



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

March 13, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Big Sir Doug Eisner called the meeting to order at 9:01 am, welcoming 12 BEC members, and 11 committee chairmen and guests.

BEC ROLL CALL/QUORUM

All 12 officers and directors of the BEC were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the February 13, 2013 open meeting and the minutes from the closed executive session were unanimously approved as written.

BIG SIR'S REPORT (Doug Eisner)

- **Doug** advised that the new 9:00 am start time will help BEC members who have to leave the Board meeting early to participate in the sign-in process prior to the Luncheon.
- **Area 2 Governor Gary Plisco** was welcomed. **Gary** will present the Senior Sir Award to **Raymond Bruce Jones** during the luncheon.
- Special Auditor review of Golf Committee bookkeeping: **Steve Siljestrom** is auditing the Golf Committee's accounting and reconciliation procedures for 2013 and prior years to determine if there is a cash balance discrepancy. This audit is based on one of the recommendations in 2013 Audit Report. His review of 2011 through 2013 financials is in its information gathering stage, and **Steve** intends to report back to the BEC in April.
- After discussion, the BEC unanimously approved the following provision found on page 23 of the 2014 Sir Leaders Guide pertaining to Directors and Officers Liability Insurance Coverage:

“Pursuant to the provisions of California Corporations Code 5239, effective January 1, 2002, Branch 146 has received a determination made by the SIR State Insurance Committee which reveals that the cost of obtaining Officer and Directors Liability insurance exceeds 5% of the prior year budget. This constitutes a good faith effort to obtain such insurance and we therefore defer to the Section 5239 which states “there shall be no personal liability to a third party for monetary damages on the part of a volunteer director or volunteer executive officer of a nonprofit corporation subject to this part, caused by the director's or officer's negligent act or omission in the performance of that

person's duties as a director or officer." Therefore it is moved, seconded and passed that Branch 146 cannot afford to purchase this type of liability insurance and the Branch elects to be covered by the provision of Section 5239.

As Sir Call Editor, Jeff Bailly asked if he is covered under the D&O Liability provision of Section 5239 just approved. **Big Sir Doug Eisner** agreed to review this matter and to report back to the BEC.

- At today's luncheon, **Joe Fuchs** will be presented the "Feather-In-Cap Award Pin for making a Hole-In-One in a Sir organized golf tournament..
- Update of clubhouse renovations: A presentation before the Walnut Creek City Council prompted concern regarding renovation plans and our use of the clubhouse for luncheons during 2015. **Barry Slavin, Walnut Creek's Liaison**, has confirmed that clubhouse work, primarily exterior and marginally interior, will not affect our monthly luncheons during 2014 and 2015. Kitchen renovations are still scheduled to be implemented during 2016 and this work will affect our ability to hold luncheons at Boundary Oak during that phase of renovations. The BEC will be prepared to change luncheon venues if and when deemed necessary. **Barry Slavin** has promised to keep us apprised of the project's status and of changes impacting us. Attached CC Times article discusses the renovations and its financing.

LITTLE SIR'S REPORT (Bill Holly)

- Today's program is "Memory Problems: Dementia, Should I be Worried?" presented by Dr. Lawren Hicks, Medical Director, Senior Services, John Muir Health.
- To date, there are five (5) January "no shows" and (1) February luncheon "no show" who have not paid but have been contacted.
- **Bill** updated the BEC on the plans under way to celebrate our Branch's 25th Anniversary in a memorable way at the October 9th luncheon. Several committees will be formed to tell the history of our Branch during specific periods of growth and to develop story boards about the charter members, to mention a few areas of interest being considered. Invitations have been sent to our State President, Regional Director and Area Governor.
- The Song Sirs will sing Irish melodies prior to the start of today's St Patrick's Luncheon. The Song Sirs are also performing at the Martinez Senior Center on March 15th.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Walt Busenius)

Nothing new to report; however, BEC members reminded they are invited to propose amendments to the Branch By-Laws and Regulations.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Chuck Campbell)

The Treasurer's report for February, 2014 was accepted as submitted and can be viewed on the branch website.

- We began the month with a cash balance of \$24,634.40 and ended the month with a balance of \$24,195.80.
- February luncheon receipts exceeded CourseCo's bill by \$22.50. The first two months of 2014 receipts have slightly exceeded the luncheon's cost.
- Our current membership count as of this report is 264 and all of them have paid their dues. New members are timely paying their dues.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS:

Activities Coordinator (Jerry Kaplan)

- The Branch Activities Coordinators in Area 2 have not met yet but intend to meet in the near future to share ideas and learn from each other.
- **Dan O'Sullivan** replacing **Frank McNamee** as Chair of Poker Group #1.
- Before luncheons, we will continue to have activities tables.
- We have 40 branch activities. A complete listing of activities can be found on the Branch Website (sir146.com) in the Members Only section. The chair for each activity, with their e-mail address and phone number, is shown in the tabulation.
- **Bruce Borgman** is replacing **Don Tubb** as the temporary chair of Song Sirs.
- Continue to receive suggestions for new activity groups: examples being a Bar-B-Que group and a Mexican Dominos group.

Biographies (Paul Dubow)

There are now 67 bios on the website. All BEC officers have submitted their bios. New members are submitting their bios and this is a real positive. We still need approximately 200 bios. An e-mail blast was sent out several weeks ago to the membership explaining how easy it is to submit bio information and have it written.

Communications (Jeff Baily)

Jeff encouraged the BEC as well as Activities and other Committee Chairs to use our email network to make a request or to just get the word out. **Jeff** is our email network contact person. **Jeff** is still looking for an assistant to help with Sir Call.

Ladies Day (Steve Dawkins)

No report from **Steve**; however, **Little Sir Bill Holly** reported that it will cost \$200 to have the East Bay Banjo Club (estimate 20 members from club will perform) from Martinez entertain at the Ladies Day Luncheon. This will add approximately \$1.00 to the individual meal cost.

Luncheon Attendance (Baha Zarah)

The total count of **221** for lunch in March 2014 is based on a membership base of 265, and includes a combination of 4 new members, 3 guests, 1 visitor, and 1 speaker, and (53) excused absences. Total Guaranteed to CourseCo is **210**. Allowing for 5% overrun, **221** meals will be prepared with 20% Fish and 80% corned beef at this St Patrick's luncheon.

Membership (Ben Gleason)

- The BEC approved 4 new members: **Martin E. Brady**, badge #51 sponsored by **Steve Conti**; **Robert E. Kouba**, badge #92 sponsored by **Chuck Schreiber**; **Carl N. Robertson**, badge #141 sponsored by **Robert Johnson**; and **Frank Pandolfi**, badge #170 sponsored by **Jim Saavedra**.
- **Don Tubb** has become inactive because of illness. As a result, our inactive roster has increased to 26 members.
- After the above changes, the total membership count **increased by 3 to 268 members**. There are 6 Honorary Life Members.

Member Relations (Brad Hatcher)

The draft of the Proposed "Sponsor Role and Guidelines" handout, along with the proposed cover letter to sponsors, was discussed. A few Suggestions were made prior to the meeting and incorporated in this draft. Its format and content were well received by the BEC. The BEC was asked to submit additional comments/suggestions to Brad as soon as possible in order to finalize this project at April's meeting.

Nominating (Terry Marchione)

This committee, consisting of **Terry Marchione**, **Jim Burk** and **Pete Gates**, are close to presenting a slate of officers for 2015 to the BEC. Their process not only includes developing a slate of officers for 2015 but endeavors to develop a list of potential candidates for future nominating committees to review. The committee intends to present its report to the BEC in April or June at the latest.

Publicity (Al Munaver)

The promotional brochure prepared by State still has a reference to voluntary contributions. State will eliminate this reference when the next supply of these brochures is printed. For now, the reference to "no dues" has been redacted with a felt tip pen from our current supply of brochures.

Recruitment (Ron Binder) No report

Sunshine (John Pearl)

There are **12 Sirs** on March's report and Five (5) get well cards will be mailed. **John Demos** is seriously ill. On a very sad note, Branch 146 Charter Member **Leon "Jim" Wyrick** recently died.

Travel (Ken Richter) No report

Webmaster (Ron Plachy) No Report

Reports from Other Chairs:

- **Baha Zarah----Candy Sales:** Branch has lost its privilege to purchase See's Candies at a discount due to declining member interest. Discounted vouchers can be purchased at Costco. At today's meeting, **Baha** will announce his willingness to purchase these vouchers at Costco for Sirs if they contact him.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Branch member **Dick DeVoe**, also on the State Board, advised that the State Board met recently to discuss membership losses. This included identifying the problem, reasons for losses, and to develop solutions. Overall membership in Sirs is declining almost 4% per annum, and over time the resultant attrition is substantial. Regional Directors will be developing a recruitment plan that addresses the image of Sirs, training within the Sirs movement, and the participation of Sirs in branch activities.

ADJOURNMENT: Open BEC Meeting was adjourned @ 10:26 am.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 9:00 am.

(Submitted by Secretary Walt Busenius)

Attachments:

1. Attendance Roster March 13, 2014
2. CC Times article: Boundary Oak renovation
3. Luncheon late and no show list
4. Treasurer's Report and Form 28 (Campbell)
5. Current Branch Activities list
6. Luncheon Report (Baha)
7. Membership Report and Form 27 (Gleason)
8. Draft: Sponsor Role and Guidelines Handout with cover letter (Hatcher)
9. Sunshine Report (Pearl)