



Sonora Branch No. 136

## Branch Executive Committee Meeting September 9, 2014 Minutes

### In Attendance:

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

**Not Present:** None

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

**Not Present:** Bob Gelber

**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, and Bulletin Dale Decker.

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

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

**Area Governor** Jerry Morrow.

Big Sir John Bristow called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Big Sir John Bristow reviewed the BEC board meeting agenda and asked if anything needed to be added or changed. None was presented.

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

**Secretary** - Secretary Dale Decker asked if there were any updates, corrections or deletions to the minutes which were previously distributed to the BEC for the July 8, 2014 Meeting. No updates, corrections or deletions were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mariano Garces and seconded by Jerry Bellefeuille. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Secretary Dale Decker informed the BEC that no board meeting was held in August due to the branch holding its annual picnic and under Rule 175 (Article 4 - Branch Secretary) only documentation stating such is required. Minutes to this effect were previously distributed to the BEC

for the non BEC August 12, 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 July 2014 which showed we started the month with a checking account balance of \$4,234.90, ended the month with a checking account balance of \$7,228.57 and had \$200 cash on hand.

Treasurer Frank Taylor pointed out that the General Fund Receipts included \$175.00 in annual contributions and receipts from the luncheon for \$264.00 (132 meals @ \$2/meal) for a total of \$439.00.

Custodial Fund Receipts were \$4,684.60 and included \$1,314.00 from the Luncheon ticket sales, \$160.60 for SIR merchandise sales, \$10.00 for one badge and \$3200.00 from the bowling club for their bowling tournament for a total of \$4,684.60. So our checking account balance of \$7,228.57 is actually about \$4,028 but we're doing very well.

Additionally he covered supporting details of the General Fund Disbursements of \$449.78 and for the Custodial Fund Disbursements of \$1,680.15 which were mostly for the luncheon meals and expenses.

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

Finally, Frank stated that to date 98% members have paid their annual dues as of this date. This means that there are 8 members that have not yet paid their dues.

Secdeck brought up the fact that in our previous (July) BEC meeting we raised that question about dropping members that have not paid their dues by Sept 1st. He raised the question again and asked if we were going to take any action(s) based on the that previous meeting and pointed out that in our August [and September] branch bulletin we stated that "If you have not paid your dues by September 1, 2014, you may lose your membership in our SIRs Branch!".

SecDec stated that we had previously considered sending letters to the members that haven't paid their dues yet and that if they don't pay they should be dropped from membership and told that they could appeal at the next board meeting.

It was asked if their names had been included in the bulletin - the answer was no - so then it was asked that their names be read:

Dave Herbertson, Roger Sparks, Bill Schick, Jack Nichols, Ed Daly, Val Schooley, Frank Kilpatrick and Blaine Cluff.

Frank Taylor said Blaine Cluff has been to every luncheon meeting (100% attendance) and that he has paid \$5 of his dues. Perhaps he believes that he has paid the original \$20 (note: the branch dues were \$20/year prior to the BEC voting to increase it to \$25/year).

Frank stated that he had talked to Blain a couple of months ago and Blaine was somewhat confused. He had paid the \$5 increase but had never paid the balance of \$20.

It was also pointed out that Frank Kilpatrick was in our bowling league and is currently bowling so if he doesn't pay his dues he won't be able to bowl with Sirs anymore. Also, that four (4) members are

in the propane co-op and if they don't pay their dues they won't be able to participate in our propane discount program. Finally, Val Schooley is on inactive status but he still needs to pay his dues.

Little Sir Jim Johnson said 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 they are dropped from membership.

Jim also asked if we had talked to these members wherein Membership Chairman Angelo Costanza said that we had.

It was pointed out that Angelo Costanza has the list of these members (along with Frank Taylor and others) and their membership in the propane co-op was indicated along with their attendance record.

Jim Johnson recommended that we send letters to these members, excluding Blaine Cluff, telling them that their termination would be discussed in our next BEC meeting and that they needed to pay their dues by then or come to the board meeting and appeal their upcoming termination. Blaine Cluff is excluded because his attendance is 100% and there's something wrong here that needs to be addressed separately.

A motion was made by Jim Johnson that Angelo Costanza would send these members a letter stating that board would be taking action to terminate their membership. It was further mentioned that of these members, those with 33% or lower attendance, their lack of attendance and their dues was a subject that would be addressed by the board.

Jim stated that he was working with Frank Taylor, Jerry Bellefeuille and Dale Decker in developing an invoice system for next year wherein we give our members an invoice the first of January 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 luncheon meeting in February.

A motion to send letters as stated above was made by Jim Johnson and seconded by Angelo Costanza. The motion was passed by the BEC.

Big Sir John Bristow then introduced our Area Governor, Jerry Morrow, who stated that he would like to take a minute to address the board after the meeting.

**Little SIR** - Secretary Dale Decker reported for Little Sir Jim Johnson the financials for our annual picnic:

Note: It was pointed out that the picnic was an outstanding success and that we planned to have the picnic at the Moose Lodge again next year. Many thanks to Jim Johnson, Mariano Garces, Maurice Rollins and Bob Gelber for the outstanding work they did in organizing and implementing the picnic. A job Well Done!

The 2014 picnic costs came in at \$1, 732.87; food cost was \$1,512.87 and other costs costs totaled \$220.

Income from ticket sales (146) was \$1,752 and the balance from the 50/50 drawing was \$192 for a total profit of \$211.13.

This was a very successful and profitable venture - an Extravaganza! Next Year: Extravaganza II!

Secretary Dale Decker then reported for Little Sir Jim Johnson the budget estimate for our upcoming Ladies Day Christmas Luncheon:

The estimate for expenses (food, entertainment, tickets, set-up, etc. is \$4,608.50.

In looking at the income potential a discussion ensued about the price of the tickets. If we assume 185 tickets will be sold (comparable with our track record) if we price them at \$21 we will lose \$218. If we price them at \$22 we will lose \$33. But, if we price them at \$25 we could see a profit of \$522.

Last year we had a price of \$22 (projected \$152 profit this year) but we don't know what Dino will be charging us for the food this year. Note: Jim Johnson is working with Dino's wife in trying to establish the cost of food this year - Dino is in Greece so his wife is trying to communicate this question with him.

Jim Johnson had put in \$17.00 per meal in the estimate based on having Salmon and Prime Rib - although Don Banchemo, and some others said they would prefer steak, so the final menu may change especially when we know what our food costs will be.

Jim pointed out that we paid \$16.00 per person for the meal last year and that if it goes above \$17.00 (his bogey in the estimate) we'll have to re-think where we're going with the cost of the tickets.

After a lot of discussion it was proposed that we set the price of the Ladies Day Christmas Luncheon tickets at \$23.00 each.

A motion was made by Jerry Bellefeuille to set the price at \$23.00 and seconded by Mariano Garces. The motion was passed by the BEC.

**Attendance/Membership** - Attendance & Membership Chairman Angelo Costanza presented the August 2014 monthly report which was previously distributed to the BEC. Angelo reported that our current membership is 224 (was 225 before the passing of our long time member Dusty Rhodes).

Angelo said we had received one new application for approval: Paul Padavana, sponsor Danny Laureta #036.

A motion was made by Maurice Rollins and seconded by Mariano Garces to approve the application for Paul Padavana and to accept the Attendance & Membership Report. The motion was passed by the BEC.

**Bulletin** - Dale Decker gave an overview of where we stand on the bulletin costs/size:

The previous bulletin was 2 pages, 11 x 14 inches and cost us \$155.00/ month. Since it was designed for legal size paper if you printed a copy from our web page, without putting legal size paper in your printer (if you even had any) it printed out very compacted and was much more difficult to read.

Note: the costs quoted include printing, finishing and 1st class postage.

The new bulletin is 4 pages, 8 1/2 x 11 inches and costs us \$87.00/month - a savings of \$68.00/month. This new size gives us much more real estate for additional items, pictures, etc. And, for an additional \$0.05/page, we can expand the bulletin to 8 pages (maximum

due to postage costs). The current September bulletin used 8 pages and cost us \$105.00 - still a savings of \$50.00 over the previous bulletin. The additional four (4) pages included 32 pictures of our annual picnic.

**Bottom Line:** We have the ability to include more information, articles, pictures, etc in our monthly bulletin and still save costs. We should all think about things we would like to add such as want ads (from/for our members), new activities to consider, etc.

Little Sir Jim Johnson asked our area governor Jerry Morrow if he could look into allowing us to use four (4) 'sponsors' in our bulletins to help offset our postage costs. Perhaps using business card size for sponsor's advertisements.

Jerry said he had a meeting coming up with state SIRs soon and would look into doing this.

**Chaplin** - Paul Bullman mentioned that Pete Rooney, Glen Ashmore and Rick Baird were all ill and needed our prayers.

He also mentioned the passing our long time member Dusty Rhodes (a Celebration of Life will be held on October 11, 2014 at 1:00 pm in the Oak Pavilion Gymnasium, Columbia College) and the passing of Eugene (Pete) Peterson on July 24, 2014.

## **Activity Reports:**

**Bowling** - Bert Abreo said that the SIRs bowling tournament last month was a great success and that they had over 200 SIRs bowlers from many other branches.

Bert also mentioned that the SIRs Bowling League had started yesterday (Monday) and that while the turnout was good he could use more bowlers - either as fill-in for current bowlers that can't attend anymore or for substitute bowlers when needed.

**Golf** - Danny Laureta reported that he had a good turnout at the last event at Mountain Springs and the next outing would be held at La Contenta Golf Club in Valley Springs with a 9:00 am start time.

At last month's turnout Jake Parsons and Dennis Land came in first and Jake said it was the best round he had ever had.

**Fishing** - Open position, no report.

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

**Internet** - Jerry Bellefeuille reported that Danny Laureta published the September bulletin on our website (Jerry was out of town) and that he had done a great job.

Jerry also mentioned that if we knew of someone that could program in HTML he would like to work on improving the appearance of our Sonorasirs.Org web page. SecDec said he would put an item in our next bulletin calling for 'all' HTML programmers.

**Pinochle** - Bob Morrison reported that for August he had between 12 and 16 players and that they were having a great time.

**RV Travel** - Jim Botto reported August was a dark month (no RV travel) for the group but 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 and that he had put information about this outing in his monthly newsletter.

The next outing will be to Plymouth, CA (just North of Jackson) for Oktoberfest where they will be staying at the 49'er Trailer Village (Oct 20 - 22). In November they will be going to the Garlic Festival in Gilroy, CA and then in December will be having their Christmas RV party.

**SIR Merchandise** - No report - had to leave for a doctors appointment.

**Travel** - No report.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** -

Frank Taylor brought up that he had just renewed our voice mail (absent phone call-in number) for another 6 months at a cost of \$10.95/month.

**Other** -

Jerry Morrow, Area Governor, addressed the board and said that our picnic (which Jerry attended) was outstanding and that he had a great time. He also mentioned that he felt we have a great branch and we're doing all the right things to stay successful and was particularly impressed with the attendance at our BEC board meeting.

Little Sir Jim Johnson thanked Jerry for his efforts in getting state SIR President Maynard Rodland to present an Honorary Life Membership to our own Bill Dunlavy. It was also mentioned that this was the first time that anyone could remember that we've had 'the big guy' here and it is very much appreciated.

HLM Bill Dunlavy then thanked the BEC board and Jerry for his participation in his recognition and for his efforts in getting our SIR State President to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

**Our next Branch BEC Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 10:00am.**

Minutes prepared by Branch 136 Secretary  
Dale Decker  
September 11, 2014.

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