



# SIR

May 2025

## The Gateway Chapter 169

59



MAY 2025

### MAY LUNCHEON

**Annual Mothers Day Luncheon, please bring your wives, partners, or other special guests to the meeting.**

- WHEN;** TUESDAY May 13, 2025
- WHERE:** Pardinis Catering
- TIME:** 1000 BEC Mtg, 1100 Social Hour, 1200 Lunch
- COST:** Lunch \$25. No Charge to members celebrating their Birthday in April (Must attend to receive benefit).  
Branch Dues: \$20.00 are due.
- GUEST SPEAKER:** Jennifer Schants, Wills and Trusts
- MENU:** Fish, Chicken or Chef Salad. And if you have other Dietary requirement, please let your caller know so that arrangements can be made.

The background of the header is a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars.

## **The Gateway Chapter 169**

### **BIG SIR REPORT**

Once again, we had very good attendance for our April meeting. Our speakers from the Highway Patrol gave an excellent, informative and very entertaining presentation. Unfortunately, emergency grandchildren duty prevented me from staying to the end of the meeting, so I greatly appreciate Manny Contino's taking over for me. We look forward to having Valerie Saucedo performing for our May meeting, which is a Ladies' Day event as well.

In other developments, our Membership Chairman, Jim Hiney, has been dealing with health issues that made it impossible to attend the last few meetings, much less do all required for this important job. Fortunately, former Big Sir Jackie Lovato has stepped up to take over as Membership Chairman. Let's keep Jim and Jackie in our thoughts and prayers. Our branch owes an enormous debt of gratitude to both of these gentlemen.

I hope to see all of you, and your significant others, at our next meeting on May 13.

John Eleazarian

Big Sir



## The Gateway Chapter 169

### APRIL TREASURES REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$ 10,218.52
Income	\$ 2,151.00
Expenses	\$ 2,872.39
Ending Checkbook Bal	\$ 9,497.13
Petty Cash	\$ 100.00
Total Balance	\$ 9,597.13

Treasures report subject to final approval at  
the May BEC meeting.



**Big SIR, John Eleazarian called the meeting to order at 10:01 am**

**Attending:** Frank Bavarro; Manny Contino; Ed Dorn; John Eleazarian;; Jim Forden; Ted Fox; Roy Grijalva; Bernie Hollenbeck; Nick Lopez; Luis Rodriquez; Ernie Sopp; Roger Stewart;

**GUESTS:**

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF Guests: Bruce Corwin, Jack Lovato** Attending to-day

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** MSC to approve

**BIG SIR:** John Eleazarian reported that: 1) He will be completing and forwarding Forms 63 & 65 to the State SIR. Bruce Corwin explained that 63 is only needed if a branch is not using a qualified caterer for its lunches. SIR 169 employs Pardinis, so once we have submitted Form 63, we will no longer be required to complete and submit this form, 2) SIR State Travel Committee is offering excursions for all members. As he is our designated representative for Travel and receives the trip announcements from the State, Ed Dorn gave history of the past travel activity of our chapter. As our Travel Chair. Ed observed that in the past, local participation was minimal. This was due, in part, because the trip packages offered by the State SIR were generally more costly to members than ones that our Chapter offered or could offer. Ed explained that often the person who organizes a trip often gets to participate with no or minimum cost. That being the case, the Travel Chair could not be also a member of the BEC, who authorize the excursions. Bruce Corwin observed that while there is no statewide prohibition against a travel chair being on the BEC, if benefits are involved, that person can not participate in the vote for approval. Further, he explained that for any travel to be covered by the SIR Statewide liability insurance, it must be formally approved by the chapter's BEC..

**LITTLE SIR:** Manny Contino reported: 1) When he recently approached Fresno State regarding our interest in having someone associated with the Athletic Program be a luncheon speaker, he was informed that we would be charged a fee for that service. 2) Although we have yet to secure speakers for June or July; in August, our newly appointed Fresno Police Chief will be the presenter, and in September, the Mayor of Fresno will provide the program. 3) Ernie Sopp then offered to attempt to secure Kopi Sotiropulos as the luncheon speaker for October. Additionally, Jackie Lovato offered to secure representatives from Break The Barriers as speakers. 4) Big SIR John Eleazarian offered to arrange for table decorations at our May luncheon with guests

**SECRETARY: 1):** Currently our Chapter has 139 members. 2).Big SIR has list of members who are eligible for Service Award and will submit to State SIR. Bruce Corwin reminded that these awards are to be printed by the Chapters, but agreed to submit to the SIR President for personal signing.

## SECRETARY REPORT (cont)

**TREASURER:** 1) Nick Lopez reported that in March, the receipts for our Chapter totaled \$ 2,447.00 and the expenses for the month were \$ 2,461.77 The checkbook balance now stands at \$10,218.52, which includes Petty Cash of \$100.00,

**ACTIVITIES:** 1) Regarding the member dining outings for this month: Couples Dine Out will be going to the La Kabrada Restaurant; SIR Diners will be eating out at The Elbow Room ; and Date Night will be going to DiCicco's 2) Dave Warren scored a hole-in-one at Madera Muni GC. 3) Regarding opportunities for travel, the Clovis Community Center offers a program for persons who are seeking options for this recreation.

**MEMBERSHIP:** In the absence of Jim Hiney, who has been experiencing medical issues, Ed Dorn reported that he had an application from Robert Mankin, who will be inducted today if approved by the BEC. MSC to induct. Anticipating that Jim Hiney will be prevented from continuing as Membership Chairman, Big SIR opened discussion of a contingency plan to cover this important function. Former Big SIR, Jackie Lovato stepped forward with an offer to assume the role of Membership Chairman. MSC to approve Jackie's assumption of the role.

**SUNSHINE:** Bernie reported: 1). Pardinis was given a projected attendance of 89 for today's luncheon. 2):He took a moment to recognize the quality and dedication of the members of the Calling Committee, and among these Ted Fox whose dedication has been exceptional.

**OLD BUSINESS:** 1) Luis Rodriques reported that following the direction given to him by the BEC at the meeting last month, he obtained a \$200 check from our Treasury for compensation to be given to Valerie Saucedo, for her performance at our Valentine's Day meeting in February. He presented the check to her and was moved by the degree of appreciation that she exhibited for the gesture. 2) Roger Stewart reported at the Advisory Board, for which he represents our chapter, will be meeting via ZOOM next week.

## SECRETARY REPORT (cont)

**NEW BUSINESS:** 1) Continuing on past discussion regarding our efforts to attract new members, the notion of providing compensation in the form of paid lunches was again opened for discussion. Following a brief back and forth exchange of ideas about how this could be best implemented, a proposal was made that when a guest attends a meeting then completes and submits an application to become a member, he should receive a prepaid luncheon for his choice to join our Chapter. MSC to implement this practice. 2) Jackie Lovato shared with the BEC that he, Dave Dinsdale and other member veterans participate as competitors in the Armed Services Athletic competition. .In the past, when they participated in this competition, .veterans received \$600 to offset some of their travel expense for doing so. This reimbursement has been discontinued. Jackie requested that the BEC consider having the Chapter provide some level of support to the participating members when they compete in these contests. To be placed on the Old Business agenda at the next meeting of our Board. 3) Bruce Corwin reported that he is in the process or revising the Manual.to simplify its wording and application.

**MESSAGE FROM AREA 19 REPRESENTATIVE:** Attending today's meeting as a guest, Bruce Corwin, the SIR Ares 19 Representative, shared the following information; 1) A new Schedule of Branch Operations with hyperlinks to Forms is posted on the SIRinc website. 2}There is a new Policy 22 in the current SIR Operations Manual that requires Branches to develop plans to attract new members. 3) The SIR President has formed an Advisory Committee that meets monthly to help with formulating SIR's future. 4) I presented Ernie Sopp with a Distinguished Service Award for his service as Big SIR last year.

**ADJOURNMENT: 11:00 am**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:** Jim Forden, Secretary





## BRANCH INFORMATION

# The Gateway Chapter 169

## SIR 169 Executive Board and Committee Chairman

**SIR 169 Executive Board**

## Big SIR

John Eleazar



Little SIR  
Manny Contino



**Secretary**  
**Jim Forden**



Asst. Secty  
Luis Rodriguez



**Treasurer**  
**Nick Lopez**



Asst. Treas  
Duane Evans



Activities  
Chairman  
Ed Dorn



Newsletter  
Editor  
Ted Fox



**Bernie  
Hollenbeck**



**Frank Bavaro**  
Director



**Jim Hiney**  
**Director**



**Bob Large**  
**Director**



**Doug Nowlin**  
Director



**Roger Stewart**  
Director



**Paul Dehn**  
Director



**Ernie Sopp**  
**Director**



**Sunshine  
Chairman**

**Membership  
Chairman**

Advisory  
Council Rep

Big SIR 2024

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**See January 2025 Newsletter for a complete listing of all committee chairmen and contact numbers.**

**Branch Website:**  
**SIR169.org**

**State Website:**  
**SIRINC.org**



### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

**JIM CRANE**

**RON ELDER**

**WILLIAM ERNST**

**JIM FORDEN**

**VERGIE HAMBURGER**

**RALPH HANDLEY**

**DANIEL KAISER**

**RICHARD LARA**

**BOB LARGE**

**JOHN NOLL**

**JIM PETERSON**

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

**KEVIN AND TAMMY CLELAND**

**BILL AD KATHY COIT**

**ED AND JEAN DORN**

**FRANK AND EYVONE GOMES**

**JIM AND CHERYL HINEY**

**KEN AND MARYANNE LAI**

**ARTHUR AND MANE MOCK**

**ANTHONY AND SUSANNE NOIA**

**ROD AND SHERI NOLL**





## **Golf:**

**Current schedule can be found on the golf web page:**

**<https://sirgcarearea29br169.memberplanet.com>**

## **May Schedule:**

**May 6<sup>th</sup> Tues 8:00 Airways Lone Ranger**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> Thurs 9:00 Eagle Springs tee times**

**May 20<sup>th</sup> Tues 9:00 Valley Oaks shambles**

**May 27<sup>th</sup> Tues 9:00 Lemoore 2man bb**

**Brian Ohde is the host May**

**Thank You, Jim Peterson for hosting in April**

## **DATE NIGHTS**

### **Couples' Nite Out: May 15th**

**Toledo's Mexican Restaurant located near Cedar and Nees Ave. Dinner at 6:00. Contact Ed Dorn or sign up at the May luncheon.**

### **Sirs Diners: 3rd Wednesday May 21st**

**Westwood BBQ Restaurant located at 8042 N. Blackstone Ave. Drinks at 5:00 Dinner at 6:00. Contact Tom Lean for more information.**

### **Date-Nite: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday May 21st**

**I confirmed a reservation with the Five Restaurant for May 21 at 4:30 pm. The restaurant is located at 1110 E. Champlain (on east side of Champlain, north of Shepherd). Their telephone number is 559 434 5553. Pleeze let me know if you can make it.**

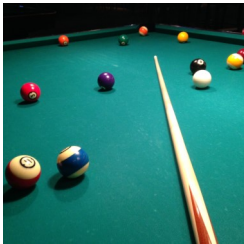
# The Gateway Chapter 169

## ACTIVITIES



### Poker Groups

1. Formerly Br 169 group. Contact Ed Dorn, Jim Hiney or Ted Fox if you are interested in joining this poker group. We currently play once a month, the Wednesday following the luncheon, rotating houses. Light snacks and beverages supplied by the host. Time: 1 pm to 4 pm . Contact us at the monthly luncheon.
2. Formerly Br 179 group, aka. The SIR George Lane Memorial Poker Group usually plays once a month, on the 4th Wednesday of the month. We rotate houses and the host is responsible for providing a light lunch, snacks and beverages. Time 1200 pm to 300 pm. Let Chairman Richard Ewell know at [richarde37@gmail.com](mailto:richarde37@gmail.com) if you are interested.



### Pool Group(s)

The pool players now meet for BREAKFAST at 9:00am on Thursdays at the Windham Retirement Home, followed by a few brisk rounds of pool at the same location. All members are welcome, skilled or novice. For more details, call Chairman Richard Ewell at 432-7601.

A spin-off group has now established 8:00 am Monday mornings at the new Clovis Senior Center as another opportunity to meet and enjoy a couple of hours of friendly pool. Contact Ted Fox or Ed Dorn or Randy Bushore for information.

### PICKLE BALL



Pickle Ball returned, beginning April 15th at Break the Barriers ( located at Cedar and Teague Aves ) in Fresno. For an introduction to and beginning lessons our Pickle Ball experts Jackie Lovato and Larry Rowe will be offering a program to get you into the Pickle Ball era.

**Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 10-12 am at the Break the Barriers indoor courts.**

**No sign up, just show up, no cost to use the facility.**

## The Gateway Chapter 169



### April Meeting Guest Speakers;

**Sgt Robert Montoya (above), and Officer Hector Correia (left). Both presented a brief overview of their careers and discussed several issues pertaining to the scope of the work they are doing today. Prbaobly the most important thing "STAY ALERT and ALWAYS WATCHFUL OF OTHER DRIVERS"**



# The Gateway Chapter 169

WINE WINNERS: APRIL

ERNIE REYES



DAVID HOFFMAN



HOWARD TOGO



MICHAEL PANELLA



# The Gateway Chapter 169

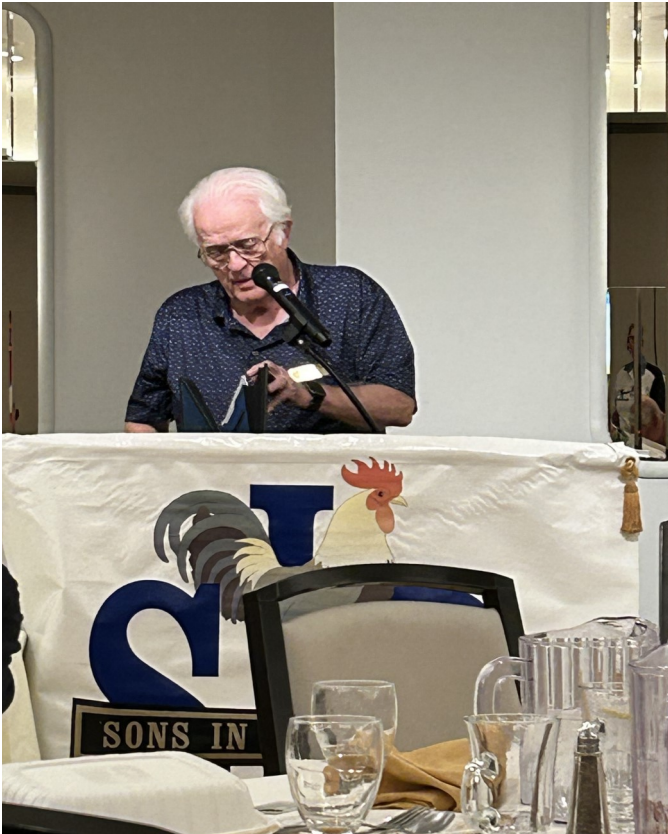
## 50/50 Winners

There was not a 50/50 drawing in April

## Committee Reports

Ed Dorn, reporting on activities and filling in for Jim Hiney on membership applications.

Bernie Hollenbeck reporting on Sunshine matters pertaining to the status of some of the members.. Alsos reporting on attendance and the need for accurate response to the callers so we can have the right information for needed meal preparation.





# The Gateway Chapter 169

New member inducted



**New Member Robert Mankin is inducted. Along with his sponsor Jackie Lovato, he listens to the short induction comments and then receives the traditional arousing cock-a doodle -do, from the members.**

**Welcome to SIR Robert Mankin.**

# The Gateway Chapter 169

## NEW SSA REQUIREMENTS

### Phone restrictions & new SSA ID verification requirements

Earlier in March, the [Social Security Administration announced](#) that people who wanted to file for benefits or change the bank where their payments were deposited could no longer do so by phone and must first verify their identity online or go into a field office.

The new policy, which was planned to take effect as of March 31, 2025, could lead to millions of people needing to file for benefits in person – an additional 75,000-85,000 people across the nation per week needing to visit their local SSA office. This is worrisome for several reasons:

1. It's likely to place additional strain on the SSA's already shrinking workforce, which is being significantly reduced as part of a broader push to downsize the federal government.
2. This change could create new challenges for older adults and people with disabilities, particularly those who have difficulty visiting a field office in person or navigating online systems.
3. Online access works for those who have internet access and have a secure system; not everyone on Social Security has this.
4. Many areas of California have spotty access, and some people rely on public WIFI. Without secure access on their phone or laptop, people's accounts may be compromised.

On March 27, 2025, we received notice that SSA has slightly revised this policy to now take effect as of April 14, 2025. Those applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can still file claims and verify their identity via phone. All other affairs, such as filing for retirement or survivor benefits, or requesting a direct deposit of benefits, etc will still be bound by this new policy and require online or in-person identity verification.