



BULLETIN

January, 2026

Website: sonorasirs.org

SONORA BRANCH #136

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, Jan. 13th

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:

Jan. 8, 2026

Menu: Sirloin Tips, Noodles, Carrots, Green Salad and Chocolate Pudding.

Guest Speaker:

Kirk Wilson Clifton, Insurance Advisor with Leavitt United Insurance Services



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

Please Note: The executive board has decided to no longer mail hard copy Bulletins. Hard copies will be available at the monthly meetings.

The deadline for the next bulletin is:

Jan. 31, 2026



BIG SIR MESSAGE

Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826

bronnerrick@gmail.com

Happy New Year fellow SIR members. I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and New Years. We ended the year on a high note. Our annual Christmas Banquet had well over 100 attendees. Dino and staff fixed a feast for all with Prime Rib being the main course. A special thanks to everyone that brought gifts for the raffle. With well over 50 gifts raffled off we brought in close to \$1000 for the branch. This really helped cover some of the expenses for the Banquet. All in all, a great way to end the year.

We will have updates to our SIR State Bylaws for 2026. Many of the changes recommended at our last state meeting will now become official. These will include items such as the option of calling the branch leaders President, Vice President in lieu of Big and Little SIR. There are also updates to allow family members to attend SIR activities.

Due to some lingering health issues and the Christmas Banquet we postponed our elections until the upcoming January meeting. I hope you will all attend to vote on our 2026 BEC. Here's a list of our BEC nominees for 2026;

BIG SIR—Rick Bronner

Little SIR—Mike Krom

Secretary—Mark Bowden

Treasurer—John Salmon

Asst. Treasurer—Marty Smith

Our guest speaker for January will be Kirk Wilson Clifton, Insurance Advisor with Leavitt United Insurance Services here in Sonora. Kirk will be talking about updates to the California Fair Plan. This will be a Q&A session. I'm sure many of us will have lots of questions for Kirk. I hope to see you all there!

*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



CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Steven Gregory - (209) 728-5707

discogregory@aol.com

No news except to say to all members: wishing you a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year!

Steven Gregory Chaplain





RV CLUB NEWS

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

The RV Club ended the 2025 season with a nice Christmas Dinner at the Peppery. We all enjoyed the evening with visiting and drinks with dinner. We are working on activities for the 2026 season. Hope to see everyone at our next function which is a kickoff meeting in February.

Everyone stay safe on the roads.

Eddie Toews



GOLF CLUB NEWS

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

(No Report this month).

Raul Santana



CAR CLUB NEWS

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

Happy Motoring!
(No Report this month)

Rick Bronner



January Birthdays

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



FISHING CHAIRMAN

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

(No report this month)

Chuck Simons



KAYAKING & PINOCHE REPORT

No Reports this month
Chairman Positions now open



MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

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

(No Report for Dec. due to the December Banquet)



BOWLING CLUB NEWS

Ray Di Basilio
rdibasilio@gmail.com

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

Striking up Friendships



FROM RAY:

2025 was a good year for SIR Bowling Tournaments with increased participation in 9 of 14 events. The 2026 Bowling Calendar is posted on our State SIR Bowling website: [SIR BOWLING](http://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling). The first tournament of the year will be on January 20-21 in Napa at Napa Bowl with our host Dave Ellingson and Branch 65. Napa is centrally located for a one-day trip or spend a night and enjoy the local wines and ambiance of some fine dining.

Also posted are applications for six of next year's tournaments including Carson City and Reno.

Applications have group codes for discounted room rates and reservations are available for both Carson City in April and Reno in August. Make plans early to attend.

Cindy and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in 2026!

Happy New Bowling Year,

See you on the lanes,

Ray Di Basilio



FROM RICK:

As we enter the 2026 season the SIR calendar and several applications are available for you to plan your trips and competitions to the SIR Bowling Tournaments. Along with local applications, are the April Carson City and August Reno applications that have room blocks and reservation links for your early planning. Checkout this link [Applications](http://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling) to print and share upcoming tournaments with your bowlers.

The 2026 SIR Bowling Calendar is now on line at <https://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling>

Rick Bronner



RV Club Xmas Dinner (below&left)



I want to thank all the people listed below for all the work and help to put together the Christmas luncheon and make it the success that it was:

John Salmon for making the trees for the center pieces.

The “**Sierra Foothills Women’s Club Craft and Chat Group**” for decorating the center pieces that were given away at the end of the day. They were all different and unique and really made the tables beautiful.

Receiving and greeting the guests at the front entrance.

Stan Enos George Cocores

Selling of Raffle tickets:

Steve Holt John Salmon

Receiving of Raffle prizes:

Gene Zanoni

Running the prizes to the winners:

Pam Krom Ruth Enos Eddie Toews

For setting up the tables and decorations:

**Linda Toews Jan Jamison Ruth Enos Karen Mercurio Eddie Toews
John Salmon Gene Zanoni**

Thank you to everyone listed above for all the time and work that went into making the function a wonderful day’

I also want to thank all the people that brought raffle prizes. Without the prizes the day would not be the success that it was.

Thank you all

Eddie Toews - Event Chairman

Christmas Luncheon

December 9, 2025







Rick inducted three new SIR Members at the Luncheon



2026 Sonora SIR #136 Annual Dues Notice

November 1, 2025

Dear Fellow SIR member,

Below is your Annual Sonora SIR Dues Notice for 2026.

Even though the cost of everything has gone up these days, your SIR dues are the same as the last several years and your Board of Directors continues to strive to make SIR affordable and enjoyable to all of our members.

The Annual Dues for 2026 are **\$30.00**. This amount 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, 2026 may result in your loss of membership (extenuating circumstances will be considered).

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 early 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.

Eddie Toews

Treasurer

PRINT, DETACH, and Include with your Remittance

Sonora SIR #136

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$30.00, made out to Sonora SIR #136. For my 2026 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



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 #01288542
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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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
2025 - 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

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

Jan. 24, 2024

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