



Sonora SIR Branch No. 136

**Branch Executive Committee Meeting September 12, 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, Treasurer John Salmon and Assistant Treasurer Eddie Toews.

Not Present: None.

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

Not Present: Rex Page.

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

Not Present: 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 10:00 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. There were none and the agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report – Big SIR Eddie Toews asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the July 11, 2023 meeting. There were none and the

minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer John Salmon presented the July 2023 monthly Treasurer's Report. He reported that we had a beginning checking account balance of \$15,391.70 and a month ending balance of \$16,056.91 and \$100.00 cash on hand. General Fund Receipts: Raffle revenue \$90.00, Guest expense \$34.00. Custodial Fund Receipts: Luncheon \$1,200.00, Picnic ticket sales \$1,410.00. General Fund Disbursements: Printing, Supplies and Taxes \$60.54, Certificate covers \$19.56, Postage \$21.00, Guest expense \$34.00, State Board Assessment \$262.00, Rent, Setup, Cleanup \$300.00, Raffle payout \$45.00, Birthday lunch \$20.00, Sponsor lunch \$20.00. Custodial Fund Disbursements: Luncheon \$1,255.00, Badge \$7.56, Ink cartridge, paper, tax \$24.13. There were no additions or corrections to the presentation, thus, the report was approved as presented.

Treasurer John Salmon presented the August 2023 monthly Treasurer's Report. He reported that we had a beginning checking account balance of \$16,056.91 and a month ending balance of \$14,650.30 and \$100.00 cash on hand. General Fund Receipts: Raffle revenue \$285.00. Custodial Fund Receipts: Picnic ticket sales \$480.00, Recycle refund \$16.00. General Fund Disbursements: Printing, Supplies and Taxes \$55.96, Postage \$21.00. Custodial Fund Disbursements: PICNIC \$1,700.00, Badge \$7.56, WATER \$16.76, TABLE CLOTHS \$58.69, SODAS \$73.69, TRASH BAGS \$11.28, ICE \$52.34, BEER \$79.17, WINE \$69.95, TAX \$13.23, RETURN OF A ROOSTER ITEM \$11.98. There were no additions or corrections to the presentation, thus, the report was approved as presented.

In addition, Treasurer John Salmon presented a financial recap of the results from the Summer Family BBQ Picnic and declared a profit of \$65.89 was realized.

Big SIR Report – Eddie Toews

1. Fred Kehr letter to be read. It is as follows:

I have already resigned from the Merchandise Directorship. In view of the nonexistent interest in SIRs merchandise by our membership for the last several years, I have decided to also cut out the practice of placing catalogues and order sheets on a table at our meetings. It simply isn't worth the time and effort to maintain the catalogue in a current state.

I propose that we change our Merchandise insert to the attached format.

Let me know your and the Board's thoughts on this issue.

NOTE: Fred's suggestions were accepted and are to be implemented.

2. Bob Morrison Letter of Resignation to be read. It is as follows:

Effective today ["7/18/2023"], I hereby am resigning from my position as SIR Pinochle Chairman because of other priorities that need my attention. I have served in this position for over 5 1/2 years. I have requested that someone in our pinochle group volunteer to replace me, but so far no one has.

Big SIR Eddie Toews then rendered the following congratulatory remarks for the long-term contributions made by Fred Kehr and Bob Morrison in their former respective

capacities: “I want to thank both of you for an outstanding job that you have done over the years.”

3. John Quinton was asked to be the third person on the crew that takes reservations along with Jerry Bellefeuille and George Cocores and has stepped up to the position. John, thank you for volunteering for the job.

4. Don Banchemo has volunteered to take over the job of “Bowling Liaison” for Branch 136. He will be reporting on the bowling activities in the future.

5. I attended the SIRs annual meeting, via Zoom the other day. Several things are being worked on at the state level. They are working on simplifying some of the SIRs forms, such as Forms 20, 27 and 28. One of the first for adoption change is Form 27, which I have copies of for you to see. It is a lot simpler than the old form. We will need to decide if we want the new form or the old form for our records.

More information will be coming on the other forms in the future.

Immediately upon the initial review of the newly simplified Form 27, which can be completed online, its adoption was passed unanimously.

Little SIR Report – Rick Bronner

1. Update on picnic.

The event was well-attended and all the participants had an enjoyable time. The weather was pleasant and the raffle activity proved to be very popular, as usual. The Indigency Reserve proved once again to be terrific hosts.

2. Update on guest speakers.

Our guest speakers for September were going to be Senior Behavioral Health worker Betsey Coe and Deputy Director Brock Kolby with the Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Department. However, due to a last-minute court date appearance mandate, they are unavailable and have now been re-scheduled for October.

For the November meeting, which is when we customarily pay honor to our members that have served honorably in the armed forces, efforts are currently underway to secure a couple of high-ranking staff members from the Tuolumne County Veterans Administration to be our guest speakers.

Attendance/Membership Reports:

Membership Chairman George Cocores presented the combined review of the Membership/Attendance Report and Form 27 – Monthly Branch Membership Report for July. We started the month with 135 members and during the month we did not add any new members while losing one member (Steven Grow) due to transferring to Branch 77. Thus, we ended July with 134 members. The reporting was approved as presented.

Membership Chairman George Cocores presented a review of the Form 27 – Monthly Branch Membership Report for August. We started the month with 134 members and ended the month with 134 members. Thus, representing neither a gain nor a loss of membership during this period. The reporting was approved as presented.

1. George Cocores announced the APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP has been

updated to reflect the latest increase in membership dues.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT

Bulletin – Jim Botto issued a reminder that current monthly bulletin reports and photos must be received no later than the deadline appearing in the previous month’s bulletin.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Bowling – Don Banchemo announced the Black Oak Casino bowling venue is now open following its major remodeling efforts. It is hopeful the issue relating to their program scheduling will be resolved, thereby, allowing our branch participation to be restored.

Car Club – Rick Bronner indicated there will be a car show this coming Saturday (September 16th) in nearby Jamestown.

RV Travel – Eddie Toews announced the next outing is scheduled for Casper Beach RV Park, Mendocino, CA. during Sept 25th to Sept 30th (5 nights). Mike and Pam Krom are to be the hosts with co-hosts being Stan & Ruth Enos.

Old Business

1. Update on picnic

Reference the Treasurer’s and Little SIR’s remarks addressing this subject.

New Business

1. Phil VanSwoll and Rick Bronner report on recruiting new officers.

Read list of BEC officers and directors for next year - 2024.

Even though such a report was lacking, a finalized listing shall constitute the input data used in the preparation of Form 20 and its subsequent filing with the State SIR Inc. prior to this month’s end.

2. Discuss placing article about SIRs Branch 136 in the Union Democrat Newspaper.

Dale Decker introduced the following detailed proposal pertaining to the subject he entitled “Branch Recruiting Ad in the Union Democrat.”

Once a week the Union Democrat includes an insert called ‘What’s On UDTV Television Magazine’ that is well read as it has the latest offerings On Netflix, Prime Video, etc.

The insert has a picture on the cover covering things like ‘New spinoff Series ‘Star Wars: Ahsoka’ and included on page 2 is an article with the cover story behind the picture.

Just below this cover story article on page 2 is an area 3½ X 1¼” that is available for us to have an ad to tell senior men in our community about SIR and have them give George a call and visit our sonorsirs.org website.

The cost of placing an ad that will appear in this insert every other week

for a year is approximately \$910. The ad will also appear twice a month in their regular newspaper, 12,500 circulation, and twice a month in the on-line newspaper (over 500,000 monthly page views).

Once the proposal was presented an open discussion followed. Treasurer John Salmon immediately raised opposition to the proposal due to the dollar amount specified. He indicated that it would require 35 new members in order to recoup our money. Upon the conclusion of addressing the proposal at this time, the BEC decided to table this matter until the next meeting. At which time other types of ads available and associated cost are to be addressed.

3. Dale Decker then followed with a much different proposal. He suggested that the bulletin should present an all-inclusive activity listing. That is, any activity listed must be administered by at least one of the three SIR branches in Tuolumne County. Acceptance of his proposal was granted.

Birthday recognition for October.

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

Next BEC meeting – October 10, 2023 starting at 10:00 am at the Elks Lodge.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

Gene V. Zanoni, Secretary

October 2, 2023