



Minutes of the BEC Meeting

11132023

BEC Members Attending

X	Ray de Wit, Big Sir	X	Dan Kohlman, Asst. Membership Sec.
X	Rich Carlston, Little Sir	X	Dan Casella, Treasurer
X	Carl Ludwig, Secretary	X	Mike Loonin, Asst. Treasurer
	Tony Mazy, Asst. Secretary	X	Leo Dominguez, Director
X	Manuel Dominguez, Attendance. Sec.	X	Chick Lowry, ACC, Director
X	Dan Smith, Asst. Attendance Sec.	X	Martin Simmons, Director
	Rich Knowles, Membership Sec.		Tony de Losada, Director Emeritus

Guests Attending

Peter Shapiro	Ron Cassano	
Dan Weller		
Tom DiGrande		

Open and Welcome: The meeting was opened at 9:00 a.m. by Ray DeWit , who welcomed the BEC.

Recognition of Visitors and Guests: None.

New Member Introduction: None

Secretary Report – Carl Ludwig: On motion by Carl Ludwig, second by Manuel Dominguez, the BEC Minutes of October 9, 2023, were approved. Distribution of draft and final minutes sent to BEC members will be through use of bcc to minimize misuse of email addresses.

Big Sir Report – Ray de Wit

- Boundary Oaks contract negotiations - Luncheon costs will increase by \$1.00 per member, both regular and special LDL meals. The contract will be finalized later this week.
- New badge boxes – no new information.

- Printed roster survey results – The survey went to 240 members and 143 responded. 118 favored PDF email versions and 25 wished for printed versions. The PDF file can be easily produced from our Member Data Base, exported to Excel and saved as a PDF version. This will produce the proper format for viewing and printing. BEC members voted to make the PDF version available off our website (password protected) while special handling any request for printed versions.

Branch Membership – Dan Kohlman for Rich Knowles: There are 242 active members currently. Two recent deaths are reflected in this count.

Little Sir Report- Rich Carlston: Today's speaker is a current docent of the USS Hornet, reflecting our luncheon theme of Veteran's Service to our Nation. Speaker bookings for 2024 are well in hand with 9 of 10 months confirmed.

Treasurer's Report – Dan Casella:

- Dan provided the Treasurers Report for October reflecting the expected negative cash flow of \$1,100. Dan moved that it be accepted, Carl Ludwig seconded the motion, and it was approved by voice vote by the BEC.
- Dan presented budget scenarios for the CY2024 year, with a range of luncheon and annual dues fees charged to members using current membership numbers. Newly negotiated Boundary Oaks costs, free lunch estimates (7%), and static Octoberfest costs, were assumed. Discussion ensued with the following points raised:
 - Operating income and Branch 8 reserve balances will be determined largely by per member luncheon fees and annual membership dues.
 - We have been subsidizing luncheon costs through existing reserves. Does our membership know and understand this?
 - Does Branch 8 wish to continue meal subsidies and further reduce general reserves? What are general reserves for, and do we have a target amount for reserves?
 - Does our membership value current meal subsidies and Sir membership participation?
 - Has Branch 8 communicated sufficiently with its members to inform them of Sir costs and benefits, particularly in relation to other club and event options (e.g., Elks Club membership and self-pay three-course meals out)?

Dan Casella moved that the BEC adopt a budget based on Annual Dues of \$55 and a meal fee of \$35.

Based on discussion of the above points, the motion was amended to increase the meal fee to \$36, primarily so that members be made cognizant of the need to fund the increase in operating costs for Branch 8. The motion was sent to hand vote with 9 BEC members voting for the amended motion with 1 vote against. The \$55/\$36 fee structure was adopted.

Ray De Wit will draft a memo to the membership announcing these changes in member costs and circulate it among the BEC for comments and changes.

Membership – Rich Knowles: Dan Kohlman had no new information regarding membership.

Attendance – Manuel Dominguez: Manuel summarized the activity regarding late registrations, late cancellations and no-show from the prior month. It seems that there are two payment delinquencies that continue to elude calls for remittance. We will need to write these off. On motion by Manuel Dominguez, seconded by Dan Kohlman, to accept the Attendance Report , it was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Recruiting – No updates

Activities Coordinator – Chick Lowry:

- Podcasts from Branch 148 will be available to our members for viewing (details in Constant Contact release)
- ACC has taken it upon themselves to individually assist activity chairmen in updating the website content.
- ACC will work with Systems Support (Southern, Monksfield) to develop an update interface with the AMS to be used by activity chairmen.
- For our Branch 8 membership enjoyment, there are 61 activity opportunities, including 53 listed activities (38 co-ed), 3 events, 2 community outreach programs, and 22 shared activities with other Branches.

Member Relations – Rich Knowles: No report.

Publicity, Public Relations, and Community Outreach – Tony de Losada: No report. Branch 8 did not participate in the Walnut Creek Oktoberfest as planned due to lack of volunteers.

Systems Support Team – Dan Weller: Nothing to report.

Hotline – Dan Smith:

- There were a couple of minor failures to upload/update summary reports from chairmen.
- Ladies Day Luncheon needs an earlier “start planning” effort in the future.
- Dan will prod selected activity chairmen to provide Hotline updates.

Member Feedback – Jim Sowell previously provided an email summary of comments from the last luncheon.

New Business: None

Final Remarks – Ray DeWit: Ray expressed his enjoyment while serving as Big Sir this past year and thanked all BEC members for their assistance in making his tasks so smooth and easy.

The meeting closed and adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Next Meeting: January 8, 2024