



Minutes of the BEC Meeting

April 14, 2025

BEC Members Attending

X	Tom DiGrande, Big Sir	X	John Vallor, Asst. Attendance Sec.
X	Dan Smith, Little Sir		Dan Casella, Assistant Treasurer
X	Carl Ludwig, Secretary		Mike Furtado, Asst. Membership Sec.
X	Peter Shapiro, Treasurer	X	Leo Dominguez, Asst. Secretary
X	Rich Knowles, Membership Sec.	X	Peter Jordan, Asst. Secretary
X	Manuel Dominguez, Attendance Sec.	X	Martin Simmons, Director
X	Mike Frey, Director & ACC Member	X	Terry Mason, Director

Guests Attending

Ken Main	Dan Weller	Stan Johnson
Terry Baldwin	Ron Cassano	Dennis Mierzwa
Mike Loonan	Greg Konsavage	Steve Schramm
Jim Sowell		

Open and Welcome: The meeting was opened at 9:02 by Tom DiGrande, who welcomed the BEC.

Recognition of Visitors and Guests:

Rex Daysh (sponsored by Allen Tobias)

Art Straus (sponsored by Steve Schramm)

New Member Introduction: Four members including:

Jeff Martin (sponsored by Frank Bosworth)

Jerry Butterfield (sponsored by Dan Weller)

Tony Klemens (sponsored by Ron Cassano)

Scott Kirkpatrick (sponsored by Manuel Dominguez)

Big Sir Report – Tom DiGrande:

1. Positions to fill: UPDATE -

Following discussion with Ray de Witt, Tom announced that the Public Relations / Image / Marketing function will be assumed by Greg Konsavage, Dan Crowley, George Vogt, and Steve Schramm. Tom introduced Greg who addressed the BEC with his ideas for the marketing function with primary focus on building membership. Greg has a list of local events with whom Branch 8 could align in seeking new members. Greg expressed the need not only to seek additional awareness in the community but also to adopt a “hook” to distinguish Branch 8 from other Sir branches and other organizations. The volume and diversity of our activities seem to be a strong factor which we should exploit.

Asst. Treasurer -

Candidate - Terry Baldwin – was sworn in by BEC.

SIR Travel - Branch 146 to take lead, Branch 8 looking for liaison.

Constant Contact - Buddy May has expressed interest. Tom asked if the position should be a directorship. Pros and cons were voiced. Tom will discuss with Buddy May to gauge desire to be a director.

Website / Data Management - Candidate Garland Bell will get together with Dan Weller to solidify commitment.

Little SIR for 2026 – Tom Watkins has agreed to take this on in 2026, personally encouraged by Dan Smith

2. Membership - “Let’s give it a try” - Business Cards (10 members announce list at lunch)

The “Follow Up” program - new members: This program is a work in progress, not yet at 100%. We wish to include follow-up with new member from the sponsor, membership chairman, and activities chairmen.

3. June LDL – Based on results from member survey, we will only have a single LDL as a holiday lunch in December. Tom is negotiating the change in agreement with Boundary Oaks. The June luncheon will be a standard setting with the BEC meeting. Tom wishes to finalize the specifics for both the Octoberfest and Holiday LDL soon so that members can be notified.

4. First Aid / Evacuation Plan / CPR Training - Friday, May 23rd – Three of the four spots have been filled.

5. Website - Total review of contents & updates! - Tom met with Mike Frey and Chris Wehling to review each page of our website to determine what needs to be refreshed (e.g. policies and procedures) or deleted. We will need Derek Southern’s assistance to complete the website updates. Changes include password protected pages available only to members.

6. Speakers - Member - Roger Lamm (SIR Branch 8) speaks today.

7. Audio / Visual Committee - Stan Johnson to step down, transferring primary responsibility to Garland Bell. A working session for handoff was held with Boundary Oaks staff in attendance to facilitate Garland’s new tasks. A new locked cabinet has been purchased to store Branch 8 equipment. Stan will continue serving on the Induction and Orientation committee.

Little Sir Report- Dan Smith:

Dan discussed ideas for filling the now open speaker need for the June luncheon. Several ideas were brought forward including active participation by luncheon attendees. Round -Robin participation at each table was suggested as a tried and proven winner. Ron Cassano suggested themed lunches which were well received in the past as a way to generate camaraderie among luncheon participants (e.g. Hawaiian, cowboy, etc.) The idea of revisiting Sir history was discussed,

focusing on our organization name, recent changes to it, and the reasons behind the changes. Dan said that a presentation by State Sir representatives is being planned.

Treasurer's Report – Peter Shapiro: Peter summarized his previously emailed reports, noting in particular the increasing number of voucher “free” meals that were being awarded. Manuel Dominguez moved that the reports be accepted, seconded by Martin Simmons, and passed by the BEC.

Secretary Report – Carl Ludwig: On motion by John Vallor, seconded by Mike Frey, the released and posted minutes of the March 10 BEC minutes were unanimously approved.

The BEC meeting was halted at 10:12 due to a medical emergency exhibited by one of the attendees. Tom DiGrande hastily concluded the meeting, postponing further discussion until the next scheduled BEC meeting on May 12, 2025.