



## Minutes of the BEC Meeting

June 9, 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	X	Mike Furtado, Asst. Membership Sec.
	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, Assistant Treasurer		

### Guests Attending

Dan Crowley	Chick Lowry	Thom Watkins
Steve Schramm	Mike Loonan	Jim Sowell
Dan Weller		

**Open and Welcome:** The meeting was opened at 9:06 by Tom DiGrande, who welcomed the BEC.

### Recognition of Visitors and Guests:

Ken Moeller, sponsored by Rich Knowles  
 Bob Joe, sponsored by Rich Knowles  
 Dino Papatthemetrios, sponsored by Rich Knowles  
 Mike Stein, sponsored by Ken Main

### New Member Introduction:

Bob Neary present for orientation.

Tom reiterated the protocol for new member orientations to include the member's sponsor. Tom should be informed if the sponsor is not available to attend. Tom asked that Mike Frey invite the chairman of the new member's stated activity of interest to be at the new member table at his first luncheon.

#### **Big Sir Report – Tom DiGrande:**

##### **1. Position filled: UPDATE**

IT - Garland Bell will assist Dan Weller who is meeting with Garland today.

##### **2. Membership -**

Tom suggested that we all take note of events where older people participate (e.g. cruise ships) as potential places to extend memberships.

The ACC recommended that business cards go to Activity Chairmen - First!

New Member "Follow Up" program - Rich Knowles acknowledged that most new members have been contacted by him. Mike Frey said that the activity survey undertaken last year would be redone later this year to see if follow-up efforts have had any impact on member satisfaction.

##### **3. First Aid / Evacuation Plan / CPR Training -**

Carl Ludwig gave positive feedback on his participation in the CPR training program sponsored by Branch 146 and attended also by Mike Frey and George Vogt.

##### **4. Website - Total review of content & updates!**

There are forms that are filled out on the website (membership application, input to Big SIR and Little SIR) but get lost or are not forwarded to the proper person for follow-up. Derek Southern is aware of these issues and is working with Mike Frey to resolve them.

Discussion centered on the need for improvements in our website, The site is built largely for current member navigation and not new, interested visitors to the site. It would benefit from a complete redo rather than patching the existing site. Marketing efforts for new membership would be greatly well-served with a new site split between visitors and members. Tom DiGrande will investigate costs associated with a website rewrite.

##### **5. Speaker: You - Membership!**

Dan & Tom will monitor the event to evaluate the success (and failures) of this luncheon format.

##### **6. Audio / Visual Committee -**

Garland Bell has our equipment in a larger cabinet.

To date, we have not had great responses from the other branches on organizing the area.

#### **Little Sir Report- Dan Smith:**

1. Schedule of Branch Operations – We are coming up on our annual report to SirInc on the new leadership positions for Branch 8. Dan will be contacting the Nominations Committee for their recommendations; Ray de Witt, Steve Schramm, and Ron Cassano.
2. Speakers list update – The July speaker will be former BART Director Debra Allen.

#### **New Business:**

1. **sirinc.org** - Password change! Expires June 30th! New P/W: "makingfriendsforlife"

## **2. Distinguished Service Award (DSA) -**

A Branch Awards Committee has been established to administer the DSA program and is to be comprised of 5 current members:

- Stan Johnson Chairman, BAC Chairman,
- 2 current Branch BEC Directors,
- Membership Secretary or Asst Membership Secretary,
- 1 Branch Member - 5 years with branch

Stan to explain to membership at luncheon with DSA application forms on table

3. **LDL Changes** – December 8 with no time selected as yet; Tom is working to establish with Boundary Oaks. Our goal is to have all plans announced to members by August.

**Treasurer's Report – Peter Shapiro:** Terry Baldwin gave the Treasure's Report in Peter's absence. The report was moved for acceptance by Manuel Dominguez, seconded by Mike Frey and passed by the BEC.

**Secretary Report – Carl Ludwig:** Carl thanked members for their comments on his draft which is now finalized and posted to our website. The minutes were moved for acceptance by Rich Knowles, seconded by Mike Frey and passed by the BEC.

**Membership – Rich Knowles:** Rich summarized his membership report, noting that new member interest was generated from the fishing activity outing. His report was moved for acceptance by Carl Ludwig, seconded by Leo Dominguez, and passed by the BEC.

**Attendance – Manuel Dominguez:** Manuel noted that May attendance was 100 individuals with 97 meals served. There are 85 signed up for lunch today (37% of membership). His report was moved for acceptance by Carl Ludwig, seconded by Rich Knowles, and passed by the BEC.

## **Committee Reports/Activities**

**Activities Coordinator – Mike Frey:** Mike noted his previous remarks about the website rework and activity survey to be held later this fall. Mike's report was moved for approval by John Vallor, seconded by Manuel Dominguez, and approved by the BEC.

**Member Relations – Rich Knowles:** no report

**Publicity, Public Relations, and Community Outreach** – Steve Schramm indicated no new information at this time.

**Member Feedback – Jim Sowell:** Jim summarized his email report on the past luncheon survey cards which was mixed in regard to food and A/V satisfaction.

**Systems Support Team – Dan Weller:** Dan noted that our backend system administrator for SirInc (and all Sir Branches) had been changed with total transparency to users. Dan is making progress in resolving Mac/PC compatibility issues for user interface with the Member Database.

**Final Remarks – Tom DiGrande:** After thanks to attendees, Tom closed the meeting and adjourned at 10:16.

**Next Meeting: July 14, 2025**