



Minutes of the BEC Meeting

February 9, 2026

BEC 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 |
| X | Rich Knowles, Membership Secretary | X | Leo Dominguez, Assistant Secretary |
| X | Manuel Dominguez, Assistant Attendance Secretary | X | Greg Konsavage, Public Relations/Marketing Director |
| X | Terry Mason, Director | | Peter Jordan, Assistant Secretary |
| X | Thomas Draeger, Director | X | Tom DiGrande, ex-officio |

Guests Attending

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|--|
| Chick Lowry | Ken Main | |
| Mike Loonin | Stan Johnson | |
| Dan Weller | Dennis Mierzwa | |
| Ron Cassano | Jim Sowell | |
| Steve Schramm | | |

Open and Welcome: The meeting was opened at 9:07 by Dan Smith, who welcomed the BEC.

Big Sir Report – Dan Smith:

1. Today is branch 8's first buffet style lunch. Dan gave instructions for the food service.
2. Mike Frey invited all BEC members to the annual ACC breakfast on February 20. Mike Frey has distributed the agenda to the activity chairmen.
3. Peter Shapiro has yet to complete the Branch Audit report with our area representative as they have not yet specified a date for it to take place.
4. In regard to membership renewal activity, Peter Shapiro reported that 177 members have paid their annual dues and 53 remain unpaid as of February 8th. Discussion ensued about the cutoff date before delinquent dues payment becomes a termination for the member. March 31 has been the cutoff date in past years. The Member Relations Committee becomes involved in communicating with non-paying members in an attempt to secure their renewal.

5. Chick Lowry has compiled a list of all Branch 8 approved activities, Attachment 1. The activities will be approval by the BEC at its March 9 meeting.
6. Dan noted the recently held State SIR Zoom meeting during which Derek Southern demonstrated a new search tool powered by AI that makes navigating and summarizing topics found on the SIRInc website very easy.

Little Sir Report- Thom Watkins:

1. Thom addressed the issue of the lackluster speaker presentation at the previous luncheon and promised improvement, starting with today's speaker, Richard Holmboe.
2. Visitor & Guests – Discussion was held about awarding the member who brought in the most Branch 8 new members in 2025. The prize is \$100 and a free lunch. It was moved, seconded and approved by the BEC to follow through with the award.
3. New members, visitors, and guests are listed in Attachment 2 - Membership Report by Rich Knowles.

Announcements – Open Positions

- Data systems assistant to Dan Weller – nothing has been accomplished as yet. Dan Weller will draft an announcement for Constant Contact distribution to all BR8 members regarding the skills needed and tasks to be assigned for this assistant position.
- The Luncheon Systems Setup process has been established by Garland Bell, but he needs a backup for when he is absent. Dan will plead for volunteers during the luncheon.
- Website Assistance for Derek Southern – While Mike Frey has done fine work on this task, he is not a permanent solution. We need to formalize a position for this increasingly important function.
- Publicity – Greg Konsavage will reach out to those who assisted with outreach activities last year. At our next BEC meeting, Dan Smith will plan an outreach to BR8 members with Sales/Marketing background to volunteer their expertise.

Membership – Rich Knowles/Arte Chan

- We are a bit behind on printing business cards for our members with the QR code imprint.

Website & Data Breach

- Many BEC members have reported suspicious and malicious emails containing false BEC leadership calls for action. The problem of hacked email lists was enumerated and calls for greater security of our systems were voiced. It was noted that both Branch 8 and SIRInc websites are passcode protected, but it is not impossible to completely stop bad actors who are intent on creating such scams. Members should be aware of and vigilant in using and answering email messages.

Happy Fall Y'all Activity

- Planning for this event starts now. Thom Watkins is on it.
- The website activity list should be cleaned up to reflect the changes in our Fall event.
- Holiday Gala – Buck Cheshire has returned to leading this very successful event in December.

Treasurer's Report – Peter Shapiro:

Peter summarized the key points to his previously released Treasurer and Cash Flow report.

Publicity, Public Relations, and Community Outreach – Greg Konsavage

- Greg described his success in distributing recruitment brochures in his audiologist's office and encouraged others to keep this placement channel in mind when visiting with their healthcare providers.

- Greg has engaged the Clayton Wine Festival directors about a Branch 8 presence. These are the same individuals who worked at the Clayton Oktoberfest event.
- Greg is assembling his team including Steve Schramm, Dan Crowley, and Ken Main to assist in the Publicity activities.
- The use of advertising through Patch did not yield any responses.

Secretary Report – Carl Ludwig: the BEC Minutes of the January 12 minutes are posted to the BR8 website. They were moved for adoption, seconded and approved by the BEC.

Membership – Rich Knowles:

- Rich summarized his revised Membership Report previously released. He asked that the BEC approve the applicants who have signed their applications and whom he has vetted.
- Discussion ensued as to whether such applicants need to be presented to the BEC. Ron Cassano explained that applicants need not be physically present nor given orientation for the BEC to vote their acceptance.
- The BEC moved, seconded, and approved the membership of the four signed applicants.
 - Gary Jones – who came to the lunch and went to orientation
 - Howard Nep and Torsten Jacobsen, both of whom have just completed their applications and been vetted by Rich but who could not attend lunch this month
 - Butch Dellio – who finished his application several months ago and was about to become a member but his sponsor died.

Attendance – John Vallor/Manuel Dominguez: The BEC moved, seconded, and approved the previously released Attendance Report.

Activities Coordinator – Mike Frey: Mike explained that Activity Chairmen who could not attend the breakfast of February 20 have been asked that their assistant chairs attend in the stead. It is important for many reasons that assistant chairmen be named for all activities so that they can backfill for chairmen whenever absent.

Member Relations – Rich Knowles: no report.

Member Feedback – Jim Sowell: Jim summarized his previously released email summary of the comment cards from the previous lunch. The speaker's performance was widely noted.

Systems Support Team – Dan Weller: Users of the Member Database who have recently purchased new computers are having trouble accessing the system. New DB platform security software is likely to blame. Derek Southern has been asked to assist in finding a solution.

Hotline – Chris Wehling: none.

Final Remarks – Dan Smith: Meeting closed and adjourned at 10:39.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2026

Attachment 1 – 2026 Activity List SIR Branch 8

| Branch 8 Activity List - January 2026 (Rev -1) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Activity | Chairman | Email | Phone ** | Co-Ed | Assistant Chairman |
| Astronomy - Online * | David Bushnell | dbushn@swbell.net | 838-3914 | Y | |
| Bargain Bites | Ken Main | mainkenneth46@gmail.com | 876-1420 | Y | Ron Maciak, Bill Barber |
| Bargain Wines | Dennis Mierzwa | dennis.mierzwa@att.net | 938-5343 | Y | Jim Sowell |
| Bocce Ball League Play | Chick Lowry | clowry2845@gmail.com | 932-4886 | Y | Bob Barnes |
| Bocce Ball Open Play | Martin Hawco | not4u2bee@gmail.com | 689-4251 | Y | Chick Lowry |
| Book Exchange | Alan Curtis | alancurtis@sbcglobal.net | 935-7407 | N | Rob Laaback, Ron Rizzo, Tom Keehn, |
| Book Group | Ron Rizzo | ronbrizzo@gmail.com | 676-0286 | N | Phil Trapp |
| Bowling * | Dan Weller | dweller@astound.net | 935-5510 | Y | Rob Norris |
| Bridge, Duplicate | Bud Grisanti | budgrisanti@gmail.com | 672-3023 | Y | Dan Smith - Co-Chair |
| Bridge, Partners * | Dave Dawson | dawsonfam03@gmail.com | 586-4863 | Y | |
| Car Enthusiasts * | Chick Lowry | clowry2845@gmail.com | 932-4886 | Y | Tom Hodgson |
| Chess * | Steve Schramm | sschramm01@gmail.com | 222-0801 | N | Held at Pleasant Hill Senior Center |
| Cribbage | Dennis Mierzwa | dennis.mierzwa@att.net | 938-5343 | N | Dan Smith |
| Digital Photography | Meng Horng | mengYMC@gmail.com | 309-287-5654 | N | Dave Davis |
| Dine In 1 | Ron Cassano | roncassano@gmail.com | 944-1238 | Y | Stephen Deness |
| Dine Out Single Sirs | Glenn Gilman | glenngfam@sbcglobal.net | 798-5155 | N | Don Atwater |
| Doctors Office | Sam Oommen | soommen51@gmail.com | 381-3257 | N | |
| Dominoes, Mexican Train | Danny Rinaldi | danrinaldi944@gmail.com | 381-5486 | Y | Stan Johnson |
| Film Buffs | Ron Rizzo | ronbrizzo@gmail.com | 676-0286 | N | |
| Fishing * | Carl Moyer | carlmarc@astound.net | 685-5243 | Y | Phil Scimonelli |
| Folk Music Jam | Ken Main | mainkenneth46@gmail.com | 876-1420 | Y | Rick Laskey (Held at Walnut Creek Senior Center) |

| Golf, 18 Holes | David Platter | golfplatter@hotmail.com | 283-9146 | N | Don Dennler, Dave Green, Stan Johnson, Mike Hennessy, Buddy May, Frank Bosworth |
|-------------------------|----------------|--|--------------|-------|---|
| Golf, 9 Holes | Mike Frey | mfrey1784@gmail.com | 933-7058 | Y | Ray de Wit |
| Happy Fall Y'All | Thom Watkins | thomwat831@gmail.com | 330-3780 | Y | Ron Maciak, Ray DeWit, Dan Crowley - Co-Chairs |
| Heads Up Walkers * | Dan Weller | dweller@astound.net | 935-5510 | Y | Dave Morse, Phil Trapp |
| Hikers | Carl Ludwig | cludwig171@gmail.com | 415-350-7372 | Y | Steve Moore, Mike Spink, Martin Simmons |
| Internet Games * | Don Atwater | datwater@pacbell.net | 673-1669 | Y | Danny Rinaldi |
| Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange | Carl Moyer | carlmarc@astound.net | 685-5243 | N | Gordon Linebaugh |
| Holiday Gala | Buck Cheshire | bjcheshire@comcast.net | 686-0277 | Y | Paula Murphy |
| Mixers | Ray de Wit | raydewit11@gmail.com | 433-2951 | Y | Alan Curtis |
| Model Railroading | Rich Knowles | grichthek@gmail.com | 681-9191 | N | |
| Activity | Chairman | Email | Phone ** | Co-Ed | Assistant Chairman |
| Opera in the Theaters * | David Bushnell | dbushn@swbell.net | 838-3914 | Y | |
| Pickle Ball * | Nick Maufe | nickmaufe@gmail.com | 719-2504 | Y | |
| Pinochle * | Stan Johnson | stan.johnson88@gmail.com | 938-7016 | Y | Pete McNeill (Br 146) |
| Podcasts * | Rich Knowles | grichthek@gmail.com | 681-9191 | Y | |
| Poker | Ron Maciak | ronald41mac@gmail.com | 357-8005 | N | |
| Recently Read Books | Ron Rizzo | ronbrizzo@gmail.com | 676-0286 | N | Phil Trapp |
| Science - Online * | David Bushnell | dbushn@swbell.net | 838-3914 | Y | |
| Second Chance Magazines | David Bushnell | dbushn@swbell.net | 838-3914 | N | |
| Sirs at the Games | Steve Schramm | sschramm01@gmail.com | 222-0801 | Y | Jack Schweitzer |
| Sums In Retirement * | Dave Sutton | davesutn@comcast.net | 686-0158 | Y | Dave is Area 16 activity - Co-Leader |
| Traveling Sirs | Glenn Breslin | glennbreslin@gmail.com | 788-6520 | Y | Branch 146 contact Glenn directly - shared Activity |
| Wine Cellar Fillers | Jim Sowell | sowell4jim@aol.com | 457-7746 | N | Dennis Mierzwa |
| Wine Finders 1 | Ken Stehr | kcstehr@comcast.net | 934-5245 | Y | Rob Laaback |
| Wine Finders 2 | Ron Cassano | roncassano@gmail.com | 944-1238 | Y | |
| Wine Finders 3 | Larry McEwen | elmwoodeux@comcast.net | 939-3216 | Y | Leo Dominguez |
| Woodpeckers * | Thom Watkins | thomwat831@gmail.com | 330-3780 | N | Bob Wheaton |
| Writing Life Stories | Tom Hodgson | tomehodgson1945@gmail.com | 818-1533 | N | |

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------|---|
| Community Outreach | | - | | | |
| Sirs Giving Back * | Tom DiGrande | tomdigrande@comcast.net | 876-7851 | Y | Phil Scimonelli - Co-Chair |
| Activity | Chairman | Website | | Co-Ed | Contact info |
| Other shared Branch Activities * | | - | | | |
| 171 Historical Adventures *Br171 | Jim Kline, Ken Fischer | sirinc2.org/branch171/historical_adventures | | Y | Co-Chairs (no contact numbers, see website for contact details) |
| Stamp & Coin *Br171 | Larry Beans | sirinc2.org/branch171/stamp-group | | N | Contact - 925-376-7306 |
| Cycling *Br146 | Larry Kaye | sir146.com/Activities/cycling.pdf | | Y | contact - 925-698-4030 |
| Explore & Eat *Br146 | Jim Pope, Henry Thatcher | sir146.com/Activities/explore_and_eat.pdf | | Y | Co-chairs Pope - 925-820-7398 Thatcher - 925-838-7366 |
| Men's Hearts *Br146 | Bob West | sir146.com/Activities/hearts.pdf | | N | Contact - 925-518-8472 |
| Theater *Br146 | Gary Schaub | sir146.com/Activities/theatre.pdf | | Y | Contact - 925-938-5454 |
| ** Area Code is 925 unless noted otherwise * Designates shared Branch Activity | | - | | | |
| BR 8 Activity Count = 49 | | | Co-Ed | 32 Y | |
| Total Activity Opportunities = 55 | | | additional Co-Ed | 4 Y | |

Attachment 2 – Membership Report 2026 02 Revised

New Members: 4

- **Gary Jones, sponsor John Vallor**
- **Howard Nep, sponsor Ed Lichtig**
- **Torsten Jacobsen, sponsored by Sam Ommen**
- **Butch Dellio, sponsor Rich Knowles**

Members Active Resignation: 2

- **Steve Greytak**
- **James McNeish**

New Applicants for Induction & Orientation: 1

- **Gary Jones, sponsor Rich Knowles**

Applications in Process: 3

- **Butch Dellio, sponsor Art Fabsits**
- **Howard Nep, sponsor Ed Lichtig**
- **Torsten Jacobsen, sponsored by Sam Ommen**

Orientations Completed: 7

- **Ed Lichtig**
- **Ken Castleman**
- **David Kurtzman**
- **Terry Thomas**
- **Alan Forester**
- **James Freeman**
- **Guy Fischer**

Guests 3

- **Guy Heald, sponsor Nick Maufe**
- **Gary Bong, sponsor Bob Weede**
- **Glenn Walker, sponsor Rob Laaback**

Member Recognition February:

Branch 8 membership: 3

- **Roger Lamm, 10 years –10 year pin**
- **Bill Adler, 10 years –10 year pin**

- **John Sutton, 10 years – 10 year pin**

90+ Birthdays February: 2

- **Gordon Linebaugh, 91**
- **Mel Peterson, 90**

Membership Actions

ONGOING

- **Members having a 90th or ninety plus birthday will receive a snail mail card and lunch voucher.**

Branch 8 Membership totals, BEC Last Approved: 2/9/2026

| Phase | Status | Count | Total |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Member | Active | 226 | |
| | Resignations | 2 | |
| | Branch Transfers | 0 | |
| | Ex-member rejoins | 0 | |
| Total | Membership | | 224 |
| Applicant | Pending* Already included in count | | 0 |
| | Accepted | | 4 |
| Total | Individuals | | 228 |

Rich Knowles
Membership Secretary