



Minutes of the BEC Meeting

October 9, 2023

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.		Martin Simmons, Director
X	Rich Knowles, Membership Sec.	X	Tony de Losada, Director Emeritus

Guests Attending

Peter Shapiro	Dan Weller	
Ron Cassano	Jim Sowell	
Dan Crowley		

Open and Welcome: The meeting was opened at 9:03 by Ray DeWit , who welcomed the BEC.

Recognition of Visitors and Guests: No guests at the BEC; several at luncheon scheduled.

New Member Introduction: None

Secretary Report – Carl Ludwig: On motion by Carl Ludwig, second by Rich Carlson, the BEC Minutes of 09/11/2023 were unanimously approved.

Big Sir Report – Ray de Wit

- Contact with members of the former Branch 81 (Rossmore) was made via a letter from their Big Sir asking for an interest in joining our Branch 8. Four responses were received, all negative.
- Negotiations with Boundary Oaks have begun for the 2024 contract. Lunch prices were obtained at a \$5.00 per head cost increase. The gross cost prices did not correlate with the per-head charge nor the per- member minimum expectations. A revised and corrected contract was requested from Boundary Oaks. Negotiations continue.

- Ray asked Dan Casella to draft an operating budget for 2024, reflecting new items:
 - Increase in State Sir per member cost from \$8 to \$10.
 - State Sir request for Branch 8 to have more recruiting efforts.
 - New promotional brochures recently designed and ordered.

The draft 2024 budget will be reviewed by the BEC at its next meeting.

- New badge boxes are necessitated by the larger badge label sleeves. Tom Watkins is facilitating.

Branch Membership Status – Rich Knowles

- No resignations; no new members
- Three new applications, but unfinalized.
- 241 current members

Little Sir Report- Rich Carlston: Today's speakers are from the League of Women Voters covering the topic "Misinformation and Disinformation".

Treasurer's Report – Dan Casella: Dan provided the Treasurers report. We had a negative cash flow of \$693.20 of which \$547.26 resulted from luncheon subsidies (\$2.85 per member).

Dan again noted the bad math in the initial contract draft from Boundary Oaks, including incorrect accounting of the Ladies Day Luncheon costs.

Dan will be asking the appropriate BEC members to sign letters that he drafted to be sent to our bank notifying them of changes to our Branch 8 officers.

On motion by Dan Casella, seconded by Manuel Dominguez , the financial reports were approved unanimously.

Membership – Rich Knowles: Rich provided the membership report in previous email to BEC members. He moved they be accepted, seconded by Leo Dominguez, and approved by the BEC.

Attendance – Manuel Dominguez: Manuel summarized his Attendance Report previously distributed to the BEC. For today's luncheon, there were 2 late cancellations and 2 late signups. Collections for unapproved cancellations are moving through the system without undue problem .On motion by Manuel Dominguez, seconded by Carl Ludwig, the Attendance Report was unanimously approved.

Discussion ensued about the best way to stay in contact with our members with the aim of improving luncheon attendance. Manuel noted that Constant Contact was most effective means of doing so.

Asked: "Do we have a list of members who don't come to luncheons or activities?" Answer: "Yes, via our ACC system. Ray de Wit asked Manuel if he would get such a list for the BEC to consider.

Committee Reports

Recruiting – No report

Activities Coordinator – Chick Lowry: Chick noted that our Mahjong activity lead by Ron Rizzo was never formally approved by the BEC, and we must do so for insurance purposes. Chick moved that we do so, seconded by Dan Smith, and approved unanimously by the BEC.

Chick noted that our Activity Member System (AMS) is a very powerful tool because it ties directly to the Branch 8 Member Database. Activity chairmen often do not access or update the AMS to record member participation in events, even after they received training on the system. He indicated that ACC staff are considering performing this update function themselves. The ACC is also canvassing other Sir Branches to see how they are addressing this function. The ACC will be contacting activity chairs to discuss how to best address this issue for Branch 8.

Member Relations – Rich Knowles: Nothing new to report.

Publicity, Public Relations, and Community Outreach – Tony de Losada: Tony noted our participation in the Walnut Creek Oktoberfest event, again asking for volunteers to staff our booth this Saturday.

Systems Support Team – Dan Weller: Nothing to report; all OK.

Hotline – Dan Smith: Dan noted the lack of communication regarding the December Ladies Day Luncheon and Buck Cheshier be pinged to begin promotions in the Hotline.

Member Feedback – An attendee asked if we could get a speaker from the Lescher Theater.

New Business:

- The idea of reprinting the member roster was discussed. It has been over three years since the last printing of the roster. Some members find it easier to access member information from print rather than on-line from our website or from a pdf document. Ray asked Manuel Dominguez to send a constant contact survey to members asking for their support for a printed booklet at cost (about \$1,000 expense for a printed booklet for all members), electronic copy, or both.

Final Remarks – Ray DeWit: Meeting closed and adjourned 9:55.

Next Meeting: November 13, 2023