

BEC Committee / Board Meeting Minutes

June 8th, 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
	Rich Knowles, Membership Secretary	X	Leo Dominguez, Assistant Secretary
	Manuel Dominguez, Assistant Attendance Secretary		Open, Public Relations/Marketing Director
X	Terry Mason, Director	X	Peter Jordan, Assistant Secretary
X	Thomas Draeger, Director	X	Tom DiGrande, ex-officio

Visitors Attending

Derek Southern	Dan Crowley	
Mike Loonin	Stan Johnson	
Dan Weller	Steve Schramm	
Ron Cassano	Jim Sowell	
Ray de Wit	Ken Main	

Dan Smith opened the meeting at 9:03

Big SIR Announcements – Dan Smith

- Dan acted upon the Clayton Oktoberfest by making the application and arranging for the Certificate of Insurance with State SIR. We received confirmation that we were accepted within a week. Dan will hand this responsibility over to whomever becomes our Public Relations Director.
- The Photo Release issue remains tabled pending further information from State Sir. We should continue our usual posting of pictures on the web and Hotline until a formal policy is adopted by the BEC.
- The conflict-of-interest policy has been fulfilled for 2026.
- Peter's Treasurer's Report for May shows that 210 members have paid their 2026 dues and thus 4 members (Rich last reported 214 total members) remain unpaid as of June 1st.
- Regarding our Database Software Investigation, we have since learned that State SIR is tasking their IT professionals to build a "simpler, homegrown web-based tool". Derek southern explained that the State database platform is WordPress which accepts "plug-ins" some of which are designed for maintaining membership lists. The one they are investigating is free and web-based. We'll see what comes of the State's investigation.
- T-Coil System –The matter is closed. Branch 8 is not participating.

Little SIR Announcements – Thom Watkins

- Happy Fall Y'all is moving forward.
- Holiday Gala needs leadership attention by Buck Cheshire as no report has been made to the BEC or to Thom. Tom DiGrande offered to give a push on this task.

Nominations – Tom DiGrande

- Next year's Branch Officers' slate is due by May 21st. Our biggest need is to replace Greg Konsavage.
- Carl processed the Branch Officers updates using Form 20 on the State SIR website. Reviewing this effort, it became apparent that Form 20 has not been updated to accept this input for 2027. State SIR has accepted Carl's input and will post his material as 2027 officers.
- We are also looking for a permanent Greeter's Coordinator for 2027.

Guests:

1. Stephen Taylor (sponsored by Sam Oommen)
2. Charles Lincoln (Late Sign-Up)

New Applicants for Induction & Orientation

None.

Speaker: - Dr. Meng Horng, Branch 8 Member

Meng is a seasoned traveler as well as an accomplished photographer. He has offered to talk about his experience, "Chasing Solar Eclipses in the USA".

Announcements -

1. Positions to fill: UPDATE

IT / Data System - Assist Dan Weller. No new action report.

Website Assistance - Derek Southern. No new action to report.

Hotline Editor – Chris Wehling, being announced at the luncheons. Tom Draeger volunteered to assist as an editor.

Public Relations Director No new action from the nominating committee.

2. Membership – Rich Knowles / Arte Chan

No report

3. Website

- We are leaving the photos on the website as is pending State Sir's updated directives regarding photo releases.

- We have a goal of encouraging ACs to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to facilitate their activity reports that are included in the Hotline as well as posted. State SIR and Derek will present learning how AI can help you in your SIR volunteer role this Friday, June 12th at 8:30 AM. All have been notified and the Zoom link provided.

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

This seems to be working well.

UPDATES-

Happy Fall Y'all – Thom Watkins

- Thom stated that the event will be publicized to members starting this month.

Holiday Gala - Thom Watkins

- Thom stated that preparations for the Holiday Gala had been initiated at his end.

New / Old Activities:

Treasurer Report - Peter Shapiro

- Peter summarized the SIR Branch 8 Treasurer's Report
- Of the 7 members who have not paid their 2026 dues, four are new members this year. Discussion ensued about how we need greater follow-up with new members, not only to collect dues, but to also keep new members involved with activities. Who exactly is accountable for the follow-up? Answers included Sponsor, Member Relations Chairman, Activity Chairs, among others. Derek Southern admonished that we spend lots of time and effort to gain new members but do not seem to spend any capital to keep them. Tom Draeger noted that we need a clear line of accountability, a stated process for follow-up, and a schedule for the follow-up tasks. Dan Smith asked we re-engage with Rich Knowles in bringing his new member follow-up form to life.
- Motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer Report

Public Relations / Marketing – Position Open. (This section is included so that the next person to hold the Marketing position has a record of ongoing tasks and activities):

- Greg provided Dan Smith with the point of contact and we are registered with the Clayton Oktoberfest, which occurs on Oct. 3rd and 4th.
- Clayton Art & Wine Festival spaces are filled. As with many other events, early show of interest is important in securing any venue. Hold this thought for next year.
- Introductions have been attained with the founder of Sensational Seniors who helps run the Senior Fair in Walnut creek. Greg was looking into partnering with her on monthly events that focus on senior issues. There has been no follow-up. This connection may prove useful beyond any marketing event with opportunities for her to be a speaker or otherwise provide awareness of various senior-centric programs.

- Greg raised the idea of marketing in the Walnut Creek Farmer's Market. As this venue will require continued, ongoing weekly participation and may not be suited to our capabilities, it was decided to delete this marketing activity.
- Dan Smith added a suggestion in April; The senior centers in WC, PH, and Concord all send monthly newsletters to their many members. Would it be possible to have a continuously running spot in these newsletters letting their members know that SIR is here to serve the guys and their spouses with many activities and events of our own.

Secretary Report - Carl Ludwig

- Leo has expressed interest in using AI to prepare the reports.
- Carl noted that the April minutes have been posted to our website.
- It was moved, seconded, and approved that the minutes be accepted

Membership Report - Rich Knowles / Arte Chan

No report.

Attendance Report - John Vallor

- John recapped his report previously released via email.
- He noted that Boundary Oaks needed to ensure that enough tables be set up based on his reported attendance plus at least one extra for unexpected guests and late attendees. It was suggested that we give BO a copy of Garland Bell's room diagram and side table positioning.
- John's report was moved, seconded, approved for acceptance.

Activities Report - Mike Frey

- We need a Fishing activity chairman to fill Carl Moyer's temporarily vacated spot.
- The Travel activity chairman with whom we partner has resigned and needs a replacement.
- Dennis Mierzwa will lead the ACC next year and will sit on the BEC.

Member Relations Report - Rich Knowles – No report.

Member Feed Back - Jim Sowell

Jim summarized the reports gathered at the last luncheon. Nothing significant stood out.

System Support - Dan Weller – no report.

"Hotline" - Chris Wehling – No report.

Open Discussion: Additional matters

- Leo Dominguez asked if Activity Chairmen could have their position added to their membership badges so that other luncheon attendees could put a face with the activity of their interest. Arte Chan said that he would do this for any activity chair so requesting.

Close & adjourn – 10:17

Next meeting; July 13th, 2026