



Sonora SIR Branch No. 136

**Branch Executive Committee Meeting February 14, 2023 Minutes
In person meeting at Elks Club**

In Attendance:

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

Not Present: Assistant Secretary Bill Burnes.

Directors: Stan Enos, Steven Holt, Melvin Kutsch, George Cocores, Marty Martin and Rex Page.

Not Present: None.

Committee Chairmen: Bulletin Jim Botto, Car Club Rick Bronner, Membership George Cocores, 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, Photographer Steve Belochi and Pinochle Bob Morrison.

Past Big SIRs: Jim Botto, Paul Squeri and Gene Zanoni.

Area 5 Rep: Paul Squeri.

Visitors: Mike Krom, Fred Kehr, Earl Randall, Rick Bacon and Rodger Swartz.

Big SIR Eddie Toews called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Rick Bronner, the Little SIR, announced that the Little SIR Report would be expanded to include additional items. Taking this announcement into consideration the agenda was approved.

Secretary Gene Zanoni took attendance and informed the board that a quorum was present.

Secretary's Report – The minutes from the January 10, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Reports – Treasurer John Salmon presented the January 2023 monthly Treasurer's Report. He reported that we had a beginning checking account balance of \$12,535.81 and a month ending balance of \$14,822.19 and \$100.00 cash on hand. General Fund Receipts: Dues 103 people \$2,575.00, Luncheon \$221.00, 50/50 Raffle \$89.00, Christmas prize donation \$22.00. Custodial Fund Receipts: Luncheon \$1,042.00, 2 Christmas tickets \$70.00, Rooster items \$127.00, 3 Badges \$30.00. General Fund Disbursements: Printing, Supplies and Taxes \$70.14, Postage \$21.85, Guest expense \$45.00, State Board Assessment \$304.00, Rent, Setup, Cleanup, 5 extra people \$223.00, Raffle \$45.00, Cowboy Country Church \$100.00. Custodial Fund Disbursements: Luncheon \$1,042.00, 5 Badges \$38.63. George Cocores made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Marty Martin and was passed by the BEC.

Attendance/Membership Reports – George Cocores presented a combined review of the Membership/Attendance Report and Form 27 - Monthly Branch Membership Report for January. We started the month with 144 members and during the month we added 3 new members (Michael Cunningham, Edmund "Ed" Souza and Mark Thomas) and lost 1 due to resignation (Steve Aldridge). Thus, we ended January with 146 members. The reporting was approved as presented. Moreover, a discussion ensued addressing the official recognition of a deceased member from our official roster. It was eventually decided that the passing of a member should be recorded in the earliest month possible. Thereby, our official records will reveal the most current information in a timely manner. Additionally, the topic surfaced regarding the membership status of a member that paid his annual dues and subsequently moved out of the immediate area. Given that his annual dues would not be refunded, he would be maintained on our membership roster until the end of the year for which he paid. His attendance would be recognized should he attend any monthly meeting upon having moved; and, if his forwarding mailing address be obtained, a copy of the monthly bulletin will be mailed to him as well.

Big SIR Report – Eddied Toews presented the following topic of concern:

1. Birthdays. We have been lax again at recognizing birthdays each month. I would like to present a new way to handle birthdays going forward. I will have a list of the birthday people for the month we are in. I will check to see if they are attending the meeting and if they are I will put those names into a basket (only the names of the birthday people in attendance). At the end of the meeting, I will draw the name of the birthday person that will get his birthday paid for. He will see the treasurer after the meeting and will be issued a check for his lunch.

This will alleviate a couple of issues, first the front table having to know who got the free meal and second, the person having to bring a little piece of paper back within two (2) months of their birthday month. A lot of members thought they could bring it back any month and still get a free lunch. This will end that confusion. Rick Bronner made a motion to approve the proposed policy change. The motion was seconded by Stan Enos and was passed by the BEC.

2. Recruiting and retaining members. This topic will be addressed briefly at today's luncheon and a follow-up discussion is intended for next month's BEC meeting.

3. How to become a BEC member. Once again, this topic will be announced at

today's luncheon.

Little SIR Report – Rick Bronner presented the following:

1. Solicitation for advertisement space that appear in our bulletin generated seven payments that were turned over to Treasurer John Salmon. In addition, two other payments remain pending and all but one from last year's advertisement listings have committed for 2023.

2. Indigeny Reserve commands a \$250.00 fee for our use of their venue regarding our summer picnic. While Eproson Park is asking a user fee of \$100.00 for their facility; plus, requiring an alcohol beverage permit from the State of CA that may be completed online.

3. A caterer for our summer picnic is now being sought: Smokin' Bar-B-Q is a possible candidate with other caterers being considered. Members are encouraged to submit names of purveyors for consideration in the selection process. For meal cost estimates a projection of 120 attendees was agreed upon as well as numerous menu item preferences.

4. Forthcoming names of monthly luncheon guest speakers will appear in the Union Democrat and also be available online for viewing.

5. 25 volunteers signed up for the volunteer commitment roster during the January meeting. Anyone not on that list, that wishes to be, are asked to see me (Rick) so that I may obtain your name and phone number.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORTS

Bulletin Report – Jim Botto made a repeated request that activity chairmen forward him updated activity reports, along with pictures capturing their activities whenever possible, for inclusion in our monthly bulletin as soon as they are able to. This means not waiting until the deadline before submitting their reporting.

ACTIVITIES REPORTS

Bowling & Car Club – Chairman Rick Bronner recommends reviewing our monthly bulletin on a regular basis regarding activity updates.

Golf – Chairman Rick Bronner announced the startup activity is to commence in April.

RV Travel – Chairman Eddie Toews announced the RV group's Kickoff Breakfast is scheduled for February 21st and on March 26th to 31st our first outing is scheduled for Bakersfield. All members that wish to join in the numerous annual outings, even though they may not have an RV, are welcome to do so. Some campgrounds have accommodations, such as cabins onsite. If not, nearby accommodations are generally available. Check with Eddie beforehand regarding any such intentions you may have.

Old Business

Our donation of \$100.00, that received BEC approval in January, was given to Stan Enos on behalf of the Cowboy Country Church for their generosity. They loaned our branch the tasteful table centerpiece decorations for two of our last year's special luncheon events. Stan commented the Cowboy Country Church was appreciative of the donation received and hinted that future such arrangements may be forthcoming.

New Business:

1. Are there any restart letters for any club activities in 2023.

None were submitted. Once again it was announced that all group activity chairmen must prepare and file a Request for Restarting Branch 136 Activity with the BEC. Acknowledgement of such is to be recorded in the BEC minutes prior to any group events. Compliance is mandatory, otherwise, the event fails to receive SIR support for insurance purposes.

2. Free meal when new member joins club. Right now, it is confusing as to who gets a free meal, the new member or the sponsor. At times it is hard for the front table to know who is to get the free meal or if one of them has already taken the free meal.

I (Eddie Toews) propose that both members pay for their meals before the meeting and then when the new member is sworn in, the new member and his sponsor decide who will get the free meal. They will then see the treasurer and a check will be issued to only one of them for the cost of the meal. If there is no sponsor present the new member gets the free meal. This should clear up all the confusion on this issue. The ideas presented were approved by the BEC and the new policy becomes effective immediately.

3. Eddie Toews reported that 34 people have yet to pay their 2023 membership dues and nearly half of them are on the propane program. It is well worth remembering only members in good standing qualify for the benefits associated with the propane program. Should a member be dropped from the propane program for whatever valid reason, they become subject to permanent disqualification.

4. Upon request from our caterer, regarding the May special Ladies Day luncheon, does our branch have a preference for either prime rib or steak? Prime rib was selected by a voice vote at today's BEC meeting.

5. Paul Squeri, our Area 5 Representative, commented on a major SIR organizational concern relating to the increased insurance expense due to the continuation in the decline of overall membership. Therefore, a reversal of this trend is necessary to successfully conquer this matter. In addition, bolstering individual branch membership will go a long way in curing many of the current ills that plague many of our branches.

6. Steven Holt, a first-year director, volunteered to acquire and share with the BEC vital information regarding this year's Home and Garden Show. The Home and Garden Show is a popular multi-day event that annually draws thousands of visitors to the Sonora Fairgrounds. The event provides an excellent opportunity for Branch 136 to generate heightened local SIR interest. Such community exposure is crucial in our endeavor to expand membership.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

Next BEC meeting – March 14, 2023 starting at 10:00 am at the Elks Lodge.

Gene V. Zanoni, Secretary
February 23, 2023