



Sonora SIR Branch No. 136

**Branch Executive Committee Meeting  
October 8, 2024 Minutes  
In-person meeting at Elks Club**

**In Attendance:**

**BEC Officers:**

Big SIR – Rick Bronner

Little SIR – Mike Krom

Secretary – Steven Holt

Assistant Secretary – Gene Zanoni

Treasurer – John Salmon

Assistant Treasurer – Eddie Toews

**Not Present:**

All Present

**2024 Directors:**

1<sup>st</sup> Year

2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Open

George Cocores

Bill Burnes

Stan Enos

Raul Santana

Mel Kutsch

Paul Squeri

Marty Martin

**Not Present:**

Jim Botto has moved. Position open.

**Committee Chairmen:** Activities Director – *Position Open*  
Bowling – Don Banchemo  
Bulletin – Don Herzer  
Car Club – Rick Bronner  
Chaplin – Steve Gregory  
Fishing – Chuck Simons  
Golf – Raul Santana  
Internet & Zoom – Jerry Bellefeuille  
Kayaking – Sol Robin  
Lunch Tickets – Jerry Bellefeuille  
Lunch Drawings – Tom Neiderer  
Membership – George Cocores  
Photographer – Steve Belochi  
Pinochle – *Position Open*  
Propane – Marty Martin to continue  
RAMP – *Position Open*  
RV Travel – *New Chairman to be assigned*  
SIR Item Sales – *Position Open*

**Not Present:** Don Banchemo, Chuck Simons

**Past Big SIRs:** Dale Decker, Paul Squeri, Gene Zaroni, Eddie Toews

**Call to Order** – Big SIR Rick Bronner called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

**Roll Call** – Secretary Steven Holt took attendance and informed the board that a quorum is present.

**Approval of Agenda** – Big SIR Rick Bronner requested an addition to the agenda to have a conversation about Dale Decker.

**Secretary’s Report** – September 2024 minutes approved by the board.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Treasurer John Salmon presented the following financial report for September 2024.

In September, Branch 136 reported an ending checking account balance of \$13,225.85. General Fund Receipts: Profit on lunch of \$154.00. Custodial Fund Receipts: Luncheon \$1,136.00 General Fund Disbursements: Rent, Setup, and Cleanup \$415.00, Sponsor and birthday lunch of \$40.00, Transmitter purchase of \$667.71, Picnic supplies of \$360.53.

Note: We have an outstanding invoice from the picnic venue.

**Big SIR Report** – Rick Bronner

1. Rick attended a SIR’s state meeting, in Walnut Creek, on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Meeting addressed several ideas for moving SIR’s into the future. A review of the money brought in by the organization where it was noted that 90% of the funds collected at the state level pays for insurance, which totals close to \$50,000.00 a year. One concern raised dealt with: As membership decreases, will insurance rate increase at the branch level? It is not known at this time what effect it will have until 2025 renewals.

State action committees will be formed to address the following targets for 2025:

- A) Changing the SIR Mission and Vision Statements.
- B) Increasing our presence in the communities to attract new members.
- C) Changing the name of the organization and logo.
- D) Changing the slogan.
- E) Relabeling “Branches” to “Chapters”.
- F) Changing the Branch position titles to President and Vice-President.
- G) Cost of these changes.
- H) Eliminating the word “Retirement” from SIR’s documents.

- I) Evaluating the change to gender-neutrality for SIR.
  - J) Reorganizing SIR as a IRS §501(C)(3).
  - K) Hiring an Executive Director, marketing firm, and IT firm to manage and promote SIR.
  - L) Addressing the Age-Related Cultural issues.
2. Dale Decker was recognized, at the state meeting, with the newly announced President's Award.
  3. Michael Booth reported on his progress with the Sonora Branch 136 website. It took two-weeks for him to gain access to the site, but due to family issues with the hurricanes back east, he wasn't able to progress much with the revision requests. He will follow-up with more updates with November's meeting.
  4. A video matrix switcher was purchased, which the cost was shared between the three SIR branches. Unfortunately, it didn't work and had to be sent back. A HDMI cable(s) have been purchased for today's video presentations.

#### **Little SIR Report – Mike Krom**

1. Christina Nixon (Adult Protection Services – APS) will present at today's luncheon on elderly abuse.
2. Carol Stoddard will present in November. She will talk about spayed and neutering program in the county. This is a volunteer organization.
3. Tuskegee group asked for us to call back, at the new year, to schedule.

**Attendance/Membership Reports:** Membership stands at 121 as of today's meeting. Jim Botto has left the county for his new beginnings.

Meeting attendance level remains low compared to the total membership. Rick requested a list of members not attending who are provided with propane services. He was advised a report is available with George's membership spread sheet. The directors were reminded that there is a minimum number of meetings to attend to be eligible for

the propane program. These deficient members will be contacted starting in 2025. A notice will also be included in the bulletin.

## **PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT**

**Bulletin Report –**

## **ACTIVITY REPORTS**

**Bowling** – Don Banchemo – No update

**Bulletin** – Don Herzer – No update

**Car Club** – Rick Bronner – A car show is taking place, in Snelling, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Chaplin** – Steve Gregory – No update

**Fishing** – Chuck Simons – No update

**Golf** – Raul Santana – Tournament, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at Teleli Golf Club.

**Internet & Zoom** – Jerry Bellefeuille - No update

**Kayaking** – Sol Robin – No update

**Lunch Tickets** – Jerry Bellefeuille - No update

**Lunch Drawings** – Tom Neiderer – No update

**Pinochle** – Position Open

**RAMP** – Position Open

**RV** – Eddie Toews – Nothing to report until December.

**Old Business –**

1. Eddie discussed upcoming Christmas luncheon. Prices for this meal are \$35.00 and tickets are available for purchase. Raffle prizes, for this event, are provided by the membership and ladies attending the luncheon. Rick will remind everyone, attending today's luncheon, to bring raffle prizes.

**New Business –**

1. Rick and Eddie to discuss end-of-year awards for the branch.
2. (Open)

**Next BEC meeting will be held November 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am**

Steven B. Holt, Secretary  
November 6, 2024 – Final