



Sonora Branch No. 136

Branch Executive Committee Meeting January 13th, 2015 Minutes

In Attendance:

BEC Board Members: Big Sir Jim Johnson, Little Sir Dale Decker, Secretary Jerry Bellefeuille, Asst Secretary Angelo Costanza, Treasurer Frank Taylor, Asst Treasurer Blair Abbott

Directors: Eddie Towes, Jake Parsons, Mariano Garces, Rex Page

Not Present: Dick Alberle, Ray Bailey

Committee Chairmen: Membership Angelo Costanza, Chaplin Paul Bullman, Golf Danny Laureta, Luncheons Rick Bacon, RV Jim Botto, SIR Item Sales Cecil Steen, Pinochle Bob Morrison, House Jerry, Internet Jerry Bellefeuille, Bulletin Jim Botto

Not Present: Bowling Bert Abreo, HLM Al Limon, Travel Rich Lundin

Past Big SIRs: Bill Dunlavy, Don Banchemo, Phil Van Swoll, John Bristow

Area Governor: not present

Visitors: Bert Maxwell

Big Sir Jim Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

A Roll Call of Officers, Directors and Chairmen present was made. A quorum was present.

Treasurer – Frank Taylor stated that he has all the papers for our annual branch audit and asked for volunteers to come to his house to do it. Phil Van Swoll volunteered. Frank also stated that Bill Burnes, Blair Abbott and he would also be there sometime in the next couple of weeks.

Treasurer Frank Taylor presented the Treasurer's Report for December 2014 and January 2015 which showed a monthly ending checking account balance of \$4004.01 and cash on hand of \$200. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Dale Decker and seconded by Blair Abbott. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Big Sir - Jim Johnson announced that John Howsden has resigned from the branch. He was going to be assistant secretary. Angelo Costanza has been appointed to be the new assistant secretary.. Ed Toews has been installed as a 2nd year director to take John Howsden's place as director.

Jim Johnson announced that we have joined with Branch 77 for our fishing group. Jim Nuzum will head the fishing group for our branch and co-ordinate with the other branch.

Jim also announced that we will be joining Branch 72, Twain Harte, on their hiking and biking activities. The schedule will appear in our bulletin starting next month.

Jim also announced that we will have a new activities chairperson, Ed Towes. He will work with all groups to increase activity in all groups. We will be looking into starting a new Theatre and Dinner activity group.

Also the travel group is working to have more events that cost \$100 or less and last only one day.

Jim announced that Phil Van Swoll will head the nominating committee for 2015.

Jim announced the new member recruitment cards. Each member will get 3 cards. Our yearly goal will be for each member to bring one guest. The slogan will be "Each one to reach one."

Little SIR - Little SIR Dale Decker reported that Jim Botto will be the new bulletin editor and that Steve Belochi will be our branch photographer.

Dale also presented a draft Member Directory for inspection. The draft had several new sections to enhance it. The directory will be printed in the next 2 months or so. We are looking for 3 sponsors to print the directory.

Dale is putting together the special events committee. It will consist of Rex Page, Dick Aberle, Jake Parsons and Maurice Rollins. (Side Note: after the BEC meeting Alan Nix volunteered to be on the special events committee with the other four members).

Secretary - Secretary Jerry Bellefeuille presented the minutes, which were previously distributed, to the BEC for the November Meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mariano Garces and seconded by Angelo Costanza. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Jim Johnson reported on the new membership cards that you get when you pay your yearly dues. The hotline number is printed on the back of the new cards.

Attendance/Membership - Attendance & Membership Chairman Angelo Costanza presented the January 2015 monthly report, which was previously distributed, to the BEC.

There are 3 new applications to be approved today the names are Charles Price, Steven Aldridge and Matt Clay. Charles Simons who was approved at the November meeting will also be installed today. The current membership will be 218 members after we install 3 new members today (we lost 4 members: John Howsden resigned, Don Lloyd moved, Eddie Conrado and Louis Njirich transferred to Branch #77).

A motion was made by Mariano Garces and seconded by Ed Towes to approve the Attendance & Membership Report and the applications of 3 new applicants: Steven Aldridge and Chuck Price, who would also be installed today as they have been waiting since November and the application of Matt Clay who will be installed on February 10th. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Jim Johnson talked about the status of members that are over 75 years old and cannot participate on a regular basis, this is called emeritus status (Rule 55 which was just issued in November of last year). Angelo will look into giving some of our members this status. We will make this an action item in February.

Activity Reports:

Bowling - Bert Abreo was not present so Jim Johnson read excerpts from Bert's printed report. The bowling group needs more bowlers. The bowlers are now considering adding spouses to the bowling league.

Sonora Sir will host the 2015 State Tournament on May 4, 5, and 6th at Black Oak Lanes.

The bowling schedule was presented for 2015. It is every Monday from now until April 27th at Black Oak Lanes. Also a Branch 136 sponsored tournament will be held at Black Oak Lanes in late July. The bowling resumes in September and the dates will be scheduled at that time. The schedule was entered into the secretary's binder. A motion was made to approve the bowling schedule, it was made by Angelo Costanza and seconded by Ed Towes. The motion was approved by the BEC.

Jim Johnson reported that our branch is now covered by the State SIR liability insurance.

Chaplin - Chaplin Paul Bullman reported that Carolyn Gregory will have back surgery. Donald Utt and his wife Donna have been very ill and in wheelchairs. Baci needs help so Bill Dunlavy will help Baci with the pledge of allegiance and God Bless America. Jake Parsons said Ernie Cuzzocreo has had back surgery. Dale Decker asked Jake Parsons if he would give Ernie Cuzzocreo his Veterans certificate of appreciation.

Fishing - Jim Nuzum- no report

Golf - Danny Lauretta reported that there will be no golf in January and December this year.

Danny also presented the golf schedule for 2015. The schedule was entered into the branch secretaries binder. A motion was made by Angelo Costanza, seconded by Ed Towes, to approve the 2015 golf schedule. The motion was approved by the BEC.

House - Jerry Erath reported that the Christmas Luncheon was a big success. Jerry questioned the tip given by Jim Johnson to Tim at the Elks. Jim reported that the tip was paid for out of his own pocket, a \$25 gift certificate to Starbucks. Jerry also reported that we are ready for lunch. Jim Johnson also stated that we will have no head table for 2 months to see how that works.

Internet - Jerry Bellefeuille reported that there were no reported problems opening the bulletin this month. Jerry also stated that we are checking members data in anticipation of the new directory.

Pinochle - Bob Morrison reported they had 14 to 16 players. Paul Halek has put together the results of the games and it will be reported in our bulletin. The SIR Pinochle group meets every Monday starting at 11:30am at the Moose Lodge in Soulsbyville. It is a joint activity with the Twain Harte Branch.

RV Travel - Jim Botto reported that the RV group had a great Christmas party at Sonora Hills. They collected a pickup truck full of canned food and \$695 in cash for the Interfaith Group. The cash donation was matched by the Elks club.

There is a meeting scheduled in February at My Garden Cafe scheduled to talk about the 2015 RV outings. There are 2 new members in the RV group.

Jim Johnson reported that Guy Hoffman will have laser surgery next month.

SIR Merchandise - Cecil Steen – no report

Travel - Rich Lundin – no report

New Business – Jim Johnson suggested a birthday drawing. Each month a name would be drawn from the people with birthdays and the next month the name drawn would get a free lunch if they are present. A motion was made by Dale Decker, seconded by Jake Parsons and approved by the BEC to accept the proposal.

Jim Johnson reported that he would like to start a drawing in February. The tickets will be 3 for \$2. The prizes will be \$30, \$25, and \$20. A motion was made by Angelo Costanza, seconded by Mariano Garces, and approved by the BEC to accept Jim's proposal. We are looking for a chairperson to hold these drawings.

Jim Johnson also proposed giving a free lunch to members who bring in new members by drawing names of those who brought in new members and giving one free lunch every 6 months instead of the current system. The proposal was not voted on but it was agreed to stick with the current system of a free lunch for everyone who brings in a new member on the day of their installation.

Dale Decker reported that we need 2 more sponsors (we have 1 now) to print our new directory which will cost \$510. Dale asked for approval of the money so he can go ahead and print them in February possibly before we actually get the sponsors. A motion was made by Mariano Garces, seconded by Jerry Bellefeuille, and passed by the BEC to give Dale the money to print the new directories.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 am.

Minutes prepared by Branch 136 Secretary
Jerry Bellefeuille, 2015.

Copy to: Russel Salazar, Regional Director
Jerry Morrow, Area Governor