



Minutes of the BEC Meeting

11/10/2025

BEC Members Attending

x	Tom DiGrande, Big Sir	x	John Vallor, Asst. Attendance Sec.
x	Dan Smith, Little Sir		Dan Casella, Assistant Treasurer
	Carl Ludwig, Secretary	x	Greg Consavage, Director Marketing/Public Relations
x	Peter Shapiro, Treasurer	x	Leo Dominguez, Asst. Secretary
	Rich Knowles, Membership Secretary	x	Peter Jordan, Asst. Secretary
x	Manuel Dominguez, Attendance Secretary	x	Martin Simmons, Director
x	Mike Frey, Director & ACC Member	x	Terry Mason, Director
x	Terry Baldwin, Asst. Treasurer	x	Arte Chan, Asst. Membership Secretary

Guests Attending

Ken Main	Thom Watkins	Mike Loonin
Garland Bell	Tom Draeger	Dan Weller
Jim Sowell	Ray DeWit	Stan Johnson

Open and Welcome: The meeting was opened at _0904 hrs by Tom DiGrande, who welcomed the BEC.

November 10, 2025

Welcome Please silence cell phone

Recognition of Visitors and Guests: __Visitors & Guest:

Guest - Ken Kastlemann (sponsored by George Vogt)

Guest - Dave Johnson (sponsored by George Vogt)

Visitor - Paula Murphy (sponsored by Thom Watkins)

Visitor - Bill Collins (sponsored by Tom DiGrande)

New Applicants for Introduction & Orientation

Richard Petersen (sponsored by George Vogt)

Edgar Hawkyard (sponsored by George Vogt)

Erwin Johnson (sponsored by Steve Greene)

New Member Introduction: none, Tom Di Grande commented to make sure to do follow ups with new members. The follow up needs to be done by sponsors and activity chairs that the member has noted as his preference. We should query George Vogt and get tips on how he approaches joining SIR.

Big Sir Report – Tom DiGrande:

Thanked all attendees

Announcements

Position to fill Update

1. IT /Data System to assist Dan Weller , Garland Bell has been helping.
2. Also Trying to improve website with recruitment

Membership

Rich Knowles away. Arte Chan continuing” Lets Give it a try,” Now trying to not dwell on membership being down discussions. Continue to talk to possible recruits, and NEW members, so they feel welcomed. Look towards the future.

Director F/U program new members

Tom D stressed that f/u with new members is crucial; to make them feel they are part of the Branch.

Website

Mike Frey is assisting with this task.

Speakers

For the 11/10/25 (today), our members with military experience will speak to us.

Greg Ryan, Ray DeWit, Thom Watkins, and Dan Smith regarding naval architecture.

Audio Visual

Seems to be always a challenge, members are working diligently to improve the systems. Tom D mentioned that we need more participants to help.

Little Sir Announcements Dan Smith

Dan is working on the contract with Boundary Oaks (BO). He is trying to ally with other branches that have lunches at BO

To have the most favorable contract. Dan is floating the idea of different types of meals, maybe hamburgers, potatoes etc. Also maybe buffets to change up the lunches.

The speaker committee welcomes Ken Main , and with Thom Watkins becoming Little Sir in 2026, he will spearhead the Speakers Committee as part of his new duties. Terry Baldwin will inquire about a speaker.

The SIR State training was discussed and was attended by Tom, Dan, Thom, and others from the BEC. A short discussion about the edict from State that BEC list cannot be copied and pasted to new year, even when the members are the same. State wants names entered again. It was discussed that this can lead to some errors. State wants this to “see” unfilled positions. Derek Southern, discussed at State training that he is willing to educate folks about AI. Another reminder came from Carl Mason (State) that branches cannot fund any part of activities. The partial funding of LDL and picnic do not fit these criteria, as all members can attend these two functions.

LDL Holiday Gala

Buck Cheshire did not attend BEC. Paula Murphy, who is on the committee reported that they are continuing to have members sign up and she is manning a table at the lunch to get more commitments. The Gala will be on Dec 8th 4-8 PM at \$75pp. About 80 so far are signed up. M/S/A

New/Old Activities

Tom Draeger has set up a holiday mini train display for the members at today’s lunch. Peter Jordan helped with set up.

Door Prize Activity today

Tom D decided to give out door prizes for the beer and wine that was already purchased for the cancelled Oktoberfest. Alcoholic items cannot be returned due to California law. Also, old mugs, and apparel with former SIR logos are included in door prizes.

Treasurer Report

Peter Shapiro spoke about the budget for 2026. The BO contract is still to be determined. A check for \$610.50 was deposited by State, but never was deducted from Br 8 bank account. This issue has been researched repeatedly, so this will be a positive entry for Br account! The Treasurer budget has all the details. Thank you to Peter Shapiro for his diligence. M/S/A

Secretary Report

Carl Ludwig did not attend meeting, due to medical appointment. Leo Dominguez, motioned for the October meeting minutes to be accepted/ M/S/A

Membership Report

Arte Chan presented Rich’s report as he was not present. There are 220 active members. Discussion to ask new members to serve as greeters within first 90 days was floated. The idea is to get newbies to meet fellow members and feel welcomed into Br8.

Attendance Report

Manuel presented his usual very detailed report. He will track walk ins and no shows. Manuel does a terrific job!

Attendance Report

Mike Frey mentioned that the Wellness Report was completed. There are more members in activities than attend lunches. It was discussed that although it would be a positive to have more at lunches, SIR draw is mainly for activities. It was reported that there are 8 annual paid members that do not attend lunch or any activity, not sure why, but the reality. Forty members do not attend lunch but do attend activities.

Member Relations

No report Rich Knowles away

Publicity/Images/Marketing

Greg Konsavage reported that Diggers restaurant table publicity was scrapped due to cost. The Clayton Oktoberfest participation for 2026 is a go. Getting volunteers was difficult and some volunteers had to man booth for long times. We were able to recruit a few members. It was discussed to see if the Clayton Wine festival was an opportunity similar to Clayton Oktoberfest.

Member Feedback

Jim Sowell reported on the comment cards from October lunch. Thanks Jim

System Support

Dan Weller – no current changes

Hotline

No report

Open Discussion

Tom D wanted to be informed where new members found out about Br8. He wants to have a possible Orientation Committee, also be included as a greeter.

Tom D ended meeting at 1040 am