



BEC Committee / Board Meeting Minutes
April 13th, 2026

Members Attending

X	Dan Smith, Big Sir	X	Terry Baldwin, Assistant Treasurer
X	Thom Watkins, Little Sir	X	John Vallor, Attendance Secretary
X	Carl Ludwig, Secretary	X	Arte Chan, Asst. Membership Secretary
X	Peter Shapiro, Treasurer	X	Mike Frey, Director & ACC Member
X	Rich Knowles, Membership Secretary		Leo Dominguez, Assistant Secretary
X	Manuel Dominguez, Assistant Attendance Secretary		Greg Konsavage, Public Relations/Marketing Director
X	Terry Mason, Director		Peter Jordan, Assistant Secretary
X	Thomas Draeger, Director	X	Tom DiGrande, ex-officio

Visitors Attending

Derek Southern	Ken Main	
Mike Loonin	Stan Johnson	
Dan Weller	Dennis Mierzwa	
Ron Cassano	Jim Sowell	
Andy Danver	Ken Main	

Open and Welcome – Dan Smith @ 9:06 a.m.

Big SIR Announcements – Dan Smith

- April will be our second buffet. Upon our request, there will be two serving lines. Food items that don't fit well on buffet tables can certainly be placed ahead of time on the tables. This may include desserts, salads, and any condiments.
- Those requesting mobility service will be given table service.
- Regarding the March speakers, Dan had to complain to the speaker representative about the number of speakers and total time used by their group. Dan exchanged emails with

the chiropractic speaker about his questionable content. We will not recommend this group for other SIR speaking engagements.

- Dan was pleased to award George Vogt \$100 for bringing in the most members in 2025. Note that George has brought in many new members since he joined Branch 8.
- There has been spam email, some recurring, circulating that has involved our members. We have used Constant Contact to warn the membership.
- Dan described how we are dealing with the directive for Photo Release Forms and a committee has been constituted to handle the task. The form to be used by Branch 8 has been modified to make it shorter and simpler to understand. Dan distributed the Branch 8 modified form. Discussion ensued:
 1. Derek Southern explained that the State SIR is also modifying their model form. They will introduce the concept of “implicit consent” which should allow all SIR activities that are held in a public forum to be exempt from having to sign a release.
 2. Kids rather than adults are the primary focus of protection in using the form.
 3. Dan Smith reviewed some of the Branch 8 modifications.
 4. Peter Shapiro moved that we table further action on the modified form until we hear from our Photo Release Policy committee regarding our options.
 5. Andy Danver opined that some SIR branches are using old COVID release form procedures for handling this new set of release forms.
 6. Mike Frey amended Peter Shapiro’s motion to wait until we hear from the State SIR before Branch 8 does anything more on this issue. The amended motion was seconded and approved by voice vote by the BEC.
- State SIR just enacted a Conflict-of-Interest policy. This will require each member of the BEC to submit a COI statement (using Form 67) annually to our Secretary by January 15. Carl Ludwig has received 5 of our 16 members to date with more secured at the BEC table today.
- Peter sent the annual SIR Branch Audit Report (Form 29) to Carl Mason on March 10th.
- Dan addressed current membership status which hovers around 2025 individuals. He asked Peter Shapiro update BEC for where this stands as part of his report. Rich can update the resignations and total membership.
- Dan gave an update on the State SIR website in regard to its HLM content for Branch 8. It is seriously out of date. Bottom line for Branch 8 is that we are at the limit of 5 members with the inclusion of Bob Barnes, an HLM not currently listed on the State website.
- Garland Bell has the ongoing project of assessing options for our Member Database. We await his input whether we continue with Access or use another system to support the database. There has been no decision yet.

Little SIR Announcements – Thom Watkins

Thom made several announcements:

1. The Speaker’s Committee has met and adopted requirements for our luncheon speaker selection process, including vetting of all speakers, obtaining draft scripts/materials to review topic content, and signing off on time requirements of presentations.

2. Thom spoke about upcoming events:
 - a. Happy Fall Y'all – event will be publicized to members next month.
 - b. Preparations for the Holiday Gala have been initiated.

Nominations – Tom DiGrande

- Tom outlined a tentative list of next year's Branch Officers slate, due by May 21st. Changes include:
 - Ken Main; Little Sir
 - Leo Dominguez; Secretary
 - Peter Jordan; Assistant Secretary
 - Terry Baldwin; Treasurer
 - Some open positions include Assistant Membership Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, and a Director at Large position vacated by Terry Mason.
- Tom discussed the issue of member access to our database, which is happening for any number of reasons, but is limiting our ability to attract candidates who can easily perform the functions of the office (e.g., membership). Rich Knowles gave a quick review of our efforts to resolve the question of retaining old Access database or going with a new outside vendor product. Derek Southern opined that many other branches have faced this issue, including Branch 35. Andy Danver stated that many branches have added the position of Director of IT to their BEC because this is an ever-increasing important function of SIR.

Visitors & Guest:

1. Bob Coston (sponsored by George Vogt)
2. Gary Griffen (sponsored by Terry Baldwin)
3. Charles Lincoln (sponsored by David Bushnell)

New Applicants for Induction & Orientation

1. George Szlemp (sponsored by Richard Peterson)
2. Torsten Jacobsen to receive orientation today.

Speaker: - Andy Danver

Andy represents **SIR AREA 13 Bay Area – Mid-Peninsula**. He will present "The Past, Present and Future of SIR." The **State SIR Board of Directors** is now using his presentation as a foundation to develop a long-term business plan for the organization's success.

Announcements -

1. Positions to fill: UPDATE

IT / Data System - Assist Dan Weller. Should Branch 8 choose to use a vendor for its database such as Wild Apricot, the need for an assistant may go away.

Luncheon Systems Set-up - Assist Garland Bell – Eric Moss has volunteered to help Garland Bell. He will be thanked at the luncheon.

Website Assistance - Derek Southern

Hotline Editor – Chris Wehling, being announced at the luncheons.

2. Membership – Rich Knowles / Arte Chan

- With new Policy 10, State SIR has eliminated the requirement to submit membership rosters to SIR Inc, including its associated Form 65. Consequently, there is no more Form 65 requirement.
- Rich handed out his analysis of those recently resigning from Branch 8. Factors considered included member's age, length of membership, and stated reason for resignation. There was no single compelling reason that correlated with resignation. The importance for ongoing sponsor connection to members was noted. Additionally, it seems important for any Activity Chair to contact a member who has dropped participation in the activity.

3. Director “Follow Up” program - new members

Rich tracking – spreadsheet – this is to ensure that new members are followed up with by their sponsor. Peter Shapiro reiterated the importance of this function.

4. Website

- The issue of how the website will be impacted by the photo release directive has been tabled for the next BEC meeting, awaiting input from Derek Southern, Mike Frey, and John Vallor.

5. AI Training and Information – Derek Southern will be holding AI discussion with Branch 8 members in the future.

UPDATES-

New / Old Activities: None

Treasurer Report - Peter Shapiro / Terry Baldwin

- Peter noted his previously released *proforma* report.
- State SIR stated that what we spend on Guests (free lunches) is considered to be part of the Branch Marketing/Advertising Budget. This will wait until the next budget for 2027.
- It was noted that Peter is going to be the State SIR Treasurer next year and that Terry Baldwin will become Branch 8 Treasurer.
- A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and approved.

Public Relations / Marketing - Greg Konsavage

No report.

Secretary Report - Carl Ludwig / Peter Jordan / Leo Dominguez

The March 2026 BEC minutes have been posted to the Branch 8 website.

A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and approved.

Membership Report - Rich Knowles / Arte Chan

Rich noted that with a correction to his resignation list and with dues payments received through today, membership stands at 215 members.

His report was moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved.

Attendance Report - John Vallor / Manuel Dominguez

No significant issues to report other than the unexpected large number of guest speakers previously noted.

A motion to accept the Attendance Report was made, seconded, and approved.

Activities Report - Mike Frey / Ken Main

Tom Hodgson will promote his "Writing Your Life's Story" at the luncheon.

Member Relations Report - Rich Knowles – Activities previously noted in the attempt to solidify 2026 membership status.

Member Feed Back - Jim Sowell / Larry McEwen – the sometimes-slipshod material presented by the speakers did not go unnoticed by those leaving comment cards.

System Support - Dan Weller – Dan noted that regardless of which option was chosen for our member database, there would be ongoing requirements to manage the changeover function from old-to-new database, or for ongoing patching of the Access database.

"Hotline" - Chris Wehling

The Hotline may be directly impacted by the photo release directive, TBD. We have not received any complaints from members about our use of their images on the website which speaks for restraint in any wholesale deletion of pictures from our website.

Open Discussion: Additional matters

T-Coil System – Dan Smith must respond to Branch 146's request to share the \$6,000 cost of this system. Dan feels strongly that Boundary Oaks should be the "owner" of the system, and he will ask BO if they wish to invest in such as system. Will the T-Coil system be used? Dan recommends we CC membership for those among us that have hearing aids, "Would their hearing aid make use of a T-Coil Loop System?" Dan will create the email for Buddy and the CC.

Close & Adjourn 10:36 a.m.

Next meeting; May 11th, 2026