



Minutes of the BEC Meeting

March 10, 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.
X	Peter Shapiro, Treasurer		Leo Dominguez, Asst. Secretary
	Rich Knowles, Membership Sec.		Peter Jordan, Asst. Secretary
x	Manuel Dominguez, Attendance Sec.	X	Martin Simmons, Director
X	Mike Frey, Director & ACC Member	X	Terry Mason, Director

Guests Attending

Garland Bell	Dan Weller	Ken Main
Chick Lowry	Stan Johnson	Jim Sowell
Mike Loonan	Dennis Mierzwa	

Open and Welcome: The meeting was opened at 9:02 by Tom DiGrande, who welcomed the BEC.

Recognition of Visitors and Guests:

- Bob Pignatti (sponsored by Alan Curtis)
- Tony Klemens (sponsored by Ron Cassano)

New Member Introduction: Bruce Cousins (sponsored by Nick Maufe)

Big Sir Report – Tom DiGrande:

1. Positions to fill: UPDATE

- Public Relations / Image / Marketing Chairman
Dan Crowley (temp chairman), & George Vogt.; Possibly John Konsavage

- Asst. Treasurer -
Candidate Terry Baldwin
- SIR Travel - Branch 146 will take the lead (chairmanship) but Branch 8 needs a liaison.
- Director - Constant Contact -
Candidate Buddy May, but his interest is mixed.
- Website / Data Management -
Candidate Garland Bell who will meet with Derek Southern and Dan Weller to get the lay of the land.
- Little SIR – Ray de Will has a couple of names he is considering putting forward.

2. Membership –

- Business cards; Mike Frey asked that 10 business cards be given to each activity chairman for their use at functions.
- The Activity Chairman breakfast session yielded several good suggestions for membership participation. The session opened channels for communication among Branch 8 leadership.

3. LDL Survey –

- The member survey asking for direction in Ladies Day format/frequency was revealed even if final results are not yet in. A single annual LDL event in December was a clear favorite. This year's June event has run into scheduling problems for entertainment.

4. First Aid / CPR Training – Two slots for the May 23rd CPR training are still open.

5. Website –

- Mike Frey has made progress in refreshing our Branch 8 website. Tom DiGrande asked for few more eyes on the review, perhaps from Hotline editors. Can Derek Southern give us information on the least used pages of the website?

6. Set-up assistance for Luncheon –

- We are looking for a locked cabinet in which to store our AV equipment so that Stan Johnson and crew do not need to shlep around cables, etc. each month.

Little Sir Report- Dan Smith:

- Dan noted that the Branch 8 Secretary is responsible for submitting Form 53 to SirInc. The Chairmanship for Travel activity is onerous due to insurance coverage requirements, so it is helpful that Branch 146 is taking that responsibility.
- Dan is following up to ensure that our new member continuing contact plan is functioning.
- Including member participation for luncheon speakers is being discussed. Both individual presentations (e.g. Meng Horng; photography) and shared presentations (e.g. worst job ever had, by luncheon table) are being considered.

New Business

- The vote on the recommendation for Distinguished Service Awards has been postponed until the April BEC meeting.
- The Branch 8 policy for branch DSA is meant to replace the current Ed Benson award and protocol.
- Policy 20 – no discussion.

Treasurer's Report – Peter Shapiro:

- Peter noted that the number of members who have not paid 2025 dues has decreased to four members as he was successful in obtaining dues from three delinquent members.
- Terry Baldwin will be assisting Treasurer responsibilities this year if Peter is not available. Terry has been trained by Peter in the necessary reporting process and procedure. Formal BEC status for Terry will be confirmed by the BEC in a future session.
- Peter referenced his previously released Treasurer's Report and Cash Balance Report. Carl Ludwig moved that they be accepted, seconded by Mike Frey and passed unanimously by the BEC.

Secretary Report – Carl Ludwig: Carl noted that the February 10 minutes had been released and posted to the Branch 8 website. Mike Frey moved that they be accepted, seconded by Manuel Dominguez, and passed unanimously by the BEC.

Membership – Rich Knowles: Rich's previously released Membership Report was noted with 4 resignations and 2 new member inductions, resulting in 211 current members in Branch 8. Carl Ludwig moved that the report be accepted, seconded by John Vallor, and passed unanimously by the BEC.

Attendance – Manuel Dominguez: Manuel discussed the current report, thanking John Vallor for having assembled it this month. Dan Smith moved that it be accepted, seconded by Martin Simmons, and passed unanimously by the BEC.

Committee Reports/Activities

Activities Coordinator – Mike Frey:

- Mike reiterated the success of the recently held Chairman's Breakfast, noting that comments gathered from the session had been distributed to Chairmen.
- He noted that chairmen who wished to use Constant Contact for an announcement to all members should study the format used recently by Meng Horng in messaging his Photography activity. It was a succinct and informative announcement.
- Mike noted that he will be asking activity chairmen to assume responsibility for following up with new members along with the member's sponsor.
- Carl Ludwig moved that the Activity Report be accepted, seconded by Mike Furtado, and passed unanimously by the BEC.

Member Relations – Rich Knowles:

- In Rich Knowles absence, Dan Smith presented his analysis of new members who had joined Branch 8 in 2024. Of the 24 new members, only 2 had resigned.

Publicity, Public Relations, and Community Outreach – none

Hotline – Chris Wehling: none

Member Feedback – Jim Sowell: Jim summarized his email report of six feedback cards submitted with the last luncheon. Positive feedback on the quality of the food was noted.

Systems Support Team – Dan Weller:

- Dan welcomed Garland Bell's interest in supporting Branch 8 systems. Dan's team is ironing out the few remaining issues with automated email notifications regarding new members and their activity choices.

Open Microphone –

Ken Main noted that Boundary Oaks has lent their expertise in setting up AV equipment but that the set-up crew could benefit from a written protocol, procedures, and checklist for assembling all the components and connections.

Final Remarks – Tom DiGrande: Meeting closed at 10:38 and adjourned until next meeting on April 14, 2025.