



**Contra Costa Branch 146**  
**Minutes of the Branch Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Club Room 2, Hilton Hotel**

**SIR BRANCH 146**  
**9:00 to 10:45 A.M. – CLUB ROOM 2– HILTON HOTEL**  
**January 25, 2016**

**BIG SIR (Walt Busenius)**

Walt Busenius called the meeting to order at 9:03 am with 11 officers and directors present and 8 committee chairmen and guests. He welcomed the new, and returning members of the board.

The minutes of the November BEC meeting were approved as corrected.

**BIG SIR'S REPORT (Walt Busenius)**

Walt indicated that the luncheon room was not set up as requested and Bill Holly was overseeing modifying the room setup.

Walt reported that the Hilton had moved our meeting date in February from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This was allowed by the contract with the Hilton. The calendar has been modified to reflect this change and an email blast has been sent to the members, and it will be noted in the Sir Call. The new manager of the Hilton has been good to work with.

The Boundary Oak renovation is on schedule.

The BEC responsibilities are noted in the Branch guide – the BEC was reminded to review their responsibilities in the Branch regulations as listed on our website and the state Sir website. The officers are reminded to check the schedule of branch operations to ensure compliance with branch regulations.

Walt wanted to ensure the transfer of files, records and inventory to the new officers, which was confirmed. Some treasurer items are pending.

Doug Eisner was introduced as the chair of the Honoree committee, and indicated that Ray Kan had stepped down from the committee and that Dennis Hallett has stepped down as the chair. A report will be given in executive session.

The Nominating Committee was confirmed with Bill Holly as chair, and Doug Eisner and Terry Marchione as members – a report will be given at the February BEC meeting. The Auditing Committee was similarly confirmed by the board.

Walt reviewed the recruiting and membership goals. Form 27 to report this information has been simplified.

The goal for new members for 2016 is to have 30 added. For membership the goal thus will be 280 men at the end of the year. A review of active members attending

the luncheon indicates that in 2013 it was 75%, in 2014 – 72%. The goal for 2016 will be set at 70%. For guests, the goal will be kept at 50, as it was in 2015. We had 48 guests in 2015. We have 6 guests today, originally it was 7, but Joe Starkey was not able to come.

A new statistic is the Guest conversion ratio – set at 1.3. The membership goals were approved by the board.

The branch meeting dates were distributed, with the change in the February date. We are scheduled to return to Boundary Oak in May for the Ladies Day, the Colorful Shirt competition is in June, Team Colors day in August, October the Branch Anniversary Day (27 years), in November the Honor the Veterans Day, and in December the Christmas Ladies Day Luncheon.

It was noted that there will be no further changes in the Hilton schedule and that we were to be given something special for making the change in February.

Walt gave an update to the November no-shows. There were 11 or 12 no-shows, and about 10 with illness. We met our commitment for the number of lunches.

Walt related the result of a Sir focus group, which he attended on Jan. 12. It was suggested that we use a kinder, gentler approach when discussing attendance with members who have missed excessive luncheons (more than three consecutive, or more than five in a rolling 12 month period). Max Hinkle keeps track of this. Pete Gates noted that no one is ever dismissed because of attendance, although resignation may occur as a result of a discussion with the member. Further discussion of the attendance rules ensued.

The use of the rooster as the Sir logo/mascot was discussed at the focus group. Some noted their dislike, however it is integral to the logo. Steve Sprague opined that the story related to the rooster can be ignored.

#### LITTLE SIR REPORT (Alan Elnick)

The speaker for today is Gregory Lim, a long-term friend and colleague of Alan. He is a Federal Mediator with the Federal Mediation board with years of experience in labor relations and negotiating contract disputes. He was responsible for settling the BART strike a few years ago, and active in disputes in the hospitality, and healthcare industries, and others.

Next month the speaker will be Joe Canciamilla, the County Clerk/ Recorder of Contra Costa County. He will be of particular interest in this election year. He has also served on the Board of Supervisors and in the State Legislature.

Alan is still working on speakers for March and April. Alan indicated that he does not have a committee and it was noted that this is part of the branch by-laws. Alan will work on that.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT (Bruce Borgman) No report

#### TREASURER'S REPORT (Jim Barry)

The report indicates about a \$4000 decrease in cash balance from last month.

There are about 7 members delinquent in their dues, although Rob may have two more checks. Walt requested the names of the outstanding members so they can be

contacted. Walt complimented the efforts of those responsible for the dues collection resulting in the small number of outstanding dues.

It was noted that the Ladies Day expenses in December were covered by the receipts, including the entertainment cost. No center pieces were purchased, however; we used the ones supplied by Boundary Oak.

The change of the account signatories will be completed in the next few days.

The Treasurer's report was approved by the board.

## .COMMITTEE CHAIRS REPORTS

### ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR (Jerry Kaplan)

Jerry reported that at year-end we had 44 activities, up from 43 at the end of 2015. This year we lost the ROMEO Dining out group, and the Explore and Dine activity. We added four – a Book Club, and three Mexican Train Domino Groups. We have 84 Sirs playing MTD, which with their spouses/ significant other means that we have 160-170 people participating, catching up with the golf activity. The list of activities has been distributed. The report was approved by the board.

### BIOGRAPHIES (Paul Dubow – reported by Walt)

We now have 170 biographies, we did have 172, but had one resignation and one death.

### AREA FISHING (Paul Dubow – reported by Walt)

The State organization requires that the local branches approve the Fishing Calendar, which Walt has received. It was approved by the board.

### PUBLICITY (Jim Saavedra)

We are on the schedule for the Contra Costa Times and San Ramon Valley Times, and are working on the Walnut Creek Journal. Another paper suggested was the Clayton Pioneer.

### GREETER (Dick DeVoe)

Dick DeVoe will not be here today, but will have greeters present. Dick has recruited a good group to take on this responsibility, including new members.

### HISTORIAN (Pete Gates)

Two versions of the branch history are being composed – the long version is in Pete's file. The short version will be on the website. Both will be approved at the March BEC.

### COMMUNICATIONS – SIR CALL (Richard Hockenbrock)

The major change with the Sir Call is that we are changing to full e-distribution, thus issues will no longer be mailed. This will allow the newsletter to have an odd number of pages since a mailing page is no longer necessary. The only thing pending for the February issue is the menu for the February luncheon. Max will get that today. Richard expects to have the issue out by the end of the month.

It was noted later in the meeting that Bill Cammerer is due our thanks and appreciation for the many years of preparing, folding, and mailing the Sir Call to those members who needed the newsletter mailed.

#### TRAVEL (Bob Spellman, interim)

Ken Richter has resigned from the chair position and thus this position is vacant, and we do not we have an assistant chair. Bob Spellman is filling in temporarily and willing to be a consultant to any interested Sirs. He submitted for approval a “Day at the Races” event, which will be on Feb. 19, at a cost of \$33. This includes parking, program, and a buffet lunch. The trip was approved by the board. Richard will include the event in the Sir Call. The Jersey Boys event had few attendees, but Ken was able to apply the retainer to the ticket price of those going. The Spring Training event had to be cancelled. The trip to the Reagan Library has a number of people signed up. The trip to Germany also has a number of people signed up.

Richard asked if we can piggy back onto other branches travel events, and Bob indicated that only one other branch has a travel chair, so often he, as the state chair provides support.

Walt noted that the travel chair is a challenging position. It was suggested that a travel committee be created with one individual responsible for each trip/activity. An announcement will be made at he luncheon.

#### HONOREES (Doug Eisner)

This will be presented in executive session.

#### LADIES DAY (Steve Dawkins and Steve Ybarra)

These gentlemen will handle the May Ladies Day.

#### LUNCHEON ATTENDANCE (Max Hinkle)

Report was sent out and submitted to board. Guaranteed number for the luncheon is 215, which is about 73% of the membership. In November we had 233 meals served. The menu split was 55/45 as it usually is. Max indicated that the process with the no-lunch notice is working well, except for a recent glitch with Astound users with the email reminder. We will have six guests today. For those unable to attend the lunch, a check may be sent to Jim Barry.

#### MEMBERSHIP (Ben Gleason)

2015 was a good year for the membership. Total membership at the end of November was 286, an all time high. We had a loss of 7 in December, and ended the year with 279. We met or exceeded our recruiting and retention goals. We lost three members in January – David Morris and Mike Ferrar resigned, and Pete Boss transferred to Branch 8.

We will have two new members being inducted – Howard Charlop from Novartis; and David Hicks form JDA Software.

Bill Boyd – aged 93 with over 15 years as a member has requested Emeritus status.

Motion to accept the report, the new members and Bill Boyd status was made and seconded and carried.

A motion was made and seconded for the Secretary to notify Dwight Sales to remove Bob Wheaton from the Senior Sir list of Branch 146, and to add Fred Reich.

#### MEMBER RELATIONS (Brad Hatcher) – No report

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Bill Holly)**

The nominating committee is considering 17 Sirs for 6 open positions and will present a report at the February board meeting prior to presentation at the April luncheon.

**RECRUITMENT (Corrie Oranje)**

There are six guests today. James Browning sponsored by Corrie Oranje; Gary Lepper sponsored by John Pearl; Phillip Risken sponsored by Collin Holland; Mike Risser sponsored by Jim Barry, Howard Smalheiser sponsored by Jim Saavedra, and Paul Van Noord sponsored by Brad Hatcher.

**SUNSHINE REPORT (John Pearl)**

The Sunshine list has three names, submitted and attached.

**ANALYTICS (Ron Plachy)**

The report was submitted and attached.

**REPORTS FROM OTHER CHAIRS - none**

**CHAIRMEN WISHING TIME ON TODAY'S LUNCHEON AGENDA**

Bob Spellman for Travel

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be at 9:00 A.M. Monday, February 22, 2016 at the Concord Hilton.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 A.M.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The report from the Honoree Committee was received, and accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Borgman  
Branch Secretary

Attachments:

1. BEC Agenda
2. Treasurer's report, Form 28

3. Membership Report and Form 27 (corrected)
4. Luncheon Attendance Chairman's Report (amended)
5. Activities Report
6. Branch Luncheon Calendar 2016
7. Google Analytics
8. Member Relations Report
9. Sunshine Report
10. Attendance Sheet
11. Travel Form 50's