SIR Branch 8 BEC Minutes
Date: October 12, 2026

Attending:

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

Meeting Call to Order: 9:01 a.m.

Welcome; meeting is recorded.

Big Sir Report- Dan Smith

- Open positions for BEC have been filled; see below.
- The Clayton Octoberfest was deemed a success. Lessons learned:
  - Event took about 200 man-hours of Branch 8 time.
  - Booth placement is important; cool under trees, not in most active area of event
  - No firm contacts emerged as yet but people know we exist
  - 20 give-away mugs did not get distributed. Suggested that the new Marketing Director inherit for future campaigns.
  - Booth take-down could be problematic if a vehicle is needed. Suggest use of hand truck for quick take-away,

Little Sir Report- Thom Watkins

- State SIR meeting results:
  - New Branch area designation – 174 San Diego.
  - Bi-law changes made to allow co-ed branches; required new charter.
  - Reviewed successful branch marketing strategies
- 2027 Boundary Oaks contract still in flux. Buffet lunch question of how many to budget elicited discussion of the need for member feedback on this issue. A Constant Contact survey will be developed and sent to members for input, Dan Smith will address the issue of the need to attend luncheons in his next Hotline Big Sir Says section.

New/Old Business-

- Tom DiGrande summarized open **BEC** positions status:
  - John Sutton has agreed to be Assistant Treasurer.
  - Greg Konsavage has agreed to take on the Marketing/Public Relations chairmanship if he has help of a working committee. The stipulation of help was affirmed by Mike Frey in his conversation with Greg.
  - Garland Bell agreed to a general Director position.
  - The out-going Big Sir will automatically become a general Director

- These positions will be presented to the BEC for approval and the membership at large during the November BEC meeting/luncheon.

Board Reports

1. Treasurer Report- Peter Shapiro
    a. YTD expenses are favorable to budget by about $6,000 largely due to lack of Marketing expenses.
    b. Peter ordered new checks for the Treasurer's use, in a quantity enough for years to come.
    c. For 2027 budgets, Peter is assuming an increase of $1 per member each for the BO cost of lunches and State SIR assessment expense. Details to be determined as negotiations move forward.
    d. Manuel Dominguez moved to Accept the report, seconded and approved by the BEC.

2. Secretary Report- Carl Ludwig
    a. Carl discussed the difficulties in using AI for complete minutes and the desirability of simplifying information to be included in future minutes.
    b. Manuel Dominguez moved to Accept the September minutes, seconded and approved by the BEC

3. Membership- Rich Knowles
    a. Three new applicants, no resignations, yields 219 members reported to SIR Inc.
    b. The failure to get Arte Chan into the member database will necessitate the hiring of an outside consultant to resolve the problem. Rich will coordinate after a final attempt to resolve the issue with State SIR Inc.
    c. John Vallor moved to Accept the report, seconded and approve by the BEC.

4. Attendance- John Vallor
    a. A total of 88 members (42% of membership) attended the August luncheon, along with four guests. Our total attendance was 92.
    b. Our forecast attendance for October is 111, including 85 members (40% of membership), two speakers, three guests and 21 visitors.
    c. Carl Ludwig moved to Accept his report, seconded and approved by the BEC.

Committee Reports –

- Recruiting/Nomination- above

- Activities Coordinator- Mike Frey: Mike summarized his ACC meeting report. Mike also asked that the Activity announcements at luncheons be started earlier to advance the program in a timely manner. There was general concurrence with this suggestion.

- Member Relations- none

- Publicity and Marketing- above

- Systems Support- Dan Weller noted his support for the annual “Membership Wellness” survey.

- Hotline- none

- Member Feedback- Jim Sowell summarized the cards returned at the last luncheon. Tom Di/grande indicated the need to send the results of our member feedback to the staff of Boundary Oaks. Dan Smith agreed to do so.

Final Remarks-

- Tom DiGrande gave his findings of how two other SIR branches were handling the need to keep luncheon attendance up.
    - 146 – requires members attend at least 5 lunches a year; the attendance requirement has caused some members to drop out with the net result of little change in total attendance.
    - 116 – expects all members to attend and pay for all lunches with opt-out requirement by phone only. They have achieved 60% attendance so far. The financial accounting is handled by adopting “Square”, a mobile cloud-based accounting tool. Tom has alerted Terry Baldwin so that we might investigate credit card accounting.

Close and Adjourn: 10:21 a.m.

Next meeting: November 9, 2026