



BULLETIN

February, 2025

Website: sonorasirs.org

SONORA BRANCH #136

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, Feb. 11th

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:

Feb. 6, 2025

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



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@wscppubs.net

The deadline for the next bulletin is:

Feb. 28, 2025



BIG SIR MESSAGE

Rick Bronner

(408) 318-4826

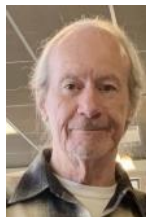
bronnerrick@gmail.com

Well, it seems to have happened again. If you have recently received an email supposedly from me asking for any kind of gift card or donation DO NOT respond to it. Please be clear these are pure scams and should be deleted immediately.

We were all deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our very good friend Dale Decker. Dale had been very instrumental in our SIRs branch 136 for close to 20 years. Dale had held the BIG SIR position more than once and was the past State SIR President. Dale had unfortunately recently lost the love of his life Leah just a few months prior. Our condolences and best wishes go out to the entire Decker family.

Please remember renewals are now due and keep in mind we did NOT raise your dues for 2025. It still is only \$30.00.

Rick Bronner



LITTLE SIR MESSAGE

Mike Krom

(209) 586-1533

mmowers@mlode.com

(No report this month)

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



GOLF CLUB NEWS

Raul Santana - (925) 451-7351

rsantana01@yahoo.com

Golf will start up again in March 2025.

Raul Santana

RV CLUB NEWS



Eddie Toews (209) 770-3776

lcoinlady@aol.com

Our next get together will be for our kickoff breakfast in February, 2025. Anyone wanting to visit the RV group and participate in the future outings needs to contact Eddie Toews and 209-770-3776 and he will work with you on getting into the club.

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
JANUARY 2025**

January Luncheon

Luncheon Attendance (56%) 65
Excused Absences (44%) 51

Current Month Membership

Active Membership (Dec.) 121
Applicants Being
Installed 0
Active Members Lost 5
Active Membership Jan. 116



FISHING CHAIRMAN

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

No fishing in Jan.

Chuck Simons



HELP NEEDED

We are looking for someone to take luncheon reservations in June of this year. Jerry Bellefeuille will be on vacation and will not be able to do it. You would need to be familiar with sending large batches of emails and be able to extract the email addresses from an Excel worksheet. The process would take at least a couple of hours of work to make the mailing list and sending out emails and taking count of the replies. This volunteer would also need to send out emails alerting our members of the June bulletin being available to view on our website. Contact Jerry at sirjerry4@gmail.com if you are interested.

Thank you



February Birthdays

Grimm, Robert (Bob) 01/02
Lobdell, Bill 01/03
Jeppson, David (Dave) 01/10
Foret , Gerald 01/13
Bulich, Otto 01/19
Dentino, Richard (Dick) 01/26
Bettencourt , Gene 01/27



KAYAKING

No Report this month
Chairman Position now open

PINOCHLE REPORT

No Report this month
Chairman Position now open



NATIONAL
MARGARITA DAY
• FEBRUARY 22 •



BOWLING CLUB NEWS

Ray Di Basilio **Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826**
rdibasilio@gmail.com **bronnerrick@gmail.com**

Striking up Friendships

FROM RAY:



2025 is off to a great bowling start. As we joined our friends in Napa for the first tournament of the year, I thought for sure this would be our best year ever. The first squad began, and strike after strike ... well ... it didn't take long for us to realize the house had set the machines for 9-pin No Tap bowling (you know, where if you knock down 9 pins, it counts as a strike). Reluctantly, we had to go back and fix things. No 300 games for us. However, we did have a great time with 74 of our fellow bowlers over the two-day event. Maybe next time ...

We'll meet next in Sacramento at Country Club Lanes on February 20/21st. Applications have begun coming in; I expect we'll have a full house. March will find us at Clayton Valley Bowl in Concord.

The Annual SIR State Tournament has finally been scheduled for May 12/13th and will also be held at Country Club Lanes. The central location and the \$500 added to the prize fund should bring in plenty of bowlers.

For the full schedule, head over to the SIR Bowling webpage: [SIR BOWLING](http://SIRBOWLING)

See you on the lanes,

Ray Di Basilio

FROM RICK:

I'm pleased to report the 2025 bowling calendar is now on line at the SIR bowling website: <https://sirbowling.org/>

Next up is the tournament on February 20th and 21st at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento: <https://countryclublanes.com/>

Hope to see you there and good luck to all.

Rick Bronner



CAR CLUB NEWS

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

(No Report this month)

Rick Bronner



We need volunteers, It seems that the same few people do all the work. If you like your membership in our club do your part and volunteer. Contact any officer or board members to volunteer for an event or become an Activity Chairman. Pinochle is open and available.

Volunteer today!



2025 Sonora SIR #136 Annual Dues Notice

November 1, 2025

Dear Fellow SIR Member,

Below is your Annual Sonora SIR Dues Notice for 2025.

The dues for 2025 will stay the same at \$30.00

The amount of dues covers the cost of the State SIR assessment and normal operating costs of the branch. **Annual Dues are due by January 1st and considered delinquent after that date.** Dues not paid by February 28th, 2025 may result in your loss of membership (extenuating circumstances will be considered).

If you haven't, I encourage you to Send in Your Dues now.

Send checks to:

SIR #136 at John Salmon, 10844 Countryside Ct., Sonora, CA 95370

We appreciate your timely remittance so that your Board can budget and plan for our in-person activities in the new year.

Thank You for being a loyal SIR member.

John Salmon, Treasurer

PRINT and DETACH with your Remittance

Sonora SIR #136

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$30.00, made out to Sonora SIR #136. For my 2025 Annual Dues.

Name: _____

Check No: _____ **Checks made payable to Sonora SIR #136**

Send to: SIR #136 at John Salmon, 10844 Countryside Ct., Sonora, CA 95370



The Rooster Crows!

The Scoop from the Coop

February 2025

Board of Directors

Rich Carlston
President
Lee Lamp
Vice President
Jeff Chin
Secretary
Carl Mason
Treasurer
Kevin King
CIO

Andy Danver
Dir. Mktg/Comm.
Jim Gragg
Dir. Br. Support
Bruce Corwin
Dir. State Docs.
Michael Lee
Dir. Activities
Fred Serena
AR Coord., AR
Jeny Morrow
AR
Bruce Corwin
AR
Derek Southern
State Advisor
Roy Hodgkinson
Parliamentarian

HAPPY
GROUNDHOG DAY



HAPPY
PRESIDENTS
DAY



News Of The Day From State

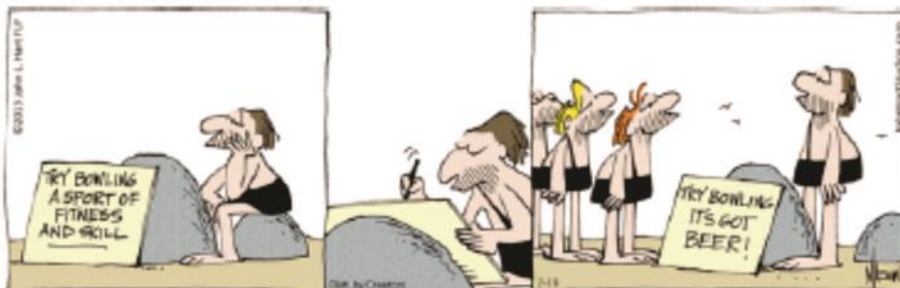
- If you use Medicaid with a supplemental policy or you use a different health insurance, you may have an opportunity to receive up to \$130 a year by being active in SIR.
- We are working with an organization named Grouper. Because health insurers recognize the importance of social and physical activity, they pay their insureds through Grouper to encourage these activities.
- Essentially, if your insurance has a contract with Grouper, you can qualify for this monetary benefit through your SIR activity. On signing up with Grouper, you receive a check for \$50. Thereafter, you can receive a \$20 quarterly check simply by being active in SIR. Note: This is an annual benefit.
- SIR also benefits with a one-time payment and referrals from the Grouper network.
- Look for more information about this opportunity from your BEC in the near future.



...to everyone who served as a Big Sir last year. Branches, please ensure you recognize their dedication and service. Also, don't forget to award them your Branch DSA under Policy 10



Why is bowling a better sport than golf?
It's hard to lose a bowling ball.





Branch Advisory Council

This year we established a Branch Advisory Committee (the "BAC"). The purpose of the BAC is to provide guidance and suggestions to State SIR to assist in its decision making.

The BAC is composed of representatives from 25 branches coming from 12 Areas. The BAC meets via a Zoom call the second Friday of every month. To date, we have had three meetings. After the meeting, I prepare a summary of the meeting, which is distributed to each of the members. If you would like a copy, please let me know. Below is a brief summary of actions taken by the BAC:

November Meeting: This was an organizational meeting but the BAC did discuss the status of branch filings of Form 20 and what action State SIR should take to ensure branches timely compliance with branch filing obligations.. There was discussion about the importance of the form, its use and the time when it should be filed. Comments also included the difficulty branches have had with the form and how better communication between State SIR and the branches might resolve some of the problems. Our CIO Kevin King is reviewing the form and how the submittal process can be improved. As of the date of this newsletter, all branches have filed their Form 20.

December Meeting: The topics discussed were:

1. Should Policy 31 be amended to enable State SIR to access fines or penalties to branches that refuse to submit required forms or to pay dues? A consensus was reached that financial penalties were unlikely to be effective and need not be included in Policy 31.
2. Should the traditional titles of "Big Sir" and "Little Sir" be kept or changed to, for example, President and Vice-President? No consensus was reached but several relevant factors, including cost, tradition, and member feedback should be considered. Several branches now use internally the President and Vice-President titles.
3. Should the name of SIR be changed to a more neutral or modern name? A consensus was reached that the name SIR should not be changed.
4. Should branches be renamed as "chapters"? A consensus was reached that there is no compelling reason to make that change.
5. The final item discussed was the importance for the branches to adopt and discuss procedures for responding to a medical emergency.

January Meeting: The topics discussed were:

1. The first topic discussed was the Grouper program and the opportunities presented by that program. There was consensus that BECs should be the initial point of contact for disseminating information about the program to their members. Training will be required for the BECs about the program.
2. Should the term "retirement" be removed from all SIR branding and marketing materials? After a thorough discussion, a consensus was reached that branches should have flexibility in their marketing approaches to allow them to target potential members effectively, regardless of employment status.
3. The last topic discussed was a draft policy to be followed if a branch elects to move from a men-only branch to a mixed branch. There is one mixed branch and at least one other that has voted to become a mixed branch. The draft policy is designed to ensure that any branch to change does it correctly to ensure that SIR is protected legally and via its insurance. A consensus was reached that the draft policy should be reviewed by counsel to ensure that it provides appropriate protection for SIR and accomplishes the purpose for which it has been drafted.



Unlike each of the last 20 years where we lost on average 4.5% of our membership each year, in 2024, we lost only **0.8%** of our membership!! **GREAT WORK EVERYONE!! Thank you**

BUT LET'S KEEP MOVING FORWARD!



City/Branch	Area	Year	Participation	Score	Prize
Albany	Area 1	2004	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2005	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2006	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2007	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2008	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2009	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2010	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2011	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2012	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2013	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2014	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2015	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2016	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2017	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2018	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2019	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2020	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2021	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2022	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2023	100	1000	1000
Albany	Area 1	2024	100	1000	1000

SIR Bowling held 16 tournaments in 2004. The number of bowlers for each tournament was between 60 and 200.





2024 Local SIR Branches Combined Social Activities:
 All SIR members are welcome to join in any other branch activity.
 Many items are for couples so please contact the Event Chair.
 Please start and chair a new activity-if it's not listed.

Area Big Sir Roster	77 136 172	Donald Ronalter Rick Bronner Mark Knapp	(209) 984-9383 (408) 318-4826 (209) 613-7767
<u>Activity</u>	<u>Branch #</u>	<u>Activity Chair</u>	<u>Telephone (209)</u>
Biking	172	Steve Happel 2 nd Tuesday of the month	532-7240
Bowling	136	Rick Bronner	(408) 318-4826
	77	Mike Coe	769-3413
Car Club	136	Rick Bronner	(408) 318-4826
Fishing	136	Chuck Simmons	532-9550
Golf	77	Danny Laureta	586-4567
	136	Raul Santana	(925) 451-7351
	172	Richard Broddie	586-3151
Hiking	77	Mike Clay moderate hike every Friday	588-1345
Horseshoes	172	Rich Brandau Last Thursday of the month	352-4320
	136	Looking for a Chairman	
Kayak	172	Dave Kenney 4 th Tuesday of the month	(650) 867-4671
	136	Looking for a Chairman	
RV Travel	136	Eddie Toews	770-3776
Tech/Computer	172	Dick Chimenti	677-7070
		Rich Nedbal	247-6497
Theatre	172	Dave Tibbets	532-2453
Travel	143	Bill Stires (Modesto)	988-5445
	172	Charles Luke	533-3683

As of March 2024



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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dot@dotpopovich.com



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Financial Advisor

1311 Sanguinetti Road Ste B
Sonora, CA 95370
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todd.simonson@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com
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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

TAMARA M. POLLEY
242 S. Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370
209-694-3622
Fax 209-694-3624
tamara@tpolleylaw.com



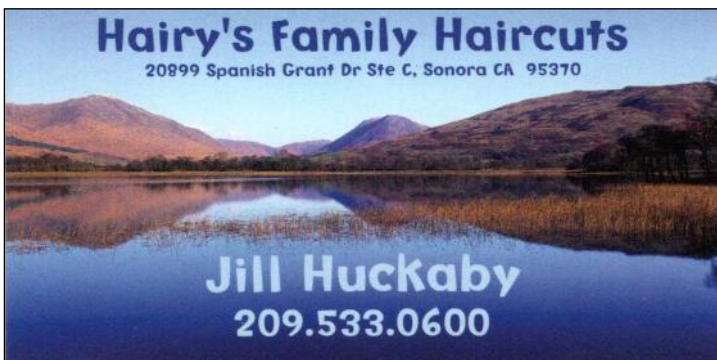
Estate
Planning
Attorney

Sierra HEAVY DUTY
RV & TRUCK CENTER INC.

Steve Henley
Owner
(209) 532-7994
(209) 559-3840
After hours/Emergency
shop@sierraheavyduty.com
www.sierraheavyduty.com
18968 Waylon Way Sonora, CA 95370



Hairy's Family Haircuts
20999 Spanish Grant Dr Ste C, Sonora CA 95370



Jill Huckaby
209.533.0600

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for the High Country"*

James Moreda Jr.
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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 Zaroni
2022 - Phil VanSwoll 2023 - Eddie Toews

BRANCH #136 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

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

HONORARY LIFE EMERITUS

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

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: Steve Holt (713) 842-0083

Asst Sec: Gene Zaroni (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

Bulletin - **Don Herzer** 586-3078

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

Behind the Scenes

Photographer - **Steve Belochi** 533-5315

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
RETIREMENT

ADDRESS LABEL