

Sir Branch 146

Branch Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2026 - Venue: Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Branch 146 Executive Committee for 2025

		Present
Big Sir	Thom Degnan	X
Little Sir	Jim Pope	X
Secretary	John Rexroat	X
Assistant Secretary	Mike Davidson	X
Treasurer	Mike Ball	X
Assistant Treasurer	Paul Jones	X
Director 1 st Term	Bob Lucido	X
Director 1 st Term	Jim Crites	X
Director 2 nd Term	Mark Curtis	X
Director 2 nd Term	Glenn Breslin	X
Director 2 nd Term	John Alexander	X
Director 2 nd Term	Vacant	

Other Attendees:

*Past Big SIR	Present
Ben Gleason	
Bill Holly*	x
Bob Ford*	X
Bob Spellman	X
Bob Wilkenfeld*	
Bob Yolland*	
Brad Hatcher*	X
Brian McCarthy	X
Bruce Borgman	X
Carl Mason	
Dick DeVoe*	X
Doug Eisner*	X
Ed Brands	
Frank Lucas	
George Mon	X
Henry Thatcher	
Howard Goldsmith	
John Klusener*	
John Elstead	
Jim Barry	X
Mike Rothman	X

	Present
Ken Richter	
Paul Dubow	X
Phil Lee	
Richard Hockenbrock	X
Richard Lyon	
Ron Plachy	X
Roy Hodgkinson	X
Steve Oki	
Steve Ybarra	
Vern Rookh	
Walt Busenius*	X

9:33 AM Call to Order-Big Sir; Introduction of guests. Call for any amendments to the Agenda.

Standing Reports

1. Review of Minutes of the preceding meeting-Secretary John Rexroat
 - a) Minutes from Thursday, November 13, 2025

The call for comments on the Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2025, resulted in no additions or deletions. Upon motion by John Rexroat, seconded by Mike Davidson, BEC unanimously approved the Minutes as submitted.

- b) Critical items from the Schedule of Branch Operations

We are still in need of one more director.

We are also still looking for a nominee for area representative.

2. Branch Treasurer- Mike Ball
 - a) Form 28 – review and motion for approval Form 28 now also includes what was formerly form 27.

Upon motion by Mike Rothman, seconded by Mike Ball, the BEC unanimously approved Form 28 as presented.

- b) Treasurer’s Report – for information. The Treasurer’s Report is attached to these Minutes.
 - c) Upon motion by Mike Ball, seconded by XXX, BEC unanimously approved the following resolutions:

3. Membership Chair – George Mon
 - a) Form 27 – Note that form 27 has been combined with form 28.

Thirteen members resigned, 2 passed, bringing membership to 267.
207 have paid so far and there are 28 waived as, HLMs or over 90.

Upon motion by John Alexander, seconded by Thom Degnan, the Monthly Branch Membership Report, and the Membership Chairman Report for September, copies attached to these Minutes, were unanimously approved.

- b) Membership Report – approved along with the Membership Report and attached to these Minutes.
 - c) Vote to approve any new members No new members in December

II Old Business

III New Business

- A. Recruitment Committee Update - Glen Breslin
- B. The committee consists of Glenn, Thom Degnan, Jim Pope, and Mike Davidson.

The Recruiting Committee will undertake a member survey and develop and submit to BEC a strategy for 2026, utilizing the \$2,500 budget recently approved for recruiting. The Recruiting Committee welcomes new members.

IV Other Reports

- A. Ramp Committee
 - a. Recruiting – Glenn Breslin, see Recruitment Committee Update under New Business
 - b. Activities and Travel – Glenn Breslin
 - c. Member Relations – Mike Davidson No report
 - d. Publicity – John Alexander No report

- B. Luncheon Co-Chair Steve Oki
 - a. Luncheon attendance and guests

We have 114 sign-ups for today's lunch.

Lunches will be the same contract as last year
Thom moved we sign the contract. Second by Mike Davidson
Passed Unanimously

- C. Honoree Committee – Walt Busenius No report
- D. Nomination Committee – John Kluesener No report
- E. SIR Call Editor – Clint Collier No report
- F. Branch Historian – Glenn Breslin No report
- G. Sunshine Chair – Brian McCarthy – See attached.

V. Little SIR –

Jim Pope

- A. Today's and Future Speakers and Other

Today's speaker is .

. The Speaker's Committee (which consists of Jim Pope, Glenn Breslin, Jim Crites and Thom Degnan) solicits suggestions for interesting speakers.

VI. Big SIR -

Thom Degnan

Brad Hatcher reminded us that monthly luncheon themes are a SIR tradition and encouraged us to give them greater visibility.

Other discussions.

There was a long discussion about the state of our finances, with the concern that we have too much money. The number of \$10,00 was put forth, which stimulated discussion as to what we would do with it.

Replace Laptop

\$2500 for recruitment

Free Lunch or support for members who need assistance.

Will continue this subject at our next meeting.

Bob Ford commented that he feels the login to SIR website s too simple and invites scammers.

Concern was expressed that two guests at the December Lunch did not get served.

There was also some mention of having an evening meeting and the possibility of using a location other than BO.

T-cell hearing aid assist? See Page for for notes on the functionality of T-Cell.

Upon motion by Thom Degnan, seconded by Jim Pope, the BEC unanimously approved adjournment at 10:40.

T-CELL Information

A t-cell, or telecoil (t-coil), is a tiny copper wire receiver built into many hearing aids that acts as an antenna to pick up magnetic audio signals directly from sound systems in public venues, landline phones, and neck loops. It bypasses background noise to deliver clearer sound directly to the ear, significantly improving speech understanding.

Key Aspects of Telecoils in Hearing Aids:

- **Functionality:** They allow users to connect to Hearing Loop (or induction loop) systems found in theaters, churches, airports, and lecture halls.
- **Advantages:** They provide a superior signal-to-noise ratio, making it easier to hear in noisy, crowded, or reverberant environments.
- **Usage:** They are activated by a switch or button on the hearing aid, via a remote control, or through a smartphone app.
- **Compatibility:** While common in Behind-the-Ear (BTE) and Receiver-in-Canal (RIC) models, they are often too large for tiny Completely-in-Canal (CIC) or Invisible-in-Canal (IIC) devices.
- **Installation:** If not built-in, some, but not all, hearing aids can be retrofitted with a telecoil.
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Telecoils are not obsolete despite the rise of Bluetooth, as they offer direct, low-latency access to public, ADA-compliant audio systems. They are often considered essential for accessing hearing assistive technology in public spaces.