



BULLETIN

August, 2025

Website: sonorasirs.org

SONORA BRANCH #136

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 9th

Reserve your spot(s) with:

Jerry Bellefeuille

sirjerry4@gmail.com

Or Call (209) 588-3978

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

Deadline for reservations is:

Sept. 4, 2025

Menu:

Chicken Cordon Blue, Rice Pilaf, Peas, Green Salad and Chocolate Pudding

Guest Speaker:

TBD



BULLETIN INPUT NOTICE

Don Herzer Editor - (209) 586-3078

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 Don Herzer at:

corvdon@wsccpubs.net

The deadline for the next bulletin is:

Aug. 31, 2025



BIG SIR MESSAGE

Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826

bronnerrick@gmail.com

I'll be attending the annual SIR State meeting on Tuesday August 26th. This year we will be doing final nominations and voting for SIR State Officers. Here's a list of the current nominees:

- President-Fred Serena
- VP-Nick Feimer
- Secretary-Jeff Chin
- Treasurer-Carl Mason
- Chief of Information-Ramesh Thadani
- Director of Documents-Bruce Corwin
- Director Branch Support-John Farcich
- Director Marketing-Neil Wheeler
- Director Activities-Michel lee
- Area Rep-Jerry Morrow
- Area Rep-Carl Dawson
- And one open Area rep position.

There is also a proposed amendment to our bylaws to remove the word "retired" from Article 2 paragraph b. This will put us in line with the fact that for several years now we haven't really required our members to be officially retired. There will also be a review of SIR state 2025 objectives. After lunch the plan is to do some brainstorming on future objectives for SIR.

I'm really looking forward to our upcoming picnic on THURSDAY August 21st at Indigeny Reserve. A full-on BBQ with all the fixings and all for just \$30. If you haven't got your tickets yet time is of the essence. The deadline will be NO later than August 15th. See the flyer in this month's newsletter to get all the info.

Rick Bronner



LITTLE SIR MESSAGE

Mike Krom - (209) 586-1533

mmowers@mlode.com

Well, things are going well. I appreciate the thoughts and prayers for my family and me. I have been doing the infusion chemo treatment on tuesday's. That is why you have not seen me around. Not every Tuesday, but the Tuesdays the Oncologist has planned for me. I am back to mowing my lawn, clearing dead and overgrown trees, and the notorious weed eating. Pam and I did take a break along with Scott and Nancy and our dogs to half moon bay for 5 days. The RV park was clean along with cement and asphalt pads. A little drizzly the first morning but blue skies later in the day. I will say, in my opinion, the food there was not that great. I am a picky eater so I might be a little harsh.

We did have a nice lunch one day. I had a different type of clam chowder. Not thick but very tasty. And on another night I had fried prawns which were seasoned perfectly and fried. Hence, there is hope for some of the eateries.

Anyway, I feel good, getting stronger everyday, and hope and pray to see you all soon. Hopefully at the picnic and Safeway. I will mention my wife Pam stepping up to the plate and literally taking care of me and also my nurse daughter who came up to take care of me and explain what half this stuff meant. Including the video calls. God bless them both. I realize it was hard on all of us but my daughter could just drive away. Poor Pam. Great job babe. I will never forget everything you have done. And to my friends I know and don't know .

Mike Krom





INTERNET CHAIRMAN

Jerry Bellefeuille (209) 588-3978
sirjerry4@gmail.com

Our Branch website is at 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>.

Jerry Bellefeuille



RV CLUB NEWS

Eddie Toews (209) 770-3776
lcoinlady@aol.com

The RV Club is at a standstill this month. Our next outing will be in September to Placerville. We did have a new SIR's member join the RV Club this month. We will be welcoming them to the group at the outing. Hope to see all of you at the picnic this month. Don't forget to bring a raffle prize.

If you would like to join us at an outing, call Eddie Toews 209-770-3776 and we will get you on the road with us. You don't have to have an RV, a lot of the parks have cabins you can rent.

Stay safe on the road.

Eddie Toews



CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Steven Gregory - (209) 728-5707
discogregory@aol.com

(No report this month)

Steven Gregory Chaplain

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

George Cocores - (209) 456-9814
greekbeak1@aol.com

Membership Report - June 2025

July Luncheon

Luncheon Attendance (57%) 68
Excused Absences (43%) 51
Guests 1

Current Month Membership

Active Membership (May) 116
Applicants Being Installed 1
Active Members Lost 0
Active Membership July 119



GOLF CLUB NEWS

Raul Santana - (925) 451-7351
rsantana01@yahoo.com

The SIRS July 2025 golf tournament was held at Teleli GC in Sonora. We had perfect golf weather and the course was in great shape. The format was 2-man, 6-6-6. Meaning 6 holes scramble, 6 holes best ball and 6 holes alternate. Unfortunately, no one from Branch 136 was in the winner's circle.

Next tournament is scheduled for August 19th, at Greenhorn Creek GC in Angels Camp.

Raul Santana



KAYAKING & PINOCHLE REPORT

No Reports this month
Chairman Positions now open

[editor's note: I screwed up and didn't report July birthdays, so I've included them for this issue - sorry for the oversight]

July Birthdays

Gelber, Allan (Al)	07/01
Swartz, Rodger	07/03
Hildinger, James (Jim)	07/03
Randall, Earl	07/04
Luz, Bradford (Brad)	07/11
Pope, William (Bill)	07/12
Preston, Steve	07/16
Krom, Micheal (Mike)	07/18
Waters, Dennis L.	07/23
Davis, Gary	07/25
Slemmons, Paul	07/26
Marrs, John	07/27

August Birthdays

Thomas, Bob	08/01
Burke, Randall (Randy)	08/04
Gregory, Stephen	08/07
Page, Rex T. *DSA	08/09
Rodgers, Travis (T.J.)	08/12
Cunningham, Michael	08/19
Willhoite, Robert	08/19
McVey, Lance	08/25
Nuzum, Jim	08/31
Boldemann, Lloyd	08/31



FISHING CHAIRMAN

Chuck Simons - (209) 532-9550
simons4890@yahoo.com

Report: very few fish

Chuck Simons



BOWLING CLUB NEWS

Ray Di Basilio
rdibasilio@gmail.com

Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826
bronnerrick@gmail.com

Striking up Friendships



FROM RAY:

July was a busy and exciting month for SIR tournament bowling. We first visited Foothills Bowl in Auburn, easy access from I-80. The two-day event brought 68 bowlers which is a slight increase in participation from last year. The oil pattern was suitable for everyone making scoring better than average, with a good number of 600's. Next, we went to Clayton Valley Bowl in Concord for another well attended two-day event. With 82 bowlers we had a 10% increase over last year. I am liking this trend! Another favorable oil pattern resulted in more high scores, a couple 700 series, and perfect 300 game rolled by SIR Tim Hetzer, Branch 65 Napa. This was Tim's second perfect game; his first was in Napa earlier this year (on string pins). Tim just proved a good bowler can do it all! Going back in the records, the last 300 shot in a SIR tournament was in 2016 in Reno at the National Bowling Stadium when we had two - scored by SIRs Ray Buttacavoli and SIR David Rossi. Our annual tournament in Reno is coming up soon - August 11-13. If you don't have your application in already, be sure to call me. The National Bowling Stadium awards an elegant 300 crystal trophy for 300's bowled on their lanes. We want to assure you do not miss out on rolling a 300 in this very special location!

For the full schedule, head over to the SIR Bowling webpage:

[SIR BOWLING](#)

See you on the lanes,

Ray Di Basilio

FROM RICK:

The SIR summer bowling league final results are in. Team 5 with my wife Liz Bronner, Michael Wright, Rich Robenseifner and our new member Chris Maguire went up against Team 1 with myself, Raul Santana, Bryan Sinklier and Greg Fletcher. My team took game one but my wife's team roared back and took game two. It came down to game three. Going into the 8th frame my wife's team was up 10 pins. My team caught them in the 9th frame. It all came down to the 10th frame. It was looking good for Team 5 when Liz got a strike in the 10th. Bryan matched her and now it was between Greg and Chris. Greg picked up a 10 pin while Chris missed a baby split. I nailed my first strike to give us an edge and Rich couldn't match me. Team 1 ends up winning the 2025 SIR Summer league final!

Good news, The SIR Bowling league returns for winter bowling. The league starts Monday September 8th. Same time at noon. The league is open to all SIR members and their significant others. Where else can you have so much fun for \$20! Next stop for SIR bowlers is the SIR state tournament in Reno at the National Bowling Stadium on Monday August 11th thru Wednesday the 13th. Good luck to everyone. Here's the link to SIR Bowling;

<https://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling>



Rick Bronner

CAR CLUB NEWS

Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826
bronnerrick@gmail.com

The weekend of July 26th and 27 was the annual Summer Fest in Twain Harte. Saturday the 26th featured the annual Twain Harte car show. There was a good collection of Hot Rods, Classic cars and even some rare British sports cars. I saw fellow SIR members Stan Enos with his Classic panel van and Rich Rinaldi with his convertible GTO. My son Bob and my Grandson Everett were in town visiting from the Seattle area. My grandson got to sit in one of the Hot Rods. My grandson had a huge smile on his face!

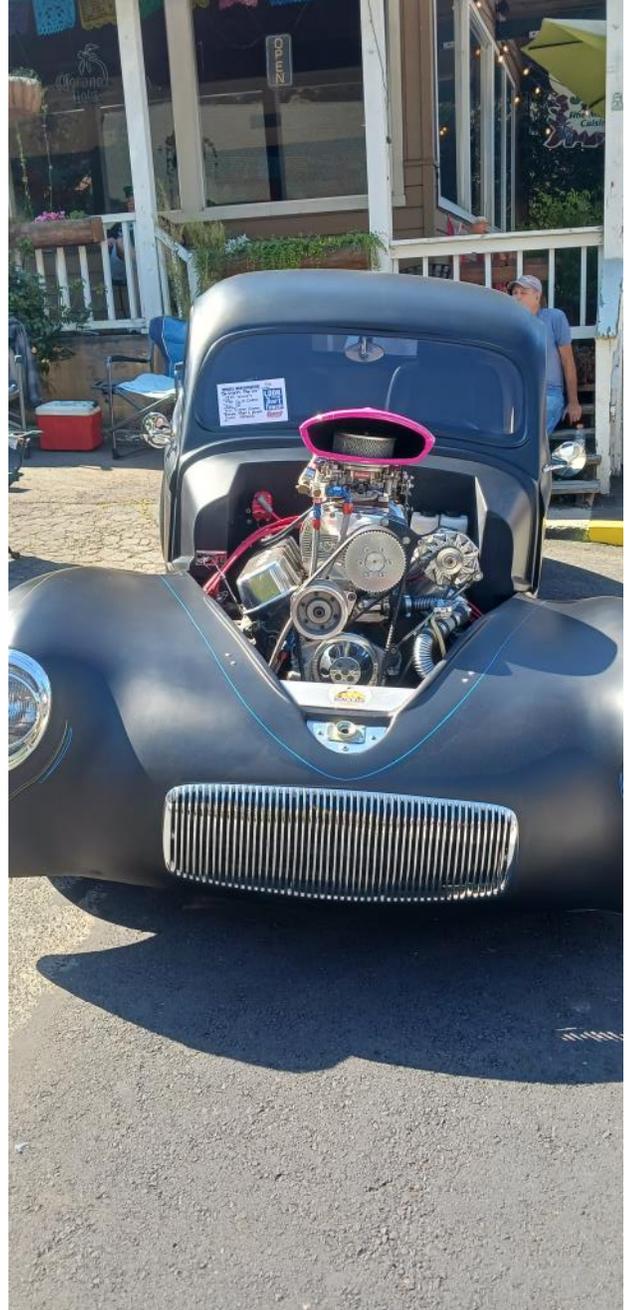
Coming up on Wednesday night August 20th at Tuolumne Westside Memorial Park will be a concert featuring Spinout and a car show. As always these are free events. The show starts at 6pm. There are plenty of vendors on hand with food and arts and crafts. And don't forget to bring your own chairs and plan on enjoying a great night of entertainment.

[see pictures on pages 4-5]

Rick Bronner



Rick's
Pictures from
Twain Harte
Show





Rick's Pictures from Twain Harte Show





The Rooster Crows!

The Scoop from the Coop

August 2025

Board of Directors

- Rich Carlston B8
President
- Fred Serena B59
Vice President
- Jeff Chin B103
Secretary
- Carl Mason B88
Treasurer
- Ramesh Thadani B98
CIO
- Andy Danver B35
Dir. Mktg/Comm.
- John Farcich B1
Dir. Br. Support
- Bruce Corwin B159
Dir. State Docs.
- Michael Lee B128
Dir. Activities
- Fred Serena B59
AR Coord., AR
- Jerry Morrow B172
AR
- Bruce Corwin B159
AR
- Derek Southern B8
State Advisor
- Roy Hodgkinson B146
Parliamentarian



From State SIR

As we arrive in August, Summer is well underway but moving quickly. I hope you have been able to participate in your many branch activities. **If not, it isn't too late to begin.** We still have plenty of time ahead with great weather, great friendships, great experiences and great fun.

For example, the Annual **Bowling** Tournament is coming up for bowlers in Reno on August 14 - 16. And if you are talented (lucky) enough to bowl a 300 game, be sure and collect your crystal trophy from the National Bowling Stadium. Contact Ray DiBasilio at rdibasilio@gmail.com. Our next **golf** tournament is scheduled in Grass Valley August 27 - 28. Come join the fun. Contact Ben Gikis at gikisben@yahoo.com. **Travel** opportunities abound. Trips to Vietnam & Cambodia (Oct. and Nov.), Australia & New Zealand (Jan.), Japan & Korea (Apr.) and Cuba (Mar.) are available for your traveling pleasure. See the world with us. Contact Milt Smith at miltsmith549@gmail.com or Glenn Breslin at glennbreslin@gmail.com. And don't forget our newest activity, **fishing**. Fishing trips on the ocean, on the Delta or from a pier are scheduled this month. Drop a line - you never know what will turn up. Contact Brion Beetz at brion.beetz@gmail.com.

The Annual Meeting is August 26, 2025. The nominees for the 2026 Board of Directors to be presented are:

- Pres. Fred Serena
- V.P. Nick Feimer
- Sec. Jeff Chin
- Treas. Carl Mason
- CIO Ramesh Thadani
- Dir Doc Bruce Corwin
- Dir Br Sup John Farcich
- Dir Mkt Neil Wheeler
- Dir Act Michael Lee
- AR Rep Jerry Morrow
- AR Rep Carl Dawson
- AR Rep OPEN



A big Thank You to the Nominating Committee for identifying the nominees for the 2026 State Board of Directors.

Please always remember to thank those responsible for arranging activities. Our many branch and State activity chairs and committees voluntarily spend hours of their time planning, arranging and managing our activities so we can come and have fun. Let these leaders know how much you appreciate them and their efforts.

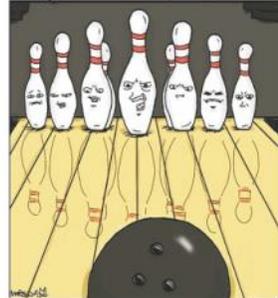


In 2007, Scotland spent £125,000 devising a new national slogan. The winning entry was: "Welcome to Scotland."

Before finally being accepted, J.K. Rowling's original Harry Potter pitch was rejected by 12 publishers.



Daily Comic By Chuck Harrison





IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Annual Meeting: August 26, 2025, at 10:00 am

**Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center
3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA**

2026 Annual Meeting Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
10:00	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification of Quorum • Pledge of Allegiance • Invocation • Welcome Officers and Guests • Agenda Revisions – if any • Review Voting Process 	Rich Carlston
10:10	State of SIR	Rich Carlston
10:25	Election of State Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Nominees • Call for nominations from the floor • Vote 	Dave Gonzales
10:30	Vote re possible change to Articles	Rich Carlston
10:35	Vote re possible change to Bylaws	Rich Carlston
10:40	Financial Report	Carl Mason
10:55	Major Accomplishments during 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing accomplishments • Computer/Tech accomplishments • New management tools • Activities • Training • Changed Policies 	Andy Danver Ramesh Thadani Bruce Corwin Michael Lee John Farcich Rich Carlston & Fred Serena
12:00	Lunch	
1:00	Breakout Session1 – ARs and interested members	Fred Serena
1:00	Breakout Session 2 – All other members President's Panel of Past and Present Presidents	Derek Southern, Rick Kindle Dave Gonzales Rich Carlston
2:00	Vision for 2026	Fred Serena
2:15	Adjournment	

Possible Amendments

1. Amend the Articles of Incorporation for SIR, Incorporated to remove the word "retired" so that it is clear that being retired is not a condition for membership.

Men do not retire early but commonly work into their 70s and 80s. Those that do retire early often undertake a second career. Most branches have members who are working full or part time. Retirement should not be a condition to membership.

2. Amend Bylaw 110 to remove geographical limits preventing branches and members in Southern California.

Interest has been expressed in possibly having branches open in Southern California. Our Bylaws prohibit any branches outside of Northern and Central California. Given the use of Zoom and other available management tools, there is no reason for the restriction if a market for SIR exists in Southern California.

REMINDER:

Time to determine who your branch leaders will be in 2026. Our passwords have changed for the State website. Contact me if you don't yet have them.



CONGRATULATIONS to Damian Reynolds Branch 1. On the 9th of July this past month, Branch 1, our founding branch located in San Mateo, held it's **800th** meeting. It is now in it's 67th year and still going strong. Seven of its former Big Sirs went on to become State SIR Presidents. Under its current Big Sir Nick Feimer it continues to lead and set an example for all.



Help us spread the word about SIR. We have fun. We make friends. We are active. We are happy. We help each other. And we live longer.



If you want to **make great friends** and **have lots of fun**, volunteer to be Little Sir at your branch. Now is the time since most branches are identifying next year's leaders now.

WE Are SIR!



It's
BBQ
Time!



RAFFLE PRIZES APPRECIATED

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Eddie Toews 209-770-3776
George Cocores, Gene Zanoni
Mel Kutsch, Rick Bronner



SIRs BRANCH 136 ANNUAL PICNIC

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Will be held at Indigeny Reserve

Social hour will be at 11:00 A.M.

Lunch will be at approximately
12:00 P.M.

Menu

Buffet Style

BBQ RIBS and BBQ CHICHEN
and **GRILLED GOURMET SAUSAGE**

Sides will include:

Ranch Style Beans, Corn on the Cob,
Country Potato Salad, Watermelon,

Desserts, Sweetened Ice Tea,
Lemonade and Infused Water.

Branch will provide Beer and Wine
while it lasts. Each person will
receive two drink tickets when they
check in at the gate.

Tickets are \$30.00 per person
and will be on sale at the June
and July regular meetings. Tickets
Will NOT be sold at the door.

MAXIMUM 224 TICKETS AVAILABLE

NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER

AUGUST 15, 2025



SIR – Social Activities for Men

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of our members through fun activities and events while making friends for life

All SIR members are welcome to join in any branch activity.
Ladies are welcome to join in all Branch 172 activities.
Please start and chair a new activity if it's not listed.

2025 Combined Group Activity Chairmen

Activity	Branch	Chairmen	Telephone 209
Big Sir	77-Sierra	Donald Ronalter	984-9383
	136-Sonora	Rick Bronner	408 318-4826
	172-Twain Harte	Glenn Arlands	415 385 3509
Biking	172	Steve Happel 2 nd Tues of the month	768-4250
Bowling	77	Mike Coe	769-3413
	136	Rick Bronner	408 318-4826
Car Club	136	Rick Bronner	408 318-4826
Fishing	136	Chuck Simons	532-9550
Golf	77	Danny Laureta	925 997-2482
	136	Raul Santana	925 451-7351
Hiking	77	Mike Clay (moderate hike) Every Friday	588-1345
Horseshoes	172	Rich Brandau	352 4320
Kayak	172	Steve Happel (4 th Tuesday of the month)	768-4250
Pinochle	172	Bill Lewis	604-6304
RV Travel	136	Eddie Toews	532-3970
Tech/ Computer	172	Dick Chimenti	677-7070
Theatre	172	Dave Tibbets	532-2453
Travel	143	Bill Stires (Modesto)	988-5445
	146	Glenn Breslin (Walnut Creek)	925 788-6520
	172	Charles Luke	533-3683

Branch# 172, Twain Harte
PO Box 1143, Twain Harte, CA 95383
Website: SIRtwain.org Email: SIRtwainharte@gmail.org

Revised TMF 7-02-25



SIR Classifieds

SIR Members are now invited to place ads for **items** that they want to sell—services are not allowed. A 10% fee will be charged based upon the selling price, up to a maximum fee of \$100 per item. If you are just donating an item, there is no charge.

Want Some SIRs Apparel?

Here is how to get it:

Get on your computer and go to <https://sir.ourproshop.com> and peruse the items available and order on-line. 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.

If you don't have a computer, find a friend who does and have him help you.





Sonora SIRs Branch 136 Advertisers:

**SAVE 25%
ON THE SALE OF YOUR HOME!**

Emily Hunter
Broker/Owner
DRE #01289542
925-785-3785
emhunterRE@gmail.com

Michael O. Bowers
Broker/Associate
DRE #00901538
209.770.3683 or 510-919-4949
Michael@MichaelBowers.com

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Sonora, CA 95370-5116
Bus 209 532 4120
www.dotpopovich.com
dot@dotpopovich.com



Providing Insurance and Financial Services

TAMARA M. POLLEY

242 S. Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370

209-694-3622
Fax 209-694-3624
tamara@tpolleylaw.com



Estate
Planning
Attorney



Todd Simonson, AAMS®, CFP®
Financial Advisor

1311 Sanguinetti Road Ste B
Sonora, CA 95370
Bus. 209-533-1307 Fax 888-305-1959
todd.simonson@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com
California Insurance License OC24309

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for the High Country"*

James Moreda Jr.

Phone: (209) 588-8031
Fax: (209) 533-4350
Emergency: (209) 614-8344

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 - Rich Carlston
Vice-President - Lee Lamb
Secretary - Jeff Chin
Treasurer - Carl Mason
Area 5 Representative - Jerry Morrow

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
2020 & 2021 - Gene Zanoni
2022 - Phil VanSwoll 2023 - Eddie Toews
2024 - Rick Bronner

BRANCH #136 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Dale Decker - Big Sir 2016
Eddie Toews - Treasurer 2009 - current
Gene Zanoni - Big Sir 2020 & 2021

HONORARY LIFE EMERITUS

Frank Taylor - Treasurer 2001-2015
We are all so sorry for his passing on
Jan. 24, 2024

DATED MATERIAL

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

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: Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826
Little Sir: Mike Krom (209) 586-1533
Sec: Jim Rodriguez (209) 536-4338
Asst Sec: Gene Zanoni (209) 532-1989
Treas: John Salmon (209) 206-6244
Asst.Tres: Eddie Toews 532-3970

Directors

Bill Burnes (209) 533-4334
George Cocores (209) 456-9814
Stan Enos (209) 533-2928
Melvin Kutsch (209) 533-0384
Marty Martin (209) 586-1886
Raul Santana (925) 451-7351
Paul Squeri (209) 586-4083

Behind the Scenes

Photographer - **Steve Belochi** 770-2592
Bulletin - **Don Herzer** 586-3078
Internet - **Jerry Bellefeuille** 588-3978
SIR Items Sales - **Fred Kehr** 785-4358
Chaplain - **Steve Gregory** 728-5707
(all 209 area code)

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).

STAMP

ADDRESS LABEL