



Sonora SIR Branch No. 136

**Branch Executive Committee Meeting April 11, 2023 Minutes
In person meeting at Elks Club**

In Attendance:

BEC Officers: Big SIR Eddie Toews, Little SIR Rick Bronner, Secretary Gene Zanoni, Assistant Secretary Bill Burnes, Treasurer John Salmon and Assistant Treasurer Eddie Toews.

Not Present: None.

Directors: Stan Enos Steven Holt, Melvin Kutsch and Marty Martin.

Not Present: George Cocores and Rex Page.

Committee Chairmen: Bulletin Jim Botto, Car Club Rick Bronner, Propane Marty Martin and RV Travel Eddie Toews.

Not Present: Chaplain Steve Gregory, Fishing Chuck Simons, Internet & Zoom Jerry Bellefeuille, Kayaking Sol Robin, Lunch Tickets Jerry Bellefeuille, Membership George Cocores, Photographer Steve Belochi and Pinochle Bob Morrison.

Past Big SIRs: Jim Botto, Dale Decker, Paul Squeri, Phil VanSwoll and Gene Zanoni.

State SIR V-P: Dale Decker.

Area 5 Rep: Richard Watson.
(Visiting Guest)

Visitors (Br. 136): Earl Randall, Mike Krom and Rodger Swartz.

Call to Order – Big SIR Eddie Toews called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Roll Call – Secretary Gene Zaroni took attendance and informed the board that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda – Big SIR Eddie Toews asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none and the agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary’s Report – There were no additions nor corrections to the minutes from the March 14, 2023 meeting, thereby, they were approved as presented.

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer John Salmon presented the March 2023 monthly Treasurer’s Report. He reported that we had a beginning checking account balance of \$16,154.19 and a month ending balance of \$17,661.34 and \$250.00 cash on hand. General Fund Receipts: Dues 13 people \$325.00, Luncheon profit \$202.00, Raffle \$110.00, Christmas prize donation \$13.00, Bulletin ads \$240.00. Custodial Fund Receipts: Luncheon \$1,176.00, Ladies Day Luncheon \$1,295.00. General Fund Disbursements: Printing, Supplies and Taxes \$86.87, Postage \$22.00, Guest expense \$30.00, Rent, Setup, Cleanup, 15 extra people \$243.00, 3 birthday lunches \$57.00, 1 new member lunch \$19.00, Raffle \$55.00. Custodial Fund Disbursements: Luncheon \$1,176.00, 2 badges \$14.98. There were no additions or corrections to the presentation, thus, the report was approved as presented.

Big SIR Report – Eddie Toews

1. Paul Squeri stepping down as Area 5 Representative and will introduce his replacement (Richard Watson).

Upon being introduced during today’s BEC meeting, Sir Richard Watson stated that he joined SIRs in 1998 and has held the following Arnold SIR Branch 152 BEC officer positions: Secretary (2002), Little SIR (2003) and Big SIR (2004 & 2005). Plus, he was awarded the coveted HLM award in 2021. Upon the conclusion of his remarks, he received a very supportive applause from our members.

2. Having women join SIR’s.

Part I. A vote was conducted among our BEC members by a show of hands that resulted in the decisive decision in prohibiting women from joining Branch 136.

Part II. Another vote was conducted, with similar voting results mentioned in Part I, as it applies in the refusal to recognize all women SIR members from other branches.

Thereby, allowing only a male member to transfer into Branch 136; while denying Branch 136 membership to the spouse/significant other that may have held joint membership in their former branch.

3. Home and Garden Show Volunteers.

With the 40th Annual Home & Garden Show scheduled for April 15-16, 2023 at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds in Sonora, volunteers to man the SIR booth in this important membership drive are currently being sought. Members are encouraged to participate by simply committing to a couple of hours during the two-day event. A signup sheet is being circulated during this BEC meeting and will again be made available to all attendees during today’s monthly luncheon.

4. Elks rent increase. (\$200.00 per month plus \$50.00 Cleaning and \$50.00 Setup) Total \$300.00 per month. This reintroduced monthly total figure represents the pre-COVID-19 rate and constitutes a one-year contract. The total COVID-19 rate was approximately \$245.00 and included the stipulation should the attendance exceed 65 the SIR will pay an additional \$2.00 per attendee over the allotted 65.

5. Dino’s catering has increased the individual member’s regular meal cost to \$17.00 and the salads have been increased to \$8.00 per meal.

All preceding fee increases have become effective as of April 1, 2023. As such, the

BEC collectively agreed upon the following determinations:

- A. **Effective with the June 13, 2023 monthly luncheon, the member's price for a regular meal will be \$20.00 and a salad will be \$10.00, respectively. These price increases represent a paltry \$1.00.**
- B. **The 2024 annual membership dues shall be raised to \$30.00 from the current \$25.00.**

Little SIR Report – Rick Bronner

- 1. Update on guest speakers.

The Tuolumne Utilities District will be represented by two officials, one being a top executive and the other being an engineer, to make their joint presentation at the June 13, 2023 monthly luncheon.

Attendance/Membership Report – Eddie Toews presented the combined review of the Membership/Attendance Report and Form 27 – Monthly Branch Membership Report for March. We started the month with 143 members and during the month we lost 8 members as a result of the following: 2 moved away (Dick Nutting and Salvatore Scialabba), 2 transferred to Branch 77 (Mike Baumgartner and John Brasesco) and 4 resigned (Bob Braida, Donald Courts, Michael Orteiza and Terry Golden). Thus, we ended March with 135 members. The reporting was approved as presented.

Unfortunately, we have lost a member: “SIR” Keith Kofoed passed away April 1st. He was a SIR's member for 22 years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and family.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORTS – None.

ACTIVITIES REPORTS

Bowling – Rick Bronner announced the Black Oak Casino facility has postponed its early-May temporarily closing for equipment renovations as reported last month. The latest update indicates the closing has been re-scheduled for after July 4th.

Car Club – Rick Bronner states the activity is to start next month.

Golf – Rick Bronner declared that play is scheduled to begin on April 18th at the Teleli Golf Course in Sonora, which is under new management.

RV Travel – Eddie Toews declared the five-day outing in late-March to Bakersfield involved eleven member rigs. He also announced the next outing is scheduled for Bass Lake RV Park from the 15th to the 19th in May.

Old Business

- 1. New member free lunch.

This is another confusing process as to who gets a free meal when you bring in a new member, the sponsor or the new member. The front check-in table doesn't know who gets the free lunch or if the free meal has already been taken by someone.

It is proposed that both the sponsor and the potential member pay for both their lunches at the front table before the meeting, like everyone else. When the potential member is sworn in, for the sponsor to get the free lunch he must be present at the meeting the same day that the new member is sworn in.

If a sponsor brings more than one new member in at the same time, the sponsor will get a free meal for each new member that is sworn in. Again, the sponsor must be present at the swearing in of the new members for which he is recognized as having sponsored. If the new member does not have a sponsor, the new member gets the free meal.

Regardless who is entitled to the free meal, either the sponsor or the new member, he will see the treasurer for a check for the meal at the end of the meeting. Subsequent a brief discussion the new policy was adopted upon the approval by the BEC.

2. Update on delinquent Member Dues.

The following people have not paid their dues and I (Eddie Toews) have not been able to contact them or they have not responded to voice messages or e-mails: Philip Baylis, Leonard Carpenter, Gerry Davis and Ed St. Laurent. Following a limited discussion Eddie Toews made a motion to immediately terminate the membership of these individuals. The motion was seconded by John Salmon and was approved by the BEC.

New Business

1. Get deposit checks for catering company (Perfect Day Catering) and venue (Indigeny Reserve) for summer B-B-Q.

The catering company previously quoted a cost of \$3,000.00 that was based upon an estimated attendance of 120 individuals at \$25.00 per person. Thereby, Stan Enos made a motion to establish the luncheon price at \$30.00 per person. The motion was seconded by Marty Martin and was approved by the BEC.

Additionally, there was the deposit request of \$250.00 for the Indigeny Reserve venue. Their fee remains unchanged from 2021 when we last held our event at their location.

2. Activities requests forms for approval.

Such a form was submitted by Chairman Eddie Toews, on behalf of the Branch 136 RV Club, indicating the following scheduled outings:

1. Chico Almond Tree RV Park, Chico, CA - June 12th to 17th (5 nights)
2. Casper Beach RV Park, Mendocino, CA - Sept 25th to 30th (5 nights)
3. Vote on no meeting in May.

With May 9th being the scheduled date for the special Ladies Day Luncheon, this event would definitely interfere with a regular length BEC meeting. Therefore, John Salmon made a motion to schedule the next monthly BEC meeting for June 13, 2023. The motion was seconded by Bill Burnes and was approved by the BEC.

4. Birthday recognition for April.

To be announced from the result of a random drawing during today's luncheon.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.

Next BEC meeting – June 13, 2023 starting at 10:00 am at the Elks Lodge.

Gene V. Zanoni, Secretary

April 21, 2023