



Sonora Branch No. 136

Branch Executive Committee Meeting July 8, 2014 Minutes

In Attendance:

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

Not Present: Big Sir John Bristow

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

Committee Chairmen: Attendance/Membership Angelo Costanza, Bowling Bert Abreo, Chaplin Paul Bullman, Golf Danny Laureta, Honorary Life Membership Al Limon, Luncheon Rick Bacon, RV Travel Jim Botto, Sir Item Sales Cecil Steen, Travel Rich Lundin, Pinochle Bob Morrison, House Jerry Erath, Internet Jerry Bellefeuille, and Bulletin Dale Decker

Not Present: Luncheon Tickets **Open** and Public Relations **Open**

Past Big SIRs: Baci Frecceri

Little Sir Jim Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Little Sir Jim Johnson reviewed the BEC board meeting agenda and asked if anything needed to be added or changed. None was presented.

Little Sir Jim Johnson did say he wanted to talk, under new business, about the wine we give for the last table called (cost of \$10.00 per Frank Taylor).

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 June 10, 2014 Meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mariano Garces and seconded by Jerry Bellefeuille. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Treasurer - Treasurer Frank Taylor presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2014 which showed we started the month with a checking account balance of \$4,494.73, ended the month with a checking account balance of \$4,234.90 and had \$200 cash on hand.

Treasurer Frank Taylor pointed out that the General Fund Receipts of \$579.00 included \$37.00 in annual contributions and receipts for the luncheon for \$322.00 (for 161 meals served). Custodial Fund Receipts were \$1,594.00 from the Luncheon ticket sales and \$10.00 for one badge for a total of \$1,604.00.

Additionally he covered supporting details of the General Fund Disbursements of \$801.32 and for the Custodial Fund Disbursements of \$1,641.51 which were mostly for the luncheon meals and expenses (\$1,584.00) and the State pro rata charges (221 members @ \$1.25 each for a total of \$276.25).

Finally, Frank stated that to date there are about 28 members who have not paid their annual dues as of this date.

Little Sir Jim Johnson ask Frank if we were going to have to pay for our inactive members and Frank said he didn't know as he hasn't received any notice requiring this.

Jim also mentioned that we should consider sending letters to the members that haven't paid their dues yet that if they don't pay by September that they will lose their membership. It would also be pointed out that if they, the members, were in our propane co-op and didn't pay their dues they would be dropped from the program.

Jim mentioned that he had talked to the folks at the Twain Harte branch and they don't have anyone that hasn't paid, and in fact, every member had paid by February - they told Jim that if they don't pay by February the are dropped from membership.

It was pointed out that Angelo Costanza has the list of these members and their membership in the propane co-op is indicated. Angelo said he would send the list to Frank.

Jim suggested that we look at developing an invoice system for next year wherein we give our members an invoice for the dues and ask them to tear off the bottom and send it in with their check so we have a clear record of every member that has paid. In addition, the dues would be due by the first of February.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Jerry Bellefeuille and seconded by Bert Maxwell. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Little SIR - Little SIR Jim Johnson asked Maurice Rollins what he would be doing today and Maury said "selling tickets for the BBQ Extravaganza". Cutoff for tickets sales would be July 20th as Jim said he has to order the meat and things. The cooks have all been taken care and are ready to go. He also said Jake Parsons needed some help in parking the cars and he asked for someone to help him. Rich Lundin said he would help Jake but it was pointed out that it was to help park cars, not pick up rocks (Rich is a rock hound)!

Also it was pointed out by Little Sir that we can't bring in any alcohol or soft drinks like we had been doing when we were at Rail Town. The Moose Lodge is only charging us \$100 and this includes a dishwasher to take care of the pots and pans and they get their 'money' thru the alcohol and soft drink sales.

Attendance/Membership - Attendance & Membership Chairman Angelo Costanza presented the June 2014 monthly report which was previously distributed to the BEC. Angelo reported that our membership is 224.

Additionally, that we would be installing Tom Lively at our luncheon today (his sponsor is Bill Lobdell).

Angelo said that we have three (3) members that have been inactive over one year and that he had contacted two of them; Bill Moeckel was going back to active and Tony Pallante was resigning.

Additionally, he said he couldn't get a hold of Wayne Rezab but he had sent him an e-mail and left him a phone message.

Two members are in jeopardy as they had only attend two (2) meetings in the last 12 months: Roger Sparks and Dick Nutting. Angelo said he would contact them and see what was going on.

Three members: Sudduth, Parieira and Cuzzocreo were under watch as they had only attended three meetings in the last 12 months. Angelo is also working to contact these members.

We had 158 members attend last month's luncheon (along with 3 guests) for 71% attendance, average 12 month attendance is 74%, and average 12 month membership is 220.

A motion was made by Mariano Garces and seconded by Jerry Bellefeuille to approve the application for Tom Lively and to accept the Attendance & Membership Report. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Internet - Jerry Bellefeuille reported that there was some problems with the bulletin and RV Club links on our website. Jerry suspects that some members have older computers and possibly down level web browsers that contribute to the problem.

Jerry said he would continue to work on it and hopefully resolve any problems members were having with the website.

Chaplin - It was mentioned that Bill Dunlavy was about done with his medical recovery but that Jack Walls had open heart surgery (triple by-pass and a new heart valve) and was in ICU after a 6 1/2 hour operation.

A question was asked about Big Sir John Bristow that was scheduled to have surgery today (June 10th) but no new information was available.

Note: It was reported to SecDec after the meeting that John Bristow did indeed have surgery as was going well.

Activity Reports:

Bowling - Bert Abreo was present and was covering the check-in at the front table. Bert did have Danny Laureta mention in his report that their is a league tournament coming up in Yuba City on July 14 and 15.

Golf - Danny reported had 36 golfers at the last outing and that he had done a 2-man best ball and that he had given out prize money for 1st to 5th place and that 6th, 7th and 8th place winners had received a sleeve of golf balls.

Fishing - Open position, no report.

House - Jerry Erath reported everything was ready to go for today's luncheon and that it was set up for 180 members.

Pinochle - Bob Morrison reported that for June he had between 12 and 16 players, one of which was a new player. Bob has said that Jerry Morrow, our area governor, was one of his players and that he comes in first most of the time.

RV Travel - Jim Botto reported that he had 13 rigs that traveled to the Rolling Hills Casino and had a great seafood buffet that night. Then the next day we had 14 rigs travel to Lassen Pines RV park and the new owner was absolutely overwhelmed by having that many show up at one time. Earl Randall's girlfriend (Wanita) had a birthday (her 81st) so one evening we had a big celebration with cake and 'home made' ice cream and just had a wonderful time! Jim also mentioned that we now have the RV Club newsletter on our sonorasirs.org website and that it contained lots of pictures for everyone to enjoy.

The next outing will be the Sirs BBQ picnic instead of a separate outing for the RV Club since most of the members will be there.

It was pointed out by Jim that this Saturday at Utica Park in Angels Camp he is hosting an Italian Club picnic and it is open to everyone so if you can make it please do.

The next RV Club outing is in September to Laguna Seca and will be a great outing as the Italian Festival will be in full swing.

SIR Merchandise - Cecil Steen reported that sales last month had done better than any month thus far this year.

Travel - Rich Lundin reported that sign up forms would be out at the luncheon for the Bode trip that's being scheduled for October 20 - 22, 2014. He needed 30 participants (\$250 each pp double or \$350 single) in order to lock in the trip.

Rich mentioned that he now has the "SIR Mother Lode News Letter" for branches #77, #136 and #172 that is now online. However, there is not a link on our sonorasir.org website but Rich will work with Jerry to set this up.

Rich is now working on setting up a better trip for Costa Rica but there is a lot to see.

This last weekend Rich had gone to Fort Mason for 'improv' which is a great venue. He said we can get a good deal with Sir Francis Drake hotel and Paul is looking into setting up a trip there. Jim Johnson asked about Beach Blanket Babylon and asked whether or not this could be worked into the venue. It was also close to a great Italian restaurant. Rich said he would look into this.

Old Business - Veterans Data Sheets would be on the tables today and we would be doing this thru October as we're going out an planning a big 'bash' for November to recognize our veterans.

New Business -

Frank Taylor brought up the fact that for the last two years he had been running the bowling league account thru our branch account. He said that now the State wants us to set up a separate account. While Frank had no problem continuing to run it thru our branch account it was decided that the bowling league should have their own separate account (like the RV Club and the Golf Club) and that Frank should only 'see' a 'treasurers report' once a month from them. This means that the Bowling League would be responsible for setting up their own checking account, purchasing their own checks and managing their monies. According to our by-laws the accounts should be completely separate from the branch, a financial statement will be given to the branch's treasurer every month and the account will be audited once a year.

Little Sir then asked Blair Abbott, assistant treasurer, to 'audit' the individual account(s), i.e., their monthly financial statements, etc. and then pass them on to Frank - Mr. Abbott agreed.

Little Sir then said he would like to put in place a recognition program that recognizes a volunteer of the year, a recruiter of the year and a Sir of the year in our branch. He asked the group if this would be something of interest and received a positive response.

Little Sir then discussed the BEC meetings we have the day before our special events (Ladies Day, Annual Picnic and Christmas luncheon) and questioned the group on the need for these meetings, especially since most of us were very busy in getting ready for the events the day before.

Note: Under Rule 175 (Article 4 - Branch Secretary) it states:
If in any given month no BEC meeting was held, the secretary, in lieu of minutes, shall send a note by the end of that month to his Area Governor and Regional Directory stating that no BEC meeting was held by his Branch for that month.

It was decided that since there is no hard requirement to have a meeting then if, on the day of one of our special events, if a meeting was needed, we would step aside at the event for a short 'BEC' meeting to address any pending item.

SecDec said that if we did have a meeting he would document it in the meetings for that month and if we did not he would report such fact to the Area Governor and the Regional Director per Rule 175 (Article 4 - Branch Secretary).

A motion was requested by Little Sir that we not have a BEC meeting on the day before a special event and that if one was needed that we 'step aside' for a quick meeting at the event. A motion was made by Mariano Garces and seconded by Bob Gelber to said effect. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Note to our Regional Director and Area Governor - Branch #136 will not have a BEC meeting in the months of our special events. If such a meeting is required it will be held by 'stepping aside' the necessary board members during the special event and handling the issue(s) as needed. Such a meeting, if held, will be documented in a BEC Board Meeting minutes and distributed as prescribed in our by-laws. On the other hand, if no meeting is held it will be documented per Rule 175 (Article 4 - Branch Secretary).

Little Sir then brought up a discussion about the last table drawn for the luncheon (to receive their meal). It cost \$10.00 for a carafe of red & white wine and the members are not drinking it because it's so late in the luncheon. In addition, there's a liability issue in which if the members drink the wine (along with any drinks they may have had during the social hour/luncheon) and have an accident the branch could be held liable in the event of an accident. Especially if one member drinks the whole carafe of wine.

I'm thinking about giving them a partial credit at the bar for their drink next month or a discount on the cost of the luncheon - also next month.

It was brought up by Frank Taylor as to why anything which Jim agreed was another option. Or at the following luncheon letting those members go first, however, it may not be the same members at the table.

Jim Botto brought up that the Italian Club had the same problem and what they ended up doing was drawing all the numbers at one time, identifying which was the last table to go to the serving line, and giving them their wine at the beginning of the luncheon.

Al Limon suggested that we take action today and not delay it to a future BEC meeting.

A motion was made by Bert Maxwell and seconded by Jake Parsons that we no longer give wine to the last table called because of liability issues. The motion was passed by the BEC.

A last item that needs to be discussed but not today because we're running late is that we need help for Bert Abreo at the front table. He never gets into the social hour or into the meetings because he's always checking in members for the luncheon and then reconciling the money. Neal Williams used to help him but then Neal got sick and is on inactive now and we're just having a terrible time getting others to assist.

Jim said that he believes John Bristow will be back in September (Jim Johnson will not be attending the luncheon due to prior commitments) so he won't be back (as acting Big Sir) for the rest of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

The next Branch BEC Board Meeting will not be held in August per the motion presented, seconded and approved as noted directly above.

However, our regular BEC Board Meeting for September will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 10:00am.

Minutes prepared by Branch 136 Secretary
Dale Decker
July 10, 2014.

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