



Minutes of the BEC Meeting

March 9, 2026

BEC Members Attending

X	Dan Smith, Big Sir	X	Terry Baldwin, Assistant Treasurer
	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
	Manuel Dominguez, Assistant Attendance Secretary	X	Greg Konsavage, Public Relations/Marketing Director
X	Terry Mason, Director		Peter Jordan, Assistant Secretary
X	Thomas Draeger, Director		Tom DiGrande, ex-officio

Guests Attending

Chick Lowry	Ken Main	Ken Main
Mike Loonin	Stan Johnson	Ray De Wit
Dan Weller	Dennis Mierzwa	
Ron Cassano	Jim Sowell	
Steve Schramm	Garland Bell	

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

**Big Sir Report – Dan Smith:**

- The buffet lunch last month was a success except that it took too long for all to get served. Dan suggested to Boundary Oaks that two lines of service be used rather than a single line.
- While BEC members were invited to the recent annual ACC Wellness Meeting of activity chairmen, only two attended and one stayed for the entire session.
- Dan queried if the Form 29 (audit report) had been completed. Peter Shapiro said that our Area Representative, Dave Sutton, had not yet supplied him with the necessary information but that it would be completed by the end of the week. (The Form 29 has subsequently been completed and submitted to SIRInc.)
- Membership renewals have been trailing in. Current count is 197 member renewals as of March 6.
- Regarding our Member Data Base, alternatives to its Access platform are being considered. Remaining with Access will also be part of the evaluation headed by Garland Bell.

**Little Sir Report- Thom Watkins:** Not present

#### **Open Issues:**

1. **Nominations for 2027 BEC Officers:** A representative from the Nominations Committee was not present. The Committee needs to have its work completed by May 21.
2. **Award for Most Member Sponsorship:** Dan reaffirmed our intent to award the person bringing in the most new members each calendar year. For 2025, this would be George Vogt. It was moved, seconded, and passed that George be awarded \$100 for his achievement.
3. **Speakers:** In the hope of improving our luncheon speakers, Leo Dominguez suggested that the Speakers' Committee develop written criteria for qualifying appropriate speakers and that each potential speaker be vetted prior to engagement. Mike Frey moved that the Little Sir be responsible for producing this document of criteria and that the vetting is done for future speakers. Rich Knowles suggested that the speakers list be submitted to the BEC prior to engagement. John Vallor suggested that these issues be tabled until Thom Watkins is present. The BEC concurred with this suggestion and Mike Frey removed his motion.

#### **Announcements – Open Positions**

- Data systems assistant to Dan Weller – nothing has been accomplished as yet. Dan Weller has yet to draft an announcement for Constant Contact distribution to all BR8 members regarding the skills needed and tasks to be assigned for this assistant position.
- Garland Bell has established the Luncheon Systems Setup process, but he needs a backup for when he is absent. Dan will plead for volunteers during the luncheon. The tasks associated with AV setup tasks and responsibilities need to be developed and formalized. It was noted that Boundary Oaks was inconsistent in their preparation of our venue.

#### **Membership – Rich Knowles**

- Rich summarized his Membership Report. He noted that letters were sent to members who had failed to renew their membership and the need to pay their dues. If there are any remaining recalcitrant next month, the Member Relations Committee will become involved in preparing termination notices. The report was moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

#### **Website**

- There is no update on how the AC's might use AI to facilitate their activity reports. Derek Suthern, Mike Frey, and John Vallor hold primary interest in this topic.

#### **Happy Fall Y'all Activity & Holiday Gala**

- Planning for this event starts now. Thom Watkins leads the team including Ron Maciak, Dan Crowley, Ray de Wit, and Leo Dominguez.
- The date has been set for September 16<sup>th</sup> from 12-4 PM. The menu has been decided. Publicity should start in May.
- Holiday Gala – Buck Cheshire has returned to leading this very successful event in December. A "save the date" announcement will appear in the Hotline and website.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Peter Shapiro:**

- Peter summarized the key points to his previously released Treasurer and Cash Flow report.
- He reminded those submitting reimbursement requests should provide documentation of all purchases.
- Peter noted that he received nine checks for 2026 dues payment in response to his collection tasks.
- Peter noted that a new SIR branch was established in San Diego

- Peter's report was moved for approval, seconded and passed by the BEC.

#### **Publicity, Public Relations, and Community Outreach – Greg Konsavage**

- Greg provided feedback on his efforts to stage marketing events in several locations:
  - Clayton Octoberfest looks like a “go” but registration has not happened as yet.
  - Clayton Art & Wine Festival spaces are filled. As with many other events, early show of interest is important in securing any venue.
  - Introductions have been attained with the founder of Sensational Seniors who helps run the Senior Fair in Walnut creek. Greg is looking into partnering with her on monthly events that focus on senior issues.
  - This connection may prove useful beyond any marketing event with opportunities for her to be a speaker or otherwise provide awareness of various senior-centric programs.
- Greg raised the idea of marketing in the Walnut Creek Farmer's Market. Mike Frey will send his contact information to Greg. This venue would likely require continued, ongoing weekly participation and may not be suited to our needs.

**Secretary Report – Carl Ludwig:** the BEC Minutes of the February 9 meeting minutes are posted to the BR8 website. They were moved for adoption, seconded and approved by the BEC.

#### **Membership – Rich Knowles:**

- Previously discussed.

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

**Activities Coordinator – Mike Frey:** Mike recapped the outcome of the annual Activity Chairman's meeting:

- Only seven activities were not represented.
- Two activities expressed difficulties in sustaining their participation – Model Railroads and Writing Your Life Story. The latter activity's chairman will attempt to rekindle interest among our membership.
- Several activities expressed interest in multi-branch relationships. Mike will make inquiries with other branches, ACCs.
- Rocco's is very supportive of our branch activities by providing meeting rooms.
- Mike asked that either the Little or Big Sir attend funerals/memorials of deceased activity chairmen.
- Photography activity is dealing with the closure (9-month/permanent?) of its meeting place at the Ygnacio Valley Library.
- Dave Bushnell has requested that his Opera activity be extended to include local classical music events. He seeks a name change to the activity reflecting this change. The BEC moved, seconded, and approved changing the activity name to Opera & Local Classical Music.

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

**Member Feedback – Jim Sowell:** Jim noted a record number of feedback forms (25) from the last luncheon, spurred no doubt by the new lunch buffet format. Most comments were positive with the exception of the slow meal service previously noted above.

**Systems Support Team – Dan Weller:** No report.

**Hotline – Chris Wehling:** No report.

**Open Discussion:**

1. California Photo Release Forms – Dan asked that BEC Officers become familiar with the new requirements mandated by our State SIR organization regarding the use of member pictures on our marketing material. Dan provided extensive background in the need for this action, found in BEC Minutes. Most immediately, we will need to address existing pictures of members on our website and Hotline material.
  - a. Dennis Mierzwa gave the BEC a reminder of how we handled the COVID mandated policy for participation in SIRs which required a similar collection of signed release forms. The task is no small undertaking, with complications coming from the need to maintain a roster of members who have submitted signed forms, distribution of such information to activity chairmen, mailings to members with reminders to submit forms, how to accommodate activity guests, partners, etc.
  - b. Dan asked that a task force be named to devise recommendations for the implementation of the new policy. The task force will include Chris Wehling, Mike Frey, Dan Weller. Dennis Mierzwa, Dan Smith, and Rich Knowles.
2. Dan noted that all BEC officers must sign the Annual Conflict of Interest forms. Our Secretary (Carl Ludwig) will annually collect and keep electronic copies of the signed forms.
3. T-Coil System – Dan referenced an inquiry from Branch 146 asking that we consider co-ownership of and payment for a system for amping up hearing assisted mechanisms to be used in luncheon presentations. Dan was not favorably disposed of the idea but will defer the question to a future BEC meeting.

**Final Remarks – Dan Smith:** Meeting closed and adjourned at 10:50.

**Next Meeting: April 13, 2026**