



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

October 9, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Big Sir Doug Eisner called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, welcoming 11 BEC members, and approximately 20 committee chairmen and guests.

BEC ROLL CALL/QUORUM

A quorum was present as 11 of 12 officers and directors were present. **Asst. Secretary Alan Elnick** was the only absence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the September 11, 2014 open meeting were approved as submitted.

BIG SIR'S REPORT (Doug Eisner)

- **Doug** introduced **Bobby Hairston, SIR President-Elect**, and **Robbie Robinson, SIR Area 2 Governor**, in attendance today to celebrate our Branch's 25th Anniversary.
- **Honorees:** **Honorees Chairman Dennis Hallett** will present three awards today. **Roy Luoma** will receive the Senior Sir Certificate as well as the 20 Year Membership Certificate. **Bill Cammerer** will receive the 20 Year Membership Certificate. We extend our congratulations and appreciation for their service and dedication to Branch 146.
- Per Branch Regulation 42, Past Big Sirs will be saluted at today's meeting but in a different fashion. This salute will take place during the 25th Anniversary Celebration that includes a slide show recognizing our membership as well as our Past Big Sirs.
- **Discussion of Boundary Oak Renovation and Relocation issues:** This continues to remain a fluid issue. The discussion and concerns documented in the July, August, and September minutes are still in play.
 1. Nine (9) bids for Phase I have been reviewed by the City. We understand a contractor has been selected and that his bid was submitted last night to the City Council. CourseCo still intends to accommodate us after the construction schedule is developed. Work would start after our January 8, 2015 meeting.

2. The Hilton now has a contract in place for the 4th Monday in January. We tentatively are holding the 3rd Monday in abeyance for January's luncheon. Our schedule there for subsequent months would require flexibility on our part and meal costs are going up to \$26, effective in January.
3. Decision time for us, whether we stay or relocate to the Hilton with a 3rd Monday meeting date in January, still points to November, 2014. We continue to solicit input from our members to help guide us in making our decision.

LITTLE SIR'S REPORT (Bill Holly)

1. Today we celebrate our Branch's 25th Anniversary. We will have 6 speakers, former **Big Sirs** covering our 25 years, with each speaker highlighting a 5 year period in our history that includes photos of members who joined during that period. **Jim Steadman** will honor the HLM's. **Historian Pete Gates** provided a bounty of information to the speakers.
2. During the past month, the number of delinquent payers as result of being a prior "no show" has greatly decreased since our last meeting. Eight (8) back payments were received in September. Now, there are 3 pending resolution from last month, September; and these appear to be resolvable.
3. We will contact Embroidery and Moore, a seller of Sir Wear (hats, polo shirts, jackets, sweaters, etc.), to set up a table and display before and after January's luncheon. This process worked well at Branch 8 and their members were given a 10% discount.
4. 2015 Sir Leader Training: this training was held Thursday, October 2nd, at the Veteran's Hall in Lafayette. The 2015 Sir Leaders Guide was passed out and reviewed. The Guide is the Holy Grail for SIR Leaders. Other valuable information was presented and branch leaders shared valuable tidbits—like what recruitment and member retainment tools work for them.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Walt Busenius) Thanked John Pearl for a great job recording September's meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Chuck Campbell)

The Treasurer's Report for September, 2014 was accepted as submitted and can be viewed on the branch 146 website. Copies attached.

- We began September with a cash balance of \$20,629.57 and ended the month with a balance of \$21,414.06. Custodial accounts were the reason for the increased balance.
- September luncheon receipts exceeded luncheon cost by \$152.50 as a result of receiving \$200.00 in missed lunch payments from unexcused absences/:no shows".

- The BEC unanimously approved next year's budget to be \$5,165 and set 2015 dues at \$15.00 plus pay \$25.00 for lunch (or the final negotiated lunch price) at each of the 10 regular monthly meetings. The BEC approved the annual contributor's fee due before December 31, 2014: a one-time payment of \$240 to cover annual dues as well as the cost of meals at 10 regular monthly luncheons. There were 24 annual payers in 2014.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS:

Activities Coordinator (Jerry Kaplan)

- There are 41 activities.
- ROMEO is currently without a leader. **Jerry** has attempted to promote a new chairman from within the ROMEO group. ROMEO is on hold—still an activity.
- Due to turnout and demand for Mexican Train Dominos, the BEC unanimously approved the formation of a 2nd group.
- **Jerry** will be at a table today to solicit sign-ups for a new poker group and a book discussion group.
- Manning the activities tables today are **Bruce Borgman** for Song Sirs and Couples Dining Out: **Rich Ahlf** for Hiking, and **Carl Tilchen** for the Acoustic Musicians' Group.

Biographies (Paul Dubow) Bios submittals have slowed. None received from last month's new members. We have 80 on line out of our current membership of 275.

Communications (Jeff Baily) **Jeff Baily** is sending out e-mail blasts to the membership. Email accounts have been combined into one password protected address book within the e-communication's Gmail account. **Walt** will be **Jeff's** back-up and the password protected communication's Gmail account will become accessible for him to send email blasts.

Honorees (Dennis Hallett) Two honorees today: **Bill Cammerer** is receiving 20 year Service Certificate and **Roy Luoma** receiving the Senior Sir Certificate and the 20 year Service Certificate. There is a Bios problem for awardees who tend to be our older members. **Pete Gates** advised that we have "know your Sir" articles from old Sir Calls.

Ladies Day Luncheon (Steve Dawkins) The Christmas luncheon is coming together. The menu choices will be a French cut Pork Chop or Pan Seared Halibut. The charge will be \$56 per couple (\$28 per person) which was unanimously approved by the BEC. This includes approximately \$250 excess which will cover table settings and may partially cover a singing group, with any additional cost in that regard coming out of the general fund. Sign up information and forms will appear in the Sir Call and at our next luncheon.

Luncheon Attendance (Baha Zarah)

The total count of **230** for lunch today is based on a membership base of **273**, and includes a combination of **4** new members, **9** guests/visitors, and **(56)** excused absences. Total Guaranteed to CourseCo is **214** after allowing for **(16)** post deadline “no show” absences. Allowing for 5% overrun, **225** meals will be prepared. Also see attachment.

Membership (Ben Gleason)

- The BEC approved 4 new members: **William R. Deyoe**, badge #65, sponsored by **Bob Bogardus**; **Stan Stricherz**, badge#102, sponsored by **Al Munayer**; **Michael R Whitaker**, badge#213, sponsored by **Bill Schultz**; **Mike Farrar**, badge#220, sponsored by **Lo McCarley**.
- **Kap Kaprielian** and **Bill Becker** asked to go inactive. The inactive list has 23 members.
- After the above changes, the total membership count will **increased by 2 to 275 members**. There are **6** Honorary Life Members. The Membership Report and Form 27 are attached.
- Our 2014 new member goal of 30 has already been achieved with 2 months remaining. Through October, there have been 46 guests' vs our goal of 50. This is a conversion rate of 70%.

Member Relations (Brad Hatcher)

The 2014 Member Survey was sent to the targeted membership. It is similar to last year's but with some upgraded questions. So far, the response rate has been only 20%. **Doug** to appeal for a better response from those receiving the survey at today's meeting. **Brad** thanked **Jeff** for sending the survey out twice via email.

Publicity (Al Munayer) A small article about November's meeting will appear in the Contra Costa Times.

Recruitment (Ron Binder) Absent – no report.

Sir Call Editor (Richard Hockenbrock) **Rich** will be on vacation later this month. **Jeff Baily** will help produce November's Sir Call. All relevant files are now stored in Google Cloud.

Sunshine (John Pearl) **John** submitted The Sunshine Report. Copy attached. On the list are **Howie King, Bob Donahue, and Dick Richmond**. Get well cards have been sent to these Sirs. **Bob Donahue** has moved out of the area.

Travel (Ken Richter and Bob Spellman) The search for a replacement candidate is progressing and a meeting with one candidate has been set up. **Hank James** will be taking over as Book Corner/Exchange replacement after Ken's 4 years of leadership and dedication to that program. **Ken** submitted Sir Form 52 -- Travel Event Financial Report for the September 15th one day bus tour of Levi Stadium. **Bob** submitted Sir Form 52 -- Travel Event Financial Report for the Grand Norwegian Coastal Voyage from 9/19/2014 to 10/6/2014 through Vantage Travel. **Bob** submitted Event Sir Form 51 – Report of Travel Outside the USA for the same Vantage Travel trip to Norway.

Webmaster (Ron Plachy) Ran Google Analytics on our website. There were 431 page seekers, mostly members. However, the site is not heavily used, especially the newsletter. There may be a need for the Adobe Dreamweaver Software package.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Our new **Area 2 Governor, Robbie Robinson** announced that there will be a morning training session on Wednesday, October 29th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek for all 2015 Area 2 BEC officers.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned @ 10:40 am.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 9:00 am.

Recorded and Submitted by Secretary Walt Busenius

Attachments:

- 1.Attendance Roster October 9, 2014
- 2.September 2014 Late and No-Show List
- 3.September Treasurer's Report, Form 28 and proposed 2015 dues notice (Campbell)
- 4.October Lunch Count Table (Zarah)
- 5.Membership Report and Form 27 (Gleason)
- 6.Sir Form 52 -- Travel Event Financial Report: Levi Stadium Tour, 10/15/2014 (Richter)
- 7.Event Sir Form 51 – Report of Travel Outside the USA: Grand Norwegian Coastal Voyage, 9/19/2014 to 10/6/2014, Vantage Travel. (Spellman)
- 8.Sir Form 52 -- Travel Event Financial Report: Grand Norwegian Coastal Voyage, 9/19/2014 to 10/6/2014, Vantage Travel. (Spellman)

9.Sunshine Report (Pearl)