



Minutes of the BEC Meeting

October 13, 2025

BEC Members Attending

	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
X	Terry Baldwin, Asst. Treasurer		

Guests Attending

Greg Konsavage	Chick Lowry	Stan Johnson
Thom Watkins	Mike Loonin	Dan Crowley
Tom Draeger	Dan Weller	Derek Southern
Ray DeWit	Ron Cassano	Ken Main
Dennis Mierswa		

Open and Welcome: The meeting was opened at 9:03 by Dan Smith.

Visitors & Guest:

Guest - Ken Kastleman (sponsored by George Vogt)

Guest - Richard Peterson (sponsored by George Vogt)

Guest – Edgar Hawkyard (sponsored by George Vogt)

New Applicants for Induction & Orientation

Joe Caselle (sponsored by Thomas Draeger)

John Gagne (sponsored by Garland Bell)

Eric Moss (sponsored by Tom DiGrande)

Announcements:

Positions Needing Filling

- **IT** – Position not yet filled.
- **Assistant Membership Secretary** – Rich Knowles has nominated Arte Chan who has agreed to this task. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote of the BEC. Form 20 will be updated by Carl Ludwig.

Director Follow-up Program - Rich Knowles indicated no new action this month.

Website Review – Meeting held after last luncheon. A report will be made to the BEC at the November meeting regarding decision made by the working group. Garland Bell has turned into a key player in this endeavor.

Speaker: - Michelle Hayward of the Meals on Wheels

A/V Committee – Although improvements have been made, we continue to get complaints about the sound quality. Speakers do not know how to hold the microphones appropriately for proper results.

Big Sir Announcements (Made by Dan Smith):

- All expenses should be submitted to Peter Shpiro by December 15.
- All requests for 2026 budgets should be sent to Peter Shapiro so that he can prepare a budget to be submitted to the BEC at the November meeting.
- Regarding the Holiday Gala, there are 30 people (three tables) signed up thus far. Discussion included offering an incentive for additional signups. The Gala committee had not yet met to coordinate event activities. Tom DiGrande should contact Buck Cheshire to get things moving right away. Buddy May has been very responsive in sending Constant Contact announcements.
- Thom Watkins made a suggestion that the annual fall event be changed again from Oktoberfest back to an outdoor BBQ. Pros and Cons were expressed. The cancellation of this year's event resulted in minimal loss of expenses due to negotiating skills of Dan Crowley.
- It was moved that Greg Konsavage be made a voting member of the BEC as representing Public Relations/Marketing function. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the BEC. Carl Ludwig will update SirInc website via Form 20 Leadership Roster.
- Greg Konsavage gave a summary of successes/difficulties associated with Branch 8's presence at the Clayton Oktoberfest. The task of manning the booth called for 24 person-shifts over two days and there were some shortfalls that required extended shifts for some individuals. Jim Sowell in particular gave a yeoman's effort. Many individuals seeking information at the booth were women which often proved a difficult conversation upon revealing that SIRs was a men's only organization. Older men were the least likely to advance a conversation about the organization. The activities handout was a valuable addition to the printed materials. The handout materials contained a special phone number to call for more information and yielded ten calls inquiring about membership with four individuals who intended to join. Perhaps the biggest takeaway was the experience of the total effort which will give Greg a better position from which to approach the 2026 marketing effort.

Reports

Treasurer's Report – Peter Shapiro:

1. Peter recapped his email reports, noting the reappropriation of petty cash (\$200) to the balance sheet. Peter reminded activity chairs to get all budget requests to him before the November BEC meeting. Peter's reports were moved, seconded and approved for acceptance by the BEC.
2. Regarding approval of expenditures, a policy will be proposed by Tom DiGrande at the November meeting.

Secretary Report – Carl Ludwig: Carl noted that the minutes from the September8 BEC meeting were now posted to the Branch 8 website. The minutes were moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

Membership – Rich Knowles: Rich noted:

1. Rich noted that there was more resignation than usual in the preceding month.
2. Rich's previously released membership report was moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

Attendance – Manuel Dominguez: Manuel stated that he was pleased that attendance at the September luncheon was about 40% of total membership but unfortunately the figured declined to 38% for the October lunch. His previously released attendance report was moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

Activities Report – Mike Frey:

1. Mike gave a summary of the ACC's Wellness Report recently concluded:
 - a. Most all chairmen responded to the survey.
 - b. There were eight SIR 8 members who did not participate in any activity or luncheon.
 - c. 90 % of members participated in some activity or lunch this year, up from 80% in 2024, a good trend.
 - d. He will have a full written report for the BEC at the November meeting.
2. There will be a request made to the ACC and BEC for a new activity; Movie Watch/Review, submitted by Ron Rizzo.
3. Mike made a personal observation that attendance at the luncheons was driven largely by the quality of the speaker, followed distantly by the quality of the food, both being important motivators for attending lunches. Greg Konsavage noted that the Contra Costa Library had a strong speaker's activity and that we should consider tapping into their expertise.

Systems Support Team – Dan Weller: no report.

Hotline – Chris Wehling: no report; a suggestion was made to add John Vallor to the Hotline editing group based on his email comments regarding the comparison of Branch 95's Hotline to our own.

Member Feedback – Jim Sowell: Jim summarized his recently released email report of comments received at the last lunch with the usual mix of thoughts on food, speaker, AV equipment and HVAC performance.

Final Remarks – Dan Smith: Meeting closed and adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Next Meeting: November 10, 2025 – to be hosted by the returning Tom DiGrande