



**BEC Committee / Board Meeting Minutes  
May 11th, 2026**

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		OPEN, Public Relations/Marketing Director
X	Terry Mason, Director	X	Peter Jordan, Assistant Secretary
	Thomas Draeger, Director	X	Tom DiGrande, ex-officio

**Guests Attending**

Mike Loonin	Dennis Mierzwa	
Chick Lowry	Ken Main	
Ron Cassano	Jim Sowell	
Stan Johnson		
Ray De Wit		

**Big SIR Announcements – Dan Smith**

- Greg Konsavage has resigned his position. Greg did suggest George Vogt as a replacement.
- The April buffet worked very well. Only 2 members identified with mobility issues. There were no other negative issues expressed to Dan who declared the buffet experiment a success.
- We will table the Photo Release issue, pending final input from State SIR on requirements from local branches. Once this is in hand, Dan will engage the working committee to draft a proposal for the BEC. Peter Shaperio noted that the photo release issue is “a solution looking for a problem.”
- State SIR just enacted a Conflict-of-Interest policy. This will require each member of the BEC to submit a COI statement (using Form 67) annually to our Secretary by January 15. Carl Ludwig has received signed forms from all our BEC members.

- In regard to 2026 dues payment, 206 members have paid their dues. Sponsors of non-paying members have been enlisted to urge renewal. Activity chairmen may also assist in this regard. Growing the branch remains a challenge. Dan urged all to be mindful of this and engaged with new members until they are established.
- In regard to Branch 8's database replacement, we have a committee comprised of Rich Knowles, Dan Weller, and Garland. Rich Knowles stated that Wild Apricot had some "holes" (requirements not met) and is not being considered as a membership management system for Branch 8. We await the committee's decision. Another option for this committee to consider is their recommendation for a Director of IT starting in 2027. This comes from Andy Denver's suggestion, and we will have a director position open then. This would need to be coordinated with the nominations committee.

#### **Little SIR Announcements – Thom Watkins**

- Thom noted progress on Happy Fall Y'all with announcements at today's lunch and fliers on each table. Constant Contact notice to all members will follow.
- Buck Chesire has yet to contact committee members regarding the Holiday Gala.

#### **Nominations – Tom DiGrande**

- Tom noted that there are three BEC positions yet to be filled: Assistant Treasurer, a general directorship, and the recently vacated Marketing Director.
- Tom will send Carl Ludwig a list of positions filled so that he can update State SIR with Form 20 data by May 21.

#### **Visitors & Guest:**

1. Gary Bong (sponsored by Bob Weede)
2. Gary Griffen (sponsored by Terry Baldwin)
3. Stephen Ingraham (sponsored by Bob Joe)

#### **New Applicants for Induction & Orientation**

1. Bob Coston (sponsored by George Vogt)
2. Ray Sander (sponsored by Pat Dodson)

#### **Speaker: - Dan Buckshi, Walnut Creek City Manager**

- We thank Dan for taking time out of his busy schedule to update us as to what is happening in our community. This should be very informative.
- Dan asked if the League of Women Voters will speak in light of the many issues on the upcoming fall ballots. Answer – Yes, at our October lunch.
- Derek Southern will address AI topics at the July luncheon.

#### **Announcements –**

## **1. Positions to fill: UPDATE**

- IT / Data System - Assist Dan Weller – still open
- Website Assistance - Derek Southern – still open
- Hotline Editor – Chris Wehling, being announced at the luncheons.
- Public Relations Director – candidate must quickly pick up on actions started by Greg Konsavage.

## **2. Membership – Rich Knowles**

Rich summarized his membership report, noting that two new members found our organization through the State SIR website. His report was moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

## **3. Website**

- In regard to the photo release form issue, our website remains at “status quo” for now, leaving existing photos in place but not updating any new photo content.
- We have a goal of encouraging ACs to use AI to facilitate their activity reports that are included in the Hotline as well as posted on our website.

## **4. Audio / Visual Committee – Garland Bell**

No report: This seems to be working well.

## **New / Old Activities:**

### **Treasurer Report - Peter Shapiro**

- Peter presented his SIR Branch 8 Treasurer’s Report
- Peter noted our shortfall in income/expenses because we pay State SIR membership for 220 positions even though we have only 203 active members. This disconnect is based on formulas adopted by State SIR several years ago.
- Peter’s report was moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

### **Public Relations / Marketing - Greg Konsavage (no report)**

- **Dan Smith** - We need follow-up on activities initiated by Greg:
  - 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. Hold this thought for next year.
  - Introductions have been attained with the founder of Sensational Seniors who helps run the Senior Fair in Walnut creek. Greg was 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.
- Dan added a suggestion – The senior centers in WC, PH, and Concord all send monthly newsletters to their many members. Would it be possible to have a continuously running spot in these newsletters letting their members know that SIR is here to serve the guys and their spouses with many activities and events of our own?

#### **Secretary Report - Carl Ludwig**

The April BEC minutes have been posted to our website. The minutes were moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

#### **Attendance Report - John Vallor**

John summarized key findings from his previously released Attendance Report. Today's attendance is 109 of whom 99 are members.

His report was moved for acceptance, seconded, and approved by the BEC.

#### **Activities Report - Mike Frey - none**

#### **Member Feed Back - Jim Sowell**

Jim summarized comment cards from the prior lunch. The issue of presentation "drift" was discussed. The start of the business part of lunch is not as timely as it could be. The whole presentation is becoming too lengthy.

#### **System Support - Dan Weller**

Connecting to our database has been problematical for some users, particularly non-PC users. Dan continues to troubleshoot.

#### **Hotline" - Chris Wehling - none**

#### **Open Discussion: Additional matters**

##### **T-Coil System –**

The response to the email we sent out was informative. Members gave the idea a lukewarm response. Tom DiGrande discussed the options with Boundary Oaks management. They declined financial support. Further, there is substantial cost of system installation which would have to be assumed by the purchaser.

Bottom line – Branch 8 does not wish to be party to the purchasing of the T-Coil system.

**Close & Adjourn: 10:18 a.m.**

**Next meeting; June 8th, 2026**