



## BULLETIN

**May, 2025**

Website: [sonorasirs.org](http://sonorasirs.org)

**SONORA BRANCH #136**

**Next Meeting:**

(Note: no meeting in May due to the Ladies Day Luncheon)

**Tuesday, June 10th**

**Reserve your spot(s) with:**

**George Cocores (for June only)**

**[greekbeak1@aol.com](mailto:greekbeak1@aol.com)**

**Or Call (209) 456-9814**

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

**Deadline for reservations is:**

**June 5, 2025**

### **Menu:**

Meatloaf & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Green Salad, and Strawberry Shortcake

### **Guest Speaker:**



### **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](mailto:corvdon@wsccpubs.net)**

**The deadline for the next bulletin is:**

**May 30, 2025**



### **BIG SIR MESSAGE**

**Rick Bronner**

**(408) 318-4826**

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

It's been 10 days now since I've come home from the hospital for my knee replacement surgery. The first week was pretty painful. Everyone who I spoke with prior to my surgery said make sure you do your physical therapy. How right they are. I've been doing pt several times a day and now - I'm already walking with a cane. I'm hoping to be fully back in action within a couple of weeks. I'll certainly see you all at our upcoming Mother's Day Luncheon. Don't forget to bring raffle prizes.

I want to personally thank all our volunteers that helped out at the Home and Garden show. We had quite a bit of interest. Several left phone numbers for us to contact them later.

*Rick Bronner*



I would like to Thank the following people for Giving up their weekend and volunteering to work at the Home and Garden show. It was a busy two days. They are:

Gene Zanoni  
Jim Rodrigues  
Steve Holt  
Tom Neiderer  
Bill Burnes  
George Cocores  
Rick Bronner  
Eddie Toews

Thank you, guys.

*Eddie Toews*



### **LITTLE SIR MESSAGE**

**Mike Krom - (209) 586-1533**

**[mmowers@mlode.com](mailto:mmowers@mlode.com)**

The extent of the damages to my body is a lot more than I had ever expected, so I will remain Little Sir for as long as I can or until I get the boot.

I will mention my wife and my youngest daughter were and are a great team: my wife who gives me emotional support and my pills, and my daughter who is a nurse. Which really is a help when it comes to making sense of what the surgeon and doctors are talking about.

Real quick like, the surgeon removed both my lower lung and the middle lung on the right side. I might add that he broke ribs number 6 and 7 in the process. I guess a casualty of the procedure. The problem I am having now is where they stitched the lung tissue to my old tissue. The stitches are not sealing and air is leaking around it. That tissue is what is damaged from the years of smoking. He says he has a plan B if it doesn't seal. Until then then, I wear an outside bag for drainage. Enough of that, I hear we have a great turnout for the Mother's Day affair, and we also have a couple of runs with the RV group, which is also packed. I'm looking forward to a great spring and summer. That is it for now. Be safe

*Mike Krom*



### **INTERNET CHAIRMAN**

**Jerry Bellefeuille (209) 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>.

*Jerry Bellefeuille*



## **RV CLUB NEWS**

**Eddie Toews (209) 770-3776**

**lcoinlady@aol.com**

The RV Group will be heading out on its first RV trip here in May. We will be going to "Gold Country Campground and Resort" in Pine Grove, Ca. We have 13 rigs going, it should be a great outing of just relaxing and having a good time.

We are also lucky enough to have one of our past RV members rejoin the group, so we are looking forward to catching up and visiting with them.

Be safe on the road.

*Eddie Toews*



## **GOLF CLUB NEWS**

**Raul Santana - (925) 451-7351**

**rsantana01@yahoo.com**

The SIRS April 2025 tournament was held at Greenhorn Creek in Angels Camp. Overall we had great weather and the course was in really good shape, except for some of the sand traps. It would have been nice to actually have some sand in some of them. Format was 2-man best ball. Branch 136 winners: Mike Wright +partner for low net 66. Closet to the pin; myself, 2nd place on hole #3, John Marrs, 1st place on hole #13. Kudos to our new member, Jim Lucia for low gross, 93.

Next tournament is scheduled for May 20, back at Teleli GC.

*Raul Santana*



## **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 - April 2025**

#### **April Luncheon**

Luncheon Attendance (58%) 67  
Excused Absences (42%) 49

#### **Current Month Membership**

Active Membership (March) 118  
Applicants Being Installed 3  
Active Members Lost 5  
**Active Membership Apr. 116**



## **KAYAKING**

**No Report this month  
Chairman Position now open**



## **PINOCHLE REPORT**

**No Report this month  
Chairman Position now open**



## **May Birthdays**

Line, Paul	05/05
Joachim, Alan	05/06
Walter, Verne	05/07
Keeler, Les	05/08
Bronner, Frederick	
(Rick) *DSA	05/24
Houser, Jack	05/28
Deaver, John 'Deave'	05/30
Enos, Stanley *DSA	05/31



## **FISHING CHAIRMAN**

**Chuck Simons - (209) 532-9550**

**simons4890@yahoo.com**

The bass bite remains good at Melones. Trout and Kokanee have started to show a better bit as the number of trolling boats on the water yesterday. Fish on. Send me any pictures if you have some.

[see pictures on page 5]

*Chuck Simons*



## **CAR CLUB NEWS**

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

**bronnerrick@gmail.com**

May is a big car show month. Here's what's happening;

Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Hot Copper Car Show in Copperopolis. This is an all-day event.

Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> - Rods to Rails - Downtown Jamestown. All day event

Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> - Cars Cops and Coffee - Diana J. White Cancer Center - Sonoma This is a morning event only - 8am to 11am. Come early and get free coffee and donuts!

*Rick Bronner*





## **BOWLING CLUB NEWS**

**Ray Di Basilio**  
**rdibasilio@gmail.com**

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

## **Striking up Friendships**



### **FROM RAY:**

Our only tournament in the month of April was held at the Gold Dust West in Carson City, Nevada. We had an especially good time as this is the first one of the year sponsored by my own Branch 113, and my first time back to Gold Dust West in more than a few years. 123 SIR bowlers and guests joined us for some challenging bowling – overall averages were down 12 pins from entering book average. I'm not sure if the lane conditions were to blame or just the late-night partying/gambling I saw going on. I do know we had a few delicious meals up there with our SIR friends! Many thanks to Cindy and Cyndi for manning the desk and keeping me straight.

Our State SIR Tournament will be held May 12/13th at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento. This Championship Tournament is open to SIRs only, no guests for this one.

In June and July our calendar will see us bowling at Red Hawk (Placerville), Earl Anthony's Bowl (Dublin), Foothills Bowl (Auburn), and Clayton Valley Bowl (Concord). We head to the National Bowling Stadium in Reno August 11-13th, definitely not one to miss. There are great room rates at the Silver Legacy (\$77/night, inclusive of resort fees). The reservation code is on the application posted on the SIR website.

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

**[SIR BOWLING](#)**

See you on the lanes,

*Ray Di Basilio*

### **FROM RICK:**

THE SONORA BRANCHES WERE WELL REPRESENTED AT THE CARSON CITY NEVADA TOURNAMENT. THE SIRs BOWLERS WERE BOB THOMAS, LILLIAN THOMAS, JOHN BRASESCO, BERT ABREO, DAVE SIUDZINSKI, LINDA SIUDZINSKI, GENE MENDENHALL, MIKE COE, TOM PERRY, CHERYL PERRY, JIM LUCIA, SANDI LUCIA, AND DAVID ROSSI.

#### **DOUBLES DIVISION 1**

MIKE COE/ BRUCE PETERSON 4TH

MIKE COE / GENE MENDENHALL 8TH

BERT ABREO/ DAVE ROSSI 9TH

LILLIAN THOMAS/ BOB THOMAS 10TH

JOHN BRASESCO/ CHUCK GERBER 13TH

#### **DOUBLES DIVISION 2**

JIM LUCIA/ SANDI LUCIA 1ST

TOM PERRY/ CHERYL PERRY 9TH

DAVE SIUDZINSKI/ LINDA SIUDZINSKI 23RD

#### **TEAM DIVISION 1**

LILLIAN THOMAS, BOB THOMAS, DAVE ROSSI, BRUCE PETERSON 2ND

JOHN BRASESCO, GENE MENDENHALL, CHUCK GARBER, MIKE COE 4TH

#### **TEAM DIVISION 2**

ELAINE SIMMONS, LINDA SIUDZINSKI, DAVE SIUDZINSKI, JOHN RAGO 7TH

TOM PERRY, CHERYL PERRY, JIM LUCIA, SANDI LUCIA 10TH

#### **ALL EVENTS- DIVISION 1**

MIKE COE 9TH

#### **ALL EVENTS -DIVISION 2**

BERT ABREO 3RD

JOHN BRASESCO 9TH

#### **SCRATCH ALL EVENTS**

BOB THOMAS 1ST

MIKE COE 4TH

ALL THE RESULTS ARE IN SIR BOWLING.ORG

MIKE COE

*Rick Bronner*





Sons in Retirement #136

# Ladies Day Luncheon

May 13, 2025



**No Host Cocktails  
@ 11:00 am**

**Lunch @ Noon**

**Menu: Choice of**  
New York Steak w/ Baked Potato  
or Chicken Picatta or Salmon with  
Rice Pilaf, Salad, Vegetable  
and Dessert.  
Shrimp Cocktail

**\$35:00 per Person**

Tickets will go on sale at the  
March & April Luncheons

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MAXIMUM 224 TICKETS AVAILABLE

NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER

May 6, 2024

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EVENTS COMMITTEE:

**Rick Bronner 408-318-4826**

**Stan Enos**

**Gene Zannoni**

**Eddie Toews**

**George Cocores**

**Anyone wanting wine, it will be  
available at the bar for \$12.00 per  
bottle.**









At our April meeting, the guest speaker - Randy Marnell  
told us about how reverse mortgages work

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't Forget:





# The Rooster Crows!

## The Scoop from the Coop

May 2025

### Board of Directors

**Rich Carlston** B8

President

**Lee Lamp** B129

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



### A Message Of Remembrance

May contains important dates that we need to recognize. Mother's Day on the 11th and Memorial Day on the 26th.

Focusing on Mother's Day, I'm hoping that all of our members recognize the service that our wives and significant others perform for us and the sacrifices that they make to enable us to participate and serve in SIR. We need to stop and take a few minutes to express our appreciation for them and recognize the importance they play for us and our families.

It is difficult for me to express the importance of Memorial Day. Like me, many of our members served during the Viet Nam "conflict". That was a time of turmoil and protest in our country. Consequently, when we completed our service, little or no appreciation was expressed for the sacrifices made and required in the service of our Country. Indeed, it was often indifference or hostility. Fortunately, attitudes changed over time for the services and sacrifices of our service members.

It is as important today for us to recognize and to remember the sacrifices made by so many over the years for us and our country. Most families, if they review their genealogy, will find one or more family members who sacrificed their life for our country. This month we have the opportunity to honor, remember and to recognize the service and sacrifices and to rededicate ourselves to the principles for which those sacrifices were made.

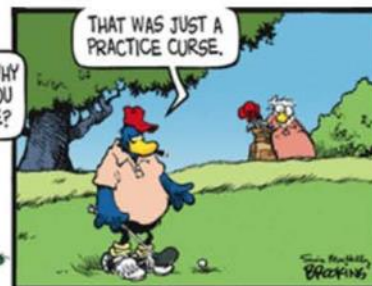
At our branch luncheons, please have a moment of silence for those who are not longer with us and to recognize and thank those members of our branches who have served, or are serving, in the armed forces.

### From State SIR

We are continue our efforts to prepare and present materials to assist branch leadership. For example, Jim Walton is assisting in the drafting of a short "how to" guide for running a branch.

We are also working on revising and clarifying policies such as our guest policy.

Finally, we have hired an attorney to provide legal assistance as required.







From time to time, I get asked what does State SIR do and what value does it provide to me or my branch? Let me partially address that. As members we enjoy our activities and socialization. But the real benefit from our SIR lifestyle is that we live longer while enjoying a great quality of life. SIR is worth preserving and that is the primary work of State SIR.

State SIR is the “parent company” of each of the branches through a branch Charter system. State SIR policies apply to all branches to ensure (i) uniformity and consistency and (ii) compliance with both legal and insurance requirements. Visit any branch, you will feel comfortable and at home.

“Change is inevitable” as we live in a changing political, social, and legal environment. State SIR must anticipate and accommodate changes that strengthen our organization to ensure its survivability. It does this through changes to its policies.

State SIR is the administrative center for the organization. Among many other things, it:

- Prepares and files State and Federal taxes, which includes collection and maintenance of the required information.
- Prepares and files forms required by California to enable branches to be in good standing with the State while also making filings for branch organizational changes.
- Obtains insurance and adopts policies in compliance with them.
- Provides guidance and training, much of which is found on the State SIR website. Additional guidance is given through training programs and communications during the year.
- Maintains various databases and programs. Every organization needs up-to-date data about its members and the ability to communicate with them. While simple to describe the need, accomplishing it requires significant resources and constant vigilance and maintenance. Indeed, what most people see is only the “tip of the iceberg.”
- Manages our Area Representative programs.
- Manages our State Activities.
- Maintains its own website with a multitude of resources and has assisted branches in developing their own website.

So, now you know part of what State SIR does. **Want to come help?** Let me know.



Humpback whales communicate through acoustic signaling and can communicate with others that are more than 5,000 miles away? But wait, so can sperm whales. Wish our communication was that good.



Help us spread the word about SIR.  
We have fun. We make friends. We are active. We are happier. And we live longer.

Thank you SIR!







## Advertising

Nick Feimer, Bill Brown, his brother-in-law Mike Scherfen (a retired Ad Agency Creative Director) and Andy Danver have developed a new form of SIR advertisement for the Counties of San Mateo and Santa Clara. These ads are being published in the Daily Journal (San Mateo) and in the Los Altos Town Crier. It is anticipated that it may be published more widely in May. The QR code takes the responder to a dedicated State SIR "Landing Page". After follow-up, the leads are passed on to the four branches in San Mateo County. In addition to golf, similar ads have been developed for Bocce and Pickleball. Congratulations for an outstanding job!!


# Meet Us On the Tee



## Balls Are On Us



### One of Many Recreational and Social Activities for Men



<https://www.sirinc.org/sanmateocounty>

**For a Personal Introduction**  
Bill Brown 800-123-4567; [sanmateocounty@sirinc.org](mailto:sanmateocounty@sirinc.org)





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.

<b>Area Big Sir Roster</b>	<b>77 136 172</b>	<b>Donald Ronalter Rick Bronner Mark Knapp</b>	<b>(209) 984-9383 (408) 318-4826 (209) 613-7767</b>
<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Branch #</u></b>	<b><u>Activity Chair</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone (209)</u></b>
<b>Biking</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>Steve Happel 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month</b>	<b>532-7240</b>
<b>Bowling</b>	<b>136 77</b>	<b>Rick Bronner Mike Coe</b>	<b>(408) 318-4826 769-3413</b>
<b>Car Club</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>Rick Bronner</b>	<b>(408) 318-4826</b>
<b>Fishing</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>Chuck Simmons</b>	<b>532-9550</b>
<b>Golf</b>	<b>77 136 172</b>	<b>Danny Laureta Raul Santana Richard Broddie</b>	<b>586-4567 (925) 451-7351 586-3151</b>
<b>Hiking</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>Mike Clay moderate hike every Friday</b>	<b>588-1345</b>
<b>Horseshoes</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>Rich Brandau Last Thursday of the month</b>	<b>352-4320</b>
<b>Kayak</b>	<b>136 172</b>	<b>Looking for a Chairman Dave Kenney 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month</b>	<b>(650) 867-4671</b>
<b>Pinochle</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>Looking for a Chairman</b>	
<b>RV Travel</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>Eddie Toews</b>	<b>770-3776</b>
<b>Tech/Computer</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>Dick Chimenti Rich Nedbal</b>	<b>677-7070 247-6497</b>
<b>Theatre</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>Dave Tibbets</b>	<b>532-2453</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>Bill Stires (Modesto)</b>	<b>988-5445</b>
<b>As of March 2024</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>Charles Luke</b>	<b>533-3683</b>





## 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 #01389542  
925-785-3785  
emhunterRE@gmail.com

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

Two Brokers serving you with an unparalleled level of service and a combined 56 years experience.

**BLUEBIRD REALTY**  
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Residential • Luxury Homes • Ranches • Land



**Dot Popovich**  
Agent, Lic. #0B12959  
558 S. Washington St.  
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

**TMP**

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 0C24309

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**RJ Summit Electric Inc.**  
Lic# 881021  
Industrial • Commercial • Residential  
Emergency Services

*"High Quality...  
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 SIRS 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 Banchero  
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

## 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 Rodriquez (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** 533-5315  
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

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

STAMP

ADDRESS LABEL