



Sonora SIR Branch No. 136

**Branch Executive Committee Meeting January 10, 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: All Officers were present.

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

Not Present: George Cocores.

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 and Gene Zanoni.

State SIR V-P: Dale Decker.

Region 2 Director: Paul Squeri.

Visitor: Gene Bettencourt.

Big SIR Eddie Toews called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. He asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none and the agenda was approved as presented.

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

present.

Secretary's Report – The minutes of November 8, 2022 were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Reports – Assistant Treasurer Eddie Toews presented the November 2022 monthly Treasurer's Report. He reported that we had a beginning checking account balance of \$14,984.88 and a month ending balance of \$16,905.67 and \$100.00 cash on hand. There were General Fund receipts totaling \$403.00 and General Fund disbursements totaling \$507.92. There were Custodial Fund receipts totaling \$2,967.00 and Custodial Fund disbursements totaling \$1,074.49. He also presented the December 2022 monthly Treasurer's Report. We had a beginning checking account balance of \$16,797.67 and a month ending balance of \$12,535.81 and \$100.00 cash on hand. There were General Fund receipts totaling \$0.00 and General Fund disbursements totaling \$358.76. There were Custodial Fund receipts totaling \$1,065.00 and Custodial Fund disbursements totaling \$4,968.10. The reports were approved as presented.

Big SIR Report – Eddie Toews presented the following topics:

- 1 – Recruiting and retaining members. A decline in overall membership is sufficient reason to cause alarm regarding the sustainability of our SIR organization. Therefore, branch members are encouraged to provide their BEC Officers and Directors with ideas for possible solutions to this growing concern. Some of the ideas received may even be forwarded to the State SIR group for possible implementation throughout all branches.
- 2 – Pass around clip board for new volunteer list for 2023. Stan Enos is to take the lead in this task. He and his assistants will initiate their efforts during today's luncheon. Stan is to work with Jerry Bellefeuille (Lunch Tickets Chairman) in succeeding months to recognize members and their availability for volunteer service.
- 3 – How to become a BEC member. The most direct approach is simply for any member to attend BEC meetings on their own initiative. In addition, current BEC Officers and Directors have a responsibility in influencing other members to attend their BEC meetings as well.

Little SIR Report – Rick Bronner announced the installation of 3 new members, they include the following: Michael Cunningham, Edward Souza and Mark Thomas. In addition, to Robert Burkett. Matt Hawkins, Sonora's former mayor, is today's luncheon guest speaker. Presently, there exists the need for a February's luncheon guest speaker. Rick is to announce during today's luncheon the benefits of volunteering, namely, for all members to share in the various activities required to sustain a branch that provides the opportunity of rewarding experiences for its members. Due to his excessive responsibilities, Rick is seeking immediate relief from those members that are able to contribute. Moreover, Rick has agreed to be responsible for the solicitation of the advertising appearing in our bulletin. The annual rate per entity is \$120.00 (\$10.00 per month) with the annual period being the calendar year.

Attendance/Membership Reports – Eddie Toews presented a combined Attendance/Membership Report and Form 27 Monthly Review Report for November and December. We started November with 148 members and during the month we lost 4 members: 2 due to deaths (Paul Reinhart and Roy Beebe), 1 due to resignation (James Van Gerpen) and 1 due to transfer (Tom Turner). Thus, we ended November with 144 members. In December's monthly review, there were no changes reported. Thus, we ended the year with 144 members. Both reports were approved as presented.

ACTIVITIES REPORTS

Bowling – Chairman Rick Bronner announced the winter league will commence activity this coming Friday at the Black Oak Casino. All members interested are encouraged to participate in this fun-filled activity.

RV Travel – Chairman Eddie Toews announced the RV group is attempting to expand its branch’s participation by allowing members to join that may not have an RV. All interested members in 2023 RV outings are encouraged to review their monthly bulletin for upcoming announcements. A breakfast event is forthcoming in February.

Sir Merchandise – Former sales manager Fred Kehr, who last month announced his resignation from this responsibility, did offer consent to the following: only upon a member’s request will he provide assistance regarding online purchases. In addition, he returned change funds totaling \$127.00 to Treasurer John Salmon.

Old Business

Christmas Luncheon Report – Assistant Treasurer Eddie Toews declared the following: \$462.00 in net total loss, 117 attendees and \$540.00 in raffle revenue. Without the benefits from the raffle activity, the loss incurred would have been considerably greater.

New Business:

1. Change Dues Structure - Introduced by Eddie Toews:

On the statement on the new member application the dues’ structure is that the new member fee is \$35.00 if they join between January 1st thru June 30th, then between July 1st thru December 31st the dues fee is \$22.50. These two figures include \$10.00 Badge fee and \$25.00 and \$12.50 membership fees.

What I am proposing to change is that the \$22.50 fee runs from July 30th to October 31st. Then from November 1st to December 30th the dues go back up to \$35.00.

The reasoning is that a new member joining in November or December only goes to one regular meeting. This is a double whammy for the new member. He pays \$22.50 when he joins and then gets hit for \$25.00 for the new year. The new \$35.00 Dues fee would cover November & December and the new year.

Stan Enos made a motion to accept all recommendations. The motion was seconded by Rick Bronner and was passed by the BEC.

2. “Cowboy Country Church” donation – Introduced by Eddie Toews:

It was very kind that the “Cowboy Country Church” loaned us the decorations for the center pieces on the tables at the Summer Social Activity and the Christmas Social. I feel that SIR should donate \$100.00 to the church for their kindness. Decorations for the two activities would have cost us about \$500.00.

Eddie Toews made a motion in support of what amounted to a substantial cost savings for our branch. The motion was seconded by John Salmon and was passed by the BEC.

3. Restart letters for all Activities in 2023.

RV Club letter was received from Chairman Eddie Toews. It is worth noting that all activity groups, prior to the commencement of any such activity, must have submitted a completed “Request for Re-Starting Branch 136 Activity” application in order to be recognized as an SIR sanctioned event.

4. 2022 Branch Audit Report.

The subject annual audited report was completed in compliance with Form 29 and appropriately distributed for record retention purposes.

5. The following was introduced upon the suggestion received from Bill Burnes:

To allow widows of Branch 136’s past-members the opportunity to attend special co-ed luncheons free-of-charge. These events include the Ladies Day, Annual Picnic and Christmas luncheons. Subsequent a brief discussion, it was decided the idea was an appropriate way of remembering and maintaining our Branch 136 family.

A motion of acceptance was made by Bill Burnes and seconded by Rick Bronner. This new policy was enthusiastically passed by the BEC.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

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

Gene V. Zaroni
January 26, 2023