



Sonora Branch No. 136

## Branch Executive Committee Meeting January 14, 2014 Minutes

### In Attendance:

**BEC Board Members:** Big Sir John Bristow, Little Sir Jim Johnson, Secretary Dale Decker, Asst Secretary Jerry Bellefeuille Treasurer Frank Taylor and Asst Treasurer Blair Abbott

**Directors:** Bob Gelber, Bert Maxwell, Maurice Rollins, Angelo Costanza, Jake Parsons and Mariano Garces

**Committee Chairmen:** Attendance/Membership Angelo Costanza, Chaplin Paul Bullman, Golf Danny Laureta, Honorary Life Membership Al Limon, Luncheon Rick Bacon, RV Travel Jim Botto, Sir Item Sales Cecil Steen, Pinochle Bob Morrison, House Jerry Earth and Bulletin Jerry Bellefeuille

**Not Present:** Bowling Bert Abreo, Fishing Jim Nuzum Luncheon Tickets Neil Williams (inactive status) and Travel Rich Lundin

**Past Big SIRs:** Don Banchemo, Baci Frecceri and Phil VanSwoll

**Area Governor:**

**Visitors:**

Big Sir John Bristow called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

A Roll Call of Officers and Directors in attendance was made. A quorum was present.

**Secretary** - Secretary Dale Decker presented the minutes which were previously distributed to the BEC for the December 9, 2013 Meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob Gelber and seconded by Maurice Rollins. The motion was passed by the BEC.

**Treasurer** - Treasurer Frank Taylor presented the Treasurer's Report for December 2013 which showed a monthly ending checking account balance of \$1,503.20 and cash on hand of \$200. Treasurer Frank Taylor pointed out that the December 2013 Treasurer's report did not include \$154.54 charges for the current branch bulletin. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Jim Johnson and seconded by Maurice Rollins. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Mr. Taylor also stated that he had successfully completed a yearend branch audit and all transactions were found to be in order (Audit Committee: Barnes, Rooney and Abbott, January 10, 2014).

**Little SIR** - Little SIR Jim Johnson reported that the guest speaker for February would be Jim Costello and for March it would be Todd Simonson. Additionally, Mr. Costello would talk about

a cross country trip he made in a 1926 Model A.

**Attendance/Membership** - Attendance & Membership Chairman Angelo Costanza presented the January 2014 monthly report which was previously distributed to the BEC. Mr. Costanza pointed out that our current membership is 215 active and 9 inactive members and that we were scheduled to install and additional 3 members at this month's luncheon: Mike Wright (sponsored by Bert Abreo #219, Gene Deaver (sponsored by Jim Simmons #035) and Bill Barth (sponsored by Ben Teal #311).

Mr. Costanza also mentioned that we currently have 27 members below 50% attendance and all but one (1) is currently working on improving their attendance (they were previously notified). The one (1) member who has not been notified yet will have his attendance reviewed at the end of today's luncheon to determine his attendance is improving - if not, he will be notified.

A key point Mr. Costanza mentioned is that Branch 136 has 176 active members with an attendance well above 50% and 28 of those members with an attendance of 100%.

In addition, Mr. Costanza presented an application from Otto Bulich (sponsored by Jim Botto #164) for approval.

A joint motion was made by Bob Gelber and seconded by Mariano Garces to approve the new member application and the Attendance & Membership Report. The motion was passed by the BEC.

**Bulletin/Internet** - Bulletin and Internet Chairman Jerry Bellefeuille did not have anything to report but stated that he needed all input for the bulletin by January 31, 2014.

**Chaplin** - Chaplin Paul Bullman reported that Bill Dunlavy has had a successful operation on both eyes and that James Ollmann is recovering from hip surgery.

## **Activity Reports:**

**Bowling** - Bert Abreo not present - no report

**Travel** - Rich Lundin not present - no report

**RV Travel** - Jim Botto reported that the RV Travel group will be holding a general meeting on February 17, 2014 at the Pine Tress Restaurant to finalize their RV plans for the year.

Jim also mentioned that they had collected donations of \$864 from the RV group members (and that the Elks Club matched these donations) for the Interfaith Community Services (ICS) Organization. In addition they collected five (5) boxes of canned goods for donation to the ICS.

Jim also said that Bill Lobdell had received a plaque for his years of service as RV Travel Chairman and Mo Molinari for his years of service as RV Travel Treasurer.

**Golf** - Danny Laureta reported that he had 20 members signed up for the latest golf tournament but three (3) did not show up. This was a pretty decent showing over the holidays out of a golf group of approximately sixty (60) members.

**Fishing** - Jim Nuzum not present - no report

**Internet** - Jerry Bellefeuille - no report

**SIR Merchandise** - Cecil Steen reported that he has approximately 150 ballpoint pens that he is

planning to 'give away' to members that want one (or to replace faulty ones).

**Pinchhole** - Bob Morrison reported that 9 to 13 members usually show up for the weekly Pinchhole card games and that the group will be meeting each Monday starting this year.

Mr. Morrison also stated that he would be setting up a Pinchhole demonstration game in the social area following the board meeting. He was doing this in order to solicit more interest.

**House** - Jerry Erath reported that he would not be here for the February luncheon and he needed someone to take care of setting up the tables, the handicap sign and the guest speaker parking sign.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** - Little Sir Jim Johnson presented some data he had compiled in regards to the cost of mailing bulletins to members (and others) that did not want to receive it via the internet.

This cost is approximately \$2,220 per year (less roughly \$350 for event flyers and tickets) and the membership is subsidizing the mailings.

After considerable discussion by the board three proposals were offered:

1. A proposal to charge those members that have requested the bulletins via US Mail to pay an additional \$10 per year in dues (currently \$20/year - would increase to \$30/year).
2. A proposal to increase the cost of the monthly luncheon \$1.00 (currently \$12.00 - would increase to \$13).
3. A proposal to increase the annual assessment \$5.00 (currently \$20.00 - would increase to \$25).

After further discussion relative to not wanting to increase the financial burden on our members a motion was made by Bert Maxwell and seconded by Bob Gelber that the annual assessment be increased \$5 (proposal 3) to \$25 effectively immediately. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Following this motion and its approval Jerry Bellefeuille asked that Membership & Attendance chairman (Angelo Costanza) send him a list of all members that have an e-mail address and are currently receiving the bulletin by mail. Jerry would then contact said members and see if he could convince them to receive the bulletins via e-mail or view them via our branch web site.

Angelo Costanza proposed adding a stick-on 'blue' star to the badges of new members. We would then inform our active members that when they see the 'blue' star to introduce themselves and welcome our newest members. The 'blue' star would be worn for 3 months. There was a consensus of the board to do this but not a formal vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

**The next Branch BEC Board Meeting will be on February 11, 2014 at 10:00 am.**

Minutes prepared by Branch 136 Secretary  
Dale Decker  
January 19, 2014.

Copy to: Jimmie Johnson, Regional Director  
Jerry Morrow, Area Governor