

**SIR Branch 146
Branch Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2021
9:03 AM to 10:17 AM**

Venue: Boundary Oak Golf Course Clubhouse

Branch 146 Executive Committee for 2021

		Present
Big SIR	Richard Hockenbrock	Y
Little SIR	Jerry Kaplan	Y
Secretary	Rich Lyon	Y
Treasurer	Ross Abbott	Y
Assistant Secretary	Bob Wilkenfeld	Y
Assistant Treasurer	John Alexander	Y
Director 2nd Year	Peter Plante	Y
Director 2nd Year	Brian McCarthy (Sunshine)	Y
Director 2nd Year	Paul Beretz	Y
Director 1st Year	Bob Lucido (Activities)	N
Director 1st	George Mon (Treasurer)	Y
Director 1st Year	Henry Thatcher	Y

Other Attendees:

Ed Brands, Walt Busenius*, Jim Burk*, Bruce Borgman*, Paul Dubow, Doug Eisner*, Bob Ford, Ben Gleason, Tony Greco, Brad Hatcher*, Bill Holly*, Larry Kaye, John Kleusner, Frank Lucas, Ron Plachy, Dick Richmond, Bob Spellman, David Steinberg, Ken Studer, Steve Ybarra

Note: * indicates past Bir SIR

Agenda

Call to order: Big Sir Richard Hockenbrock asked the Secretary if a quorum was present. The Assistant Secretary replied that a quorum was present. Big Sir Richard Hockenbrock called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. Richard asked if anyone had any changes to the agenda, and hearing none, proceeded with the meeting.

Secretary – Rich Lyon,

Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock requested approval of the Minutes for the October 14 and 22, 2021 BEC meetings. John Alexander put forward the motion and Brian McCarthy seconded. The motion carried unanimously. ([October 14, 2021](#) and [October 22, 2021](#))

Treasurer – Ross Abbottt reported ([Treasurer’s Report](#)) Branch’s checking account balance as \$21,756.47. No big expenses are expected for the rest of the year. Paul Dubow moved to accept [Form 28](#). John Alexander seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Standing Reports

1. Membership – George Mon

George Mon reported a new member named Patrick O’Keeffe from Danville. He’s former City Manager and consultant. His partner is named Marilyn. Patrick is sponsored by John Wilson. Ross Abbott moved to approve new member Patrick O’Keeffe and, Paul Beretz seconded. The motion carried unanimously. George also reported that member Reginald Fromm has resigned due to health reasons. ([Membership Report](#)).

George Mon reviewed [Form 27](#) which shows the Branch with 294 members and requested approval. Brian McCarthy moved to approve Form 27, and Henry Thatcher seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

296 letters were sent out, on November 1, to Branch members calling for payment of the 2022 dues. As of November 10, 132 responses have been received, with 118 members renewing their membership and 4 members resigning. These numbers will be reflected in next month’s Membership Report.

George reported that numerous updates to the Member Database were submitted by members along with their payments of 2022 dues. These changes are mainly in addresses and phone numbers and will be made shortly. Richard Hockenbrock commended George Mon and Rich Lyon for the tremendous job they have done to update and maintain the Member Database. Other BEC members and Chairmen seconded the recognition of George and Rich for this work.

Finally, George Mon indicated that the revised Membership Application has now been posted on the Branch 146 website. George also discussed several reimbursements he received from the Branch last month for office supplies.

2. RAMP

Recruitment – Paul Beretz reported that no advertisements were posted regarding today’s Branch Luncheon in Patch or Next-Door Neighbor, per the Board’s request at the last meeting. Paul also handed out business cards, to everyone present, with information on Branch 146. He suggested we hand out these cards to prospective members

Paul introduced Bob Ford, who will be succeeding as the Recruitment Chairman in 2022.

Activities – Bob Lucido, was not present due to illness.

Member Relations – Ed Brands, No changes to report.

Publicity – Peter Plante

Recent Patch and Next-Door Neighbor posts have highlighted 9-hole golf, cycling, fishing and hiking.

3. COVID Compliance – George Mon

George Mon reported that 87.9% of the Branch's Sir are compliant with their Waivers and CDC cards. [COVID Compliance](#)

The Branch Photographer, Henry Thatcher, noted that some new members showing up for their photograph are not appearing on the list of members who have submitted their COVID immunization documentation and waiver. Dave Steinberg, Golfing Chairman, indicated that similar issues have occurred when new members begin to participate in golf activities. George Mon confirmed that the new member application package includes mention of the COVID vaccination and waiver requirements. There appears to be some delay in receiving these documents from new members, or in updating the COVID Compliance list before the new members begin participating in Branch activities and meetings. Dave Steinberg suggested that confirmation of COVID vaccination and the signed waiver form be included in the new member application submitted by the Membership Chair to the BEC for approval. Rich Lyon also suggested that the waiver form be included in the member application form posted on our Branch's website. George Mon indicated that he would take these suggestions under advisement.

Brad Hatcher pointed out that it is the responsibility of Sponsors to ensure that candidates understand the requirements for SIR membership, including those related to COVID, and submit all the required documentation in a timely manner.

Jerry Kaplan brought up the issue of ensuring that all guests planning to attend the Branch's December luncheon have submitted evidence of vaccination and a signed waiver. It was confirmed that the Luncheon Chair would ensure all guests had submitted the required documentation before the Lady's Day luncheon.

Big Sir Report – Richard Hockenbrock

1. **Schedule of Operations:** Richard stated that the 2022 Branch Officers will be inducted at the Branch's luncheon scheduled for later today.

2. **Piano Storage:** The Big SIR asked Bruce Borgman to update the Board on this issue. Bruce stated that Boundary Oak was no longer willing to store the Branch's piano. Bruce and Jerry Kaplan have appealed to Boundary Oak for reconsideration. Replacing the piano with a suitable keyboard and stand would cost between \$400-\$1000. Bruce also noted that the Song SIRs could sing unaccompanied at the Branch's events. As this issue did not need to be resolved immediately, The Big SIR tabled the discussion until January.

3. **Book Corner:** The Big SIR asked Peter Plante to discuss the storage of books exchanged at the Branch's monthly Book Corner. Peter indicated that the location currently used to store the books (Hank James' home) was no longer available. Paid storage would cost approximately \$120 per month for the required space. George Mon asked if we could share storage space with another nearby SIR Branch. Rich Lyon asked if we could also move some of the items now stored at Boundary Oak to the commercial storage unit. The BIG SIR asked for a motion on this issue. After some discussion, Bob Wilkenfeld put forward a motion for the Branch to rent a storage space, adequate to hold the books and some of the items now at Boundary Oak, on a month-to-month basis for up to six (6) months. Jerry Kaplan and Rich Lyon seconded the motion. The motion passed, with two BEC members voting in opposition.

4. **Lunch Prices:** The Big SIR asked Jerry Kaplan to discuss ongoing negotiations with Boundary Oak. Jerry indicated that the current contract proposal from Boundary Oak is \$31.30 per meal for a period of 12

months (an increase of ~\$3/meal from the current rate). Jerry is still negotiating the price per meal and length of the contract. Jerry believes the parties will likely settle at \$31/meal; if the contract is extended to two years, then an inflation factor will likely be included for the second year.

Jerry asked the BEC if we should subsidize some of the increase in price. Other Branches, who are seeing increases in meal prices, are considering subsidies. John Alexander noted that the Branch is currently in a negative cash flow situation and therefore our current cash reserves would not likely be able to support subsidizing the luncheon meal cost. As the contract with Boundary Oak has not been finalized, the Big SIR indicated that no action needs to be taken, at this time, on the question of subsidizing the meal cost.

Jerry stated that Boundary Oak has also indicated that the meal cost for the 2021 Lady's Day luncheon will increase by \$4 from last year's price, to \$34. This price will not likely be negotiable.

5. **2022 Budget:** Richard Hockenbrock stated that finalizing the 2022 budget was still pending input on the contract terms with Boundary Oak and a decision on whether to subsidize meal cost. Richard indicated he will call a special meeting of the BEC, via Zoom, to approve a proposed budget.

6. **Mandatory Attendance and Annual Payer Program:** Given the uncertainties of COVID, Richard Hockenbrock and Jerry Kaplan indicated they were tabling decisions on whether and when to reinstate a mandatory attendance target and an annual payer program for the Branch's monthly luncheons. These issues will be revisited next month along with the 2022 budget. Ross Abbott suggested the BEC consider reducing the number of free meals given under the annual payer program from two to one.

7. **Appointing the Nominating and Auditing Committees:** Richard Hockenbrock stated that, as is the Branch's tradition, the Nominating Committee will be chaired by the outgoing Big SIR. Chuck Schreiber has agreed to chair the Audit Committee. A volunteer is needed to serve as Assistant Chair for the Audit Committee. [Note: Shortly following the meeting Ben Gleason agreed to serve as the Assistant Chair.]

8. **Installation of 2022 Branch Officer:** As Dave Steinberg, Assistant Treasurer-elect, will not be able to attend the Branch luncheon, Richard Hockenbrock administered the oath of office.

Little Sir Report - Jerry Kaplan

1. **Entertainment for Lady's Day:** Jerry has selected a magician from the Magic Club in Martinez, to be the entertainment at the Lady's Day luncheon. The magician is willing to perform for \$250.
2. **State SIR Leadership Forum:** Jerry reminded the incoming Officers of the SIR leadership seminars are being presented online from Nov. 15 – 19, 2 – 4 PM covering the various branch leadership positions. He asked everyone to attend at least the seminar pertinent to their role on the BEC.

Other Chair Reports

1. **Sunshine** – Brian McCarthy: The Sunshine Report is filed in Dropbox. ([Sunshine Report](#)) Brian indicated that Joe Hunt and Stan Stricherz will be removed from the report as he has been unable to contact them for a very long time. Jerry Kaplan noted that former member Martin Lyle recently passed away and suggested that an e-blast be sent to active members.
2. **Biographies** - Paul Dubow Nothing new to report.
3. **SIR Call** – Clint Collier Not present

4. **Honorees** – Doug Eisner* The committee’s recommendations for 2022 honorees will be discussed in a BEC executive session immediately following this meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn 10:17 AM

1. Next meeting - November 11, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Wilkenfeld, Assistant Secretary, Branch 146