



Minutes of the BEC Meeting - **Final**

01/09/2023

BEC Members Attending

x	Ray de Wit, Big Sir	X	Dan Kohlman, Asst. Member. Sec.
x	Rich Carlston, Little Sir	X	Dan Casella, Treasurer
X	Carl Ludwig, Sec.	X	Mike Loonin, Asst. Treasurer
X	Tony Mazy, Asst. Sec.	X	Leo Dominguez, Director
X	Manual Dominguez, Attend. Sec.	X	Chick Lowry, ACC, Director
X	Dan Smith, Asst. Attend. Sec.	X	Martin Simmons, Director
x	Rich Knowles, Member. Sec.	x	Tony de Losada, Director Emeritus

Guests Attending

Ron Cassano	Dan Weller	
Ken Main	Jim Sowell	
Derek Southern		

**Open and Welcome:** The meeting was opened at 9:05 by Ray de Wit, who welcomed the BEC.

**Recognition of Visitors and Guests:** None.

**New Member Introduction:** There are three new members in January 2023; none attended the BEC meeting.

**Secretary Report – Carl Ludwig:** On motion by Carl Ludwig, second by Martin Simmons, the BEC Minutes of 11/14/2022 were unanimously approved. No BEC meeting held in December 2002.

**Big Sir Report – Ray de Wit**

- Approval of the list of branch activities – previously submitted to the BEC, Martin Simmons moved to accept the list, Leo Dominguez seconded the motion, and unanimously approved.
- Ed Benson Memorial discussion – Ray de Wit indicated that the award need to not be an annual award but rather to be bestowed only when deemed worthy. Ray suggested that a subcommittee be formed to establish the criteria for the award. The ad hoc committee will consist of Ray de Wit, Rich Knowles, Leo Dominguez, and Rich Carlston.

- Distinguished Service Award (DSA) – Ray de Wit indicated that he had not received any member names for DSA consideration. The DSA award to Branch 8 may be supplanted by the Ed Benson Memorial designation. Ray de Wit asked that any DSA nominations be forwarded to him.
- Form 27 – The December Form 27 indicated 269 active members in Branch 8 and was sent to the BEC members. Leo Dominguez moved to accept Form 27. Dan Smith commented that State member guidelines called for 70% member participation in luncheons, a target that is unrealistic in the post-pandemic environment. Comment was noted and agreed upon by the BEC members. The motion to accept Form 27 was seconded by Leo Dominguez and passed unanimously.

**Little Sir Report- Rich Carlston:**

- Speaker roster for 2023 is in good shape; nearly all slots are filled.

**Treasurer’s Report – Dan Casella:**

- Financial report for November and December 2022 was submitted to BEC members
- In December there was positive cash flow due to the success of the Lady’s Day Holiday Lunch
- Ending balance of \$17,852, well ahead of the minimum \$10,000 target
- Dan Casella moved to accept the financial statements. Seconded by Dan Kohlman and unanimously approved

**Membership – Rich Knowles:**

- Rich Knowles provided a membership report. There were two member deaths (Benson, Baker), three resignations, and three new members in January. The new members will be given orientation following the lunch. There are currently 260 Branch 8 members.
- There are several 2023 dues submissions still outstanding. Discussion ensued about efforts to get designees to reconsider. Tony de Losada will take the lead on forming a “rescue” attempt to regain members who left the Branch. Tony will begin the process in March.
- On motion by Chic Lowry, seconded by Tony Mazy, the membership report was unanimously approved.

**Attendance – Manuel Dominguez:**

- Manuel Dominguez gave a summary of his successful attempts to collect all outstanding luncheon fees from 2002 events.
- He explained the process for inviting members to the monthly lunches, time frames, and tasks for giving Boundary Oaks a final headcount.
- Ray de Wit asked if the Octoberfest was still a “go” for Branch 8. Leo Dominguez indicated that the event was still in play and that he was making progress in nailing down food source options. Catering still appears too expensive.
- Discussion ensued regarding the impact of Covid on attendance, in particular member reluctance to come to luncheons. Tony Mazy volunteered to address the issue and report back to the BEC with any recommendations.

- Manuel Dominguez moved that his report be accepted, seconded by Dan Cassella, and passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Recruiting – no report**

#### **Activities Coordinator –**

- Chick Lowry indicated that a presentation on Activity Management System (AMS) was to be given to all activity chairmen following the luncheon. He wishes to also seek revision to the job descriptions for ACC chair members as the existing requirements understate the full dimension of the tasks.
- He described six new opportunities for shared activities with other SIR branches.
- He indicated that Branch 8 activities for SIRs in the Garden and Community Outreach would be part of the shared activities for other Branches.
- SIRs in the Garden will start up again in April, led by Tom Mohrman as Co-Chairman
- Derek Southern indicated that State SIR would be addressing new Covid requirements for SIR activity participation.

#### **Member Relations – no report**

#### **Publicity and Images –**

- Tony de Losada indicated Branch 8's participation in the Walk Against Cancer event upcoming and his need for 5 volunteers to join. An ask will be made at today's luncheon.
- The process for obtaining tri-fold recruiting material from the State SIR website was reviewed.

#### **Systems Support Team –**

- Dan Weller said that he had assisted several activity chairmen with information needed in their activities and report.

#### **Hotline –**

- Dan Smith wishes to weed out the Hotline list of activities which are no longer drawing breath (Dancers, Birders, Arts & Craft, etc.). The goal is to keep the Hotline fresh and readable by members.

#### **Member Feedback –**

- There was feedback, both positive and negative, from the Holiday Luncheon participants. Food related issues will be taken up with Boundary Oaks staff. Parking matters deserve unique attention including better communication about cart availability.
- The recent incident regarding political leaning comments from a luncheon speaker was discussed. The incident reinforces the need for reminders to those in charge of events to emphasize SIR rules that prohibit political speech.

**New Business:** none

**Final Remarks – Ray de Wit:** The State SIR mission is changing in tone from one of “dictating” to member Branches to “helping” them in their individual successes. He urged that all communication that goes to the State SIR organization go through Derek Southern.

**Next Meeting:** February 13, 2023

**Close and Adjourn:** 10:15