



Minutes of the BEC Meeting

February 12, 2024

BEC Members Attending

X	Rich Carlston, Big Sir		Rick McGuire, Asst. Membership Sec.
X	Tom DiGrande, Little Sir	X	Dan Casella, Treasurer
X	Carl Ludwig, Secretary	X	Peter Shapiro, Asst. Treasurer
	Open - Asst. Secretary	X	Mike Frey, Director
X	Manuel Dominguez, Attendance Sec.	X	Chick Lowry, ACC Member, Director
X	Dan Smith, Asst. Attendance Sec.	X	Martin Simmons, Director
X	Rich Knowles, Membership Sec.		Tony de Losada, Emeritus Director

Guests Attending

Ron Cassano	Bob Sherman	Stan Johnson
Mike Loonin	Dan Weller	
Derek Southern	Jim Sowell	

Open and Welcome: The meeting was opened at 9:06 by Rich Carlston, who welcomed the BEC.

Recognition of Visitors and Guests: guest Terry Baldwin (not present at BEC)

Announcements:

- Peggy Watkins, longtime companion of Tony de Losada, passed away on 1/16/24. Services will be held in April.
- Ladies Day Luncheon Committee to meet after the lunch, seeking more volunteers needed.
- Speakers Committee to meet after lunch. We are coordinating and sharing with other Sir branches in identifying speakers.

New Members: Four new members this month, three attending the luncheon.

Big Sir Report – Rich Carlston:

- State Sir is holding training sessions for Big and Little Sirs, aimed at both State level and Branch level functions. Rich encouraged interested parties to voice their interest and attend.
- Branch 92 is partnering with State Sir in an incentive pilot program to encourage membership. Cash prizes are awarded to the top three members bringing in the newest members in Q1 2024.

- Jay Gordon has relinquished his duties as Area 16 Representative. Carl Mason is the acting rep. Those interested in the permanent position should contact Rich.
- Rich presented his findings regarding the feasibility of holding raffles. The process is easy and 90% of the proceeds go to the Branch. In order for our branch to undertake this function, we will need an individual to carry out the raffle, who and what to donate, how to run the actual raffle, fulfilling the regulatory requirements of the raffle license, etc. Discussion ensued about the sustainability of a raffle function over time. Carl Ludwig moved that the idea of undertaking a raffle function be tabled until a compelling need for additional funds presents itself. The motion was seconded by Dan Smith and passed unanimously.
- Branch 8's obligation to approve all activities for insurance purposes was discussed. The use of our activity calendar, which is published monthly in the Newsletter to identify the who, what and when of Branch 8 activities, was suggested. Derek Southern expressed State Sir requirements in this regard, including the need for a BEC reference list of current and ongoing activities and that the BR8 BEC approve a list of all our activities each February. The motion was seconded by Mike Frey and was passed unanimously.
- Rich expressed his desire to acknowledge the contributions to Branch 8 of each BEC member with a "Doing My Part" award in February 2024. He likewise wishes to award additional deserving individuals next month. Ron Cassano moved that Rich's suggestion be approved, seconded by Manual Dominguez and passed unanimously by the BEC.
- Rich discussed the issue of discontinued Trivia Sessions by AARP and how Branch 8 might help its restoration. The suggestion was made that Don Atwater's "Internet Games" activity be used as a landing spot for Trivia Sessions. Manual Dominguez will make an email inquiry of Branch 8 members regarding interest.
- Rich mentioned that he is keeping in touch with Boundary Oaks management (Kevin) regarding the practice range development project and our desire to minimize inconveniences to our members during construction. He will also bring these issues to the attention of other Sir Branches which use Boundary Oaks as a venue for their functions.

Little Sir Report- Tom DiGrande:

- Tom expressed his pleasure and surprise in how Branch 8 undertaking of Sir activities are looked upon as a standard by other Sir Branches. He thought that we should all be proud of our contributions and collaborations in Sir activities.
- Tom noted that the luncheon speaker, Dave Bushnell, is one of our own members. He mentioned next month's speaker is Walnut Creek mayor Loella Haskew.

Secretary Report – Carl Ludwig: Carl thanked Peter Shapiro for the idea of using watermarks on draft copies of BEC minutes. On motion by Carl Ludwig, second by Manual Dominguez, the BEC Minutes of January 8 were unanimously approved. Carl will post them to our website.

Treasurer's Report – Dan Casella:

- Dan presented the details of Form 28 and his monthly Treasurer's Report, noting the special expenses of State Sir assessments and our annual Constant Contact contract payment.
- He noted that 18% of members had not yet submitted 2024 dues (42 members) but that number was not unusual for this point in the calendar.
- Dan moved acceptance of these reports, seconded by Carl Ludwig, and unanimously approved by the BEC.

Membership Report – Rich Knowles: Rich summarized his membership report and made the following observations:

- Eight resignations with higher dues the most frequently noted reason.
- Four new members presented themselves via online applications without noting a member sponsor. Following telephone interviews with Rich, it became apparent that two of the applicants had a member sponsor. Discussion ensued regarding the designation of a new member sponsor when Branch 8 is "found" online or

through some other non-member channel. The importance of our extensive list of activities was noted as a compelling reason for non-member applications and that Branch 8 would be well advised to keep the list of activities fresh in content and approachable in identifying who to contact if activity interest is established. Tom DiGrande reinforced the need for activity chairmen to follow up with new members who list their activity on their application. Tony de Losada repeated his observation of the importance of activities as a driver of new members. This testimony reinforced the importance of the Activity Coordinating Committee report, below.

- Rich moved that his Membership Report be approved and that the BEC accept the membership of the 4 new non-sponsored applicants whom he has vetted over the phone. The motion was seconded by Carl Ludwig and unanimously approved by the BEC.

Attendance – Manuel Dominguez:

- Manual presented recent figures in luncheon attendance. His only concern is that his Constant Contact emails now must carry a tag that identifies the message as coming from a non-person source and that perhaps recipients might feel it is spam or non-consequential to them. He is researching potential problems and solutions but will mention this issue either in the Hotline or Website to gain feedback from members who have experienced problems due to this tagging.
- Manual moved that his report be accepted, seconded by Chick Lowry, and unanimously approved by the BEC.

Committee Reports/Activities

Activities Coordinator – Mike Frey:

- Mike is ensuring that our online list of unique activities matches the manual/paper list that is sent to the State Sir.
- Derek Southern has made a fix to the Branch 8 website for online 9-hole golf self-selection application.
- The ACC is accepting responsibility of notifying activity Chairmen of member deaths so that they may update their email lists so that activity notifications are not sent to addresses of the deceased.
- Dan Weller created a report that shows members receiving awards.
- Mike presented the ACC's report for updating all Activity webpages. He thanked Peter Shapiro for his help on the update project. The ACC will now contact each Activity Chairman with instructions for how activity page content should be updated, starting with supplying the ACC with the revisions that meet the project standards recommended by the ACC. The plan calls for the ACC to reach out to Chairmen via email and phone calls within the next 30 days to initiate the update process. Mike moved that the BEC adopt the project recommendations presented by the ACC and as exhibited in the BEC Agenda. Chick Lowry seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the BEC.

Member Relations – Rich Knowles: none

Publicity, Public Relations, and Community Outreach – Tony de Losada

- Branch 8 will have a presence at the Danville 4th of July event.
- Tony discussed his experience with issues related to personal end-of-life decisions, planning, and hurdles. He has had communication with the State Sir regarding a possible information and resource sharing on this topic, perhaps by standing committee or another vehicle. Rich Carlston asked Tony to finish his examination on how this might be accomplished at Branch 8 or at the State Sir level, then write a proposal to be presented at a future Branch 8 BEC.

Systems Support Team – Dan Weller: Dan acknowledged his teams' contributions in support of Activity reporting.

Hotline – Dan Smith: There are still issues related to editors not successfully completing updates to Hotline segments. He is addressing these ongoing issues.

Member Feedback – Jim Sowell:

- Cards from three members, one satisfied and two gave no attitude.
- Five comments were made about the food; 3 chickens were dry, 1 praised the al dente carrots, and 1 delicious Tiramisù dessert.
- Tom DiGrande asked what was done with member feedback comments. Currently, luncheon results are sometimes given to Boundary Oaks management on an ad-hoc basis. Tom, adopting his “communications is everything” theme, offered to take on the task of giving member feedback results to Boundary Oaks staff on a regular basis.

New Business:

Derek Southern noted that the State Sir is reinventing their newsletter and asked the BEC how best to get our Hotline information to the State for their consideration. Sending the entire Hotline document would not serve either part well. Derek asked for input on this issue, and he will bring thoughts to the State Sir.

Final Remarks – Rich Carlston: none

Next Meeting: March 11.2024

Close and Adjourn: 10:47 a.m.