



January 12, 2026 - 9:02 a.m.

BEC Attendees

X	Dan Smith, Big Sir		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	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
	Thomas Draeger, Director	X	Tom DiGrande, ex-officio

Guests Attending:

Chick Lowry	Rey de Wit	
Mike Loonin	Ron Rizzo	
Derek Southern	Garland Bell	
Dan Weller	Stan Johnson	
Ron Cassano	Ken Main	

Big SIR Announcements – Dan Smith

- The branch starts 2026 with a sound fiscal foundation.
- Peter Shapiro will produce the annual SIR Branch Audit Report (Form 29) that is to be sent to Area Representative by February 10th. This should include purchases we made in support of Audio/Visual and Publicity during this last year.
- The Holiday Gala was a huge success.
- Form 63, which certifies that the Branch DOES NOT hire a caterer for their Branch functions, was submitted to State SIR on Jan. 5, 2026.

Little SIR Announcements – Thom Watkins

- Thom has asked for a Speakers’ Committee meeting after the luncheon today. Having good speakers is key to the success of our luncheons. Thom is also seeking input from other SIR branches.

Nominations -

- We want to have Tom DiGrande’s counsel as we go forward. This is a non-voting position as we already have our limit of five directors. Dan nominated that Tom

DiGrande become our Past Big SIR Ex Officio for 2026. The motion was seconded and approved by hand vote from BEC members.

- Carl Ludwig, Rich Knowles, and Tom DiGrande will be sworn in as BEC officers at today's luncheon.

Visitors & Guest:

Guest - Gary Bong (sponsored by Bob Weede)
Guest - Joe Burkhard (sponsored by Eric Moss)
Guest - Tony Fiorica (sponsored by George Vogt)
Guest - Torsten Jacobsen (sponsored by Sam Ormmen)
Guest - Gary Jones (sponsored by Rich Knowles)
Guest – Norm Macleod (sponsored by Tony Klemens)
Guest – Dale Moresman (sponsored by Nick Maufe)
Guest - Chester Binner (sponsored by Tom Hodgson)

New Applicants for Induction & Orientation

Applicant - Ed Lichtig (sponsored by Gary Nicholson)
Applicant - Terry Thomas (sponsored by Dave Platter)
Applicant - Ken Kastleman (sponsored by George Vogt)
Applicant - David Kurtzman (sponsored by Buddy May)
Applicant – Guy Fisher (sponsored by Rich Knowles)
Applicant – Al Forester (sponsored by Not Bitton)
Applicant – James Freeman (sponsored by Nat Bitton)

Speaker: - Mike Moore

Announcements -

1. Director “Follow Up” program - new members

Rich tracking – spreadsheet and doing his best.

2. Website

- The website is much improved but still requires periodic review to ensure that it is current. I've given my suggestions to Mike Frey and he has swapped the new Holiday Gala for the dropped Oktoberfest.
- John Vallor has explored and made suggestions about what AI can do for us in this regard. Dan recommended that AI be presented as part of the upcoming Activity Breakfast as they are the source for the articles.

3. Member Data Base

- Our Member Data Base needs to be upgraded as Microsoft will no longer support Access, our current application. Whatever the solution, it should be application agnostic so that it is usable by PC, Mac, and mobile users.
- Dan Weller suggested that it be moved to the cloud and that Branch 8 should find

a vendor to port the existing application over to the new platform.

- Derek Southern noted that SIRInc successfully uses a vendor application Nimby.
- Dan asked that Rich Knowles act as Project Manager for the replacement of the Member Data Base.
- Garland Bell has contacted several vendors who are anxious to demonstrate their product to Branch 8.

4. Audio / Visual Committee - Continuous Improvements

We still receive complaints about the sound.

UPDATES-

Happy Fall Y'All - Thom Watkins

- Replacement event for Oktoberfest with the same staff support, absent Leo Dominguez, and the addition of Ron Maciak.
- This event will be in September.
- We will have our committee report back on solutions for potential inclement weather.
- Our website should be updated with the new name and our goals.

Holiday Gala – Thom Watkins

- Huge success with lots of positive feedback from attendees, particularly the women– Thanks to its committee; Buck Cheshire, Ray de Wit, Thom Watkins, Paula Murphy, Tom DiGrande, and of course Boundary Oak for its great service and venue.
- Although Buck Cheshire has stepped down as chairman, we will launch a campaign to bring him back for another year.
- Attendance was 128 (paid meals). The dance floor made it fun. If any more popular there is an obvious limit as to how many can be accommodated. Our BO contract targets 100-150 in attendance.
- Our website has been partially updated for the Holiday Gala including pictures; but cleanup replacing the prior 2 LDL activity is still required.

Treasurer Report - Peter Shapiro

- Peter summarized the final 2026 Budget, updated to incorporate 2026 State SIR assessment (based on 222 members at \$11.40 each), BO luncheon contract (\$36.81/meal, which is the same as in 2025), and cash flow for the Holiday Gala. Note that the 2025 Holiday Gala closed with a profit of \$673.87 which will be held on account to support planning of the 2026 Holiday Gala
- 2026 dues are \$55 and members' cost for the luncheon \$38, the same as for 2025.
- Motion to accept Peter's report, including dues and cost of luncheons was made, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

Secretary Report - Carl Ludwig

November 2025 BEC minutes

Approved posted minutes by the BEC.

Membership Report - Rich Knowles

There was a net increase of three members despite 4 resignations. There are several new members slated for induction in January. Rich's report was moved for acceptance, seconded and approved by the BEC.

Attendance Report - John Vallor / Manuel Dominguez

John summarized his previously released report. It was moved and accepted for approval.

Activities Report - Mike Frey

- An Activity Breakfast is being planned for February.
- Ron Rizzo presented his idea for the new Film Buffs Activity. It was moved and approved for acceptance to Branch 8 activities. He will submit a description of his concept to the ACC for addition to the website.
- The ACC listing of this year's Branch activities is attached to the minutes.

System Support - Dan Weller:

The 2026 dues notice will be sent to all Branch 8 members.

"Hotline" - Chris Wehling

Chris has simplified the Hotline by limiting the articles therein to those that report upon a current event.

Open Discussion: Additional matters

Next meeting; February 9th, 2026

This will be our first buffet meal service.

Close & Adjourn – 10:43 a.m.