

The Grapevine

Lodi/Stockton Branch SIR 145 Newsletter

A non-profit social organization for men



MARCH 2026

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

—Yeats

Big Sir Greeting March 2026

Dear SIR 145 Members,

I am very proud to report that we had a very successful meeting in February. We had 45 members and guests attending.

I congratulate Bill Rutherford for another outstanding performance in organizing and organizing February’s golf tournament at the Manteca Golf Course. (Photos later in the Bulletin) Everyone had a great time, and the weather was perfect for golf. The event was so successful that just about everyone signed up to play in March’s golf tournament. That tournament will be held at Wild Hawk, in Elk Grove. We have room for more players.

We are busy planning for our annual picnic, scheduled for Tuesday, **May 11**, starting at 11 am. Lunch will be served at noon. We will have LOCKEFORD DAKOTA SAUSAGES, with buns and the “fixings”. For those who enjoy a green garden salad, as well as other sides, your taste buds will be well satisfied. NO NEED TO STAY HOME, so come out and enjoy great food and several extra activities, including the raffle prizes. The cost is \$20 per person. (Bring a little extra cash for a couple of the games with cash prizes.) Please make your reservations at either the March or April meeting. It would be helpful if you paid when you make your reservation.

Since March is ST. PATRICK’S MONTH WE WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MENU:
CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE, RED POTATOES, BREAD, COFFEE AND TEA.

**PLEASE RSVP TO MARK WAHLMAN AT 209-327-7335 OR EMAIL AT : mwahlman@comcast.net.
ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH, BY 5 PM.**

Juan G. Ochoa, BIG SIR CHAPTER 145 jgochoa@icloud.com, 209-481-5325

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name	Sir Since
03/24/50	Alan Bennett	02/11/25
03/09/54	Tony Canton	09/10/13
03/01/58	Steve Freeman	03/11/25
03/15/43	Rich Handel	10/11/22
03/27/45	Jim Jacobson	01/13/26
03/20/40	Marty Kjelson	05/01/22
03/14/30	Roger McCormick	01/01/95
03/07/42	Ron Mettler	08/09/11
03/08/49	Glenn Nellman	01/01/18
03/08/49	Matt Nomura	06/14/22
03/26/55	John Pena	04/01/24
03/01/55	Robert Pirie	06/14/24
03/10/39	George Roxson	10/11/22
03/07/45	Roger Sperring	10/13/20



MARCH HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

03/06	Employee Appreciation Day
03/08	Daylight Savings Time Begin
03/17	St Patrick's Day
03/20	Spring Equinox—First Day of Spring
03/29	Palm Sunday





RV TRAVEL



Roger Jackson, RV Chair

Jackson Rancheria RV Park
 11407 Dalton Road, Jackson, CA 95642
 Deadline to book is March 1, 2026

Sunday, April 26 – Friday, May 1, 2026

1. Call to make your reservation: (800) 822-9466
Mention you are with SIRS2026
2. Once you have confirmed your reservation
Call or text Roger, RV Chair →
209-658-2673 or Email: rogjaxn@me.com
3. **IMPORTANT:** Reservations are transferrable:
Please call Roger before cancelling
10 rigs = a 15% group discount

FOCUS ON NEW MEMBERS

Doug Waterhouse

Doug was born in 1956 in Toronto, Ontario. His family moved to San Jose, Ca. in 1960, then to LA, then to Martinez, then Visalia, and then back to Toronto. Doug related that he attended 6 different high schools in all. (I am sure that led to some very broad experiences.)

Doug married his wife in British Columbia in 1980, but moved back to California in 1982, where he started working for a commercial glass company in 1982 (his dad's business) In 1988 Doug started his own commercial glass business and retired in 2025.

Doug has 5 children, living in El Dorado Hills, Tahoe and Henderson , Nevada. Unfortunately Doug's wife passed away this past year.

Doug enjoys golfing, boating, and RVing. He is on an RV trip as we speak, so will not be at the March SIR meeting. Doug joined our SIR Chapter in October of last year.

Allan Bennett

Allan was born in Chicago, in 1950, where his father worked in the steel mills along Lake Michigan. After high school, Allan joined the army, serving most of his time in Germany from 1966 through 1970.

At the ripe age of 20 he married a girl he met in a K Mart in Hammond, Indiana. They were married 47 years, before her passing. They had one daughter, who also passed on a few years ago.

Upon returning from military service he took up truck driving, in Tacum, New Mexico, where they remained for 11 years, before moving to California in 1999, continuing with the Teamsters Union as a long-haul driver. He remained a Teamster for 31 years. And retired in 2010.

Allan plays golf twice a week, and also likes to bass fish. He remains a long time Chicago Bears fan, even though the Bears may pick up stakes and move to Indiana in the near future.

Allan may move permanently to Goodyear, Arizona, in the near future, where his lady friend resides.



As Cliff Clavin of *Cheers* Would Say It's a Little Known Fact

- ☘ The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in the United States took place in Boston, Massachusetts in 1737.
- ☘ The world's shortest St. Patrick's Day parade takes place in Dripsey, County Cork, Ireland. It stretches only 25 yards, between the village's two pubs.
- ☘ The color of St. Patrick's Day was originally blue. The shift to green occurred from at least the 17th century due to Ireland's nickname "The Emerald Isle", the green in the Irish flag, and green shamrocks.
- ☘ Shamrocks are a species of clover. Legend teaches that the leaves of a four-leaf clover represent Hope, Faith, Love and Luck. Only 1 in every 5,000 clovers has four leaves. The most ardent collectors have reached records as high as 160,000 four-leaf clovers in a lifetime. The world record for the number collected in 1 hour is 166.
- ☘ 35 million (10%) Americans claim Irish ancestry. That total is more than seven times the population of Ireland itself.
- ☘ The real St. Patrick wasn't Irish. He was born in Britain around A.D. 390 to an aristocratic Christian family.
- ☘ St. Patrick was never formally canonized, since he lived at a time when local bishops governed the veneration of holy men and women within their own dioceses. Today canonization is a papal declaration that the Catholic faithful may venerate a particular deceased member of the church as a Saint. Popes began making such decrees in the tenth century. Canonization procedures became increasingly standardized and the popes eventually gained the sole right to declare someone a Catholic saint.
- ☘ Patrick is also a Saint in the Anglican and Lutheran churches. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, Patrick is regarded at Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlightener of Ireland.

A Fine Synthetic Brogue

By Ogden Nash

Saint Patrick was a proper man, a man to be admired;
Of numbering his virtues I am never, never tired.
A handsome man, a holy man, a man of mighty deeds,
He walked the lanes of Erin, a-telling of his beads.
A-telling of his beads, he was, and spreading of the word.
I think that of Saint Patrick's Day, Saint Patrick hadn't heard.

The saint was born a subject of the ancient British throne,
But the Irish in their wisdom recognized him as their own.
A raiding party captured him, and carried him away,
And Patrick loved the Irish, and he lived to capture they,
A-walking of the valleys and a-spreading of the word.
I think that of Saint Patrick's Day, Saint Patrick hadn't heard.

He defied the mighty Druids, he spoke them bold and plain,
And he lit the Easter fire on the lofty hill of Shane.
He lit the Easter fire where the hill and heaven met,
And on every hill in Ireland the fire is burning yet.
He lit the Easter fire, a-spreading of the word.
I think that of Saint Patrick's Day, Saint Patrick hadn't heard.

Saint Patrick was a proper man before he was a saint,
He was shaky in his Latin, his orthography was quaint,
But he walked the length of Ireland, her mountains and her lakes,
A-building of his churches and a-driving out the snakes,
A-building of his churches and a-spreading of the word.
I think that of Saint Patrick's Day, Saint Patrick hadn't heard.

But the silver-tongued announcer is a coy, facetious rogue;
He ushers in Saint Patrick with a fine synthetic brogue,
He spatters his commercials with macushlas and colleens,
Begorras, worra-worras, and spurious spalpeens.
I hope one day Saint Patrick will lean down from Heaven's arch
And jam the bloody air waves on the Seventeenth of March.

☘ St. Patrick's Day Limerick

At Geaghans* today I'll be drinkin',
and all will know what I am thinkin'.
On St. Paddy's day,
I will toast and say,
Lord, please stop my wallet from shrinkin'.



*Geaghans Pub & Brewery, Winterport, Maine

SPEAKER FOR MARCH

David Rajkovich

President, Stockton Maritime Museum

David is a recently retired farmer, having raised walnuts and apples in the Morada and Waterloo area for the past 50 years. While not a veteran himself, he is the son of a WWII sailor and grew up around many men of the “greatest generation”. He loved hearing them describe their time serving our country in all theaters around the world.

David has been a history buff since he was a kid, including the local history of industry and agriculture in Stockton and the Bay Area.

He is a founder of the Stockton Maritime Museum in 2012 to save the last remaining example of a Navy minesweeper of the largest class of such ships built here in one of downtown Stockton’s numerous shipyards, as well as to preserve and tell the rich maritime history that was so important to the founding, growth and prosperity of Stockton since 1850.

February 25th SIR Golf Tournament



February 25th SIR Golf Tournament



Dine In – Dine Out Group

Gracias!

Dining with a large group means more laughter, louder conversation, and joyful chaos that comes from sharing good food together. Throw in some margaritas and you have accomplished all the above. This was the first time visit to El Pazcifico Mexican Grill & Cantina for a few, and it did not disappoint. Gracias to our hosts Mark & Gayle Shimoszaki



Next Dine Out is April 23rd and will be hosted by Paul Wright & Lin Defilippi



The SIRS Dine In – Dine Out Group is for those interested in dining out or hosting dinner in their home. Hosts are responsible for choosing the venue and making the reservations (if applicable.) Currently we are not adding any new members but will assist with starting another group; please reach out to Dave Dias or Paul Wright if you are interested.



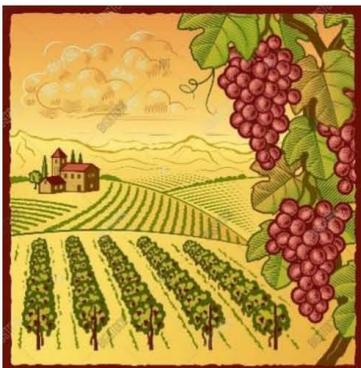
Wine Appreciation Group

Hosts Mark & Gayle Shimoszaki

Ready to sip, swirl and maybe fall a little in love with Lodi Appellation wines? On March 26th, our hosts Mark & Gayle Shimoszaki – who practically have grape juice in their veins, thanks to a long history in the Lodi growing region are ready to share their love of wine. Expect a broad range of flavors on all counts and plenty of fun and fellowship!

Watch for a group email with more details.

The SIRS Wine Appreciation Group is for those interested in tasting wines and enjoying a social gathering in the home of the hosts. Currently we are not adding any new members but will assist with starting another group; please reach out to Dave Dias or Paul Wright if you are interested.





Financial Report

SIR Branch 145

February 10, 2026

Membership Report

February

Membership in attendance:	40
Guest in attendance:	2
Percentage of active members in attendance	37%
Total active members:	109
Members Added:	0
Members Reinstated:	0
Members Dropped	0
Members Resigned	0

Stephen Hellmer-Membership Chairman



Lunch receipts	\$ 1,250.00
13 Memberships Paid	\$ 325.00
50/50 Raffle Pot	\$ 81.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,656.00

Expenses

Sondra Creative Catering	\$ 875.84
Elks Lodge Rental	\$ 300.00
David Stull (Postage for newsletters)	\$ 47.20
Stephen Heller (Printer Ink & Frames)	\$ 40.70
Temple Gallagher (Newsletter)	\$ 125.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,388.74

Net Gain/Loss \$ 267.26

Ending Balance \$1,602.14

Current membership 109

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

JOSE GARCIA
Deputy Director of Veterans Services
USMC OIF Veteran

P: (209) 468-2919
P: (209) 468-2918
E: JGarcia2@sjchcs.org

6221 West Ln.
Suite 105
Stockton, CA 95210

VETERANS SERVICES
SAN JOAQUIN
COUNTY
Greatness grows here.

2026 ANNUAL DUES

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

If not attending,
please mail a check to:

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

Lodi-Stockton SIR Golf 2026 Schedule

Draft-12/4⁵

Date	Course	Format	Cost/timing	Start/type	Host	Other comments
Feb 25	Manteca	2 man scr + skins	\$46	9:00 T/T	Bailey / Lucero	
March 18	Wildhawk	2 mn scramble	\$60	8:32 T/T	Mike Lynn & Roger SP	
April 15	La Contenta	2 man Scr	60	9:00 T/T	Salisbury/ Richerson	
May 13	Reserve	2 man scramble	\$63	9:00 T/T	Besto & Baldwin	
June 10	Micke Grove	4-man blind draw	\$60	8:30S/G	Baumbach/Nomura	
July 15	Cavanaugh	2 man BB + skins	??	9:06 Ss/G	Trunnell/ Davenport	
August 12	Teal Bend	??	\$55	9:00S/G	hosts needed	
Sept 9	Castle Oaks	2 man BB	\$65	9:00??	Roy & Fritz	
Oct 8	open					
Oct 21	Micke Grove	2 man BB Finale	\$60	8:30S/G	Amos & Addington	

Golf Reps: Bill Rutherford 916-995-6079



SIR goes to **Wildhawk GC** 7713 Vineyard Road. Elk Grove, 916-688-4653

When - March 11, 8:32, Tee time
Hosts- Mike Lynn & Roger Sperring

Format -4 man Scramble

Tees - We will be playing the Green/White combo tees at 5,208 yards

Cost \$60, Payable in advance

Sign-up by March 4, Pay by March 6

Note: -\$5 late charge if fees paid after March 6.

* * * * *

Application to Wildhawk tournament, March 11. \$60 payable to SIR Golf,
to Bill Rutherford
1067 1st Avenue, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Name _____

Partner _____

Partner _____

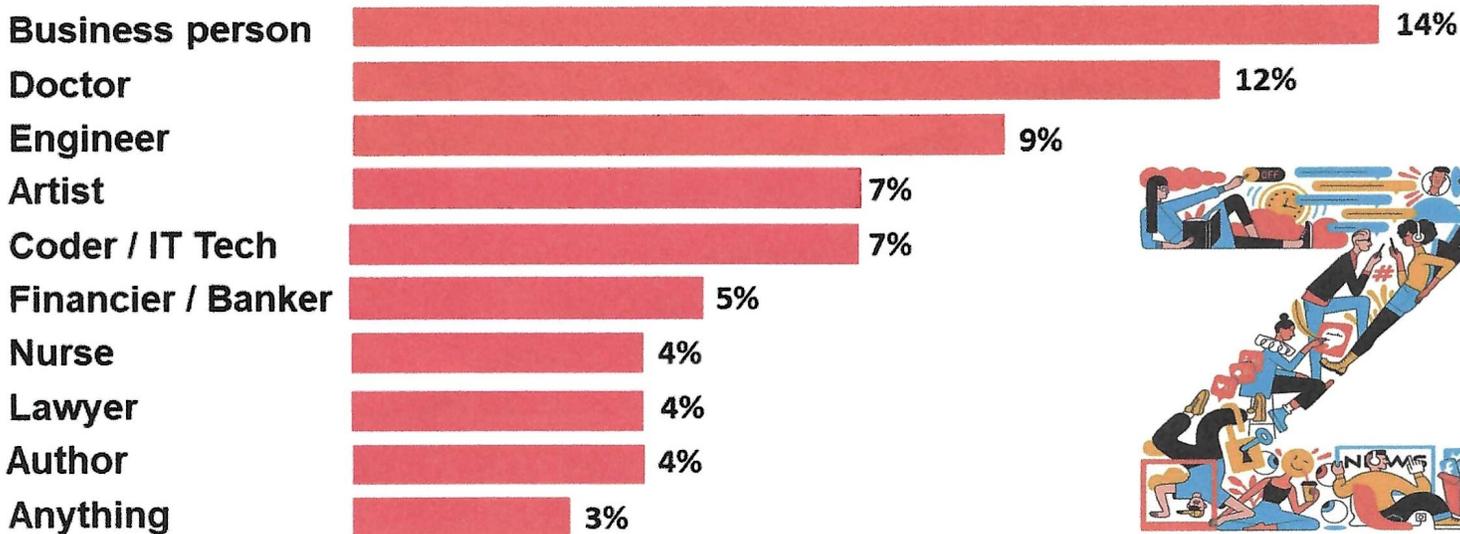
Partner _____

Gen Z Update

Career Goals of Today's Young Adults

Generation Z, Gen Z, or Zoomers, born between the mid-to-late 1990s and the early 2010s — *the age of many SIRs' grandchildren* — are the first “digital natives,” folks who grew up in the “information age” and consume digital information and stimuli quickly and comfortably via computers, mobile phones, and social media. Yet, coincidentally and unexpectedly, Zoomers live life at a slower pace than previous generations. This demographic cohort has lower rates of teen pregnancies and alcohol abuse, greater concern about academic performance and job prospects, and higher Emotional Quotient (e.g., ability to perceive, use, understand, manage, and handle emotions) than previous generations.

The data visualized below comes from a January 11-18, 2023, Axios/Generation Lab survey of 824 U.S. 18-29 year olds. Shown are all professions selected by 2% or more of the respondents.



What do we know about Generation Z that will get them to buy more of our stuff?

So far, all we know is that they hate brands that try to get them to buy more stuff.



Body Ink, Waddya Think?

Startlingly, one in four Gen Zs have a tattoo! A survey of 20,000 randomly selected tattoo photos on social media found that the five most common bits of skin art are “rose” (7.8%), “popular adage” (5%), “skull” (4.5%), “pop art” (4.4%), and “bird” (3.9%). The five most common tattoo themes are “animals” (16.3%), “script” (13.6%), “flowers” (12.5%), “works of art” (8.2%), “face” (5.3%). Tattoos on men are most likely found on chest, back, biceps, forearm, and ankle. Tattoos on women are most likely found on front shoulder, back shoulder, back, ribcage, forearm, ankle.

21% of American adults who have a tattoo *regret* getting it. Their comments include “I was too young (or foolish, or drunk) when I got the tattoo” (20%), “it's permanent, I'm marked for life” (19%), and “I just don't like it anymore” (18%). Among those seeking tattoo removal, more than half reported that they “suffered embarrassment” due to a tattoo.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2026 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

2026 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

2026 Committee Chairman

ACTIVITIES
 David Dias

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

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

SUNSHINE

Mike Lynn

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