



Contra Costa Branch 146
Minutes of the Branch Executive Committee Meeting
Boundary Oak-Lakeview Room

June 12, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Big Sir Doug Eisner called the meeting to order at 9:02 am, welcoming 9 BEC members, and 11 committee chairmen and guests.

BEC ROLL CALL/QUORUM

A quorum was present as 9 of 12 officers and directors were in attendance. Directors **Borgman, Richmond and Pearl** were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the April 10, 2014 open meeting and the minutes from the closed executive session were approved as written.

BIG SIR'S REPORT (Doug Eisner)

- Honorees Committee Chairman **Dennis Hallett** will present the Branch Honoree Award to **Rich Ahlf** at today's luncheon. This award recognizes **Rich's** long and extensive service to Branch 146.
- Special Auditor review of Golf Committee bookkeeping: The saga is over. The Final Audit Committee Report is attached. The special auditor and the Audit Committee have determined that the Golf Committee's records are correct, since they are tied directly to bank statements. The audit report concludes in recommendation 1 that "in future audits, as a minimum, the year's activities for each account should be tied to the beginning and ending bank statement for the amounts reported on Form 28". We thank **Steve Siljestrom** and the Audit Committee (**Dick Woodman and Charles Clark**) for their time and effort and the Golf Committee for their cooperation in resolving this matter.
- The newly formed Area 2 Membership Support Committee reported in April, 2014 will hold its first meeting this Friday, June 13th at the downtown Walnut Creek Library. The committee's purpose is to discuss ways of improving membership levels, member retention, and to enhance the viability of branches within our area. **Little Sir Bill Holly** will be attending.
- **Doug Eisner and Bill Holly** are surveying, organizing and recruiting the leadership/administrative chairmanships for 2015. As it stands, there will be a need to

recruit some new chairmen. The BEC and all members are encouraged to step forward and respond to this call. Updates to follow.

- Based on April's meeting, there was discussion in June relative to: should Branch 146 subsidize or entirely pay for a guest's luncheon? No decision was made at April's meeting and BEC members were asked to informally poll members, pointing out pro and cons of such a procedure.

Several points were raised and discussed. Many members now pay for their guest's luncheon and appear to willingly accept that practice. We are participating in an Area 2 mailer which offers a \$10 discount to a guest with a mailer coupon. So far, one guest has been referred to us. It would cost Branch 146 approximately \$1250 per annum to subsidize guest lunches. There appeared to be consensus that "if the current system is working and producing guests and new members, don't change it". It was felt that if we were to do anything, it would be to buy lunch for a new member. No recommendation was made nor action taken.

At the Friday, June 13th meeting, **Bill Holly** will ask other branches what they do regarding lunches for guests and new members. **Brad Hatcher** was requested to look into incentives for members who bring in guests as new members and to look at our existing program to see if it is promoting long term growth.

LITTLE SIR'S REPORT (Bill Holly)

- Today's speaker is John Hagan, whose presentation is "Play Away Please" A tale of the sale of golf's greatest icon – The St. Andrews old course starter's box. John has been a real estate developer for over forty years and an aficionado of St. Andrews golf. He has served on the Nike Golf Player Staff and was founder of the Friends of St Andrews which was established by The St Andrews Links Trust.
- Next month's speaker will be the Artistic Director of the Leshner Theatre.
- **Bill** will be attending the Membership Support Committee on July 13th where member relations and retention, as well as recruiting are among the topics. To get new members involved early, Branch 8 strives to make them Assistant Chairmen.
- To date, there are 4 pending "no shows" that have not paid but have been contacted by email or phone. These should be resolved in the near future. There are two (2) holdovers from March's luncheon, and two (2) from April's luncheon.
- Plans for our Branch's 25th Anniversary celebration at October's luncheon are progressing satisfactorily. It will be a celebration honoring our membership that will involve 6 former Big Sirs reviewing highlights over 5 year intervals since our inception, as well as reviewing our charter, honorary and life members. A power point presentation and posters will be used. More details to follow.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Walt Busenius)

Nothing to report

TREASURER'S REPORT (Chuck Campbell)

The Treasurer's reports for April and May, 2014 were accepted as submitted and can be viewed on the branch website. Copies attached.

- We began April with a cash balance of \$22,407.85 and ended the month with a balance of \$24,385.35. The month of May, of course, started with a cash balance of \$24,385.35 and ended the month with a balance of \$22,971.86.
- There were no unusual or unexpected expenditures.
- All dues are current.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS:

Activities Coordinator (Jerry Kaplan)

- The Branch Activities Coordinators in Area 2 still have not met. **Walt Schick** promises to hold a meeting soon.
- Before June's luncheon, we will have the following activities' tables: Bowling with **Larry Mitchell**, Walkers with **John Lewis**, Mexican Dominos with **Jerry Kaplan**, Theatre with **Gary Schaub**, and ROMEO with **Malcolm Hendry**.
- It was observed reviewing other branch websites that Branch 8 has Activity Assistants or Co-Chairs. In Branch 146, this would involve 80 instead of 40 members leading activities. Branch 8 encourages new members to become Assistants or Co-Chairs. **Dennis Hallett** mentioned that almost half of our membership has not accumulated any branch leadership points.
- We have 40 activities and continue to receive suggestions for new activity groups. Mexican Train Dominoes will have its first meeting soon and there is interest in starting a book club.
- Several activities are having attendance and/ or interest problems. It was suggested that these activities attempt to find new ways of creating interest, such as varying meeting dates, trying to appeal to different levels of expertise, varying the format, etc. We do not want to disband any activities.

Biographies (Paul Dubow)

- There are now 82 bios on the website. This represents nearly 30% of our membership. Newly inducted members are being solicited at orientation to complete their bios.
- To send another e-mail blast via communications (**Jeff Baily**) in June to the membership explaining how easy it is to submit bio information and have it written.

Communications (Jeff Baily)

- In April, **Jeff announced** his resignation as the Sir Call Editor, effective September 30th. October's edition will be his last. The **Big Sir and the BEC** again commended **Jeff** for his hard work and dedication in producing the Sir Call in a timely, attractive and informative manner. **Jeff** feels there are several very good candidates who are

considering taking over the editorship of the Sir Call, and he is willing to help his replacement(s) in order to have a smooth transition.

- **Jeff** will try to incorporate a sentence relative to registering a luncheon guest on the inside of the red ball found on the front page of the Sir Call.

Honorees (Dennis Hallet)

Rich Ahlf will be awarded the Branch Honoree Award. This is the highest award presented to a member of Branch 146.

Evacuation Plan (Ben Gleason)

This once yearly evacuation drill will be explained to the membership at July's meeting and then will be implemented at the end of the meeting.

Ladies Day Luncheon (Steve Dawkins)

250 people attended May's event – a good turnout. It was a joyous event that produced very positive comments regarding the banjo group. The overall quality of the food, especially the steak and scallop potatoes, did not meet expectations. The meal price of \$27 per person was and is a fair price for this type event. The **Big Sir** commended **Steve** for his organization and continued excellence in producing these Ladies Day events.

Luncheon Attendance (Jim Burk for Baha Zarah)

The guarantee of **202** to **CourseCo** for lunch today is based on 59 excused absences and includes 4 new members, 4 guests, and 1 speaker. Allowing for 5% overrun, **212** meals will be prepared.

Membership (Ben Gleason)

- The BEC approved 5 new members: **Larry A. Fitzgerald**, badge #15 sponsored by **Ben Gleason**; **Robert E. Lucido**, badge#23 sponsored by **Ron Binder**; **George C. Mon**, badge#29 sponsored by **Joe Fuchs**; **Joseph E. Stengel, Jr**, badge#53 sponsored by **Ron Binder**; **Carl B. Tilchen**, badge# 88 sponsored by **Alan Elnick**.
- **Steve Dexter**, badge# 290, and **Vladan Lunacek**, badge# 213, have resigned.
- **Doug Timmons**, badge#88, resigned and is moving out of our area. As a result, our inactive roster has decreased to 25 members.
- After the above changes, the total membership count will **increase by 3 to 268 members**. There are 6 Honorary Life Members. Membership Report and Form 27 attached.

Member Relations (Brad Hatcher)

The final version of the "Sponsor Role and Guidelines" is posted on our branch website in the members section. The handout has been well received and **Brad** was commended for his hard work and dedication to improving member relations. **Ben Gleason** advised that 7 new members, who have joined since January, have been contacted; and all 7 are pleased with their membership in Branch 146.

Publicity (Al Munayer)

- Will be sending out information about our July and subsequent meetings to the Contra Costa Times.
- Al plans to attend The Area 2 meeting Friday, June 13th at the Walnut Creek library where member recruiting and retention as well as branch vitality will be discussion topics.

Recruitment (Ron Binder) There will be 3 guests at today's luncheon

Sunshine (John Pearl) John submitted The Sunshine Report by e-mail. Copy attached.

Travel (Ken Richter) the following travel events and related travel forms (copies attached) were presented to the BEC and all were unanimously approved:

- *Levi Stadium (49ers) Tour* – approved Sir Form 53, Request for Approval of Branch Travel Event for a one day bus tour on 9/15/ 2014 through Travel Center, Tours and Travel, CST# 1002945-40,that includes a tour of Levi Stadium and lunch afterwards.
- *Santa Cruz Follies* --- This event, scheduled for 9/10/2014, has been cancelled as a result of the golden opportunity to take a tour of the new Levi Stadium on 9/15.
- *Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast and Greece* – Sir Form 52, The Travel Event Financial Report, was submitted and approved for this Grand Circle tour that was held from 5/10/14 to 6/2/14.
- *Treasures of France – Normandy to Provence* – Sir Contract Form 60 with Vantage Travel Services, CST# 2071428, was approved for this tour package from August 21 2015 to September 11, 2015, including pre and post trips.

Webmaster (Ron Plachy) No Report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned @ 10:42 am.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 9:00 am.

(Submitted by Secretary Walt Busenius)

Attachments:

1. Attendance Roster June 12, 2014
2. Amended Final 2013 Audit Report
3. March and April Late and No-Show List
4. Treasurer's Report and Form 28 (Campbell)
5. Membership Report and Form 27 (Gleason)
6. Sunshine Report (Pearl)
7. Sir Form 53, Request for Approval Branch Travel Event: Levi Stadium (49ers) Tour to be held on 9/15/2014.
8. Sir Form 53, Request for Approval Branch Travel Event: Santa Cruz Follies, 9/10/14. Event has been officially cancelled.
9. Sir Form 52, Travel Event Financial Report: Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast and Greece, Vantage Travel Services from 5/10/14 to 6/2/14.
10. Sir Contract Form 60 with Vantage Travel Services for Tour: Treasures of France – Normandy to Provence (plus pre and post trips), from 8/21/2015 to 9/11/2015.