



**Gold Country Branch 95  
2010 Elected Officers**

**Big Sir**  
**Gary Grann** 916.358.3805  
**Little Sir**  
 To Be Announced  
**Secretary**  
**Dennis Callahan** 530.620.6908  
**Asst. Secretary**  
**Paul Tomlinson** 916.933.7618  
**Treasurer**  
**Joe Lampich** 916.960.7676  
**Asst. Treasurer**  
**Mel Hallet** 530.647.8490

**Directors**

**Al Freitag** 916.933.2751  
**Bill Stegman** 916.351.0899  
**Sandy Samboy** 916.933.8903  
**Brian Upton** 916.939.6601  
**George Van Blyenburgh**  
 530.677.1916

**Region II Director**

**Ralph Lingis** 916.933.5561

**Area 31 Governor**

**Bob Carlstroem** 916.791.3608

**Honorary Life Members**

**Al Kaiser** **Ross Walter**

**Chairmen**

**Attendance** ..... Chuck LePere  
**Attendance Asst.** ..... Neal Lucey  
**Badges/Raffle** ..... Bob Scheidegger  
**Billiards** ..... Carl Backers  
**Bowling** ..... Don Weick  
**Bulletin** ..... Jon Jakowatz  
**Chaplain** ..... Ray Retailack  
**E-Mail** ..... Open  
**Golf** ..... Brian Upton  
**Asst Golf** ..... George Van Blyenburgh  
**Historian** ..... Open  
**Membership** ..... Mike Mohr  
**Photography** ..... Warren Graves  
**Property** ..... Open  
**Publicity** ..... Bill Yeager  
**Sunshine** ..... Open  
**Travel** ..... Open  
**Webmaster** ..... Kurt Borowski

# SONS IN RETIREMENT

A NON-PROFIT BENEFIT ORGANIZATION FOR  
 RETIRED MEN DEVOTED TO THE PROMOTION OF  
 INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY OF RETIREMENT

*Gold Country Branch 95 - Bulletin 274 - January 2011*

## BIG SIR—Gary Grann

First let me wish each of you a happy and prosperous new year.

My primary goal this year as your Big SIR is to begin the process of revitalizing our branch. Branch 95 is losing “active” members and the average age of its membership is increasing. We are not alone, over 97% of the branches in SIR have lost members since their peak year. Over the last 20 years SIR has gone from 30,000 members to roughly 20,000 members. This is a downward trend that eventually leads to the demise of the branch. But there is hope. Thirty-one branches have actually added members during the last reporting period.

Two factors are critical to the health of a SIR branch; (1) the development and support of activities and events of interest to the members, and (2) a commitment to membership recruitment. With your help and suggestions we will focus our attention on improving the branch activities and special events. In terms of recruitment, SIR leadership has found that the most effective recruitment tool is the active involvement of its members to invite a friend or acquaintance to attend a luncheon. SIR has established a 10% goal for recruitment of new members. I believe we can meet or exceed that goal if each member invites just one person to attend a luncheon during the coming year.

With your help – **WE CAN DO THIS!**

## Farewell to Past Big SIR—Steve Thomson

Our good friend and Past Big Sir Jim January passed away December 17th. Jim was born in Fresno on August 9, 1930. He attended Roosevelt High School in Fresno where he played football as a guard. This led to his lifelong love of football.

Jim was a Marine during the Korean conflict, obtaining the rank of Sergeant. Upon discharge he went to work for UnoCal Oil Company where he became District Manager.

Jim married Betty and between them they have six children, thirteen grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Jim and Betty loved travelling and visited many parts of the world. They also traveled the West Coast, including winters in Arizona, with truck and fifth wheel.

Jim’s interests included SIRs, golf, bridge, sailing, football, and social functions where he could gather with family and friends. He also enjoyed country music.

Everyone who knew Jim loved him for his humor, outgoing friendship, and just being Jim. He will be greatly missed.

