

# The Grapevine

Tokay SIR Branch 145 Newsletter

*A non-profit social organization for men*

**DECEMBER 2024**

## Big Sir DECEMBER 2024 Remarks



Members, the end of the year is upon us. This year was a great challenge to the Chapter as well as to the organization as a whole. Many subjects were discussed, but very little was actually accomplished.

This year we saw a change in our membership as we took on the Stockton members. We welcome all the members from the Stockton Chapter 46.

This year we saw a change of venue for our monthly meetings. We had our very first meeting at the Stockton Elks Lodge on Thornton Road, Stockton, CA, in November 2024. We had 58 members attend our luncheon, I heard nothing but satisfaction with the price, and the quality of the food. We will be making a few adjustments on the tables to have better efficiency on getting our food. The more members attend the meetings the better it will be for us to select a good menu.

We will not be increasing the annual dues as they are only \$20.00 for the year. We would like our members to give the BEC ADVICE on what they like to have as guest speakers, food, and of course any complaints that you might have, please bring it to any member of the BEC, so we can address them promptly and efficiently.

I like to remind you that we have our Christmas Luncheon at Woodbridge CC in Woodbridge, CA. this year the date is Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 11:00 AM. WE WILL HAVE THE LODI HONOR CHOIR they will perform for about 20 minutes. We will accept any cash contributions for the choir at the luncheon. This is on a voluntary basis that the kids will get along with a small contribution from our own Chapter. We have 50 paid attendees, and we have a few more that have committed to attend, but not paid. This is not a problem as you can pay at the door the cost of lunch is \$35.00 per person. I have 20 committed that will pay at the door. I have if all show a total of 70. Please let me know there is still time to attend. I will take your money at the day of the luncheon all I need is a head count for the provider.

I would like to wish each and everyone of our members a Blessed CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. Let's make 2025 a great year.

Regards,  
Juan G Ochoa, Big SIR  
209-481-5325  
[jgochoa@icloud.com](mailto:jgochoa@icloud.com)



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

## DECEMBER

12/01 Lynn Sutton  
12/04 Jeffrey Amos  
12/04 Lewis Baumbach  
12/ Frank Daniels  
12/ Howard Fergusen  
12/ Dour Fritz  
12/ Michael Lynn  
12/ Jim Morita  
12/ Juan Ochoa  
12/20 Mike Sather

## December Holidays and Observances

12/01 First Sunday of Advent  
12/01 Rosa Parks Day  
12/07 National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance  
12/15 Bill of Rights Day  
12/21 Winter Solstice  
12/24 Christmas Eve  
12/25 Christmas Day  
12/25 Hanukkah  
12/28 Pledge of Allegiance Day  
12/31 New Years Eve



## BULLETIN EDITOR

### COMMENTARY

As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, I have been elected to take the position of the Bulletin Editor for the combined Branches of 145 and 46. I served as Bulletin Editor for 46 for about 4 years and will continue to work with Temple Gallagher who does an excellent job of putting together all the pieces and providing art work, and getting it out. For those who need a hard copy, I will mail those to you. I do enjoy putting together informative articles, that hopefully all the members will enjoy---and also learn something from the articles.

So this is my first attempt, and I hope you find it interesting.

As we enter this Holiday season and look forward to celebrating Christmas and New Year's, I wish every Blessing on you and your family. We, as former members of Branch 46, look forward to the Christmas luncheon together at the Woodbridge Country Club.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

David Stull--Editor

#### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON MENU

House Salad with Ranch &  
Balsamic Dressings  
Assorted Dinner Rolls & Butter  
Sliced Pot Roast with Gravy  
Sliced Roasted Turkey with Gravy  
Cranberry Sauce  
Mashed Potatoes  
Traditional Bread Stuffing  
Roasted Vegetable Medley  
Pumpkin Cheesecake with Carmel  
Sauce



#### Membership Report NOVEMBER

Membership in attendance:	56
Guest in attendance:	0
Percentage of active members in attendance	44%
Total active members:	126
Members Added:	1
117 Mark Shimosaki	
Members Reinstated:	0
Members Dropped	0
Members Resigned	0

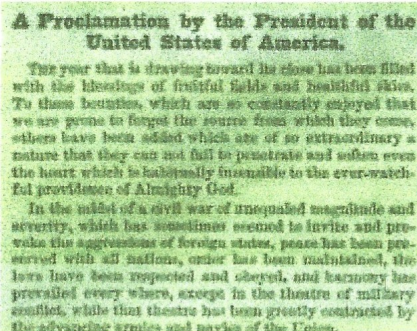
**Annual Christmas Luncheon**  
**Wednesday – December 11th**  
**Woodbridge Golf & Country Club –**  
**800 Woodbridge Rd.**  
**\$35 per person**  
**RSVP: [jocha@icloud.com](mailto:jocha@icloud.com)**

# Thanksgiving Proclamation, 1863

*A Spotlight on a Primary Source by Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Nast*

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In 1621, settlers in Massachusetts celebrated what has come to be regarded as the first thanksgiving in the New World. On October 3, 1789, George Washington issued a proclamation creating the first Thanksgiving Day designated by the national government of the United States of America, to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26, 1789. John Adams and James Madison similarly declared Thanksgiving a holiday. However, it wasn't until October 3, 1863, at the height of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation encouraging Americans "in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea, and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." Thanksgiving has been celebrated in the United States ever since.



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Abraham Lincoln's  
Thanksgiving Proclamation,  
Harper's Weekly, October 17,  
1863. (Gilder Lehrman  
Collection)

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The copy of Lincoln's Proclamation featured [here](#) was printed in *Harper's Weekly* on October 17, 1863, to help spread the word about the day of observance. On December 5, *Harper's* published a two-page **engraving** by renowned artist Thomas Nast illustrating scenes of a grateful nation.

## EXCERPT

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea, and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity, and union.

## Their Meanings Are Not Obvious

# Test Your Knowledge of "Generation Alpha" Slang

- (1) When a middle schooler describes his friend as "sigma," that means he thinks his friend is (a) weak, (b) weird, (c) a greek, or (d) an alpha male.
- (2) When a friend is described as a "rizzler," that means she's someone who (a) is always late, (b) likes to steal, (c) is flirty, or (d) is loud.
- (3) If someone's skills are "skibidi," that means they are (a) impressive, (b) bad, (c) awkward, or (d) a joke.
- (4) If a favorite snack has just been "fanum taxed," that means it was (a) stolen, (b) affected by inflation, (c) dipped in chocolate, or (d) dropped on the floor.
- (5) If a TikToker claims that Chris Evans "mogged," he means that (a) Evans looked taller than Pine, (b) Evans looked better than Pine, (c) Evans looked worse than Pine, or (d) Evans dressed with less pizzazz than Pine.
- (6) When someone is about to be photographed, **she might** (a) start mewling like a cat, (b) restructure her face to appear slimmer, (c) smile with her eyes, or (d) frame her face with her hands.
- (7) If friend describes someone's outfit as "so Ohio," it means that it's (a) weird, (b) stylish, (c) vintage, or (d) expensive.

Answers: 1 - (d) 2 - (a) 3 - (c) 4 - (b) 5 - (c) 6 - (d) 7 - (a)

## Seven "Generations" Over the Last Century

**Greatest Gen:** born 1901 – 1927

**Silent Gen:** born 1928 – 1945

**Baby Boomers:** born 1946 – 1964

**Gen X:** born 1965 – 1980

**Millennials:** born 1981 – early 1990s

**Gen Z:** born late 1990s – early 2010s

**Gen Alpha:** born late 2010s – mid-2020s

## Memory Problems

(continued from p.6)

*"My owner has been serving me good food for the last 364 days! So, based on my Excel model, I have no reason to assume any risk in the future."*

*"My model may have been slightly inaccurate! Happy Thanksgiving!"*



### The Turkey Illusion

From the turkey's point of view, the certainty that it will be fed and cared for again the next day is greatest on the night before it dies, of all days. Nevertheless, it is slaughtered that day, by the very person who cared for him. Anthropomorphically, the significance of this scenario is that the slaughter comes as a complete surprise to the turkey, who "only extrapolates a trend" and "does not recognize the impending trend break." To recognize this trend break, the turkey would have had to find out the causes of the trend. By doing so, it would have known about the motivational state of the human who feeds it every day. In order to think outside the box and leave known or familiar thought patterns, creativity and the ability to change perspectives are necessary. But this was not possible for the turkey due to insufficient information.

Most folks find it easy to underestimate the impact of small decisions and the probability of high-stakes events. They fail to remember, or never realized, that risk is not equal to uncertainty.

# Christmas Miracle Christmas 1776

(continued)

William Haupt, III

## BOLD PLAN TOGETHER WITH WASHINGTON'S LEADERSHIP

The greatest gift to world freedom came on Christmas Eve, 1776, on the banks of the Delaware River in British Colonial America.

The birthing of America was not easy. Only a third of the colonists supported a Revolution. It pitted neighbors against neighbors. These Patriots were not only rebelling against the British. They were fighting other colonists who were loyal to British King George, parliament, and the English church.

Often overlooked are the "fence sitters" who were content with the *status quo*. Families were divided. Ben Franklin's son William, Governor of New Jersey, was loyal to the Crown.

Colonists who did not join the Patriots united with the British as obedient subjects. Others, with no true allegiance to anyone, profited from selling arms and war supplies to the British.

Patriots had been building support for the Revolution since the end of the French and Indian War in 1763.

Paine went to towns, villages, and hamlets distributing copies of his 90-page broadside, "Common Sense." Paine preached the rewards and the substantiality of independence to patriots, many who had never dreamed it was an option.

On April 18, 1775, the British marched from Boston to Concord, Massachusetts, to seize stockpiled colonial weapons. When Patriots and the Redcoats clashed at Lexington and Concord, it provoked "the shot heard round the world." This signified the beginning of the Revolution and, most importantly, it marked the birthing of America as the guardian of global liberty.

When the minutemen fired the first shots of the Revolution, the Redcoats were well prepared. They had superior weapons, ammunition, and uniforms, plus abundant food and medical supplies. They were ready to bolster their control of their colonies and were prepared to fight a marathon battle to stop the colonial insurrection.

In contrast, the colonies had a volunteer militia, no central government, and little money. They sent troops to the Continental Army, but kept many behind to protect



George Washington Crossing The Delaware River, by Emanuel Leutze, 1851

their farms and settlements. The colonists were fighting for the reality of freedom, while the British were determined to maintain the *status quo*. Late in 1776, the Revolutionary War looked like a lost cause. The Patriots lacked uniforms, food, ammunition, and weapons, and some were even shoeless. There was tremendous suffering from cold and starvation. A series of defeats had depleted morale, and many had already deserted.

In the bitter cold on Christmas Eve 1776, dogged by pelting sleet and snow, George Washington knelt in prayer at McConkey's Ferry asking for the right words to inspire his troops and motivate them to keep going. They needed to cross the Delaware River to Trenton for a surprise attack on the British [and on the barracks of Hessian troops (British mercenaries), which they

caught sleeping and took many of them prisoner.]

James Cheetham wrote, "As Washington mounted his horse that night, he pulled a draft of Thomas Paine's 'American Crisis' from his saddle bag. As he began reading it, he knew that it was the answer to his prayers. When he returned to camp he ordered it read to his troops immediately." The next morning, Christmas Day 1776, Washington's army crossed the icy Delaware and won two crucial battles. They defeated the British at Trenton and a week later he executed a daring night raid to capture Princeton on January 3. Gaining control of New Jersey invigorated the Patriots' morale, and unified the colonial army. Washington's insightful reading of "The American Crisis" on Christmas Eve 1776 turned a humbling defeat into a glorious victory for the American Patriots!

Shortly after the war, John Adams remarked: "Without the pen of Paine, the sword of Washington would have been wielded in vain." Washington's men basked in their victory at Trenton, since they had defeated a much mightier foe. The victory demonstrated that Washington was a charismatic leader who could unite the colonies and secure their freedom.

SIRS Branch 145 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2024

1.0 Call to Order at 1:30 pm.

2.0 Roll Call: The following officers and directors were present for the meeting: Juan O., Bill R., Stephen H., Felix M., Joe S., Mark W., Mike L., John C., and Tony M.

Absent: Joe S. and Paul W.,

3.0 Guests: Area Rep Rick Kindle, Glenn Nellman, and David Stull

4.0 Approval of the Minutes for September 10, 2024 and October 8, 2024. A motion was made by Mike L. and seconded by Bill R. to approve the minutes for September 8th and October 8th, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

5.0 Treasurer's Report/Action

In Joe's absence, Juan said that we should refer to the newsletter for the Treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$3971.74 with an income of \$1352 for the month. The expenses for the month were \$2091.36. This included lunch costs of \$1600, the state SIR assessment of \$305, Newsletter costs of \$126.42, and lunch cookies costs for three months of \$59.94. The ending balance is \$3232.38. The motion to accept the financial report was moved by Bill R. and seconded by John C. The motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Membership: Stephen reported that we had 125 members at the beginning of October. We inducted one member today bringing our membership to 126.

6.2 Golf: Bill noted that he has moved the Reserve Tournament to May. He has five dates and locations already set for next year. They are at La Contenta, Castle Oaks, the Reserve, Teal Bend, and Wild Hawk. There was consensus that we continue to have a tournament at Wild Hawk. Bill also reported that the State SIR is trying to organize regional golf tournaments. Bill asked if members would be interesting in forming a team to participate. Bill stated that the golf fee for this year will be \$50. The NGCA receives \$46 dollars of that, and the remaining \$4 remains with our golf group. He thinks this will be enough to buy supplies since we have a beginning balance of \$400. A motion was made by John C. and seconded by Felix M. to accept the golf report. The motion passed unanimously.

6.3 Activities: Mark noted the Wine Appreciation group is meeting at the Mettler's on Thursday, November 14. Juan stated that tickets for the Christmas Luncheon are on sale. The luncheon is \$35 per person and it begins at 11am, Wednesday, December 11, at the Woodbridge Country Club. The choir from Lodi High will perform for one half hour. At this time, 49 members have paid with another 20 who have committed, but they have not paid as yet.

6.4 Speakers: The speaker today was SIR Area Rep Rick Kindle, who represents Area 10 and 18. He spoke on the future organization of SIR, and on how to recruit new members to build our organization.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Luncheon Meeting Location: Juan, Mark, and John have been looking at various locations for meetings. Juan reported that lunch at the Reserve would be \$42/plate, at Papapavlos it would be \$35, and at the Lodi Bowling Alley it would be about \$30.

Juan asked for feedback regarding the Elks Lodge lunch today. The consensus was it was good. Juan also said that there were options for other entrees such as BBQ ribs, baked chicken, and tri-tip. There were some concerns expressed about the table arrangement and the ability to move around. It was noted that tables can be moved into a different pattern as well as how we line up for the buffet counter.

## 8.0 New Business

8.1 Resignation: Paul Wright sent a letter of resignation from the BEC as a Director. Juan commented on what a valuable member he has been to the BEC. A motion was made by John C. and seconded by Bill R. to accept Paul's resignation with appreciation for all he has done on the board. The motion passed unanimously.

8.2 Director Position: Glenn Nelman said he would volunteer to fill the vacant Director's position. A motion was made by Bill R. and seconded by Mike L. to nominate Glenn Nelman for the position of Director on the BEC which Paul vacated. The motion passed unanimously.

8.3 Newsletter Editor: Juan asked for volunteers to fill vacant positions. David Stull volunteered to be Newsletter Editor. A motion was made by Mike L. and Glenn N. to nominate David Stull to be Newsletter Editor, and he will be paid for any expenses he incurs in that position. The motion passed unanimously. Temple will still be the publisher.

8.4 SIR Pilot Program: Rick is developing a pilot program to build SIRS membership. He is hoping that our branch will be one of the pilot branches in Area 10 and 18. He wants pilot branches to commit to a marketing plan which would use local newspapers. He is working to get a commitment from the State SIR for providing funding to the pilot branches. The program will track the effects of the program on membership improvement in the first quarter of 2025 (Jan-Mar). Rick will also work with our branch to link our website with QR codes and to prepare "invite cards" to reach out to potential members. He has already prepared a brochure for membership information. To be part of the program, the branch would have to commit \$1000 for the first quarter. If the pilot program is increasing membership, then our branch would provide an additional \$1000 for the second year. If there is no membership increase after the first quarter, then our branch would not be required to provide the additional money. The Modesto Branch and two Branches in Turlock have already committed to the program. After a discussion, a motion was made by Bill R. and seconded by Mike L. to commit \$1000 for the pilot SIR Membership Enhancement Program. The motion passed unanimously.

9.0 Good of the Order: None

10.0 Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm.

Submitted By Tony Moles, Secretary.

Financial Report  
SIR Chapter 145  
November 20, 2024

Starting Bank Balance \$3232.38

### Income

Lunch receipts \$ 1405.00

Raffle Pot \$ 83.00

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**Total Income** \$ 1488.00

### Expenses

Lunch expense (Sondra Ryan Creative Catering) \$ 992.24

Stockton Elks Lodge Deposit \$ 250.00

Newsletter (Temple Gallagher) \$ 127.77

Juan Ochoa (Reimbursement for Elks Hall Fee) \$ 300.00

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**Total Expenses** \$ 1670.01

**Net Gain/Loss** \$ (182.01)

**Ending Balance** \$3050.37



Joe Stephens  
SIR Branch #145 Treasurer  
twarrior1945@gmail.com 209 992-1020





**LODI - STOCKTON SIR #145**  
**Train Experience – Stockton to Reno**  
**January 9 – 10, 2025**

**\$150/person - Roundtrip (rates vary and subject to change)**

**Book Flex-Rates / Senior-Military Discount (10%)**

**Amtrak Website link: [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) 800-872-7245**

**NOTE: When you book with an agent or direct, be sure to reserve the same train numbers.**

**Itinerary**

TRAIN	ORIGIN	DATE	DEPARTURE	DESTINATION	DATE	ARRIVAL
<b>BUS 3711</b>	Stockton	1/9/25	8:45 AM	Sacramento	1/9/25	9:50 AM
<b>6</b>	Sacramento	1/9/25	10:23 AM	Reno	1/9/25	3:27 PM
<b>5</b>	Reno	1/10/25	9:24 AM	Martinez	1/10/25	4:13 PM
<b>718</b>	Martinez	1/10/25	6:15 PM	Stockton	1/10/25	7:19 PM

Please join us on this train experience when we take **Amtrak BUS** to Sacramento and the California Zephyr from Sacramento to Reno. We will make stops in Roseville, Colfax and Truckee, before arriving in Reno.

The higher up we will go in elevation, the more stunning and gorgeous the views will become. We will see bright, sunlit woodsy meadows, farmland, mountains, huge pine trees, Donner Lake and the Truckee River, which flows right beside us. We will travel through several dark tunnels. The views will change from bright green grass to snowy mountains, and the skies will go from sunshine to thick cloud cover. Gradually, we will start seeing patches of snow higher up and then maybe a foot or more of snow on either side of the train.

Once the train arrives in Reno around 3:30 p.m., we will walk a short distance to the hotel. It's recommended you make reservations, for Thursday night, January 9th, at the **Silver Legacy 775-329-4777**, or a hotel of your choice.

**Contact John Cardoza at 209-483-7722, if you have any questions or need help!**

**PLEASE contact John when you have booked your trip.**



**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR RETIRED MEN**  
**LODI BRANCH #145**  
 1729 Zinfandel Drive  
 LODI, CA 95242

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**2024 OFFICERS**

**BIG SIR**  
 Juan Ochoa 481-5825  
**LITTLE SIR**  
 Felix Moran 609-4084  
**SECRETARY**  
 Anthony Moles 369-8182  
**ASST. SECRETARY**

**TREASURER**  
 Joe Stephens 992-1020  
**ASST. TREASURER**

**2024 Directors-at-Large**

John Coakley 914-9830  
 Mike Lynn 224-6115  
 Bill Rutherford 916-995-6079  
 Paul Wright 480-235-6923

**Area State Representative Richard Provost**

**2024 Committee Chairman**

**ACTIVITIES**  
 Paul Wright 480-235-6923  
**ANECDOTALIST**  
 Mike Lynn 712-6200  
**ATTENDANCE**  
 Stephen Helmer 242-4607  
**AUDITOR**  
 Replacement TBA  
**BULLETIN EDITOR**  
 David Stull 479-4944

**BULLETIN PUBLISHER**  
 Temple Gallagher 986-8367

**CHAPLAIN**  
 Paul Wright 480-235-6923

**GREETER**

**RECOGNITION**

**GOLF**  
 Bill Rutherford 916-995-6079  
 Mike Lynn 224-6115

**HISTORIAN**

(open)

**MEMBERSHIP RECORDS**  
 Stephen Helmer 242-4607

**NOMINATING**

**PICNIC**

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
 Paul Wright 480-235-6923

**PROGRAM**  
 Felix Moran 609-4084  
 Tom Pratt 916-622-4791

**PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN**  
 Big SIR

**SARGENT AT ARMS**

**SONG LEADER**  
 Joe Stephens 992-1020

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

**TRAVEL & TOURS**

**PAST BIG SIR**

Ruben Moser 1988-1989  
 Al Baerwald 1990  
 Bill Owen 1991  
 Al Cooper 1992  
 Earl Klapstein 1993  
 Dave Stennick 1994  
 Gus Armendariz 1995  
 Jerry Kirsten 1996  
 Bob McCaffrey 1997  
 Tom Bandelin 1998  
 Frank Garcia 1999  
 Bob Handel 2000  
 John Korphage (18) 2000-2001  
 Jack Jackson 2001  
 Bill Dauer 2002  
 Ron Westerterp 2003  
 Dave Hinchman 2004-2005  
 Paul Reiner 2006  
 Neal W. Welsh 2007  
 John Mendonca 2008  
 Bill Shankles 2009  
 George Cameron 2010  
 Richard Baines 2011-2012  
 Al Furr 2013  
 Chuck Bennett 2014-2015  
 Jack Johnson 2016  
 Bob Gorbet 2017  
 Phil Schrock 2018  
 Paul Wright 2019-2021  
 Mark Wahlman 2022-2023