



**BIG SIR
GENE ZANONI**



**ENJOY LIFE DESPITE
YOUR
CIRCUMSTANCES**



**MEN WANTED
THE TIMID
NEED NOT APPLY**

SONORA BRANCH 136



Sonora Grammer School 1908

Message from the “Big Sir

Gene Zanoni (209-532-1989) On August 19, 2020 the SIR Annual Meeting (the “event”) was made possible as a result of modern technology, that being virtual via ZOOM. Initially, I wish to acknowledge the outstanding effort put forth by Mark Stuart. He provided the explicit fundamental meeting ground rules and ensured they be maintained throughout the event. Much of the presentation took on a fire side chat demeanor since it was presided over by the inimitable

SIRS Mission

To improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events - while making friends for life.

Ed Benson, SIR State President. As a leader I find him to be intriguing as well as deserving an enormous amount of respect. Ed always appears relaxed, periodically flashes a wry smile, unquestionably has a sense of humor and above all handles his responsibilities with utmost seriousness. Thus, he is the complete leader.

The presenters included some very notable upcoming 2021 state officers. Included in this very select group of member dignitaries was **Jim Johnson**, 2021 President-Elect, and **Dale Decker**, 2021 Assistant Secretary-Elect. Jim delivered a concise and thoughtful speech regarding his upcoming 2021 aspirations. While Dale, the current Policy and Procedures Chairman, presided over the introductions relating to Bylaw Revisions and/or New Bylaws. Subsequently, votes were cast regarding the individual issues by the audience and most everyone appeared pleased with the results. To members of our branch neither Jim nor Dale require any introductions whatsoever; after all, they have served as past-Big Sirs and have occupied numerous other positions of major responsibilities throughout the years. The event attracted an audience in excess of one hundred and fifty officers from throughout the state.

Contrary to what I have heard from some of our members, in that the Coronavirus has contributed to an extended lockdown period associated with inactivity, this event proved beyond any doubt to dispel this misconception! Moreover, this event provided the valuable opportunity to re-connect with many other members throughout the entire organization, if only by facial recognition. Finally, since the event was recorded, I hope to share with you next month the website location whereby all interested members may view the entire event through the convenience of their home computer.

Last month it was reported that past-Big Sir **Paul Squeri** was designated as our branch’s nominee for the 2021 Area 5 Governor position. Subsequently, it was learned during our August BEC (Branch Executive Committee) meeting that Paul Squeri successfully received a *unanimous vote* to fill the vacancy created by the departing Dale Decker, who will move up to serve as the 2021 Assistant Secretary at the state level.

The 39th Annual Home and Garden Show, originally scheduled for April that has been pushed forward to October, is still on pending a final decision to be handed down soon by our State Governor. In any event, we must be prepared to pursue our recruitment efforts

Seriously?

Quarantine, Day 8:



Batman After Quarantine...



3rd Day of Home School



should the opportunity exist. Regardless, I shall inform you next month should this local event fall victim to the pandemic, much like other planned community activities that have experienced cancellation.

Once again, I feel compelled to inform everyone that we are currently without a Little Sir for the remainder of the current year. Also, please be aware there are numerous openings still existing as it relates to our BEC roster for 2021. All interested members are encouraged to contact any or all BEC members for information applicable to satisfy their specific interest. You have heard from me, now I would very much like to hear from you regarding your expectations as it relates to **our** branch activities for 2021. We are only able to move forward if we work together to resolve whatever issues that confront us all. In other words, increased membership participation, limitless enthusiasm and a strong determination to succeed will enable us to realize our collective objectives.

Please remember that social distancing is good for everyone's health.

Committee Reports

WE CURRENTLY HAVE NO LITTLE SIR. Former Big Sir **Paul Squeri** will be filling in until we find a replacement or until the end of this year.

Golf - Danny Lauretta (209-586-4567). Hope everyone had a good time & the weather cooperated We had a total of 24 golfers out for the skins tournament at Teleli Golf Course on August 17, 2020. The following were the results: 2 skins - Tom Neiderer; 3 skins - Jim Simmons ; 4 skins - Andy Bravo; 9 skins - Joe Zertuche. Our next skins game is September 1, 2020; our regularly tournaments are typically the third Tuesday of the month. Please call me for specific information as to dates, times, and locations.

Chaplain - Steve Gregory (209-533-0309). Nothing to report.

Bowling - Jerry Fountain ((209) 532-0650). Nothing to report

Pinochle - Bob Morrison (209-588-0994). Nothing to report.

Car Club - Rich Rinaldi (209-532-8366). Nothing to report.

Fishing - Chuck Simmons (209-532-9550). Nothing to report.

RV Group - Eddie Toews (209-532-3970). Nothing to report.

Kayaking/Easy Hiking - Sol Robin (209-651-1054). Nothing to report.

Enjoy Life Despite Your Circumstances!

In March of this year, we had the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic; to combat the spread of this horrible disease, the country was shut down, massive unemployment followed, and a crash in the stock market sent economic indicators spiraling. Then on May 25, George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis Police Officer. On July 13, the Black Lives Matter ("BLM) movement was founded.

BLM had demonstrations throughout the country in almost all major cities. The New York Times referred to the movement as “Black Lives Matter Movement May Be the Largest Movement in US History.” In August, wildfires began to occur across California. Statewide, there are currently more than 560 active fires that have forced more than 100,000 Californians to evacuate their homes. There have been more than 12,000 lightning strikes. Since August 15, CAL FIRE says more than 771,000 acres have burned (that's about the size of Rhode Island).



Pismo State Beach

Local CAL FIRE firefighters monitoring the active fire line from the already-burned area of the Grand Dunes Trail. The Dune fire eventually burned a total of 11 acres of vegetation between the Grand Dunes Trail and the beach.



Big Basin Redwoods

The wildfire destroyed many of the structures at Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Photo from California State Parks.

We also know what is coming in the very near future (less than 60 days)...National, State, and Local elections. If this election resembles anything like recent ones, the rhetoric from both sides will be

loud, frightening, and divisive. So how do we deal with all this turmoil that surrounds us? Please read the following from evangelist, Joyce Meyers, on “How to Enjoy Your Life Despite Your Circumstances.”

There'll always be roadblocks to keep us from enjoying the wonderful life God has provided for us. With all the stress and pressures of everyday life, we must make a decision that we're going to enjoy life regardless of our circumstances.”

Once, I experienced a feeling of dread as we were planning our trip to speak in India. I was excited about the wonderful opportunity there, but all I could focus on was the long flight and poor conditions that exist in that country. I'm grateful that I knew how to dispel those negative feelings with positive thoughts about what could be accomplished during our time there. If I had allowed myself to dwell on the negative aspects of the trip, it would've taken away the joy and excitement God wanted me to experience. Dread is a trap, and you must be determined not to fall into it. If not being sure of the future or facing new things causes you to feel dread or fear, remember what Philippians 4:13 says, ...I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me....

Every single day is filled with all kinds of situations that could upset you—like losing your car keys or getting caught in a traffic jam. But when you know what's going on, you can choose to be in control.

You must take responsibility for your happiness. You're the one person you're never going to get away from, so you'd better learn to like yourself. It's impossible to enjoy life if you don't enjoy yourself. We have a well of wonderful things on the inside of us, and no matter what's going on around us, we can drink from that well within. We can find strength right there inside of us to do what we need to do.

I've learned that life is so much better when we don't have unrealistic expectations—for ourselves or other people. There was a time when I got upset and felt sorry for myself for days when my husband, Dave, wanted to play golf. But God helped me to see that each of us has different ways of relaxing and unwinding. For Dave, it's golf. For me, it's shopping or watching a good old classic movie. As long as we keep things in balance, we can enjoy the freedom of doing what we like best. Understanding this has brought about a wonderful freedom that allows both Dave and me to do the things we enjoy.

You can enjoy this same freedom in your own life. Living in freedom—and allowing others to do the same—is a healthy and positive approach to life that pleases God.

We must also learn that we can be extraordinarily happy while living an ordinary, everyday life. Expecting life to be one long series of exciting events is setting yourself up for disappointment—and that'll steal your joy! So learn to be content with life as it is.

With God's help and your determination, you can learn to be happy and enjoy every single day of your God-given life. Start your days by saying, "This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning, Lord!"

DIRECTORY of OFFICERS Branch 136

Big SIR: Gene Zanoni 532-1989 genevzanoni@gmail.com
Little SIR: *Currently Vacant*
Sec: Bill Burnes 533-4334 sonorabill401@gmail.com
Asst. Sec: Dick Aberle 532-4066 raaberle2@sbcglobal.net
Treas: Eddie 'Ed' Toews 532-3970 lcoinlady@aol.com
Asst. Treas: Steve Aldridge 770-5287 stevealdr1147@gmail.com
RAMP - Steve Aldridge 770-5287
Recruitment : *Currently Vacant-*
Activities - Bill Lobdell-586-7145
Member Relations - Phil Baylis-510-552-7596
DIRECTORS - Second Year
 Bill Guenza 568-7088
 Marty Martin 568-1886 George Cocores 456-9814
DIRECTORS - First Year
 Phil Baylis (510) 552-7596 Chris Methot (408) 218-5221
 Tom Neiderer (714) 886-8574

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN & CO-CHAIRMEN

Attendance Membership - George Cocores 456-9814
 BEC Advisor - Al Limon 533-4544
 Bowling - Jerry Fountain 209-532-0650
 Branch Photographer - Steve Belochi 533-5315
 Bulletin - John White 408-355-5991
 Car Club - Rich Rinaldi 532-8366
 Fishing - Chuck Simons -532-9550
 Golf - Tom Nischwitz 694-8624 & Danny Laureta 586-4567
 Honorary Life Membership - Al Limon 533-4944
 Internet - Jerry Bellefeuille 533-3630 & Danny Laureta
 Kayaking/Hiking - Sol Robin 651-1054
 Lunch Tickets - Roger Swartz 533-0376
 Luncheon Drawing - Tom Neiderer 569-9003
 Nominating Com. Chair. - Jim Botto 586-0822
 Pinochle - Bob Morrison 588-0994
Poker - Currently Vacant
 Propane - Marty Martin 586-1886
 R.V. Travel Group - Eddie Toews 532-3970
 Senior Member Awards - Jim Johnson 536-1595
 SIR Item Sales - Fred Kehr 785-4358
 Sunshine - Chaplain - Steve Gregory 533-0309
 Wine Tasting - Phil VanSwoll 532-1133



39th Annual Home & Garden Show

When: October 24-25, 2020

Where: Mother Lode

Fairgrounds, Sonora, CA

We need your help to staff our SIR's booth at the Home and Garden Show. This is our opportunity to represent our chapter to the community and bring in new members. Please consider volunteering to serve at this event. To volunteer, please contact the Big Sir, Gene Zanoni (209-532-1989) with the time you can serve and your telephone number. Sign-ups are hourly (but you can serve longer) starting at 10am on both Saturday (Oct 24) and Sunday (Oct 25). The event closes at 4pm.

Someone invited you to attend our branch and look what happened! Now is the time to invite another man and give them the opportunity for fun, fellowship, and much needed friendship.

Did You Know Branch 136 Has a Website?

[HTTPS://SONORASIRS.ORG/](https://sonorasirs.org/)

Please take a moment and go to the website to get information regarding

- golf and bowling schedules;
- current and previous month bulletins;
- group activities and contact information;
- committee reports and much more.



Over the last several monthly bulletins I have provided you with a selection of YouTube videos that are inspiring, fun, and hopefully, have made you either laugh or cry (or both). This month I'm only doing one because it's just that good.

All you need to do is click on the link and then skip the commercials. It's just that easy. Nothing to download or sign up for.

Vann Morris "Old Glory"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FC7rQldOyVY>



Men Wanted

My father was a Marine and served in the Pacific during WWII. *Semper Fidelis* or *Semper Fi* for short, has been the Marine Corp motto since 1883. It's latin for "always faithful." *Semper Fi* embodies a Marine's promise to always be faithful no matter what.

I have always been proud of my father's Marine corp service and heritage. We all may not have been a Marine, but we all can be "Marine like."

Today, our SIR's Branch is facing a lot of issues as we try to maneuver through this pandemic and the limitations placed upon us by both the government and SIR state organization. We will need to be creative and think out of the box in order to be true to our SIR's mission statement. We need men like you to serve in leadership and bless us with the knowledge, skills, and abilities only you can provide.

When I joined SIR I never wanted to serve in leadership, I had had enough of that during my working career. When I was asked to be the bulletin editor, I did not volunteer with a song in my heart. Yet, I stepped forward and it has been a blessing in my life. God has equipped me with certain gifts and abilities, and it is to His glory that I continue to use them. It's time again to be a blessing to others, please consider joining the SIR's leadership team.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

That is Old English for "Pay attention and listen up." The next **Branch Executive Committee (BEC)** meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at the Eproson Park in Twain Harte at 3PM. This will be a live meeting (not virtual) and social distancing and the wearing of a mask will be required. This is your opportunity to get involved in the leadership of our SIRS branch. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Are you registered to Vote?

The presidential election as well as many state, local, and ballot measures are less than 60 days away. Make sure you are registered to vote. Go to <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov>. It's fast, easy, safe, and secure.

Happy Birthday to You!

Both astrological signs Virgo and Libra fall within September and are harmonious signs making you a balanced personable individual to be around, so shine on like the star you are! Your birth stone is the sapphire and gives the wearer luck. Sapphire is usually envisioned as a blue stone but also comes in green, pink, purple and clear. September has several birth flowers—the forget-me-not, the morning glory, and the aster. The name “September” comes from the Latin *septem* for seven, since this was the seventh month of the Roman calendar. September has 11 of the top birthdays in the nation and, more babies are born on September 9th than any other day of the year!

Belochi, Steve	09/01
Costello, Jim	09/02
Kehr, Fred	09/10
Barnes, Harold (Barney)	09/11
Patania, Joe	09/12
Holt, Steven	09/12
Lewis, James	09/16
Hagel, Steve	09/19
Falfua, James	09/21
Jorgensen, James (Jorgie)	09/22
Abreo, Albert F	09/24
Kutsch, Melvin (Mel)	09/27
Turner, Tom	09/27
Aberle, Dick	09/28
Johnson, Tim	09/28
Chambers, Robert (Bob)	09/29
Cocores, George	09/30
Bethel, Ron	9/30

(Editor’s apologies in advance if I over looked your special day.)

Message from the Editor

John White (408-355-5991). I hope you are enjoying the *Sirs Branch 136 Monthly Bulletin*. I very much enjoy putting this bulletin together for you and it is my prayer that it is a blessing to you. Although this pandemic has shut down practically everything we enjoy doing...going shopping, the movies, restaurants, travel...it has not stopped us from doing everything. My daily routine is to get up, pour myself a cup of coffee, and then get on the phone and reach out to my brother and sisters. I then let God put people on my heart to call with nothing more to say than, “How are you, and that I love you.”

My wife Gwen just called me to the window to look at the many deer (about 5) and turkeys (about 7) enjoying the grass I have tried so hard to grow and maintain on the front lawn. They didn’t seem at all worried about all of the circumstances of life (I hope you read that article). It reminded me that what is truly important is not what is on TV, or happening around the country, but what is going on right at home.

I love living in this country; I love living in California; I love living in Sonora; and I love my wife, family, friends, and neighbors. Life is good and with that perspective, you can overcome anything and everything...even those deer eating your lawn!

