



BULLETIN

December 2015

Website: sonorasirs.org

SONORA BRANCH #136

**Sonora SIR Branch #136
will meet at the Sonora Elks
Lodge on
Tuesday, December 8th
Our Annual Christmas Luncheon
Starts at Noon
(Social Hour Starts at 11:00 am)
There will not be a Branch
Executive Committee
Meeting this month.**



MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE LINE

**If you are not able to attend
the regular monthly meeting
or are bringing a Guest
please call the Membership
Message Line at**

536 - 6311

**No Later Than Noon on the
Sunday Before the Luncheon
Meeting!**

**and leave a clear message
with your NAME & BADGE
#, GUEST NAME and the
reason you will not be able to
attend if applicable.**

BIG SIR NOTES

Jim Johnson - 536-1595

Ginny and I hope each one of you had a great Thanksgiving and wish you a very joyous 2015 Christmas and Holiday Season. November and December are months of the year full of special days and holidays. One of those special days in the Johnson house is our 46th wedding anniversary the first part of December, WOW.

Now that it is December, I can see the checkered flag waving, my term is almost over. Now is the time to thank all of you for your support and help over the past year. A special thanks goes to Little Sir, soon to be Big Sir, Dale Decker. Dale and I have worked closely together over the past 18-months or so, committed to improve a couple things and insure the continued success of Branch 136. Good luck to both Dale, Danny and their great team in 2016. Also, a big thanks to our Officers, Directors and dedicated activity and committee Chairman. Our Branch is indeed blessed to have such great leadership talent to draw from and those who are willing to share their many talents by volunteering to step into these positions. To you a big thank you. To the Members, I hope you had a good time visiting with your friends at the monthly meetings and the many Sir activities. A big thanks is also due to Deano and his staff for preparing the good food we eat every month. 2016 will be the first year in over 14-years that our good friend Frank Taylor will not be looking after our Branch finances. He is stepping down as our Treasurer but he will still be around to make sure our new Treasurer Eddie Toews stays on track. Thanks to Frank and Arlene for your long and dedicated service to our Branch. Well, that is about it for this old rooster. My run is over and I have had a great time. Thank you Ginny for putting up with me and letting me go down this path. We would not have met so many good friends if it wasn't for Branch 136, especially our RV friends. I will close with a point our 2016 Sir State President, Don Dill makes. We all worked many years and met a few people you want to keep up with after you retire. He says we belong to SIR because you just might meet the five guys you want to meet in heaven. When one of our close SIR friends pass on and the tears appear in our eyes, we know why we joined this great organization. He goes on to say, "no other organization has ever come close to SIR in providing us with that type of friendship, Friends for Life".
Happy Trails!

LITTLE SIR NOTES

Dale Decker - 533-0455

December will be fading away soon and my year as Little Sir for Branch 136 is drawing to a close. It has been a very busy but enjoyable year. I hope that you feel that I've done a good job and there are no regrets. By the time you read this our annual Christmas Luncheon will be upon us. I'm looking forward to another special event with great camaraderie, music and a fine meal. Our branch has been very successful this year in not only meeting but exceeding our State SIR president's mandate of "Plus One" in our membership. Having started the year with 219 active members, losing 21 and gaining 24, we're ending the year with 222 - an increase of 3 members. Thanks to many of you for bringing guests that became members.

On Nov 19th I held a Planning Meeting with all of our officers and directors to discuss plans for next year. I'm glad to report that at our January luncheon meeting we will be announcing implementation of many new things: A member satisfaction survey developed by Paul Squeri, Member Relations Program Director, to understand if the BEC is providing the type of atmosphere and activities that you want and to identify any problems areas that need to be addressed. A Membership Growth Program Director, Rex Page, that will have a supply of SIR tools (cards, brochures, etc) available for members to obtain and pass out to their friends and neighbors. Rex will also be distributing various items to local businesses to gain visibility for our branch. Note: On average our branch is losing 25 members per year through attrition. We must ensure that we bring in new members if we are to survive as an organization. Several new 'activities' being developed by Jeff Phillips, Activities Program Director, that will be available for both members only and members and their significant others. A new Theater/ Dinner program being developed by Monty Youngborg, Theater/ Dinner Program Director, that will offer a couples matinee outing to a local theater. A follow up dinner at a local restaurant will be offered for those that wish to participate. This will start out as a small group, 5 to 6 couples, in order to understand if it will be successful. A faster luncheon check-in process to ensure that all members are correctly identified so as to get credit for attending. Several other new things are under consideration and in the final stages of planning to see if they are viable to our branch so stay tuned.

The first big thing you will notice next year is a return to a 'Head Table'. This is being done to ensure that your officers and directors are

readily available for any discussions you would like to have with them. Also, any guest speakers we have can be approached directly without interrupting any table discussions.

Secondly, all officers and directors next year will wear a silver color membership badge instead of a gold color one. This change is to make them more visible to all members, especially new members, and to better open lines of communications with them. In point, if any of our members have a suggestion, complaint, or anything else that needs to be addressed - find a 'silver badge'. This is your BEC and they are charged with taking ownership and having it taken care of.

On a final note, our Christmas Luncheon quota of 200 tickets has been reached. In fact, I have one more couple on a space available list if something should open up. In regards to this if you can carpool with another couple it would benefit any parking problems we may encounter and be very much appreciated.



GOLF CHAIRMAN

Joint Br. 136 & Br.77 Golf Committee
Danny Laureta - 586-4567
Asst Jeff Phillips - 588-2977
Asst Paul Padavana - 532-8051
Handicap Tom Nischwitz-694-8624

Results of November 24 Golf Tournament at Mountain Springs GC

Format: 4 Man Best Ball (Stableford Scoring)

The SIRs golfer started out in dry weather and got rained out in the back nine with only one foursome able to finish 18 holes. Golfers entering the clubhouse were soaking wet. It was not only pouring down, it was also cold and windy. Burr!

Closest to the hole #5

1 st Kent Kirkland 13' 4"
 2 nd Barry Bynum 15' 17"

Closest to the hole #12

1 st Steve Hagel 5'3"
 2 nd Mike Ross 8'10"

Next Golf Tournament

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 9:30 am at Mountain Springs. Please check the SIR Branch website for the 2016 schedule. (www.sonorasirs.org)



Whited, Jon	12/7
Williams, George	12/7
Hines, William	12/9
Eaton, Herman	12/12
Morgado, John	12/12
Myers, Frank	12/15
VanGerpen, James	12/15
Scheonmann, Bud	12/18
Gelber, Bob	12/20
Nilan, Don	12/20
Long, Ron	12/21
Bynum, Barry	12/23
LaFrance, Mike	12/28
Bullman, Paul	12/23
McEntire, Bill	12/23
Sudduth, Ed	12/24
Vanier, Dennis	12/26
Becker, Paul	12/27
Kilpatrick, Frank	12/29
Braida, Robert	12/30
Price, Chuck	12/30



BOWLING CHAIRMAN

Bert Abreo - 736-4804

High Scores for Oct 26

High Game - Talf Wynne 256
 High Series - Gene Deaver 645
 Standings - Misfits 19-9
 Andy's Dandys 18-10
 The Wild Ones 16.5-11.5

High Scores for Nov 2

High Game - Jim Simmons 221
 High Series - Jim Simmons 631
 Standings - Misfits 22-10
 No Excuses 19-5-12.5
 Andy's Dandys 19-13

High Scores for Nov 9

High Game - Trini Mercado Sr. 277
 High Series - Gerry Davis 626
 Standings - Misfits 26-10
 No Excuses 23.5-12.5
 Andy's Dandys 21-15

Bowling over his average this week was Trini Mercado Sr. 111 pins over with 277 which is the high game to date.

High Scores for Nov 16

High Game - Dave Rossi 279
 High Series - Dave Rossi 791
 Standings - Misfits 27-13
 No Excuses 25.5-14.5
 Andy's Dandys 24-16

Bowling over his average this week is Dave Rossi 161 pins over average in series with a 791 and the highest series to date

High Scores for Nov 23

High Game - Dave Rossi 256
 High Series - Dave Rossi 672
 Standings - No Excuses 29-.5-14.5
 Misfits 29-15
 Bob's Boys & Andy's Dandys 24-20

Most pins over average in a game to date - Trini Mercado Sr. 111 with 277
 Most pins over average in a series to date - George Parsons 182 with 578
 High Game to date - Dave Rossi 279
 High Series to date - Dave Rossi 791
 Placing in the money at the Modesto tournament were Don Banchemo, Danny Laureta in Singles events and Danny Laureta in All Events. Don Banchemo and Janis also placed in the money in Doubles at the Brentwood Tournament.

Upcoming tournaments include:

Stockton at Pacific Lanes on January 19 one day only Napa at Napa Bowl on January 26 & 27 Livermore at Granada Bowl on February 9 & 10



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Angelo Costanza - 588-9529

Current Membership:

Current Active Membership	222
# of inactive members	4
New Installs	0
Total Active Membership	222

November Luncheon Attendance:

Active Members:	223
Attendance (77%)	171
Excused absences (40%)	21

2016 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

It is that time of the year again. The 2016 annual assessments are due by February 9. As a convenience, Eddie Toews and Frank Taylor will be in the Lobby of the Elks Lodge before our January Luncheon Meeting to collect your assessment and give you your Sonora SIRs Branch 136 Membership Card. They are the same as last year, \$25.00.

JEFF PHILLIPS

is our new Activities Program Director

A new SIRS 136 Book/CD/DVD exchange activity will be launching at the January 12th 2016 meeting with over 35 book titles, 35+ CDs, DVD's, and puzzles for your wintertime reading/viewing enjoyment. Please plan to bring in your extra books and media. The policy is **"take one, leave one."**



RV CLUB NEWS

Jim Botto - 586-0822

Ron Long - 586-1838

After such a wonderful trip to Arizona I am finding it hard to compose a newsletter this month. Our next get-together will be at the Sonora Hills Recreation Center on Saturday December 12th hosted by Steve & Carolyn Gregory and Jim & Ginny Johnson. Please remember that our club will be collecting canned goods, dry food stuffs and cash donations for our annual donation to the Interfaith Community Social Services in Sonora. As we have in the past, let's really put forth an outstanding effort to collect more food and cash donations than we did last year. Earl Randall has already spoken to the Elks Lodge and they will match any cash donations we collect. Let's beat last year!

As this will be my last newsletter as your RV Chairman, I want to say that it has been a lot of fun with a little work. But the job was made easy with the members of this RV group. I have said it before but Linda and I have never before been associated with a finer group of outstanding people as we have with this RV Group. I am confident that Knute & Maryjoan Kleinen will find the same support and assistance as we did. On our Sedona trip, Knute and Maryjoan started to put together next year's outing calendar and it looks like a lot of fun. There will still be the planning meeting in February, Knute will give you the details soon.

**EAT
SLEEP
PINOCHLE**

PINOCHLE

Bob Morrison—588-0994

robert.mrrsn@yahoo.com

For an afternoon of fun, please join us. If you don't know how to play pinochle or haven't played for a long time, we will tutor you in our rules. (Most of us had not played in decades, and some had never played before they joined.) You play free for your first two meetings. Thereafter, you pay only \$3 each meeting. (Where else can you have fun, so cheaply?) You win a prize if your score at the end of the meeting is one of the three highest. Moreover, you win \$10 if you

score in the top 50% at a free meeting. Some of our players make it to all of the sessions, but others to only 3, 2, or just one session. We meet at the Pine Tree Restaurant from noon to 4:30 PM each Monday. We have lunch starting at noon and start playing at 1:00 PM. For more information, go to web site www.sirtwain.org and click on the pinochle icon. The three tables shown below give the results of the scores for our pinochle sessions. The first table lists the average score of each player based on the number of sessions played in November. The second lists the weekly first place winners and their scores for November. The third lists the SIR branch average scores for 2015 year-to-date.

November 2015		
Player	Branch	Average
4 Monday Session Players		
Sonny Tome	77	358
Del Rotelli	77	299
Mike Eachus	172	201
Player	Branch	Average
3 Monday Session Players		
Art Bartee	172	388
Roland Patton	172	342
Al De Neveu	136	291
Mike Schmidt	172	275
Tom Newell	136	268
Bob Morrison	136	266
Felix Ledbetter	77	247
Bert Kronnick	77	79
Player	Branch	Average
2 Monday Session Players		
Bill Burnes	136	346
Henry Beltran	172	315
Paul Halek	172	252
Player	Branch	Average
1 Monday Session Players		
Dave Goldember	172	437
Dick Robinson	172	134
Jerry Kopyn	172	117

Weekly First Place Winners		
Date	Player	Branch#
2-Nov-15	Paul Halek	172
9-Nov-15	Art Bartee	172
16-Nov-15	Dave Goldember	172
23-Nov-15	Somy Tome	77

SIR vs SIR vs SIR	
Branch Average Scores - Jan thru Nov 2015	
Branch	Score
172	295
77	278
136	264



INTERNET CHAIRMAN

Jerry Bellefeuille -533-3630

You can find this and all our bulletins on line at www.sonorasirs.org



2016 Directory of Officers

Big Sir: Dale Decker 533-0455
 Little Sir: Danny Laureta 586-4657
 Treasure: Eddie Toews 532-3970
 Asst. Treas: Frank Taylor 532-3630
 Secretary: Jerry Bellefeuille 533-3630
 Asst. Sec: Angelo Costanza 588-9529

2016 Directory of Directors

2nd Year

Rex Page 533-4501
 Dick Aberle 786-4804
 Jim Botto 586-0822

1st Year

Paul Squeri 586-4084
 Monty Youngborg 588-9632
 Bill Lobdell 586-7145
 Jeff Phillips 588-2977

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for membership in Sonora SIR Branch #136 are to be obtained from the Membership Director at the monthly meetings, by telephoning him at 588-9529 (and an application form will be mailed to you), or by downloading the form from our branch website. After the application is filled out, it is to be returned to Angelo Costanza with a check for the amount stated on the application. Angelo's address is 23497 Gold Springs Drive Columbia, CA 95310.

BULLETIN INPUT NOTICE!

Jim Botto - 586-0822

Asst. Jerry Bellefeuille 533-3630

I want to take this opportunity to thank the committee chairman who send in their reports to me on or before the deadline. If I do not receive your report by the deadline it will not be published in the current month. Please send all bulletin input to Jim Botto at

giacamo42@gmail.com

The deadline for the next bulletin is

December 31, 2015

SIR STATE OFFICERS

www.sirinc.org

PRESIDENT: Sir Bobbie Hairston
VICE-PRESIDENT: Sir Donald Dill
SECRETARY: Sir Derek Southern
TREASURER: Sir Karl Ryden
REGION 2 DIRECTOR

Russ Salazar , Polloch Pines, Ca
AREA 27 GOVERNOR

Sir Jerry Morrow, Mi Wuk Village, CA

PAST BIG SIRs - BRANCH #136 SONORA

1997 - Dave Holton/1999 - Al Limon
2000 - Bob Gibbs/2002 - Jim Nuzum
2003 - Dick Nutting/2004 -Bill Dunlavy
2007- Wil Reich/2008- Roger Milligan
2009 - Don Nilan/2010 - Don Banchemo
2011 - Al Smith/2013 - Phil VanSwoll
2014 - John Bristow

BRANCH #136 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Al Limon - Past Big SIR 2000
Bill Dunlavy - Past Big SIR 2007
Frank Taylor - Treasurer 2001-2015

DIRECTORY of OFFICERS

Big SIR: Jim Johnson 536-1595
jlj32@sbcglobal.com

Little SIR: Dale Decker 533-0455
daledftg@sonnet.com

Sec: Jerry Bellefeuille 533-3630
sirjerry4@gmail.com

Asst. Sec: Angelo Costanza 588-9529
angelof55@sbcglobal.com

Treas: Frank Taylor 532-4480
sonorataylors@gmail.com

Asst. Treas: Eddie 'Ed' Toews 532-3970
Lcoinlady@aol.com

DIRECTORS

First Year

Rex Page 533-4501
Dick Aberle 532-4066
Ray Bailey 532-0444

Second Year

Danny Laureta 586-4567
Jake Parsons - 736-0647
Mariano Garces - 586-9973

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN & CO-CHAIRMEN

Golf - Danny Laureta 586-4567
Activities: Jeff Phillips 588-2977
Att./Mem. - Angelo Costanza 588-9529
BEC Advisor—Al Limon 533-4544
Bowling - Bert Abreo 736-4804
Branch Photographer - Steve Belochi 533-5315
Bulletin - Jim Botto 586-0822
Caterer - Dean Papapetrou
Fishing - Bert Kronnick-586-7726
Chuck Simons -532-9550
Hon. Life Membership - Al Limon 533-4944
House - Jerry Erath 533-3791
Internet - Jerry Bellefeuille 533-3630
Lunch Tickets - Bert Abreo 736-4804
Luncheon - Rick Bacon 765-8210
Luncheon Drawing - Bill Dunlavy 533-7601
Bert Maxwell 588-1177
Membership Growth - OPEN
Nominating Committee Chairman - Phil VanSwoll 532-1133
Pinochle - Bob Morrison 588-0994
Propane—Al Limon 533-4544
Public Relations - Ray Bailey 532-0444
R.V. Travel Group - Jim Botto 586-0822
SIR Item Sales - Cecil Steen 533-4760
Sunshine - Chaplain - Paul Bullman 588-8614

DECLARATIONS

NON RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All activities arranged for or by, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities (Rule 345).
Checks, money orders or credit cards for Travel for one day or less (no overnight), where a bus/busses is/are used as the primary means of transportation, may be made payable to the Branch sponsoring the event. All other checks, money orders or credit cards for travel must be made payable to the travel agency (Rule 429 & 421).

December 8th

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Menu

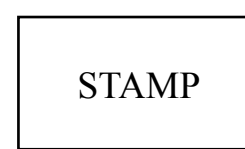
Prime Rib, or Salmon, or Cordon blue
Gravy & Cranberry Sauce
Buttered Corn. Candied Yams
Green Salad & Pumpkin Pie

TICKETS REQUIRED!

SOLD OUT!



Sons In Retirement, Inc
Sonora Branch #136
22295 Paseo De Los Portales
Sonora, CA 95370



**DEVOTED TO THE
PROMOTION
OF INDEPENDENCE AND
DIGNITY OF
RETIREMENT**



DATED MATERIAL