



Sonora Branch No. 136

Branch Executive Committee Meeting March 11, 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, and Jake Parsons

Not Present: Mariano Garces

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

Not Present: Fishing Jim Nuzum, Luncheon Tickets and Neil Williams (inactive status)

Past Big SIRs: Al Limon, Bill Dunlavy, Baci Frecceri and Phil VanSwoll

Little Sir Jim Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:09 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 February 11, 2014 Meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jerry Bellefeuille and seconded by Jake Parsons. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Treasurer - Treasurer Frank Taylor presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2014 which showed we started the month with a checking account balance of \$2,962.29 and the month with a checking account balance of \$4,008.51.

Treasurer Frank Taylor pointed out that the General Fund Receipts included \$1,650.00 in contributions and luncheon receipts for 171 meals (@\$2.00/meal) for \$3342.00. Additionally he covered supporting details of the General Fund Disbursements of \$621.27 and pointed out that to date he had received 143 contributions which is approximately 66%. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Blair Abbot and seconded by Jerry Bellefeuille. The motion was passed by the BEC.

A point was brought up by Treasurer Frank Taylor that since we have raised our annual dues to \$25 shouldn't we increase our application fee for new members to \$35 (currently it's \$25).

After some minor discussion a motion was suggested by Little Sir Jim Johnson that we accept the Treasurer's report and also approve raising the application fee to \$35.00 This suggestion of a motion was officially made by Bob Gelber and seconded by Maury Rollins. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Little Sir Jim Johnson then stated that starting next month the new member application fee would be \$35.00 and that the Membership Chairman would update the applications and the Internet Chairman would upload the new application form.

Little SIR - Little SIR Jim Johnson reported that we are all set for the Ladies Day Luncheon and that he had sent everyone an estimated budget. He said he nicked and dined everyone he possibly could to keep the costs down. The menu is going to be New York Steak and Cordon Bleu (previously it was going to be Sirloin Steak) and that he had worked with Dino to get the cost down \$5.00 for a final cost of \$15.00 per plate.

Jim described some of the expenses as reported in his estimated budget and mentioned that it looked like the branch would have to throw in \$464.00 to keep the member's cost at \$20.00. For the Ladies Day Luncheon we're going to have a drawing (not a raffle) for prizes. Jim asked that if anyone was handy in crafts and wanted to donate something they've made or if they just wanted to donate a bottle of wine or something else then let's do it.

A motion was requested to approve the Ladies Day Luncheon and the associated expenditures by Little Sir. Blair Abbot made said motion which was seconded by Jerry Bellefeuille. The motion was approved by the BEC.

Jim pointed out the we had gone to a committee process this year (for the Ladies Day Luncheon) and that it had been a big help. The committee members are Mariano Garces, Maurice Rollins and Bob Gelber and instead of one ticket person when we start sales in April we will have three.

Jim then 'detailed' his plan for table reservations - essentially asking for one name for each table and if other members/guests wish to sit at a particular table then they would give that table 'owner's name when purchasing their ticket(s).

Attendance/Membership - Attendance & Membership Chairman Angelo Costanza presented the March 2014 monthly report which was previously distributed to the BEC. Angelo pointed out that we have three new applicants to install today: Steve Gaither, Bill Guenza and Gary Troedson. Mike Grace has requested to be placed on inactive status as he is a caregiver for his wife who is very ill.

Additionally, for today we have four new applications to be approved: Mike LaFrance, Steve Hagel, Tom Jamieson and Don Watson.

Current membership is 218 and we should be at 221 after the luncheon and installation ceremony. There were 174 members attending last month's luncheon which is 84% - a very high number of participation - excused was 18% and 44 members not attending.

It was pointed out by secretary Dale Decker that we have one member that has been inactive over 12 months and that the board had voted in months past that we would drop those members. The name of

the member couldn't recalled so Little Sir Jim Johnson asked Angelo to find out who it is and to let him know.

A motion was made by Angelo Costanza and seconded by Maurice Rollins to approve the new member applications, the Attendance & Membership Report and Mike Grace being placed on the inactive list. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Bulletin/Internet - Jerry Bellefeuille - no report.

Chaplin - Prior to Paul Bullman giving his Chaplin's report Little Sir Jim Johnson brought up that Big Sir John Bristow was going to have his hip replacement surgery when the doctor suggested that he get an EKG and a chest x-ray. Well, in doing this it was discovered that John needs to have a heart valve replaced and that it was a good thing that this was discovered now - because had he gone into surgery for his hip he may not of made it through.

Jim then mentioned that Rich Rinaldi has some blockage in his carada artery and he was going in to have it cleaned out the first of April.

Paul then mentioned that Bill Schula was in a very serious condition with a prostrate problem and that Stu Galka's wife Sherry was undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

Activity Reports:

Bowling - Bert Abreo reported that there are two tournaments this month or in April: Carson City and Polluck Pines and entries are available. Bert mentioned that he not yet heard from State Sirs relative to our tournament next year. As a highlight to our board meeting Bert told us that Dave Rossi, one of our members, had bowled a 300 (perfect game) in an association tournament this past week. This is certainly a major milestone in a bowler's career!

Travel - Rich Lundin not present - no report.

RV Travel - Jim Botto reported that he now has an approved calendar for 2014 and that he was providing a copy for the minutes. He also said they have three new potential members interested in the RV Travel group: Don Watson, Steve Hagel and Mike LaFrance and if they join the RV group would total of 18 rigs.

Jim mentioned that they have their first outing coming this Sunday and that they were going to Jackson Rancheria.

The 2014 RV Club Outing Schedule (the schedule was available at the board meeting but not reviewed in its entirety so its included here for board meeting documentation purposes):

March 17 - 19	Jackson Rancheria
April 14 -16	Gold Strike RV Park
May 19 - 21	Sugar Barge RV Park
June 20 - 26	Fall River Mills RV Park
August 2014	Dark Month
September 4 - 7	Laguna Seca RV Park
October 20 -22	Far Horizons 49er RV Park
November 17 - 19	Gilroy Garlic USA RV Park
December 5	Christmas Party Sonora Hills Recreation Center

A motion to approve the 2014 RV Travel Schedule was made by Jerry Bellefeuille and seconded by Angelo Costanza. The motion was approved by the BEC.

Golf - Danny Laureta not present - no report.

Fishing - Jim Nuzum not present - no report

Internet - Jerry Bellefeuille reported that the new bulletin looked great on the internet. Jerry had contacted other branches in the area and had sent links out so the board could review other branch bulletins. Jim Johnson interjected a comment that other branches had a Help Wanted section and that we should look into having the same.

SIR Merchandise - Cecil Steen reported that sales were SLOW! It was mentioned (by some unnamed board member that Cecil should put an action plan to increase sales together).

Pinchhole - Bob Morrison reported that for the last four meetings he was getting between 13 and 15 players over the four (4) Mondays with an average of 14. Also, that he not enlisted any new players recently.

Bob then mentioned that yesterday Jerry Morrow came in first place, Rolin Patton came in second and Bob Morrison came in third (after a long struggle).

House - Jerry Erath reported that everything was ready for today's luncheon.

Old Business - None

New Business -

Jim Johnson told the board that the Columbia College Foundation was having a seminar on the drought - the causes and how to deal with it. The seminar is on Thursday, March 13th at 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Sonora High School Auditorium. TUD would be there along with select speakers from the state.

Secretary Dale Decker covered the results of moving our bulletin printing to another vendor (Pac N Copy):

In summary, the printing of 110 copies saved us \$18.00, the preparation of 91 copies for mailing saved us \$10.50 and since the formatting was now done in-house we saved an additional \$35.00. Bottom line - although there was a slight increase in some incendiary items, the final savings amounted to \$57.84 this month, however, the savings over a year are projected to be \$694.08.

SecDeck also mentioned that we can add another 8 1/2 X 11 page, printed both sides for only an additional \$11.00 per month so we have a lot of expansion room.

Jim Johnson has been working with Pac N Copy on the flyers with the result being that we could get 350 flyers printed on color paper that saves us \$8.50 (3 times a year for \$25.50) and 200 tickets printed on color paper, with sequential numbers, that saves us \$17.50 (3 times a year for \$48.50).

This is a total projected savings of \$860 per year.

Jim Johnson reviewed his work on trying to get a postal permit where we would only pay \$0.33 (instead of \$0.54) for each bulletin mailed. However, the postal permit costs \$400/year plus the \$0.33 per copy - certainly not what we're looking for.

The postal 'lady' suggested that Jim check with the Chamber of Commerce as they had a postal permit account we could possibly use as a non-profit, however, in checking on this Jim found out that they have gone to completely to the internet now.

Jim then mentioned that he had sent an e-mail and a copy of our current bulletin (in color) to all members that have an e-mail address but were receiving the bulletin by mail asking them to consider changing to viewing it on the internet. To date he has not received any responses but he is still pursuing this.

Note: there was a poster placed at the front table giving a comparison of internet vs mail that showed the branch could save an additional \$1,092 per year if we could get members (currently 91) to receive their bulletins electronically.

Bottom line - we're going to go with Pac N Copy as the current savings are substantial.

A question in regards to a Bocce Ball tournament that was mentioned in the bulleting was raised. It was pointed out that one of our members, Ray Andreini, has a Bocce Ball court in his backyard and has offered to host a tournament there this summer for Sirs members - 20 at a time. Also, Ray Malispina has a Bocce Ball court and may also participate but we need to approach him on this.

Phil VanSwoll related that Yankee Hill has a court although parking is severely limited and that Jim Costello (Mt. Brow Winery) also has a court a lots of parking spaces. Further discussion ensued that there are number of Bocce Ball courts in the local and remote areas around Sonora.

Al Limon brought up an item that we should all consider - that being that some of us; Bulletin Editor, Membership Chairman, Treasurer and Internet Chairmen - do not have backups (bodies) that could do the work if the principals get sick or otherwise incapacitated.

Little Sir Jim Johnson said that we should look at putting a 'help wanted' item in the bulletin and look towards getting 'backups' in place.

Note from SecDeck: I will ask Little Sir to put an item on the agenda for next month to discuss the need (or requirement) for each principal to put together a 'timeline chart' and a written procedure for each of the major branch positions. Angelo Costanza currently has these in place and with the simple transfer of the 'working file' another computer savvy member can step in and perform this position.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

The next Branch BEC Board Meeting will be on April 8, 2014 at 10:00 am.

Minutes prepared by Branch 136 Secretary
Dale Decker
March 13, 2014.

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