



# BULLETIN

## February 2023

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

**Tuesday, Feb. 14th**

**Happy Hour at 11:00am**

**Lunch at 12:00pm**

**Contact via e-mail:**

**Eddie Towes**

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

**Or Call (209) 532-3970**

**Leave Your Name, Badge No.**

**& Number of guests.**

**Deadline for reservations is**

**Feb. 8th, 2023**

### Menu:

**Roast Pork & Apple Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Green Salad and Cookies**



## BULLETIN INPUT NOTICE!

**Jim Botto Editor - 559-0931**

**Asst. Jerry Bellefeuille 588-3978**

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**

**February 28, 2023**



## INTERNET CHAIRMAN

**Jerry Bellefeuille 588-3978**

**[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>.



## BIG SIR MESSAGE

**Eddie Toews**

**(209) 532-3970**

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

The BEC had a very busy meeting in January discussing and voting on several items. The first was on how to get new members and retain our existing members. Our state BEC is asking for suggestions on this from the branches. If you have an idea, let me or one of the BEC members know and we will relay it to our state BEC.

Another item that was discussed and approved was to change the new member costs for joining SIR's. Before, the fees were that if you joined between January 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 30<sup>th</sup> was \$25.00 for membership and \$10.00 for your badge. From July 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup> the fees were \$22.50 for membership and \$10.00 for the badge. The new fees are from January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> will still be \$25.00 for Membership and \$10.00 for the badge. The changes are that from July 31<sup>st</sup> thru October 31<sup>st</sup> the fees will be \$22.50 for Membership and \$10.00 for the badge and then from November 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup> the fee goes back up to \$25.00 for membership and \$10.00 for the badge. The change is that the new members fees for November and December include the dues for the following year.

The BEC also discussed and approved to donate \$100.00 to the "Cowboy Country Church" for the loaning of their centerpiece decorations for the tables that were used at the Summer Social and the Christmas events. They really made the decorations very festive and pretty. This would cost the club about \$500.00 to make our own centerpieces plus a lot of time by the volunteers. This is well worth the cost of the donation.

One other well deserved item that was discussed and approved was that the widows of past Big SIRS be invited to attend the three socials' events of the year at no cost to them. The club would pay for their meals. This was brought up by Bill Burnes. We have four ladies who are: Georgette Frecceri (Baci's wife), Ginny Johnson (Jim Johnsons wife), Mary lou Dunlavy (Bill Dunlavy's wife) and Barbara Bristow, (John Bristow's wife). Each will be notified of this change. Also, if anyone knows of any other widow of a past Big SIR, please let me know and I will contact them. As you can see, the BEC worked on several things in January and will be working on more in February. If you would like to see what goes on at the BEC, you are welcome to come early and listen to what happens. The BEC meeting tries to get started at 10:00 AM and it is open to everyone.



## LITTLE SIR MESSAGE

**Rick Bronner**

**(408) 318-4826**

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

.At our January meeting we had City Councilman Matt Hawkins give us an update on local issues dealing with homeless, crime as well as Police and Fire dept. updates. Matt covered the new agreement with Chicken Ranch on the new Firehouse to be built and paid for by the Mi-Wuk tribes. The new Firehouse is part of the new Chicken Ranch Casino project. It will be staffed by Sonora City employees.

I also want to thank all those that signed up for volunteer work at our monthly meetings. We had appx. 25 signups. As you know, without our volunteers, we couldn't run our meetings and special events. Again, thank you to all those that stepped up.

I'm pleased to announce our guest speaker for our upcoming February meeting. Nancy Scott of Nancy's Hope will be here to tell us all about her wonderful Thrift store and services they provide for our community. Here's a line from their mission statement that really sums up what there all about; **To provide needed services to ALL members of the community whether they be elderly, homeless, low-income families and disabled and anyone who would not otherwise be able to obtain necessary services, through free programs and community outreach.**

There is so much they do for our community we should be proud of Nancy and her project. Hope to see you all here.



## BOWLING REPORT

**Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826**

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

SIRS league has just started the second half. We still need bowlers, so if anyone is interested, please contact Mike Coe at 209-769-3413. There is a SIRS Tournament in February at Country Clubs Lanes in Sacramento. The tournament runs 2-16 and 2-17. The contact is Conner Chin 916-601-1854.

Here is a link to the SIR Bowling Calendar; [https://sirbowling.org/calendar/bowling\\_calendar%202023\\_as\\_of\\_2022-11-17%20pm.pdf](https://sirbowling.org/calendar/bowling_calendar%202023_as_of_2022-11-17%20pm.pdf)



## RV CLUB NEWS

Eddie Toews (209) 532-3970  
[lcoinlady@aol.com](mailto:lcoinlady@aol.com)

The RV Club will be kicking off our 2023 season in February with a breakfast at “The My Garden Café” on Mono way. We have three outings scheduled which are: 1) The River Run RV Park in Bakersfield, CA. This is from March 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. Hosts, Don & Monika LaFoy. 2) Bass Lake, CA. From May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 18<sup>th</sup>. Hosts, Marty & Cheri Martin and co-host, Otto & Cathy Bulich. 3) Jackson Rancheria RV Park, Jackson, CA. From October 16<sup>th</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup>. Hosts, Sol & Ruth Robin. We also have several other outings in the making, so it should be a busy year for us. We also have several openings in the club, so any SIR’s member that would like to join us, please contact Eddie Toews at 209-770-3776 and he will give you information on the club and activities. We also changed our by-laws to read that any SIR’s member in good standing, with or without an RV can join us on any outing by renting a cabin at the RV park, renting an RV or renting a hotel room at a nearby hotel. We would enjoy having you visit us and we would hope that you would have a good time and enjoy being out on the road with us. Be safe with your travels and out on the road. Drive safe.



## SPECIAL THANKS

It wasn’t my intent to leave the office of Big Sir “with a bang”, but I guess that is what happened. I had been fighting an acute sinus infection since Thanksgiving, and apparently, I wasn’t as recovered as I thought I was. I was also somewhat dehydrated (today’s lesson: drink your fluids, folks!) and that led to me passing out. Hope I didn’t ruin the Christmas Luncheon for anyone – the committee did a great job putting it all together, and other than me being carried off on a gurney, I thought it went very well. I am a little fuzzy on what happened after I went down, but I know there were several folks who were helpful and attentive and made sure I was okay until the EMT’s arrived, and Marcia and I want to extend our extreme thanks for your efforts to all of them, even if I can’t remember everyone. We send you all our best wishes for a really great New Year. Phil E. VanSwoll



## PINOCHLE REPORT

Bob Morrison - (209) 588-0994  
[robert.mrrsn@yahoo.com](mailto:robert.mrrsn@yahoo.com)

In January, we played two tournaments of cutthroat pinochle and one tournament of partners pinochle. Our average scores are shown in the adjacent table. Please join us to play pinochle. We meet each Monday at the Senior Center, 540 Greenley Rd. from 12:45 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. The tournaments start at 1:00 P.M. If you don’t know how to play pinochle, we will teach you. You will play with members from all three of our SIR branches. You don’t need to come every time. Your first two tournaments are free, but thereafter you will pay \$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.

CUTHROAT PINOCHLE		
January 2023		
SCORES		
Player	Branch	Average
Tom Long	77	411
Jim Turner	136	285
Jerry Morrow	172	270
Delbert Rotelli	77	252
Bill Burnes	136	170
Bob Morrison	136	143
John Quinton	136	58
John White	77	-16

PARTNERS PINOCHLE SCORES		
Player	Branch	Average
John White	77	494
Tom Long	77	436
Jim Turner	136	389
Bob Morrison	136	367

## KAYAKING

Sol Robin (707) 315-1284  
[solrobin57@gmail.com](mailto:solrobin57@gmail.com)

No Report this month



## CHAPLIN’S CORNER

Steve Gregory  
(209) 533-0309  
[discogregory@aol.com](mailto:discogregory@aol.com)

Brother Fred Vigil is currently in hospice care. Badge 225 Please keep him and his wife Rita, in your prayers.

### Invocation from January luncheon:

Heavenly Father: Our souls can often feel so dry, especially during the busy holiday season we just went through. Renew our spirit in You, fill us Lord with all the good things you bring. Help us to remember to pause and ask for those blessings. Remind us we are not navigating life alone. We pray you fill us with the fruits of the Holy Spirit this year: with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. Help us not to strive for things you haven’t given us and help us not to pick up burdens that aren’t ours to carry. Let us all be well within our soul, Dear Father, in this new year. In Jesus name, Amen.



## GOLF REPORT

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

Hang in there everyone. Only one more month and were back golfing at Teleli. Our first event will be Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact for golf signup is Danny Laureta. You can contact Danny at 209-586-4567 or email at [dlaureta@gmail.com](mailto:dlaureta@gmail.com)



## FISHING CHAIRMAN

Chuck Simons - (209) 532-9550  
[simons4890@yahoo.com](mailto:simons4890@yahoo.com)

No Report this month

## February Birthdays



Alameda, Denny	02/02
Rodrigues, Jim	02/06
Stoddard, Andy	02/06
Harm, Ray	02/23
McGuigan, Dave	02/25
Toews, Eddie HLM	02/27

# Want Some SIRs Apparel?

- (A) Get on your computer and go to <https://sir.ourproshop.com> and peruse the items available and order online. Notice that shipping and handling charges are avoided above a certain order amount. If your order is large enough to avoid these charges or you are willing to pay them, process your order. If you know of a friend who also wants SIRs merchandise, consolidate your order with him. You can also go on Branch 136's website, go to the "SIR Apparel" link to get an order form to fill out. Bring the order form, along with your check for the order amount, and give it to Fred Kehr at the next monthly meeting. Fred Kehr will consolidate orders to avoid shipping and handling charges.
- (B) If you don't have access to a computer, a couple of catalogs will be available at our meetings on a table between the bar and dining area at the Elk's Lodge. Browse through the catalog, and if you find something you want, take an order sheet and fill it out, placing the completed form on the designated clip board. Don't hesitate to ask Fred Kehr in person or on 209-840-0719 about details. Once the order form is completed, Fred Kehr will hold on to the orders until sufficient volume to avoid shipping and handling charges have been accumulated. At that time, Fred Kehr will ask you to pay for your order before ordering the merchandise. Of course, if you are willing to pay these charges, your order will be handled separately, once you have paid for it. If Fred Kehr doesn't get enough orders together in a month or two, he will contact you to determine the next course of action, i.e., hold on to it or return your check.





## Sonora SIRs Branch 136 Advertisers:

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Sonora, CA 95370

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Fax 209-694-3624  
tamara@tpolleylaw.com



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(209) 559-3840  
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To all our members, if you frequent any of these businesses, please remember to thank them for their gracious support to our Branch.

## SIR STATE OFFICERS

www.sirinc.org

President - Rick Kindle  
Vice-President - Dale Decker  
Secretary - Dick DeVoe  
Treasurer - Roy Hodgkinson  
Region 2 Director - Dale Decker  
Area 5 Governor - Paul Squeri

## 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 2012 - Baci Frecceri  
2013 - Phil VanSwoll 2014 - John Bristow  
2015 - Jim Johnson 2016 - Dale Decker  
2017 - Danney Laureta 2018 - Paul Squeri  
2019 - Jim Botto - Gene Zaroni - 2020 &  
2021 - Phil VanSwoll 2022

## BRANCH #136 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Frank Taylor - Treasurer 2001-2015  
Dale Decker - Big Sir 2016  
Eddie Toews - Treasurer 2009 - current

## 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.** 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:** Eddie Toews 532-3970  
**Little Sir:** Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826  
**Sec:** Gene Zaroni 532-1989  
**Asst Sec:** Bill Burnes 533-4334  
**Treas:** John Salmon 9284409  
**Asst.Tres:** Eddie Toews 532-3970

## DIRECTORS

**Marty Martin** (209) 586-1886  
**George Cocores** (209) 456-9814  
**Rex Page** (209) 533-4501  
**Stan Enos** (209) 533-2928  
**Steven Holt** (209) 928-3072  
**Melvin Kutsch** (209) 533-0384

## Behind the Scenes

Photographer - **Steve Belochi** 533-5315  
Bulletin - **Jim Botto** 559-0931  
Internet - **Jerry Bellefeuille** 588-3978  
SIR Items Sales - **Fred Kehr** 785-4358  
Chaplain - **Steve Gregory** 728-5707

## 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



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