



# BULLETIN

## December 2021

Website: [sonorasirs.org](http://sonorasirs.org)  
SONORA BRANCH #136

**Tuesday, Dec. 14th**

**Happy Hour at 10:00am**

**Lunch at 12:00pm**

**Ticket Purchase only**

**Deadline for Reservations**

**December 8, 2021**

**Contact via e-mail:**

**[lcoinlady@aol.com](mailto:lcoinlady@aol.com)**

**Or**

**Call (209) 532-3970**

**Leave Your Name, Badge No,  
& Number of guests.**

**Menu:**

**Shrimp Cocktail**

**Rib Eye Steak w/Baked Potato**

**Or Salmon w/Rice Pilaf**

**Or Chicken Cordon Bleu w/Rice Pilaf**

**Included Vegetable, Salad and Dessert**

**No Branch Executive  
Committee Meeting for  
December**



## **BULLETIN INPUT NOTICE!**

**Jim Botto Editor - 559-0931**

**Asst. Jerry Bellefeuille 533-3630**

If you have any photos of your activity please attach them to your reports. If I do not receive your report by the deadline I will just report no activity for the month. Please send all bulletin

input to Jim Botto at

**[giacamo42@gmail.com](mailto:giacamo42@gmail.com)**

The deadline for the next bulletin is

**January 31, 2022**



## **BIG SIR MESSAGE**

**Gene Zanoni**

**(209) 532-1989**

**[genevzanoni@gmail.com](mailto:genevzanoni@gmail.com)**

With the ticket sales surpassing one hundred for our fast-approaching Christmas luncheon, scheduled for December 14, 2021, at the local Elks Lodge, this popular special event promises to be the most-attended event of the year. Such strong ticket sales are evident that our general membership is displaying an uncommon eagerness to unite with their many friends to close out Branch 136's current year activities in a safe environment.

Eddie Toews, SIR Branch 136's Treasurer and Christmas luncheon reservationist and event's committee member, has informed me that all facets of the event's preparation are going according to plan. Thoughtful planning and cooperation among those hard-working individuals involved are the essential elements contributing to their success. **All attendees may contribute their fair share by merely remembering to donate a gift for our highly popular drawing activities.**

Due to the ongoing variants associated with the prevailing pandemic, admission to our Christmas luncheon mandates that all attendees—members and guests alike—show proof of double vaccinations and submit a signed SIR EVENT WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR EXPOSURE TO COVID-19. Such information must have previously been obtained as the result of anyone attending at least one of our 2021 luncheons; therefore, a duplicate request for this information will be unnecessary. However, for all those individuals that have yet to attend their first 2021 luncheon, such documentation will be required during the admission process. Please be aware that admission will simply be denied to anyone failing to comply!

All prospective attendees that have chosen not to acquire the double vaccinations, whether or not they have attended any 2021 luncheon event to-date, shall be required to show proof of negative test results 72 hours prior to the Christmas luncheon. It is worthy to remember that all such stringent measures are necessary to safeguard the wellbeing of everyone involved. By promoting an environment whereby everyone feels comfortable in the presence of others is reassurance that we remain responsible as an organization.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the recent passing of Sir Ronald C. Flagel, the State

SIR Secretary. He held this position for ten years and he was an extremely loyal, dedicated, and popular member of our SIR family for eighteen years. Without question, he leaves a tremendous void to fill, and his family has our condolences.

## **INDIVIDUAL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES:**

ANY UPDATED ADJUSTMENTS TO YOUR INFORMATION, SUCH AS THE SPELLING OF YOUR NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER, SPOUSE OR PARTNER, EMAIL ADDRESS OR MAILING ADDRESS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, **GEORGE CORCORES:**  
**[greekbeak1@aol.com](mailto:greekbeak1@aol.com) (209) 456-9814**



## **LITTLE SIR MESSAGE**

**Gene Bettencourt**

**(209) 533-1676**

**[genebettencourt@comcast.net](mailto:genebettencourt@comcast.net)**

We are in the middle of the Holiday season and hopefully everyone is enjoying the various events that are part of the season. Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, New Years, etc. It should also be a time to be thankful to be alive and sharing stories with our friends and family.

A few weeks ago, several of us were sharing stories at the SIR's golf tournament. At one point, we started talking about the various health issues that we have had or are having. Basically, the things that come along with getting older. That can be depressing, but for us, it was a thankful time. We were just glad to be alive and kicking. Thank you for modern medicine.

On a more positive note, we got some great things scheduled for the coming months. A Christmas event, future excellent speakers, more members coming on board, a new travel club, a continuation of the excellent clubs that we already have, and just having the opportunity to meet and have a meal with our friends at our monthly meetings. Hope to see you all at this month's Christmas party.



## GOLF CHAIRMAN

Looking for a Golf Chairman if you are interested please contact Gene Zanoni  
(209) 532-1989  
[genezanoni@gmail.com](mailto:genezanoni@gmail.com)



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Wallace, Stu	12/02
Derodeff, Brian	12/03
Caplinger, Cap	12/04
Bell, Allan	12/05
Eaton, Herman	12/12
Myers, Frank	12/15
VanGerpen, Doc	12/15
Gelber, Bob	12/20
Long, Ron	12/21
Bynum, Barry	12/23
Sudduth, Ed	12/24
Vanier, Dennis	12/26
Stevenson, Bob	12/26
LaFrance, Mike	12/28
Price, Chuck	12/30
Braida, Bob	12/30



## IN MEMORIAM

Let us not forget our Sir Brothers that we've lost this past 2020 - 2021. They were all great men, well liked and contributed to the success of Sonora Branch 136 and are sorely missed.

Robert Meggers  
R Roland Camfield  
Bill LeLievre  
Nuncy Patania  
Jack Walls  
Maury Leal  
Joe Patania  
Ray Spruner  
Jim Johnson  
Al Limon  
Ron Orth  
Steve Slowelier  
Bill Kling  
Willie Phillips  
John Viera  
John Miller



## CAR CLUB CHAIRMAN

**Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826**  
[bronnerrick@gmail.com](mailto:bronnerrick@gmail.com)

Hello fellow car buffs. Since we're heading into winter I thought I'd take a moment to talk about some best practices for storing your car. Here are some quick tips:  
Fill your gas tank since a low tank will accumulate moisture while it sits. You may also consider a fuel stabilizer.  
1. Change your oil. Used oil has contaminants that don't sit well.  
2. Give it a good wash and if you have one cover it.  
3. Get a trickle charger for your battery. I use Batter Tender with good results.  
4. Stuff steel wool up your exhaust pipes to keep critters out.  
5. If possible, remove your wheels and put the car on jack stands. If not add 2-3 pounds extra air.  
6. If not on jack stands chalk your wheels and DON'T use the parking brake.  
There is also the concern over mice and other critters especially since most of us live near open fields. There are some simple ideas like bounce dryer sheets which mice don't like or poisons like Decon. There are also electronic devices that emit an ultrasonic noise to repel critters. There is also one plan that works as well. Take it out and drive it weekly!



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Previous Months Membership (October)  
Total Active Members 181  
**November Luncheon**  
Luncheon Attendance (46%) 83  
Excused Absences (54%) 98  
Current Month Membership (November)  
Active Membership (October) 181  
Applicants Being Installed +0  
Active Members Lost - 0  
**Active Membership November 181**



## BOWLING CHAIRMAN

**Michael Coe-(209) 769-3413**  
[coemike@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coemike@sbcglobal.net)

A team from Sonora 136 finished 1st in the SIR Annual State Tournament in Modesto. The team consisted of SIR's Trini Mercado Sr, Bert Abreo, David Rossi, and Rick Bronner. They won by 45 pins over the second place team. Also, David Rossi and Rick Bronner Finished 1st in the doubles competition. Trini Mercado Sr and Bert Abreo finished 10th in doubles. Congratulations to the team on their great bowling!

The SIRS Bowling League is heading toward the holidays and the end of the first half. As of November 11, 2021, the standings are:

1. The Wild Ones
  2. 3 Friends
  3. Team 6
  4. Turkey Hunters
  5. Old Men
  6. Spare Us
- High scratch game - Michael Wright  
High scratch series - Michael Coe  
High handicap game - Michael Wright  
High handicap series - Don Banchemo  
For the women - Elaine Simmons is the leader in high scratch game, high scratch series, high handicap game, and high handicap series.

For those interested, there is a SIRS bowling tournament in Danville Ca in December. Contact John Monaghan at 925-837-1598 for more information.



**INTERNET CHAIRMAN**  
**Jerry Bellefeuille -533-3630**  
[sirjerry4@gmail.com](mailto:sirjerry4@gmail.com)

Our Branch website is at [sonorasirs.org](http://sonorasirs.org). Here you can look at current as well as old bulletins, BEC meeting minutes and more. Please let me know if you have a new email address so I can get timely branch information to you. I hope to see you all at the next meeting. Our state sir bulletin can be viewed at <https://wearesir.com>.



## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

In August we went to reservations for all SIRS dinner luncheons, and it has been accepted very well and will continue. For people with computers, you make your reservations to: [sirjerry4@gmail.com](mailto:sirjerry4@gmail.com). Anyone without a computer needs to call Jerry Bellefeuille at 209-588-3978.

After you make your reservation, and you need to cancel your reservation you will need to contact Jerry before the cutoff date. If you cancel after the cutoff date, you will be responsible for the cost of your meal. This is due to the high cost of food and our caterer, Deno Papapetrou. He wants an accurate number of meals to prepare so there is no food wasted.

If you make a reservation and can't make the luncheon or didn't cancel before the deadline within 5 days of the event, you will receive a bill in the mail for the cost of the luncheon.

Effective with the January meetings the price of the luncheon dinners will increase. The regular lunches will increase to \$19.00 per person with the salad only lunch increasing to \$9.00 per person. This is due to the increase in cost for the meals by our caterer and the increase in other expenses ie: Elks lodge rent, cleanup, and setup. Also printing of the bulletin and other expenses. This is effective as of January meeting.



## **KAYAKING/EASY HIKING**

**Sol Robin (209) 651-1054**  
[s.robin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.robin@sbcglobal.net)  
No report for December



**RV CLUB NEWS**  
**Eddie Toews (209) 5323970**  
[lcoinlady@aol.com](mailto:lcoinlady@aol.com)

The RV Club will be having our Christmas dinner at the Peppery Bar & Grill on December 8th at 5:00 PM. We will also be doing our annual food and money drive for Interfaith



## **FISHING CHAIRMAN**

**Chuck Simons - (209) 532-9550**  
[simons4890@yahoo.com](mailto:simons4890@yahoo.com)  
No report for December



## **PINOCHLE**

**Bob Morrison—588-0994**  
[robert.mrrsn@yahoo.com](mailto:robert.mrrsn@yahoo.com)

The adjacent table shows our scores for the pinochle tournaments in November. The table lists for each player the average of his scores for playing cutthroat pinochle and the average of his scores for playing partners pinochle.

Please join us to play pinochle. We meet each Monday at the Moose Lodge, 20921 Longeway Road from 12:45 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. From 12:45 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. is for tournament registration. The tournaments start at 1:00 P.M.

To participate in a tournament, you must meet the following requirements: You must have on record with our SIR branch that you have been fully vaccinated (2 shots, if required) against the COVID-19 virus. Alternatively, at the tournament, you must show the pinochle director the original, a copy, or photo (in hardcopy or via a phone) of a COVID-19 vaccination record card that indicates that you have been fully vaccinated.

You must have on record with our SIR branch that you have signed a *SIR Event Waiver and Release of Liability* form. Alternatively, at the tournament, the pinochle director will give you the form which you must sign. He will mail your signed form to our SIR branch. If you would like to join us, but don't know how to play, we will teach you. You will play with members from all three of our SIR branches. You don't need to come every time but only when you want to. Your first two tournaments are free, but thereafter you pay only \$4 at each session. You will win \$10 if you score in the top 50% at the end of one of your free tournaments. The two highest scoring players at the end of a session win cash prizes.



November 2021		
Player	Branch	Average
<b>CUTTHROAT PINOCHLE SCORES</b>		
Sonny Tome	77	253
Roland Patton	172	251
Bob Morrison	136	207
Jim Turner	136	192
John White	136	137
Del Rotelli	77	127

November 2021		
Player	Branch	Average
<b>PARTNER PINOCHLE SCORES</b>		
Bob Morrison	136	562
Sonny Tome	77	465
Del Rotelli	77	456
Jim Turner	136	456
John White	136	420
Roland Patton	172	410



## Your 2022 Officers & Directors

<b>BIG SIR:</b> Phil VanSwoll	209-532-1133
<b>LTL. SIR:</b> Gene Bettencourt	209-533-1676
<b>SECRETARY:</b> Bill Burns	209-533-4334
<b>Asst. SEC:</b> Dick Aberle	209-532-4066
<b>TREASURER:</b> Eddie Toews	209-532-3970
<b>Asst. TRES:</b> Steve Aldridge	209-770-5287
<b>Directors:</b>	
Rick Bronner	408-318-4826
George Cocores	209-456-9814
Stan Enos	209-533-2928
Rex Page	209-533-4501
Marty Martin	209-586-1886
Ray Starkey	209-814-0187



## SIR STATE OFFICERS

www.sirinc.org

President - Stu Williams  
Vice-President - Rick Kindel  
Secretary - Ron Flagel  
Treasurer - Roy Hodgkinson  
Region 2 Director - Dale Decker  
Area 5 Governor - Paul Squeri

## 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 2012 - Baci Frecceri  
2013 - Phil VanSwoll 2014 - John Bristow  
2015 - Jim Johnson 2016 - Dale Decker  
2017 - Danney Laureta 2018 - Paul Squeri  
2019 - Jim Botto 2020 - Gene Zanoni

## BRANCH #136 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Frank Taylor - Treasurer 2001-2015  
Dale Decker - Big Sir 2016

## 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 456-9814 and ask for an application form that will be mailed to you, or by downloading the form from our branch website.

[www.sonorasirs.org](http://www.sonorasirs.org). After the application is filled out, it is to be returned to George Cocores with a check for the amount stated on the application. George's address is 17595 Brentwood Ln. Twain Harte, CA 95383

## Branch 136 Executive Committee

**Big Sir:** Gene Zanoni 532-1989  
**Little Sir:** Gene Bettencourt 533-1676  
**Sec:** Bill Burnes 533-4334  
**Asst Sec:** Dick Aberle 532-4066  
**Treas:** Eddie Toews 532-3970  
**Asst.Tres:** Steve Aldridge 770-5287

## DIRECTORS

**Bill Guenza** (209) 586-7088  
**Marty Martin** (209) 586-1886  
**George Cocores** (209) 456-9814  
**Rex Page** (209) 533-4501

**Robert Morrison** (209) 588-0994

## Behind the Scenes

Photographer - **Steve Belochi** 533-5315  
Bulletin - **Jim Botto** 559-0931  
Internet - **Jerry Bellefeuille** 533-3630  
SIR Items Sales - **Fred Kehr** 785-4358  
Chaplain - **Open at present**

Looking for a volunteer

## 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).

## DATED MATERIAL

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

STAMP



DEVOTED TO THE  
PROMOTION  
OF INDEPENDENCE AND  
DIGNITY OF  
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