

The Grapevine

Lodi/Stockton Branch SIR 145 Newsletter

A non-profit social organization for men



JULY 2025

**“There are no strangers here, only friends that haven’t met”
—Yeats**

Big Sir

Members,

July brings hot days, so for those of you that have outdoor activities, please hydrate drink plenty of water.

We had a very successful meeting in June, and now I’m looking forward to another exciting and very informative meeting.

We have over 45 members and guests for the June meet. I hope and pray that we reach 50 to 60 members for this Tuesday, July 8, 2025 meeting.

I am having fun once again seeing our members be happy and very friendly with one another. Our menu has been superb. I had a request for a particular type of entree and I am trying to fulfill that request.

For our July 8, 2025, meeting our menu is as follows:

What about bacon wrapped pork loin with bourbon sauce and scalloped potatoes, vegetables, green salad with dressing, bread and butter. We will have coffee and ice tea.

Please make your RSVP TO MARK WAHLMAN AT HIS PHONE BY CALLING, texting at 209-327-7335. Please RSVP BY NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025.

Meeting at ELKS LODGE IN STOCKTON, CA STARTING AT 11:30 AM, lunch at NOON...

Regards, Juan G Ochoa, Big SIR Chapter 145 , 209-481-5325 jgochoa@icloud.com



SIR Bulletin Editor Commentary

We had a great meeting in June, with great food, and a good talk from the Head of the Witness Protection Program in San Joaquin County. Our attendance also increased from the previous few meetings.

For July, we are starting something NEW. The Big Sir will pick someone out from the membership to interview with a few questions. (We may be surprised at what we learn.

In addition, beginning with this edition of the Bulletin, I am including 3 biographies of 3 BEC members. (What accomplished men!!) I will be asking for 3 more men to volunteer to have their bio published for the August Bulletin. See the bio's of John Coakley, Mike Lynn and Mark Wahlman below.

FOCUS ON SIR BEC (BOARD) MEMBERS

John Coakley

John has been a SIR Branch #145 Member since 2015, and has been serving on the BEC for a couple of years. John was born into an Air Force Family, so was born in Great Britain. And spent his first few years of elementary school in a private English boarding school, where both the boys and girls had to come to school each day wearing white shirts and ties. WHAT A SHOCK TO COME BACK TO RIVERSIDE, CA. to finish his schooling.

Since his father was an Air Force Career officer, John (and his friends) got to use the Camp Pendleton (near Oceanside) secluded beach, during High School, where he learned to surf. He surfed all his life, and only stopped at age 70—owning 4 surfboards at that time, including a specially designed surfboard.

John American River Community College in Sacramento and then Sacramento State to get his bachelor's degree in psychology with an emphasis in counseling. He finished his Master's degree at Chico State in Psychology and Counseling, with a counseling credential in counseling.

John's work history includes 16 years at Tracy High School, 3 years at Lodi High as Assistant Principal, and 11 years at Morada Middle School. He retired in 2009.

John and his wife Robin have been married for 55 years. Robin was a 35 year employee of the Bell telephone companies. They both enjoyed surfing and skiing together right into later life. John and Robin have a son and a daughter and 2 grandsons. The son lives in Clovis and the daughter in Washington State.

We thank John for his fellowship and service on the BEC Board.



FOCUS ON SIR BEC (BOARD) MEMBERS

Michael Lynn

Mike has the distinction of being born on an Indian reservation in Oklahoma. He has enough Indian blood in him to be a member of the Choctaw Indian tribe of Oklahoma.

At 10 years old, Mike's family moved to California, to the Oakland area, where he attended High School. He finished his education by going to Cal State Hayward to get a degree in political science, and then matriculated to San Francisco Law, where he got his law degree.

Mike practiced labor law for most of his career, as a lawyer for the Teamsters Union for 10 years, then had a private practice in the East Bay for 20 years, and finally 12 years representing the California Teachers Association.

His final career move was as a partner of the old Castaway Restaurant downtown Stockton, on the channel, which many SIR members may remember.

Mike and his wife Lori moved to Lodi about 25 years ago. Mike and Lori have 2 sons and 2 grandsons. (One son lives in Santa Cruz and the other in Portland.) Mike has been a member of SIR 145 since 2014 and is also a member of the Lodi Odd Fellows. Mike is a director on the Board, and also the SIR ANECDOTALIST---which means he tells jokes for our amusement at each meeting.

He is also an avid golfer.



Mark Wahlman

Mark was the past Big Sir of Branch 145 from 2023 through 2024. Mark also fills in when the Big Sir, Juan Ocha is not available, but Mark is also active in acquiring our speaker for our luncheons.

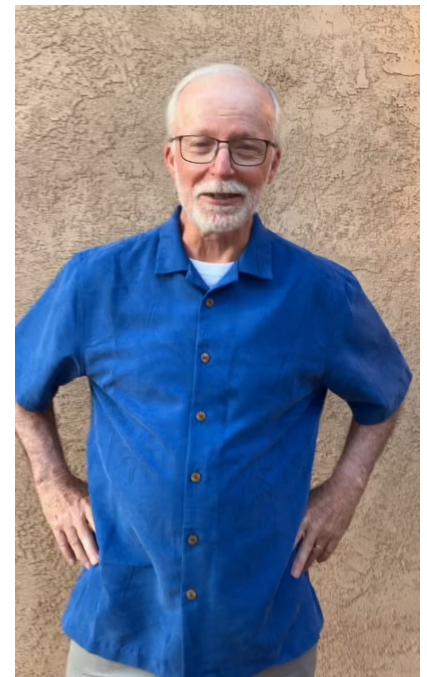
Mark was born and raised in East Chicago, Indiana--- close to the famous Gary. Indiana Steel Mills. (In the 1960's I have driven through there and seen all the smokestacks billowing out their flames.) Mark achieved his Business Management degree at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

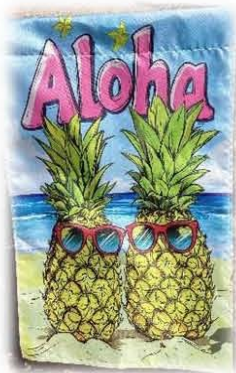
After college he went to work for Stokley-Van Kamp, the vegetable and bean processing company in Indianapolis for 13 years. He met his wife, Debi there.

In 1984 they moved to this area and worked for 29 years, Pacific Coast Producers, rising from controller to Vice President of Finance.

Mike retired in 2013, and his primary passion now is golf---other than his 2 beautiful daughters and 4 grandchildren. (One daughter lives in Northwest Montana and the other in Illinois.) I am sure the Wahlman's travel often to see them.

Thanks for all you do for our SIR Branch.





SIRS Dine-In Dine-Out Group News

What a fun group all decked out in their favorite Hawaiian attire. Our June group was hosted by Dave & Mary Dias' in their backyard. A

Hawaiian themed meal with others bringing sides, appetizers and yummy desserts made for a delicious evening.

The next Dine-In Dine-Out Group is on August 28th and will be hosted by Mike and Lori Lynn. Details will be sent to the group in early August.

The SIRS Dine-In Dine-Out Group is for those interested in trying new restaurants or who enjoy cooking. It's an opportunity to socialize and meet other couples in SIRS. The responsibility of the hosts involves choosing a restaurant or cooking in their home. If you are interested in joining the group, please reach out to debiwahlman@hotmail.com. Group meets five times per year (February, April, June, August & October)



SIRS Wine Appreciation

The next Wine Appreciation group meets July 24th at 6:00 pm and will be hosted by Jim and Karen Sowers. Guests are asked to bring a bottle of wine OR an appetizer to share. Karen is planning a summertime ice cream sundae bar for dessert. An email will be sent early July to members. RSVP text to Karen Sowers @ 209-663-8419



2025 schedule of hosts

Date	Host
July 24, 2025	Jim & Karen Sowers
September 25, 2025	Paul Wright & Lin Defilippi
November 13, 2025	Tony & Lynda Canton

The SIRS Wine Appreciation Group is for those interested in tasting wines and enjoying a social gathering in the home of the hosts. The responsibility of the hosts involves choosing and providing the wines. If you are interested in joining the group, please reach out to marydias214@gmail.com or call/text 209-210-0082. Group meets six e times per year (January, March, May, July, September & November)

Mary & Dave Dias, Wine Appreciation Group Coordinators

"Golf is a lot like sex, you don't have to be good at it to enjoy it." —Chi Chi Rodriguez

Little Known and Surprising Facts About Golf

	Oldest Sport Club	Company of Edinburgh Golfers founded in 1744
	Origin of the Word "Golf"	From the Dutch word " <i>kolf</i> ," meaning "club." (Why Dutch?*)
	Oldest Golf Course	"Old Course" at St. Andrews, Scotland, dates to 15th century
	Originally 22 Holes	In 1784 several short holes of the "Old Course" were combined
	First Golf Balls	Leather stuffed with feathers; modern standard set in 1921
	Golf Ball Dimples	Standard: 300-500, they reduce air resistance to improve flight
	First Woman Golfer	Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-1587)
	Banned by James II	Because it interfered with the archery practice of Scottish King
	Most Expensive Round	About \$1,000 at Shadow Creek Golf Course in Las Vegas
	Longest Hole	1,097 yard, par 7, 3rd hole at South Korea's Gunsan Country Club
	Longest Recorded Drive	515 yards by Mike Austin in 1974
	Shortest PGA Tour Hole	106-yard, par 3, 7th hole at Pebble Beach Golf Links
	Longest Recorded Putt	401 feet, 2 inches by Jay Stocki in 2023 at Kohler Putting Course
	Hole-in-One Probability	12,500 to 1 for average golfer, 58 years of weekly 18-hole rounds
	Youngest Hole-in-One	5-year-old Coby Orr in 1975
	Human Lightning Rods	More golfers struck by lightning than players in any other sport

* The medieval Dutch stick-and-ball game of *kolf* resembled early forms of golf. *Kolf* was popular in the Netherlands at a time of significant cultural exchange with Scotland. The Scots adapted the game (*Gowf* in Scots Gaelic) to their landscapes and rules, and it eventually evolved into the modern game of golf.

Steven Ding, San Joaquin County Supervisor, District 4

After graduating from Stagg High School, Steve attended San Joaquin Delta College, then transferred to Chico State.



In 2010, Steve bought the historic Woodbridge Crossing restaurant and worked hard on his own dime to restore it and keep it a local tradition. The restaurant flourished and won awards for excellence.

In November 2022, Steve was elected to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, District 4.

June 11, 2025
as of 6/11/2025

~~Final Scores~~

Final Scores									
team		A Flight		B Flight		C Flight		D Flight	
Trunnell	2	Tom Trunnell	65	Sigurd Anderson	69	Steve Freeman	67	Dave Stull	58
Nomura	4	Matt Nomura	67	Mike Baylor	71	Steve Hellmer	64	Rick Okazaki	56
Morelli	1	Bill Morelli	70	Joe Stephens	67	Juan Ochoa	67	Rudy Rodriguez	62
Besto	8	Paul Besto	66	Bill Hye	60	Ernie Lucero	60	Roger Sperring	67
Amos	5	Jeff Amos	73	Andy Bailey	70	Art Lopez	73	Allan Bennett	63
Moran	7	Felix Moran	68	Rod Williams	73	Mark Wahlman	67	Dan Cole	65
Pirie	9	Robert Pirie	76	Jim Escobar	67	Bill Beckman	71	Bob Cossey	65
Baumbach	3	Lew Baumbach	70	Mike Lynn	71	Terry Hickey	69	Cal Rodway	63
Thomas	6	Larry Thomas	75	Chuck Argus	75	Angelo Sebazco	75	Bill Rutherford	66

CTP #4-Robetr Pirie 10'6"

CTP #14 Bill Hye - 3'11" (made the Putt)

SIR Golf

At

Cavanaugh GC

8301 Freeport Blvd, Sac, 916-808-2020

When -Wednesday, July 16, 8:30 Tee Times

Format -2 man, Best Ball, with Skins

Tees - We will be playing the white tees at 5,393

Cost \$55, Payable in advance

/Skins Will be optional at \$10 Gross, \$10 Net/team-\$10 Gross /team

Sign-up by July 9, **Pay** by July 11

Hosts: Tom Trunnell & Gene Davenport

Application to Cavanaugh GC 2 man 2 BB tournament, July 16, \$55 payable
to SIR Golf, to Bill Rutherford
1067 1st Avenue, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Name _____ Gross skins(\$10) _____
Net skins(\$10 _____

Partner _____
Playing partners _____

Partner _____

Partner _____

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

JULY

07/27/32	Tony Canton
07/02/48	John Coakley
07/02/44	Dan Cole
07/04/53	Gene Davenport
07/14/44	James Escobar
07/08/43	Tom Rut
07/16/50	David Taylor
07/02/50	Mike Trillo



Membership Report JUNE

Membership in attendance:	40
Guest in attendance:	3
Percentage of active members in attendance	30%
Total active members:	120
Members Added:	0
Members Reinstated:	0
Members Dropped	0
Members Resigned	0

Stephen Hellmer-Membership Chairman

JULY Holidays & Observances

07/04 US Independence Day



Getting older is like being on a roller coaster...there are highs and lows, laughter and tears, and sometimes... you just may pee your pants a little"



Financial Report

SIR Branch 145

June 10, 2025

Starting Bank Balance: \$ 2,839.67

Income

Lunch receipts	\$ 1,120.00
Pot	\$ 54.00
Membership Dues	\$ 25.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,199.00

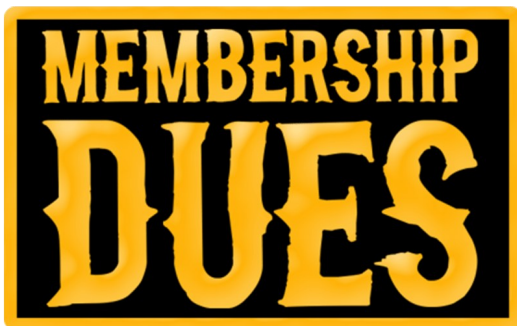
Expenses

Creative Catering (SIR Luncheon)	\$ 792.16
Mark Wahlman (lunch cookies)	\$ 20.00
Temple Gallagher (Newsletter)	\$ 125.00
Elks Lodge Monthly Luncheon facility rental	\$ 300.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,237.16

Net Gain/Loss \$ (38.16)

Ending Balance \$ 2,801.51

Joe Stephens SIR Branch #145
Treasurer



2025 ANNUAL DUES

Annual Dues of \$25 per member are due and may be paid at the next Meeting.

If not attending,
please mail a check to:

Joe Stephens
P.O. Box 114, Clements,
CA 95227

St. Andrew

One of the twelve disciples, Andrew was born to a Jewish family in Galilee. He was a fisherman who was called to become a “fisher of men.” He also became a “fisher of women” and converted the wife of the Roman governor of Achaia (today Greece). For doing that, he was martyred around 60 CE. According to tradition, he was crucified on an X-shaped cross, known as a “saltire.” Legend relates that a monk named Regulus received instructions in a dream to take some of Andrew's bones to the “ends of the earth.” He set sail from Byzantium (today Constantinople), heading west toward the edge to known world, and was shipwrecked in the area now known as St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland, where he presented the relics to Pictish King Óengus mac Fergusa (729–761). The area became a significant religious center, with a cathedral built to house the Saint's relics. St. Andrew became the patron saint of Scotland, which adopted his saltire cross as a national symbol on Scotland's flag. The Saint's namesake town is recognized as the birthplace of golf with its famous Old Course St. Andrew's, which also honors the Apostle.



16 NIGHT HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CRUISE ABOARD THE RUBY PRINCESS

**SAILING ROUND TRIP
SAN FRANCISCO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 8, 2026**

PORTS OF CALL

Hilo, Big Island/ Kahului, Maui/ Honolulu, Oahu
Nawiliwili, Kauai and Ensenada, Mexico

THE RUBY PRINCESS



****Add the Princess Plus Package for \$960 per person
Includes: Beverage package, WiFi, Crew appreciation, Premium
desserts (2 per day), Fitness classes (2 per cruise) and unlimited Juice Bar, 2 Casual
Dining meals per guest, Room service delivery****

BOOK BY JULY 1, 2025 AND RECEIVE A \$150 PER PERSON DISCOUNT!

ESCORTED BY JOHN CARDOZA (209) 483-7722 cell





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2025 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

2025 Directors-at-Large

John Coakley 914-9830
Mike Lynn 224-6115
Bill Rutherford 916-995-6079
Glenn Nellman 209-369-8620

Area State Representative Tony Butera
209-985-3473
State President Rick Carlston
925-324-0838

2025 Committee Chairman

ACTIVITIES
David Dias
ANECOTALIST
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
David Stull 479-4944
GREETER

RECOGNITION

GOLF
Bill Rutherford 916-995-6079
HISTORIAN
(open)
MEMBERSHIP RECORDS
Stephen Helmer 242-4607
NOMINATING

PICNIC

PHOTOGRAPHER
Ed Oyler 209-482-6809
PROGRAM
Felix Moran 609-4084
Tom Pratt 916-622-4791

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

Big SIR
SARGENT AT ARMS

SONG LEADER
Joe Stephens 992-1020
TRAVEL & TOURS
John Cardoza 209-483-7722

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