



# BULLETIN

## February 2021

Website: [sonorasirs.org](http://sonorasirs.org)

# SONORA BRANCH #136

**Sonora SIR Branch #136  
BEC will meet on Zoom  
Tuesday, February 9th  
Starts at 10:00 am  
Ends at 11:00 am**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87640018995?pwd=QlFaaEp3Mk9FZERZY2JzVDBuQ0FFQT09>

**Hold the Ctrl key down and left click your mouse button. This will take you straight to Zoom for the meeting.**

**If you are interested in the regular monthly BEC Zoom meeting please join us at the above web site.**



**Happy Valentines Day  
Don't forget your better halves**



### BIG SIR MESSAGE

**Gene Zanoni (209) 532-1989**

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

We started the year 2021 in much the same manner as what was experienced for the better part of 2020, that is, the challenging affects from the prevailing pandemic. The predicament that we find ourselves in continues to play havoc with our organizational behavior. The mandated social lockdown has prohibited the SIR organization from engaging in any in-person events that were previously considered a matter of routine.

During this quiet period and aggressively beginning in January 2021, the SIR State Officers have been very engaging in addressing many of the hurdles that must be overcome in order to affect a smooth transition to an eventual restart. Such engagements are made possible through modern technology, meetings utilizing Zoom to be precise. On January 9<sup>th</sup> a Fireside Chat, with SIR State President Stu Williams presiding, drew an audience just short of three hundred members. The Zoom license that SIR possesses has a maximum limit of three hundred. The keen interest illustrated by our statewide membership is indicative of the desire to return to our popular activities. Highlight of the lengthy Q&A session was clearly dominated by the interest expressed regarding the golf restart. This was understandable since golf is the most popular SIR activity and takes place outdoors with low contact.

The Fireside Chat was followed by the State SIR Leadership Summit (the "Summit") that was conducted over a five-day period: beginning January 11th and running through January 15th. Two presentations, lasting one hour each, were given daily by recognized member experts and the topics covered included essentially all the various fundamental aspects applicable to SIR Inc. Rules and regulations as well as numerous forms, charts and schedules were presented. Dale Decker, the current SIR State Assistant Secretary and a member of our Branch, made a stimulating presentation regarding Policy & Procedures for which he is Committee Chairman. Incidentally, fellow Branch member Paul Squeri is currently a Committee Member of the SIR State Policy & Procedures. The Summit coordinator declared this weeklong event was being dedicated to honor the late-Jim Johnson, a highly respected member of our Branch that

passed away last December.

Even though all Branch activities are currently dormant, prior to their reopening it remains the responsibility of each activity chairman to submit a schedule of event(s) to the BEC for approval and recording in its minutes. In addition, any adjustment regarding a change in venue or date to the approved schedule, said changes must be submitted to the BEC for approval and recording in its minutes as well. Without such compliance no event shall be recognized as being sanctioned by SIR Inc. Thus, SIR Inc. takes not responsibility for any liability associated with any unapproved activity and all such liability risks rest entirely upon the individuals involved.

A couple of notes that deserve highlighting includes the following: Jim Botto has gracefully accepted resuming the Bulletin Editor responsibilities as he previously held this position from 2015 through 2017; Eddie Toews, our Branch Treasurer, has announced the 2020 Annual Audit has been completed and accepted. These two members are prime examples of membership commitment and it is hoped that more members will come forward to embrace the concept of increased member participation: thus, ultimately sustaining our Branch's success.

Appropriately, at the January 2021 BEC Meeting the motion to honor the late-Jim Johnson by retiring his Badge #60 was *unanimously* approved. George Cocores, our Membership Chairman, has declared that a special designation in our internal membership records shall be made to reflect the decision by the BEC regarding this special honor. Jim now joins a most-select group of past members to be so revered that their badge numbers shall never be shared with anyone else ever again.



### LITTLE SIR MESSAGE

**Paul Squeri (209) 586-4083**

[paulsqueri@yahoo.com](mailto:paulsqueri@yahoo.com)

WE MISS YOU! In the interim between physical meetings, the BEC has been busy reviewing Branch Policies and Procedures. If you read Big Sir Gene Zanoni's message in the Bulletin last month, you have a preview. We are also working on new procedures for the introduction of guests and the installation of new members. The desire is to create a more efficient and expeditious SIR experience, "Brevity with Substance." The shorter meeting format will create an added importance for reading the Bulletin. The information not disseminated at the meeting

will be reported in the Bulletin. This is your “go to” spot! If it is not there, use the appropriate contact number published in the Bulletin.

Our first in person meeting will be a “Welcome Back Luncheon.” The price has been rolled back to \$8 per person for lunch. The meeting plans are to be long on luncheon interaction and short on business, our agenda is renewal. This event is a onetime affair, sorry, no rain checks. Due to current uncertainties, we are unable to project a date at this time. Be sure to watch the Bulletin for further details.

Just a reminder, the 2021 existing member dues of \$25 have been reduced by 52% to \$12. The reduced dues of \$12 will be for the 2021 year only. Dues payment must be mailed (postmarked) no later than March 9, 2021 and addressed to Eddie Toews, 21795 El Coyote Drive, Sonora, CA 95370. Checks should be made out to Sonora SIR Branch 136.

Recruit a new member! It has never been easier or more advantageous for a new member to join. The BEC has reduced the \$35 new member cost (\$25 for member dues and \$10 for a personalized member badge) to just \$10 for your personalized member badge. Enjoy a dues free year on us! Regrettably, with promotions such as this we are unable to gift the sponsors a free lunch. This offer is on now and runs through March 31, 2021.

**Due to the pandemic there have been no activities.**



**GOLF CHAIRMAN**

Danny Lauretta (209) 586-4567  
[drlaureta@gmail.com](mailto:drlaureta@gmail.com)



**BOWLING CHAIRMAN**

Jerry Fountain (209) 532-0650  
[fountainbiker@gmail.com](mailto:fountainbiker@gmail.com)



**RV CLUB NEWS**

Eddie Toews (209) 5323970  
[lcoinlady@aol.com](mailto:lcoinlady@aol.com)



**FISHING CHAIRMAN**

Chuck Simons - (209) 532-9550  
[simons4890@yahoo.com](mailto:simons4890@yahoo.com)  
The trout bite has picked up in the last few weeks. Dodgers small spinners tipped with night crawlers.



**PINOCHLE**

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



**CAR CLUB**

Rich Rinaldi (209) 532-8366  
[farmrich40@gmail.com](mailto:farmrich40@gmail.com)



**KAYAKING/EASY HIKING**

Sol Robin (209) 651-1054  
[s.robin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.robin@sbcglobal.net)



**INTERNET CHAIRMAN**

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



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- Phillips, King 02/06
- Rodrigues, Jim (J.R.) 02/06
- Phillips, Jeff 02/11
- Kling, William (Bill) 02/11
- White, Gene (Tab) 02/12
- Harm, Ray 02/23
- Toews, Eddie L. 02/27



**2021 DUES ASSESSMENT PLEASE READ**

Due to the COVID-19 situation in 2020 and that there were very few club activities, the BEC has voted that the 2021 dues will be discounted by 52% to \$12.00 per member.

This will be for the year 2021 only and will revert back to the \$25.00 dues per member in the 2022 assessment.

The dues must be paid by March 9, 2021 if not paid by March 9, 2021, anyone paying afterwards will have to pay the \$25.00 amount. (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Please send your dues check to:  
Eddie Toews Branch 136 Treasurer  
**(209) 532-3970**  
**21795 El Coyote Dr.**  
**Sonora, CA 95370**



Stay safe and wear a mask

## A tribute to good friends



James Leon Johnson, who was only 69 years of age, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, December 11, 2020. Jim was married to his high school sweetheart, Virginia, in 1969. Jim and Ginny have two children and three grandchildren. In our travels in the RV Club, Jim was always talking about their grandchildren and you could tell that that gave him great pleasure and bragging rights! Jim was largely involved in many activities such as Sonora Sirs, The Elks Lodge, The Italian Club "Figli d' Italia". He was the Vice President of State Sirs, Inc. and would have been President for 2021. Jim always had a large smile on his face and volunteered his help in any area that needed attention. Jim was always the practical joker and when he laughed you could hear him across the room. Jim will be missed by everyone. May God rest his soul.



Carolyn Gregory, wife of Sirs Chaplain Steve Gregory, passed away this past October after surviving 40+ years with Multiple Sclerosis. My wife Linda and I became acquainted with her while traveling with the Sirs RV Club between 2013-2017. Carolyn is number one on our list of

"People we Admire." Tiny in stature, she was a giant in her battle to overcome her disability. She endured and recovered from many surgeries, experienced side effects from medications during the quest of finding the ones most effective, and willingly went to weekly physical therapy sessions throughout the years to stay physically strong as possible. She never complained. Carolyn had a quiet sense of humor that was done, normally, without much notice from others. She loved DQ Milkshakes, flamingos, and her children-sized red cowboy boots that she bought in Sedona. Her husband, Steve, was her caregiver during her many years of illness. They both received emotional support through church attendance and prayer. Steve, their children, and grandchildren, gave Carolyn her reason to live.



### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

#### Previous Month Membership

Total Active Members	200
Luncheon Attendance (___%)	0
Excused Absences (___%)	0

#### Current Month Membership

Active Membership	200
Applicants Being Installed	3
Active Members Lost	1
Active Membership Outlook	202



### 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



### BULLETIN INPUT NOTICE!

**Jim Botto Editor - 586-0822**

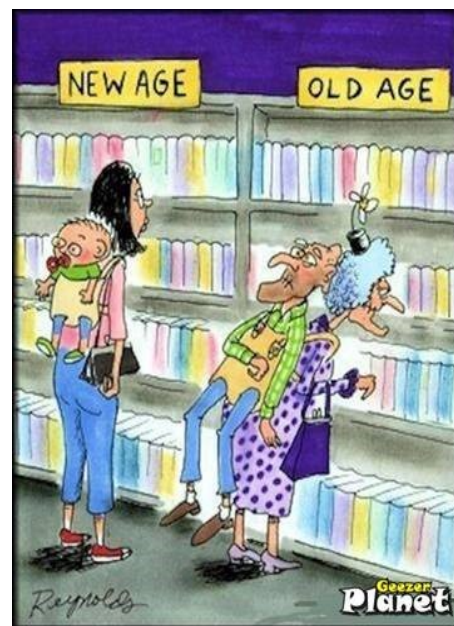
**Asst. Jerry Bellefeuille 533-3630**

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**

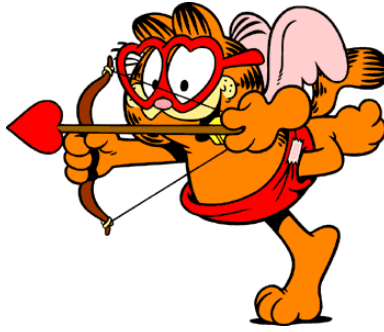
The deadline for the next bulletin is

**February 26, 2021**



**SIR STATE OFFICERS**

www.sirinc.org  
President - Stu Williams  
Vice-President - Rick Kindle  
Secretary - Ron Flagel  
Treasure - Roy Hodgkinson  
Region 2 Director - Dale Decker  
Area 5 Governor - Paul Squeri



**Behind the Scenes**

Photographer - **Steve Belochi** 533-5315  
Bulletin - **Jim Botto** 586-0822  
Internet - **Jerry Bellefeuille** 533-3630  
SIR Items Sales - **Fred Kehr** 785-4358  
Chaplain - **Steve Gregory** 533-0309

**PAST BIG SIR'S 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 - 2015 - Jim Johnson  
2016 - Dale Decker 2017 - Danney Lauretta  
2018 - Paul Squeri 2019 - Jim Botto  
2020 - Gene Zanoni

**Branch 136 Executive Committee**

**Big Sir:** Gene Zanoni 532-1989  
**Little Sir:** Paul Squeri 586-4083  
**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  
**Chris Methot** (408) 218-5221  
**Robert Morrison** (209) 588-0994

**DECLARATIONS  
NON RESPONSIBILITY  
DECLARATION**

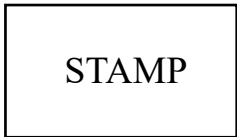
All activities arranged for or by, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the 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).

**BRANCH #136 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

Al Limon - Past Big SIR 2000  
Bill Dunlavy - Past Big SIR 2007  
Frank Taylor - Treasurer 2001-2015  
Jim Johnson - State Vice Pres.

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



**DEVOTED TO THE  
PROMOTION  
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