



Sonora SIR Branch No. 136

**Branch Executive Committee Meeting November 14, 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 and Assistant Treasurer Eddie Toews.

Not Present: Treasurer John Salmon.

Directors: George Cocores, Stan Enos, Steven Holt and Marty Martin.

Not Present: Melvin Kutsch and Rex Page.

Committee Chairmen: Bulletin Jim Botto, Car Club Rick Bronner, Membership George Cocores, Propane Marty Martin and RV Travel Eddie Toews .

Not Present: Bowling Don Banchemo, Chaplain Steve Gregory, Fishing Chuck Simons, Internet & Zoom Jerry Bellefeuille, Kayaking Sol Robin, Lunch Tickets Jerry Bellefeuille, Photographer Steve Belochi.

Past Big SIRs: Jim Botto, Dale Decker, Paul Squeri and Gene Zanoni.

State SIR Pres.-Elect: Dale Decker.

Call to Order – Big SIR Eddie Toews called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.

Roll Call – Secretary Gene Zanoni took attendance and informed the board that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda – Big SIR Eddie Toews asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. He then commented on the following addition: Reference New Business Item 3. annual appreciation awards (see page 5). Recognizing this change the agenda was then approved.

Secretary's Report – Big SIR Eddie Toews asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the October 10, 2023 meeting. There were none and the minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

This report was prepared by Treasurer John Salmon who was unable to attend today's meeting due to a family emergency. As a result, Assistant Treasurer Eddie Toews presented the October 2023 monthly Treasurer's Report. He reported that we had a beginning checking account balance of \$14,464.08 and a month ending balance of \$15,233.02 and \$150.00 cash on hand. General Fund Receipts: Luncheon profit \$174.00, Dues collected \$20.00, Guest expense \$17.00. Custodial Fund Receipts: Luncheon \$956.00, Christmas ticket sales \$1,400.00, New member badge \$10.00, Returned check \$52.34. General Fund Disbursements: Printing, Supplies and Taxes \$58.04, Postage \$21.00, Guest expense \$17.00, State Board Assessment \$268.00, Rent, Setup, Cleanup \$300.00, Overpaid dues \$5.00, Birthday lunch \$20.00, Sponsor lunch \$20.00. Custodial Fund Disbursements: Luncheon \$956.00, Christmas ticket printing \$37.80, Replace check lost in mail \$7.56. There were no additions or corrections to the presentation, thus, the report was approved as presented.

Big SIR Report – Eddie Toews

1. John Quinton, who helped at the front table greeting people, suddenly passed away on Friday, October 20th. He was 82 years of age and joined SIRs in March 2022. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends. He will be missed at SIRs.
2. Discuss the results of Marty Martin's resignation letter.

The committee composed of Little SIR Rick Bronner, Past-Big SIR Paul Squeri and Director Stan Enos met with Marty Martin in an attempt to bring about an amicable resolution to the differences addressed in a prior BEC meeting due to recent events. The closed-door meeting proved successful for the discord that was previously addressed was settled to the satisfaction of all four members in attendance. Moreover, in recognition to the long-term valuable membership contributions produced by Marty, including those of his wife (Cheri), it was suggested to award Marty a sum equivalent to the value of a pair of 2023 Christmas Luncheon tickets previously purchased. Such a motion was made by Bill Burnes and seconded by Rick Bronner and was approved by the BEC.

3. Read into the minutes the results of the "Freedom of Speech" situation. Including Dale Decker's answer to the question.

A short time ago, the sensitive issue of free speech surfaced as it relates to SIR sponsored events. There seemed to be some confusion among branch members regarding this topic as it applies to discussions that may or may not be deemed appropriate. Today, this matter was retired as a result of the clarification issued by SIR Inc. President-Elect Dale Decker. He communicated the current existing policy that can be summed up in the following:

No political, religious nor charitable issues are to be discussed during any official SIR meeting. This defining event mandates that recorded minutes of the proceedings be produced as well as maintained in accordance with existing regulations.

Little SIR Report – Rick Bronner

1. Update on guest speakers.

Our guest speaker for today's luncheon will be Senior Veterans Service Administrator Vickie Wilson. She is affiliated with the County of Tuolumne Veterans Service Office and is an appropriate guest speaker for November, the month when we honor our many SIR veterans.

2. Marketing Materials

Rick made an appeal for a 2024 advertising supplies budget for \$300.00. Items to be purchased includes business cards, pamphlets, plastic brochure stands, etc. These supplies are to be distributed at selected sites within our community for the recruitment effort of potential branch members. Subsequent the discussion, Rick then made a motion to accept the foregoing budget proposal. The motion was then seconded by Marty Martin and passed by the BEC.

3. Miscellaneous.

Rick announced receiving a remittance of \$120.00 from Dotty Popovich, of State Farm Insurance, for advertising space in our monthly bulletin for 2024. Thereby, becoming the first such carryover from 2023.

Attendance/Membership Reports:

The combined Membership/Attendance Report and Form 27 – Monthly Branch Membership Report for October were prepared by Membership Chairman George Cocores. Big SIR Eddie Toews presented the results from information given him. We started the month with 133 members and during the month we added 1 new member (Verne Walter) while losing 2 members as a result of the following: 1 moved away (Bill Hansen) and 1 deceased (John Quinton). Thus, we ended October with 132 members. The reporting was approved as presented.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT

Bulletin Report – Editor Jim Botto gave notice that he will be moving from California around mid-year 2024.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Golf – Rick Bronner announced the final tournament of the year is scheduled for next Tuesday at the Teleli Golf Course in Sonora. In 2024 there are plans to explore one or two new golf course venues for possible tournament activity.

Chaplin – Big SIR Eddie Toews announced that Reverend Verne Walter, who was recently installed in October, has agreed to become the branch's Assistant Chaplin.

RV Travel – Eddie Toews reported the group's final outing of the year occurred at the Jackson Rancheria hosted by Sol Robin. The group enjoyed its pristine amenities and even took time to visit the always exciting agricultural community of Apple Hill. The annual RV Christmas Dinner on December 14th is our year-ending function.

Old Business

1. The new officers and directors for 2024 include the following candidates:

Officers:

Big SIR	Rick Bronner
Little SIR	Mike Krom
Secretary	Steve Holt
Assistant Secretary	Gene Zaroni
Treasurer	John Salmon
Assistant Treasurer	Eddie Toews

Directors:

<u>1st Year</u>	<u>2nd Year</u>
Jim Botto	George Cocores
Bill Burnes	Stan Enos
Raul Santana	Mel Kutsch
Paul Squeri	Marty Martin

The new BEC will receive nomination consideration during the November regular meeting.

2. Christmas Luncheon tickets are still on sale at today's regular meeting. Remember to bring a raffle prize.

New Business

1. Dale Decker – Time to discuss a state issue.

State SIR Inc. President-Elect Dale Decker distributed a comprehensive six-page presentation whose defining themes relate to membership and finance. Our branch, though not alone in this situation, is plagued with an aging membership. Without the presence of younger members this promotes a major concern to all. Perhaps, this helps to explain in-part why our monthly luncheons and special events are not well attended in comparison to past events. This fact is supported by statistical analysis compiled by Dale covering many years.

To overcome some of our current hurdles, Dale accentuated the elements of membership, namely, expansion, retention and participation. In support of his ideas, he cited examples of other branch successes whose practices are available for adoption by other branches.

Another idea that Dale offers is making additional branch funds available

to assist in offsetting expenses associated with branch activities. In other words, “giving back to the members.” Thereby, reducing the out-of-pocket expenses that may otherwise inhibit member participation while increasing attendance.

Much of our branch’s future success is directly related to the degree of change we are willing to embrace in order to bolster administrative efficiencies.

2. Discuss new raffle tickets for the future.

Also appearing in the foregoing presentation, Dale Decker introduced a sample of the Chinese Auction Ticket Sheets (“Sheet(s)”) currently used by Sierra Branch 77 in their raffle activity. They are selling them 1 Sheet for \$10.00 and 3 Sheets for \$25.00. Their size measures approximately 4.5”x2.0” and each Sheet includes 1 stub, 1 raffle ticket and 10 bid tickets containing the same number. One package consists of 500 yellow Sheets costing \$19.99.

There are numerous advantages of adopting this product as a replacement over the single ones on the roll raffle tickets currently in use; and, they include the following: storage convenience, sales dispensing, vibrant color that reduces hardship for identifying numbers, ease of ticket removal due to superior perforations and ticket construction is of high quality that gives the raffle event a classic touch. Following the discussion of its merits, Marty Martin made a motion in support for the purchase of one package of Sheets. The motion was seconded by Rick Bronner and passed by the BEC.

3. The annual appreciation awards consideration for 2023 shall be emailed shortly for exclusive voting by BEC members. A prompt response is requested in order for the awards to become available for distribution in time for the Christmas Luncheon.

4. There will not be a BEC meeting in December due to our annual Christmas Luncheon that includes our wives and/or significant others attending. In keeping with this tradition, the BEC passed its acceptance.

Birthday recognition for November.

To be announced from the result of a random drawing during today’s luncheon.

Next BEC meeting – January 9, 2024 starting at 10:00 am at the Elks Lodge.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 am.

Gene V. Zanoni, Secretary
November 28, 2023