



BULLETIN

April, 2025

Website: sonorasirs.org

SONORA BRANCH #136

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 8th

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:

April 3, 2025

Menu: Swiss Steak, Mashed
Potatoes, Corn, Green Salad and
Sherbet

Guest Speaker:

Randy Marnell. He will be showing and
explaining the Pros and cons of reverse
mortgages.



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:

April 30, 2025



BIG SIR MESSAGE

Rick Bronner

(408) 318-4826

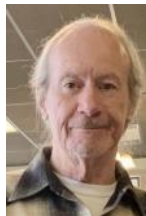
bronnerrick@gmail.com

It looks like I'm going to miss the upcoming
meeting on April 8th. I'm scheduled that day
for a long overdue knee replacement. I'm
also going to miss helping out at the
upcoming Home and Garden Show on April
12th and 13th at the Fairgrounds. For those of
you that have volunteered you have our
greatest appreciation. Without our
volunteers many of our activities just
wouldn't happen. Good news this year it
looks like our booth will be indoors this
time.

It turns out not only am I going to miss the
April meeting but so is our Little SIR Mike
Krom. Mike has surgery scheduled for the
4th and will be laid up for 5 days or so
afterwards. Our past BIG SIR Eddie Toews
will take over for us. I've also enlisted our
Golf Director Raul Santana to help set up
the A/V for our guest speaker.

Don't forget to get your tickets to the Ladies
Day Luncheon in May. This is always a fun
event with good food a great raffle and
special cash prizes. My wife and I do plan
on attending this one.

Rick Bronner



LITTLE SIR MESSAGE

Mike Krom - (209) 586-1533

mmowers@mlode.com

Our guest speaker this month will be Randy
Marnell. He will be showing and explaining
the Pros and cons of reverse mortgages.

This should be quite interesting.

Unfortunately I will not be there. Another
surgery is in my midst. This getting old stuff
is quite frustrating. We can only do what we
can do now. Some of the past fun and games
in the past have a tendency to catch up with

us. I would say it is too late for all but it is
never to late. Thank goodness for Stanford
surgeons who seem ready and willing to help
me out.

Let's keep the faith and I hope to see you
soon.

Mike Krom



INTERNET CHAIRMAN

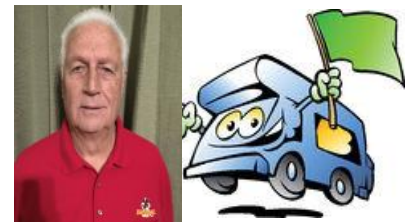
Jerry Bellefeuille (209) 588-3978

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 group had its kickoff breakfast in
February. It was a productive meeting and we
had a lot of discussion about outings for the
2025 season. Several people are working on
outings with more information to come in the
near future.

With the loss of Dale Decker and others, the
membership has dropped to 15 rigs. If you
have an RV and would like to visit the club at
one of our outings, please contact Eddie
Toews at 209-770-3776 and I will get you all
the information about our outings and set you
up to join us.

Stay safe on the road.

Eddie Toews



GOLF CLUB NEWS

Raul Santana - (925) 451-7351

rsantana01@yahoo.com

Our March / first tournament of 2025 was held at Teleli GC. Only 18 players braved the cold and very wet conditions. The course was muddy and soaked from the recent days rains. We had to stay on the cart paths on every hole, which led to 6 players declining to play. The format was low net and there were 2 handicap flights, (A flight, 18 index and below) and (B flight, 19 index and above). Unfortunately, no one from our branch was in the money. Yours truly did win closest to the pin on hole #12.

Next tournament is scheduled for April 15 at Greenhorn Creek in Angels Camp. Only 24 spots are available, so sign up early

Raul Santana



CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Steven Gregory - (209) 728-5707

discogregory@aol.com

Last month we lost long time member Mo Molinari Badge #052 aged 99!!! He is survived by his wife of 60 plus years Letty and they were very active in our SIR RV Group. May he RIP...

Steven Gregory Chaplain



MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

George Cocores - (209) 456-9814

greekbeak1@aol.com

The March luncheon had a great turn out of 69 members. We had a great March as far as membership goes. In February our membership was 114 and we had 4 members that joined at the March meeting

and were sworn in!! Badges will be handed out at the April meeting.

Rick Bronner had 2, picked them up in an alley (Bowling alley that is), Jim Rodrigues had 1 and John Deaver had 1 giving us a total of 118 for March !! We have the Home and Garden Show in April so let's hope we can pull in another 4.

Membership Report - March 2025

March Luncheon

Luncheon Attendance (58%) 69

Excused Absences (41%) 48

Current Month Membership

Active Membership (February) 114

Applicants Being Installed 4

Active Members Lost 0

Active Membership Mar. 118



HELP NEEDED

1.) I am looking for someone to assist me with the Membership & Attendance Worksheet. Some Excel experience is required. The time commitment on your part with me would be two hours a month. Please contact George Cocores if you are interested in this rewarding experience.
209-456-9814.



April Birthdays

Burnes, William V.	
(Bill) *DSA	04/01
Bowers, Michael	04/03
Rossi, David	04/06
Wright, Michael (Mike)	04/07
Deaver, Eugene (Gene)	04/07
Avila, John	04/07
Basham, Darell	04/09
Abbott, Gerald (Blair)	04/15
Bender, Thomas (Tom)	04/21
Warkentin, Lynn	04/21
Clawson, Tom	04/28

KAYAKING



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



PINOCHLE REPORT

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



FISHING CHAIRMAN

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

Bill Guenza and I got to Melones after the muscle quarantine was over and between rain storms caught some nice bass and one rainbow. Looks like rain next week - not fishing weather
[see pictures on page s 6-7]

Chuck Simons



BOWLING CLUB NEWS

Ray Di Basilio

rdibasilio@gmail.com

Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826

bronnerrick@gmail.com

Striking up Friendships



FROM RAY:

The SIR Branch 19 Tournament held in at Clayton Valley Bowl was a huge success. We had 93 bowlers over the two days which was an amazing 25% increase over last year. High scores were in abundance with more than 90 games over 200 including four super-high series: Tim Patterson 707, Rick Land 729, Gary Kaufmann 746, and Lou Gilson with an outstanding 758! Let's hope the increased participation and high scores continue in our upcoming tournaments.

Applications for the Carson City Tournament in April are starting to arrive in my mail box. This venue is always popular as it is an under-one-roof get-away. Gold Dust West offers rooms, meals, and bowling. How can you beat that?!!

Shortly after April's Carson City Tournament we will hold this year's Annual SIR State Tournament at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento (May 12/13th). The central location and an added \$500 to the prize fund, should bring in plenty of bowlers. This one is a SIR-only event, no guests allowed (cheerleaders always welcome).

In June and July our calendar we will be 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. It looks like we'll have great room rates at the Silver Legacy (\$77/night, including resort fees). The application and reservation code will be posted on the SIR website soon.

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

SIR BOWLING

See you on the lanes,

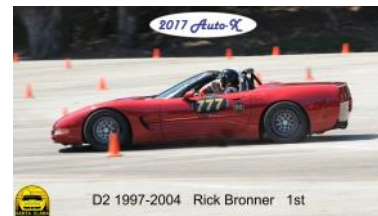
Ray Di Basilio

FROM RICK:

There's still time to sign up for the upcoming SIR Bowling tournament this month in Carson City. The annual tournament is held at Gold Dust West on April 21st thru the 23rd. The application can be found on the www.sirbowling.org website. Unfortunately, due to my upcoming knee replacement this month I won't be able to attend. For our local SIR members who are going: best of luck and above all have a great time!

Don't forget there's going to be a SIR Summer bowling league this year. It starts on May 5th—yes Cinco De Mayo! at Black Oak Casino on Mondays at noon. The cost is only \$20 a week. And if you need to miss one or two weeks for trips or whatever the fee is dramatically reduced. I hope to see you there. Let's have some FUN!

.Rick Bronner



CAR CLUB NEWS

Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826

bronnerrick@gmail.com

There's not much going on in April but hold on - It's all happening in May. Starting on Saturday May 3rd is the annual Hot Copper car Show at the Square at Copper Valley. It all starts at 8am and goes to 3pm. Included with all the classics, hot rods and motorcycles will be food, vendors, music and raffles. This is a rain or shine event you won't want to miss. Each year there are typically 200 plus cars on display. The Square also features lots of great dining choices as well.

Next up on Saturday May 17th is the 13th annual Rods to Rails Show held on Mainstreet in downtown Jamestown. This show starts at 9 and goes to 3pm. There will be a large raffle, lots of food and dining choices as well as music in Rocca Park.

Now to complete your weekend is Cars, Cops and Coffee Sunday the 18th at Adventist Health Pavilion / Dianna J White Cancer Center facility on Mono Way Sonora. The show starts at 8am thru 11am. So come early and get your free cup of coffee and donut while checking out all the cool cars. Last year featured the Lack Family Band for Music. They were fantastic and I'm hoping they will return for this year as well.

Well, I told you May is going to be an awesome month for car shows. Next Month will talk about the Father's Day fly in, Twin Harte and Tuolumne city Car shows.

Rick Bronner



The Rooster Crows!

The Scoop from the Coop

April 2025

Board of Directors

Rich Carlston B8
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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

**WELCOME
TO THE TEAM**

Please join me in welcoming **Ramesh Thadani** to the Board of Directors. Ramesh is our new CIO, brings a lot of experience and is doing a terrific job.



News Of The Day From State

I receive copies of newsletters from several branches. I read everyone of them and enjoy them. You may recognize the pictures above and below. It is great to see that our members are vibrant and active. If you aren't sending me a copy of your newsletter, please do.

As mentioned in my last newsletter, the Board is beginning the planning process for the future via a business plan or defined rolling plan approach. Several branches will be involved with this process along with the Board. But, I want to hear from you and get your suggestions. I have heard from a few of our members who have had excellent suggestions and thoughts. Make sure we get yours.

As we start this planning process, we are also going to finalize and clarify some of our policies. For example, we'll finalize the policies considered by the BAC and addressed in my March newsletter. We need to clarify that wives and significant others can attend SIR activities as a right under the membership of their spouse. They are not "guests" within the meaning of the current policy on guests. We will be revising the policy to make that clear and explicit. If there are other policies that you think are ambiguous, please let us know what they are and why they are ambiguous.

Finally, we are also looking at new administrative policies which we should already have had. For example, we need a record retention policy. We also should have cash reserve guidelines. We should have guidelines addressing first aid and safety for our members. We are working on each of these. If you have comments on these, or any others that you think we should have, let us know.



April 20 - 26 is National Volunteer Week. Let's take time that week to express our appreciation to our many State and Branch volunteers who work so hard for us. SIR exists because of them. Please make sure they know how much you appreciate what they are doing. **My special thanks to all of you who serve to make life better for our members.**



People born in the 50's have lived in 7 decades, 2 centuries & 2 millennia. We had the best music, fastest cars, Drive-in theaters, soda fountains & happy days. And we are not even that old yet, we're just that cool.



Topics for Discussion at Your BEC

I believe that one of the important roles that we perform at State SIR is to facilitate the sharing of ideas. Here are a few of my thoughts and suggestions about topics which I believe each BEC should regularly consider and discuss:

1. **Lunch Meetings.** How can we increase attendance at our lunch meetings? This simple question raises many more. For example:
 - a. Why aren't members attending? Have non-attending members been surveyed?
 - b. Do our members feel they get value and have fun when they attend? If not, how can we change that?
 - c. Would occasionally changing the format improve attendance? Instead of a speaker one month, maybe a game day or joke day? How about a business meeting or an entertainer? Maybe have theme lunches.
 - d. When guests attend, is the lunch a positive or a negative in their decision to join?
2. **Community Awareness.** Are we taking positive actions to let men in our community learn about our branch and its activities? Again, more questions follow:
 - a. Do our members enjoy our programs and are they proud to invite others to them?
 - b. Are we engaged in local community activities and events? Are we encouraging our members regularly to be engaged in the community and rewarding those that are?
 - c. Are we letting the community know what we are doing on Nextdoor and other local media?
 - d. Do we make brochures and cards available to our members and encourage their use?
3. **Safety from Scams.** Repeated reminders about prevalent internet scams and frauds protects everyone. State SIR has conducted training on these dangers, which training is posted on the website, and we have leaders who can assist branches with their training. But, don't forget resources available through the police, the County, and other organizations.
4. **Leadership.** One of the most common concerns I hear is that "no one in the branch will step forward to accept a leadership role." This is a serious problem. The strength of the branch is found in its leadership. Maintaining and strengthening that leadership requires new people to volunteer, bringing their energy, enthusiasm and new ideas to the branch. We encourage you to consider putting a Help Wanted Column in your newsletter. Let all of your members know of your needs and what the position(s) entails. Let them know how fun it is to work on the leadership team and about the friendships they will form serving with others. Last year in Branch 8, we found volunteers by asking for them through a survey. This year, when I asked for volunteers to serve at State SIR, members stepped forward to fill the need. We hope, and suspect, that you will be pleasantly surprised if you ask for volunteers through your newsletter.
5. **Recognize Service.** We have many people volunteering their time and energy. Has your BEC recently discussed how to thank them and express your appreciation for all they do?





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

MAXIMUM 224 TICKETS AVAILABLE

NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER

May 6, 2024

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.**

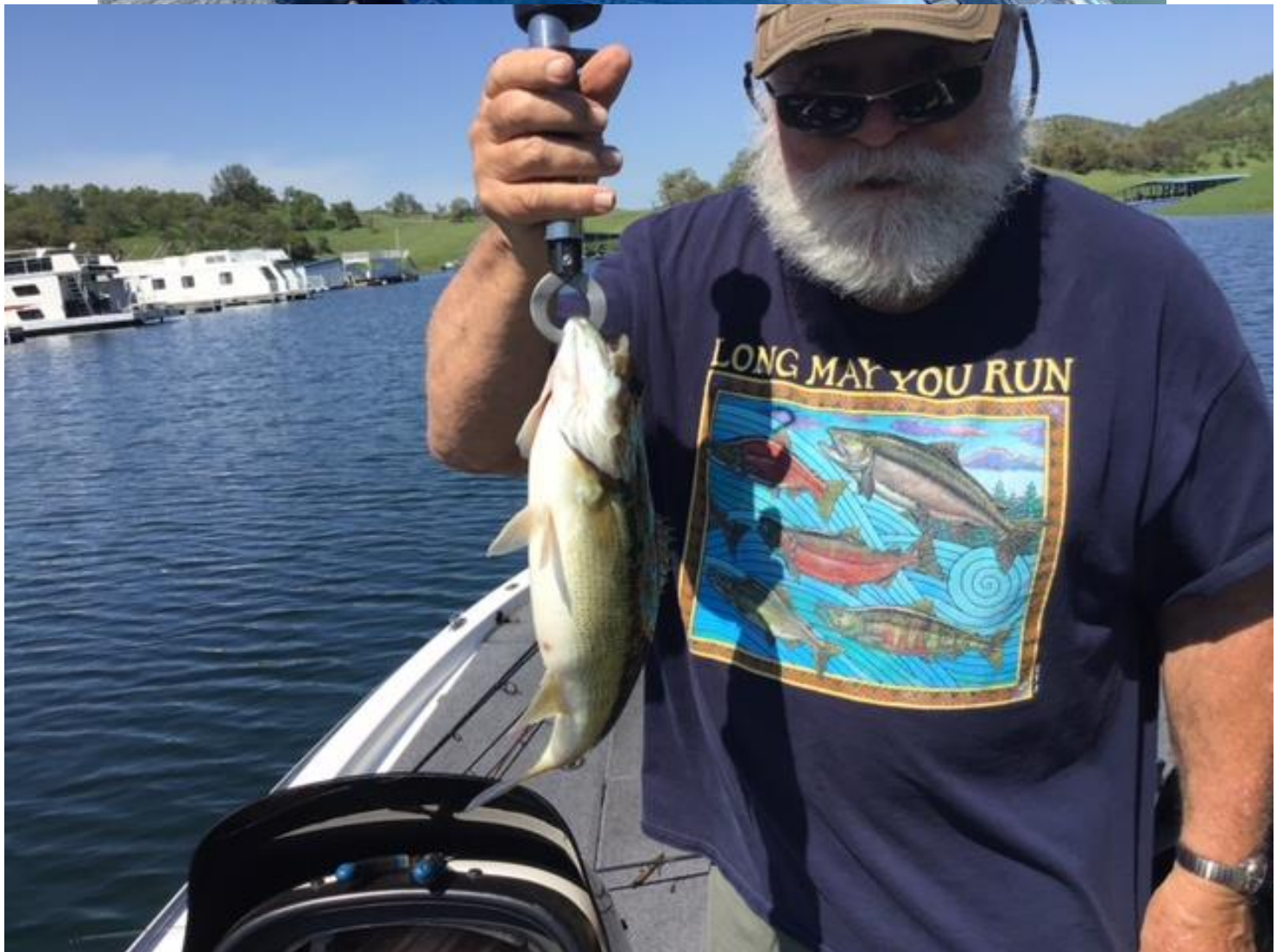


The March meeting saw 4 members inducted: Transfer in William Boyd (above)

And new members: Thomas Perry, Lynn Warkentin, and James Lucia









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 2nd Tuesday of the month	532-7240
Bowling	136	Rick Bronner	(408) 318-4826
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
Kayak	136	Looking for a Chairman	(650) 867-4671
	172	Dave Kenney 4th Tuesday of the month	
Pinochle	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
As of March 2024	172	Charles Luke	533-3683



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:

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emhunterRE@gmail.com

Michael O. Bowers
Broker/Associate
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209.770.3683 or 510-919-4949
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Sonora, CA 95370

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Fax 209-694-3624
tamara@tpolleylaw.com

TMP

Estate
Planning
Attorney



Todd Simonson, AAMS®, CFP®
Financial Advisor

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todd.simonson@edwardjones.com
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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 Zaroni
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 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: Jim Rodriguez (209) 536-4338
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

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

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