking to me!

5. What's the difference between ignorance and indifference?

I don't know and I don't care!

6. My wife called to tell me she saw a fox on the way to work. I asked her how she knew it was on its way to work. *She hung up on me!*

7. What's Irish & stays outside all year?

Patty O'Furniture

8. What do you call a bullet proof Irishman? — Rick O'Shea

9. A friend said she didn't understand cloning. *I told her that makes two of us!*

10. There was a big paddle sale at the boat store. *It was quite an oar deal!*

11. My friend went bald years ago, but still carries around an old comb with him. *He just can't part with it.*

12. Yesterday I saw an ad that said "Radio for sale, \$1, volume stuck on full."

I thought, "I can't turn that down."

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>
Gary Hubbard	04/14/46	79
Gaylan King	04/25/46	79

Happy Birthday!

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Name</i>	<i>Spouse</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>
Gary Williams	Susan	04/10/96	29
Thomas Brawley	Donna	04/21/91	34
Thomas McNett	Elizabeth	04/05/81	44
Kent Faulkner	Truda	04/01/78	47

Happy Anniversary!

APRIL INDUCTIONS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>
Bennett Tom	04/18/24	1
Hockenberry Larry	04/21/22	3
Jackson Ed	04/21/16	9
Sheaffer Chuck	04/01/10	15
Cardoza Bill	04/01/10	15
Stroud Gary	04/03/09	16
Pinkston Ernie	04/07/08	17
Bernard John	04/01/04	21
Hardison Roy	04/20/00	25

April 2025 Bowling Report

High Scratch and Handicap Series and Games

Scratch Games

Handicap Games

Week 21 March 4

Series: David Brown 543 Steve Holly 721
Game: Clark Pearson 214 Steve Holly 264

Week 22 March 11

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

Week 23 March 18

Series: Bob Lewis 582 Rick Wilcox 666
Game: Joe Miceli 676 Rick Wilcox 260

Week 24 March 25

Series: Arnold Fidalgo 587 Don Stephens 684
Game: Arnold Fidalgo 297 Arnold Fidalgo 314

Come out for our hometown tournament.

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

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



April 2025 Golf News



This is the new URL for Area 18 Golf:

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

MON. APR. 7	DRYDEN	COST: \$54.00
HOST: 103-B	8:00 AM	CARTS: OPTIONAL \$20.00
MON. APR. 14	CREEKSIDE	COST: \$56.00/\$ 29.00
HOST: 103-A	8:00 AM	CARTS: OPTIONAL \$20.00
MON. APR. 21	PHEASANT RUN	COST: \$64.00
HOST: 103-A	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. APR. 28	ELKHORN	COST: \$53.00
HOST: 103-B	8:00 AM	CARTS: INCLUDED
MON. MAY 5	RIVER OAKS	COST: \$44.00/WALK: \$34
HOST: 103-A	8:00 AM	CARTS: \$10.00

WE WILL BE PLAYING A NEW COURSE ON MAY 5. RIVER OAKS ON HATCH ROAD. A LOT OF PAR 3'S, BUT SHOULD BE FUN. THERE WILL BE CARTS AVAILABLE. THE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 6&7 AT HIDDEN BROOK C.C. IN VALLEJO. NOW IS THE TIME TO START SETTING UP TEAMS. CHECK THE SCHUDULE ONLINE FOR CHANGES.

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:.....Joe Miceli 209-527-5818

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
Edd Santwier 209-605-9638
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: Open
Book Club:...Gaylan King 209-380-9896

The CCAL dba Stanislaus Arts Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, based in downtown Modesto, California. The CCAL has a long history in Modesto and its visual artists. Now as the Stanislaus Arts Council we serve as the county designated State Local Partner of the California Arts Council, with a mission to support, promote and advocate for all art disciplines.

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