



Minutes of the BEC Meeting

September 8, 2025

BEC Members Attending

X	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
	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	Jim Sowell
Tom Dreager	Dan Weller	

Open and Welcome: The meeting was opened at 9:08 by Tom DiGrande, who welcomed the BEC.

Visitors & Guest:

Guest - Butch Dellio - (sponsored by Art Fabsits)
 Guest - John Gagne - (sponsored by Garland Bell)
 Guest - Eric Moss - (sponsored by Tom DiGrande)
 Guest – Mark Reese – (sponsored by Les Hopkins)

Big Sir Report – Tom DiGrande:

Positions Needing Filling

- **IT – Data Systems & Website** (Dan Weller & Derek Southern) – A meeting will be held after the luncheon to set up a group who will be responsible for assisting specific functions for these two individuals.
 - What additional personnel

- Training needed
- Organization chart; reporting structure

A detailed report of decisions made at the planning session will be made to the BEC in the November.

- **Assistant Membership Secretary** – Rich Knowles has contacted Arte Chan who has indicated interest in working in this capacity. Rich will report back to the BEC.

Membership Follow-up

- Business Cards - None distributed today, but sets have been printed for 11 chairmen. Rich will get names of other individuals who will need cards when manning event booths such as the upcoming Clayton Oktoberfest.

Director Follow-up Program

- Rich Knowles has created a follow-up spreadsheet for contacting new members after 30, 60 and 90 days to assess the status of new members.

Little Sir Report- Dan Smith:

- Schedule of Branch Operations – Form 20 (2026 Leadership Report) will be submitted by Carl Ludwig following the formal adoption of BEC directors at today's meeting.
- Speaker list – Leo Dominguez suggested that the speaker's committee be expanded to cast a wider net for potential presenters. Greg Konsavage is attending a group meeting that routinely hosts speakers, and he will query them about their sources for identifying speakers. Jim Sowell reiterated the sentiment that our membership wishes new and different speakers at our luncheons as evidenced by his analysis of luncheon suggestion cards.
- Dan Smith's study of attendance during 2022, 2023, and 2024 forecast our decline in luncheon attendance. However, the percentage of the membership in attendance is currently a very consistent 45%. This says that attendance will be less as membership declines. If we can increase membership, then attendance should increase. Discussion revealed several issues related to attendance and membership recruitment:
 - Increasingly, new membership is being driven by website visits from prospects. We should focus efforts to punch up the activity portion of our website as this is the most important draw for new members.
 - The meeting portion of our luncheons often drag. We need to punch up presentations and keep the announcement short. A three-minute limit for announcements was suggested.
 - We should try to get as many announcements in the Hotline as possible rather than a live presentation at the luncheon.
 - Getting an "MC" individual to give announcements was suggested; someone who drive enthusiasm in the announcement to make them sound interesting, rather than reading rote information from a paper. Adopting a "Social Committee" to handle verbal luncheon announcements was suggested.

SIR Annual Meeting Hi-Lites – Tom Digrande gave some highlights from the statewide SIRInc meeting:

- 79 Branches - 16 Areas - 59 Cities
- 8000 members - Avg Median Age 80+
- Younger members / Verbiage changes (retirement not a requirement).
- Branches working together/ better communications.
- More training for positions.
- Presentation documents to members
- Insurance issues / First Aid Kits?
- President Award - Derek Southern
- Windows 11 update Zoom meeting to be sent to all members.

Leadership Nominations for 2026 BEC

- Tom gave thanks to Martin Simmons for his past service as a BEC Director
- Tom sought input on the idea of adding Greg Konsavage & Buddy May as voting BEC members. Tom will have a recommendation at the next BEC meeting.
- Tom asked that the BEC approve the list of nominations outlined in the August 25 email:
 - | NAME. | TITLE. | TERM (thru) |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Dan Smith | Big SIR. | 2026 |
| Thom Watkins | Little SIR. | 2026 |
| Carl Ludwig. | Secretary. | 2026 |
| Peter Jordan. | Asst. Secretary. | 2026 |
| Leo Dominguez | Asst. Secretary | 2026 |
| John Vallor. | Attend. Secretary | 2027 |
| Manuel Dominguez | Asst. Attend Sec. | 2026 |
| Rich Knowles. | Membership Sec. | 2026 |
| "OPEN". | Asst. Member Sec. | 2027 |
| Peter Shapiro. | Treasurer. | 2026 |
| Terry Baldwin. | Asst Treasurer | 2027 |
| Mike Frey. -ACC | Director- ACC. | 2026 |
| Leo Dominguez. | Director | 2026 |
| Terry Mason. | Director | 2026 |
| Thomas Draeger. | Director | 2027 |
- The BEC moved, seconded, and approved the above list for 2026 BED membership
- Swearing in will take place at the November '25 luncheon meeting.
- Tom will try to get Dan Cassella to a luncheon to receive an award for outstanding service to the BEC.

New / Old Activities:

Car Enthusiasts- Thank you for car display!

Treasurer's Report – Peter Shapiro:

1. Peter noted that written expenditures guidelines are needed – The following were discussed by the BEC:
 - a. Any amount over \$100 must be pre-approved by the Big or Little SIR.
 - b. Any amount that will exceed the limits set by the SIR Branch 8 approved yearly budget, must be pre-approved by vote of the current BEC and Officers.
 - c. Tom DiGrande will make a formal proposal to the BEC at its November meeting regarding expenditure approvals.
2. Treasurer's Operating Manual: Peter presented his instruction booklet for the function and process of the Treasurer's position at Branch 8, to be used by any future person assuming the position.
3. Peter presented his previously released financial statements which described the "ghosting" of a check for \$610.50 that was cashed by SIRInc but remains unacknowledged by the bank, thus to the benefit of Branch 8. His reports were moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

Secretary Report – Carl Ludwig: Carl thanked all who made comments on his draft minutes from the August 11 BEC meeting which are now posted to the Branch 8 website. The minutes were moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC. Carl indicated that he would post Form 20 (2026 Branch 8 leadership names) to the SIRInc website before the end of the current month.

Publicity, Public Relations, and Community Outreach – Greg Konsavage:

- Greg gave an update to the Clayton Octoberfest publicity venue. There are a few booth slots still unfilled. If needed, he will use a two-man booth presence rather than three to fill all time slots on Sunday.
- Tom DiGrande noted that during a recent orientation session, Stan Johnson had queried new members about how they came to find Branch 8 and what their attraction to the club was. Stan will continue to ask this question during future orientation/induction sessions to gain insight into what and how new members are drawn to Branch 8. Increasingly, it appears that our internet presence is finding traction in advancing our membership.

Membership – Rich Knowles: Rich noted:

1. For the first time, Branch 8 was considered by a woman to join our group having viewed our website featuring so many great activities.
2. Inactive members are receiving email inquiries about their luncheon non-attendance in the hope that they might reignite their participation.
3. Rich previously released membership report was moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

Attendance – Manuel Dominguez: Manuel stated that he was pleased that there seem to be fewer duplicate signups to the monthly luncheon. His previously released attendance report was moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

Activities Report – Chick Lowry for Mike Frey:

1. Chick gave a “thank you” to the car enthusiasts for their car display at the luncheon parking lot.
2. Bargain Bites is being reconstituted after a hiatus caused by the previous chairman, Ron Woods, leaving the area.
3. Activity chairmen will get a “health checkup” email asking them to update member participation lists for their activity.
4. The Jazz group activity description will be presented to the BEC at its next meeting.

Systems Support Team – Dan Weller:

- New user training for accessing our systems is going well.
- A few quirks to the Attendance System have been successfully addressed.

Hotline – Chris Wehling: Greater use of pictures in the Hotline publication was given appreciation.

Member Feedback – Jim Sowell:

1. Jim presented the latest and now fully filled Past Big Sir Plaque. He gave prices for starting a new board and the expenses were approved by the BEC.
2. Jim noted success in his leaving SIR business cards in medical provider offices.
3. Jim summarized his previously released report of comment cards from the previous luncheon.

Final Remarks – Tom DiGrande: Meeting closed and adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Next Meeting: October 13, 2025 – to be hosted by Dan Smith