



Sonora Branch No. 136

Branch Executive Committee Meeting October 14, 2014 Minutes

In Attendance:

BEC Board Members: Big Sir John Bristow, Little Sir Jim Johnson, Secretary Dale Decker, Asst Secretary Jerry Bellefeuille, Treasurer and Frank Taylor.

Not Present: Asst Treasurer Blair Abbott

Directors: Bert Maxwell, , Angelo, Costanza, Mariano Garces and Bob Gelber

Not Present: Maurice Rollins and Jake Parsons

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

Not Present: Honorary Life Membership Al Limon, Luncheon Tickets **Open**, Fishing **Open** and Public Relations **Open**.

Past Big SIRs: Bill Dunlavy, Don Banchemo, Baci Frecceri and Phil VanSwoll

Visitors: Rex Page and John Howsden

Big Sir John Bristow called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

A Roll Call of Officers and Directors in attendance was made. A quorum was present.

Attendance/Membership - Attendance & Membership Chairman Angelo Costanza presented the October 2014 monthly report which was previously distributed to the BEC.

Angelo reported that we had previously approved Paul Padavana for membership in our last BEC meeting and that he had three (3) other applicants that we needed to approve today and install (Barry Bynum, Marty Martin and Walter Schoenmann).

He then mentioned that one thing that he had left off was that Paul Becker #013 was requesting inactive status as his wife was very sick and he was having difficulty attending the meetings. Angelo said he had called him and Paul said that he would attend next month's luncheon (Paul is one our most decorated veterans and the November is a special veterans recognition luncheon).

Angelo said we had seven (7) members resign (health & attendance) and one member (Jack Nichols) he could not get in touch with had apparently moved to Copperopolis so he was requesting that we drop him (Jack has been inactive for over one year).

We also have three (3) members deceased: Larry Jones, Gene Peterson and Pete Rooney,

Angelo reported that our current membership is be 217 (actually 213 as we are installing four (4) new members today).

A motion was made by Mariano Garces to approve the one member we were dropping, the three new applicants to be installed today and Angelo's membership report. The motion was seconded by Bob Gelber and the motion was passed by the BEC.

Secretary - Secretary Dale Decker asked if there were any updates, corrections or deletions to the minutes which were previously distributed on September 11th to the BEC for the September 9, 2014 Meeting. No updates, corrections or deletions were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob Gelber and seconded by Jerry Bellefeuille. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Treasurer - Treasurer Frank Taylor presented the Treasurer's Report for October 2014 and stated we started the month with a checking account balance of \$4,821.48, ended the month with an account balance of \$4,123.07 and had \$200 cash on hand.

Treasurer Frank Taylor said we had received three (3) contributions from members and that we had 152 members for lunch last month and that he had paid the quarterly state assessment of \$280. Also that we had \$771.41 in expenses and everything had gone well.

Little Sir Jim Johnson asked when the state assessments were due and Frank explained when they were due for each quarter. Jim then asked Frank to put the 'quarter' in which they were paid on the report so there wouldn't be any confusion as to which quarter was being paid - Frank agreed to do this.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Mariano Garces and seconded by Bob Gelber. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Little SIR - Jim Johnson said that he, along with Mariano Garces and Bob Gelber, would be selling tickets today for the Christmas luncheon and that he would be doing reservations again for tables. He said that he had not received any complaints about this system so he would be using it again.

Veterans day recognition for next month was mentioned and that he (Jim), Dale, Rinaldi and Teal had been working very hard on this and were almost there. It's going to be a big deal and we need to start our luncheon meeting 10 minutes early as we have a lot to cover.

There will also be the installation of our 2015 officers and directors by Jerry (Morrow, Area Governor) and we would be taking a full 30 minutes for our veteran recognition event.

For the Christmas luncheon ticket sales today the cutoff would be before Thanksgiving and we are limiting them to 200 tickets. The price for the luncheon only went up one dollar and we would be having New York Steak or Salmon. Prime Rib would have been another couple of bucks so we went ahead with the steak and salmon.

Jim then mentioned that starting this year he would like to start a 'Sir of the Year' and a 'Rooster Booster of the Year' recognition. The first recognition for the member that has gone above and beyond in contributing to our branch and the second recognition for the member that has brought in the most new members this year. So Jim was requesting some money for a couple of plaques.

Danny Laureta asked a question as to bringing contributions for the Christmas luncheon and who would be taking those. Jim said that Mariano (Garces) would be taking these so just let him know what you have and what you would be bringing and give to him on the day of the luncheon. That way he could count on it and categorize it for the event.

Since Jim Johnson was getting ready to leave and sell tickets he brought up 'New Business':

He said that we've had a few issues with the dues in that some applicants didn't want to join this month and have to pay the \$25 assessment this year and then turn around in January and pay the \$25 assessment again for next year. So we have a proposal to prorate the assessments for new members so if they join in the last half of the year they won't have to pay the full assessment.

The proposal is that if you come in the first half of the year you pay the full \$25 plus \$10 for the badge (i.e. \$35). If you come in the last half of the year you pay one half, or \$12.50 plus \$10 for the badge (i.e. \$22.50). Then in January of the next year all members would be assessed the full amount (currently \$25) so all members would be in sync.

A motion to approve the request for money to cover a couple of plaques and to change the fee on our membership application was made by Bob Gelber and seconded by Jerry Bellefeuille. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Jim Johnson then brought up the funding for the veterans day luncheon. He said we've had some printing expenses, some for frames and for two or three lunches so it would be about \$150.

A motion was made by Jerry Bellefeuille to approve the veterans day luncheon expenses and seconded by Mariano Garces. The motion was passed by the BEC.

The last item brought up by Jim was in regards to our luncheon meals and how we go about working with Dino on the menu and setting the price which has been \$10 (amount paid to Dino out of our \$12 cost to members) for the past 5 years. So, we went to Dino this year and he said \$12 (actually Holly said this as she was covering for Dino as he was in Greece). Twain Harte had said they would pay it, Jim said we would not pay it and branch #77 said they wouldn't pay it.

For the first time ever all three branches (#77, #136 and #172) got together and sat down with Dino and agreed we would all have the same meal in the same month (special event months excluded) so that he could buy in bulk and help save him some money. Dino said he was in agreement with this and would only be raising his cost to us by \$1 so we would be paying him \$11 per meal.

Also, in talking with the Elks Lodge we learned that there might be a price increase in April for the use of the room and in the setup charges. Since we don't know at this time we've added a 'cancellation clause' into the new contract with Dino. This will allow any party to cancel the 'contract' with 30 days notice if needed.

So starting next year our regular member lunches will increase to \$13 which is still a great price considering what other branches we've looked at are paying. And, Ladies Day and Christmas would be negotiated separately as they have been in the past.

A motion was made by Mariano Garces to approve the increase in the regular luncheon member's cost to \$13 and seconded by Angelo Costanza. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Jim Johnson then asked if we still needed the Old Business item 'Members with delinquent dues 2014' and it was determined that we didn't since the members that were delinquent had resigned (health & attendance) and that we had voted to terminate the other member that was delinquent since he had been inactive over one year.

Jim said that starting in January when members check in for the luncheon that Frank (Taylor) and Blair (Abbott) will be there with invoices for each member's 2015 dues assessment. This would be discussed in more detail later.

Big Sir John Bristow mentioned that he had attended the memorial service for Dusty Rhodes and that he was very impressed in that there were 300+ people there and also in the size of the number of family members present.

John also said that one our members, William (Bill) Challis, is 95 years old and showed the BEC a SIRs plaque for him. John said that Bill was currently in Avalon (care center) since he had fallen and broke something so he would stop by and present him with the plaque after today's luncheon.

Chaplin - Paul Bullman mentioned that Earl Randall and Jim Van Gerpen both had a hip replacement, Bill Challis had fallen and broke something and Arlene Taylor (Frank's wife) had a knee replacement.

Activity Reports:

Bowling - Bert Abreo said that the SIRs bowling league is now in its sixth week. We do need more bowlers as Jim Van Gerpen has had a hip replacement which will keep him from bowling for at least two months. Also, that Bill Hines is not bowling while he continues to deal with health issues. Both of these gentlemen hope to return by the first of the year.

The next couple of branch tournaments are in Brentwood on October 21 and 23, in Modesto on November 5 and 7 and in Concord on November 11 and 12. The Concord tournament is the last one for the 2014 year. Note: Don Banchemo said he thought the flyer for the Brentwood event said the 14th and the 16th which is today and Thursday. Bert said he would have to check on this.

Golf - Danny Laureta reported that for the first time the SIRs golfing group went to La Contenta Golf Club in Valley Springs and everybody had a great time. This time the golfers wanted to pair up with whomever they wanted to play with so you could have the high handicappers as a team and the low handicappers as another. As it turned out the 'stacked team' came in last.

For next year Danny said had taken a poll and they would be playing at La Contenta, Castle Oaks and Pine Mountain Lake and he was just waiting for confirmation.

Fishing - Open position, no report.

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

Internet - Jerry Bellefeuille reported that something happened this month as we found a copy of our roster on a Google search and that he had it removed. He said he couldn't find any other copies out there but if we found any to let him know so it could be removed.

Pinochle - Bob Morrison reported that he is getting between 12 and 17 players and that they were having a great time.

It was mentioned to Bob that one of the players quit because he is in the SIRs bowling league and he was a couple of minutes late and thus docked 50 points (bowling is at 10:00 am to Noon+ on Mondays and Pinochle starts at 12:30 pm on the same day). It was pointed out that the start time for Pinochle should be moved out to reduce the overlap. Bob said it was up to Roland Patton - in which case John Bristow said he would call him.

Travel - Rich Lundin reported that the October 20-22 SIRs Nevada Ghost Town etc. trip fell through. Although he had 6 people signed up they all backed out for various reasons (don't want to spend the money/any money, health and altitude). Rich said that his wife and Tom Harrington and his wife went on this trip several times to eliminate hazards, etc. to make it a successful outing and had scheduled a mandatory meeting on Monday (13th) to go over the plans but no one showed up.

Rich said he was working with a new outfit, Sierra Adventures, for an overnight trip to the Dickens Fair between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Sierra Adventures needs to get certified by State SIRs which has all their paperwork now - they're just waiting to get it back.

Big Sir John Bristow mentioned that he had a yearbook for 1996 put together by Dusty Rhodes when he was big sir. He said he would put it out there if anybody wanted to look through it. He also said we don't have a place to keep it so it just gets passed on from big sir to big sir.

RV Travel - Jim Botto reported they had a great trip in September to Laguna Seca where they could watch the cars running on the track from their campsites. He also talked about the great time they had at the Italian Festival in Monterey.

The next outing will be to Plymouth, CA (just North of Jackson) where they will be staying at the 49'er Trailer Village (Oct 20 - 22). They have a Halloween tradition where the RV'ers decorate their rigs and they have all kinds of things set up. Last year was absolutely wonderful and everyone had a great time.

In November they will be going to the Garlic Festival in Gilroy, CA and then in December they will be having their Christmas party.

SIR Merchandise - Nothing to report.

Old Business - None

New Business - Covered earlier in the Little Sir report.

Meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.

Our next Branch BEC Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 10:00am.

Minutes prepared by Branch 136 Secretary
Dale Decker
October 15, 2014.

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