



BEC Committee / Board Meeting Minutes
August 10th, 2026

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
	Rich Knowles, Membership Secretary	X	Leo Dominguez, Assistant Secretary
X	Manuel Dominguez, Assistant Attendance Secretary		Greg Konsavage, Public Relations/Marketing Director
X	Terry Mason, Director	X	Peter Jordan, Assistant Secretary
X	Thomas Draeger, Director	X	Tom DiGrande, ex-officio

Guests Attending:

Chick Lowry	Rey de Wit	Dan Crowley
Chriss Wehling	Jim Sowell	Dennis Mierzwa
Derek Southern	Meng Horng	
George Vogt	Stan Johnson	
Ron Cassano	Ken Main	

Welcome 9:05 – Dan Smith

Big SIR Announcements – Dan Smith

- We still have four positions on BEC that we want to fill: Asst Treasurer, Public Relations / Marketing Director, and two Directors. We will wait for feedback from the Nominations Committee.
- The Photo Release issue remains tabled. We are not seeing any more directives coming from State SIR. I will reach out to them and see if we can get this off the agenda.
- Peter's Treasurer's Report for July shows 214 members have paid 2026 dues. An additional member paid his \$30 dues in August which will be reflected on the August Treasurer's Report. There are two members who are not going to pay, they have extenuating circumstances such as one is in hospice.
- Not having learned of anyone stepping up to take on Public Relations / Marketing, I have decided that it is best that I take charge of the planning for the Clayton Oktoberfest booth. I have already submitted an article to the Hotline with the intent of soliciting sign-ups to man the booth. We have 24 slots to fill, 3 members each for 4 time slots, Saturday and Sunday, Oct 3rd and 4th. Supplies for the booth need to be checked -

additional cups, brochures, etc., and ordered if not sufficient. We are also investigating the Clayton Art & Wine Festival in 2027.

- Garland Bell prepared his “Chronological Details of Database Software Investigation” which has been shared. We have a committee, comprised of Rich Knowles, Dan Weller, and Garland, to advise us on a course of action. There has been no decision yet. This committee may recommend that a Director of IT be added to the BEC starting in 2027. It would need to be coordinated with the nominations committee. We have learned that State SIR is tasking their IT professionals to build a “simpler, homegrown web-based tool”. We had heard nothing from them as yet.

Little SIR Announcements – Thom Watkins

- Ron Maciac has given up his post as leader of the Happy Fall Y’all event. The event committee will meet and task a replacement.
- Thom asked that sign-ups for the Winter Gala to be added to our website as was done last year. Derek Southern will handle.

Nominations – Tom DiGrande

- We elected most of the new BEC for 2027 in July. There are three open positions, yet to be filled:
 1. **Open** - Asst Treasurer
 2. **Open** - Public Relations / Marketing Director
 3. **Open** - Director
 4. **Open** - Director
- Tom recommended that one of the open directorships be given to Garland Bell or to Tom himself. Dan Smith opined that Garland was usually occupied with AV setup during the BEC time period and was skeptical of Garland’s ability to give justice to both positions. Tom will discuss this with Garland.
- Tom recommended that the outgoing Big Sir automatically be made a director of the BEC for a one-year period. In so doing, the BEC gains continuity, historical knowledge, and other benefits of the outgoing Big Sir. It was moved, seconded and approved to accept Tom’s recommendation.

Guests:

1. TBD – none submitted.

New Applicants for Induction & Orientation

1. TBD – none submitted.

Speaker: - Les Guliasi, PhD

Les Guliasi is a Research Associate in the Sociology Department at UC Santa Cruz, where he teaches courses on environment and climate change, in addition to the Energy and Resources Group’s Environmental Classics course. Les will present, “The Evolving Landscape of the Energy Market”.

Announcements –

1. Positions to fill: UPDATE

- **IT / Data System** - Assist Dan Weller - No update
- **Website Assistance** - Derek Southern – Buddy May updated the Golfer’s site. He may be suitable for a permanent assistant.
- **Public Relations / Marketing Director** This is with the nominating committee.
- **Greeters** – Tom DiGrande is looking for a permanent replacement for Bill Barber. The search for two greeters is proving hard to fill. Terry Baldwin suggested getting a quarterly commitment rather than an annual assignment for the job. John Vallor noted that just getting people to respond to the request for help is impeding this task.

2. Membership – Arte Chan

Business Cards are distributed at orientations and upon request from any member.

3. Director “Follow Up” program - new members

No report

4. Website

No report

5. Audio / Visual Committee – Garland Bell and Eric Moss

No report

UPDATES-

Happy Fall Y’all – Thom Watkins

- “Happy Fall Y’all” will be held at the Cowell Community Park, 3501 Cowell Road, Concord, on Sep. 16, 12:00 noon ‘til 4:00 PM. Volunteers are still needed.

Holiday Gala – Buck Cheshire / Ray de Wit

- Thom stated last month that preparations for the Holiday Gala have been initiated.
- Buck has submitted a “save the date” reminder for the Hotline and website.
- Our agreement with Boundary Oaks is for one banquet event. Date and time have been specified; menu is yet to be worked out with Angelique.
- The committee will next need to solicit sign-ups.

New / Old Activities:

Treasurer Report - Peter Shapiro / Terry Baldwin

- Peter explained the timing of the quarterly State SIR membership payment.
- Peter noted the difference between Finance and Membership numbers – Membership deletes resignations in their count; Finance continues to count them as paid members even if not active.
- Peter pleaded with all to seek an increase in membership, and he reiterated his idea of Branch 8 having a presence on MeetUp.com. Our more successful sister Branch 146 has done so.
- It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept Peter’s report.

Public Relations / Marketing – Open

- Dan Smith will ask for volunteers to accept the Marketing position at lunch today. Terry Baldwin and George Vogt will be placed on the Marketing Committee, demonstrating

Branch 8's commitment to this job. Ken Main noted that two assistants might not be enough to mitigate the workload of this position, drawing from his experience staffing the Speaker's Committee. Mike Frey seconded that opinion, citing the example of the Activity Coordinating Committee.

- Chris Wehling noted that there was an opportunity to leave Branch 8 brochures at the activity room of the Pleasant Hill Senior Center. He should check with Steve Schramm on this idea.

Secretary Report - Carl Ludwig

- July 2026 BEC minutes have been posted to our website.
- Carl noted that he, Leo Dominguez, and Derek Southern were all recording today's BEC session with the hope of using AI to generate minutes. Carl will present results at the next meeting.
- It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept Carl's minutes.

Membership Report - Arte Chan

- There were no new members and five resignations in the past month.
- There was discussion about individuals who joined and paid dues but did not go to an orientation session. This gap demonstrates the need to rely on our new member follow-up program guidelines.
- The BEC approved making George Schulze an emeritus member, thereby relieving him of his obligation to pay dues.
- It was asked if Dan Casella was still an active member.
- It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept Arte's report.

Attendance Report - John Vallor

- John observed that about 45% of members attended luncheons.
- John and Manuel Dominguez outlined the who, when, and why of sending email notes to Boundary Oaks regarding the number of attendees and their food choices. There appeared to be a gap in the flow of such information throughout the BO staff.
- It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept John's report.

Activities Report - Mike Frey / Ken Main

- Mike noted the results from the last ACC meeting.
 - Not enough interest in "Sharing Your Hobby" as an activity. Bill Adler has agreed and withdraws his request to add as an approved activity.
- Mike suggested that activity announcements be sent out to members prior to luncheons, leaving more time in the lunch program for other issues. Discussion centered around giving speakers and other luncheon presenters enough time for their announcements. Do we need to start the program earlier? Consensus was that no

changes need to be made at this time and better attention to time allotments by presenters would suffice.

Member Relations Report - Rich Knowles

No report.

Member Feed Back - Jim Sowell

Jim summarized his findings from comment cards left at the last luncheon.

System Support - Dan Weller

No report.

"Hotline" - Chris Wehling

The new editor is working well.

Open Discussion: Additional matters

It was suggested that Branch 8's End of Life Planning documents be updated to include reference to the service "Buy Nothing" which seeks an easy avenue for dispensing with unwanted personal objects.

Close & Adjourn 10:15 a.m.

Next meeting; September 14th, 2026