



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

**September 11, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Big Sir Doug Eisner** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, welcoming 8 BEC members, and approximately 12 committee chairmen and guests.

**BEC ROLL CALL/QUORUM**

A quorum was present as 8 of 12 officers and directors were present. **Secretary Walt Busenius; Asst. Secretary Alan Elnick; and Directors Paul Dubow and Dick Richmond** were absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for the August 14, 2014 open meeting were approved as written.

**BIG SIR'S REPORT (Doug Eisner)**

**There was one minute of silence in honor of the Victims of 9/11.**

1. The August Election of 2015 BEC was held during the August 14, 2014 luncheon meeting. No additional nominations were tendered from the floor. The membership unanimously approved the slate presented by the nominating committee in the April, 2014 executive session, also posted in the July, 2014 minutes, as well as published in the July 2014 Sir Call, and formally introduced to the membership at July's luncheon meeting. The 2015 BEC officers are:

**Big Sir**  
**Little Sir**  
**Secretary**  
**Ass't Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Ass't Treasurer**

**Bill Holly**  
**Walt Busenius**  
**Alan Elnick**  
**Bruce Borgman**  
**Rob Melrose**  
**Jim Barry**

<b>Director (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)</b>	<b>Ben Gleason</b>
<b>Director (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)</b>	<b>John Pearl</b>
<b>Director (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)</b>	<b>Bob Spellman</b>
<b>Director (1st Term)</b>	<b>Brad Hatcher</b>
<b>Director (1st Term)</b>	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
<b>Director (1st Term)</b>	<b>Corrie Oranje</b>

2. **Richard Hockenbrock** was introduced as the new editor of the Sir Call. **Richard** has already published the September edition to high standard of quality. A job well done.
3. Update on administrative Chairman for 2015: The Asst. Travel Chairman opening may soon be filled. Actively seeking a candidate to replace **Ron Binder** as the Recruitment Chairman. Baha Zarah will serve as Luncheon Chairman through 2015.
4. Honorees: **Honorees Chairman Dennis Hallett** will present two awards today. **John Wilhelmy** will receive the Senior Sir Certificate and **Jim Baldrige** will be presented the 20 Year Membership Certificate. We extend our congratulations and appreciation for their service and dedication to Branch 146.
5. Our **new Area Governor is Robbie Robinson** from Branch 116. Robbie immediately replaces **Gary Plisco** from Branch 8 who resigned due to his wife's illness.
6. Congratulation to our own **Dick DeVoe, our new Regional Director effective January 1, 2015**.
7. The State Officers for 2015 are featured in the Summer Edition of "*Sir Happenings*" which can found on the state website "sirinc.org".
8. Discussion of Boundary Oak Renovation and Relocation issues: This remains a fluid issue. The discussion and issues documented in the July and August minutes are still in play. Bids for Phase I are due in September and a tentative decision from the City of Walnut Creek is due in October/November. Decision time for us, whether we stay or relocate to the Hilton with a 4th Monday meeting date, is seen to be November, 2014. We are soliciting input from our members to help guide us in making this decision. CourseCo wants us to stay through all phases of renovation and stated they are willing to take steps to accommodate us throughout. There are positives and negatives to staying or to relocating to the Hilton or even another venue. We will update and discuss the status of BO renovations at October's meeting, but decision time points to November in order to finalize our 2015 meeting status/schedule and luncheon contract either with Boundary Oak or the Hilton.

### **LITTLE SIR'S REPORT (Bill Holly)**

1. Today's speaker is Professor Ron Olowin from St. Mary's College. His topic is "*The State of the Cosmos*", a multimedia representation of our sense-of-place. Before arriving at St. Mary's College, Professor Olowin completed his doctorate at the University of Oklahoma. He was also a research astronomer at the Royal Observatory in South Africa and director of Oklahoma's Kirkpatrick Planetarium. At St. Mary's, he developed the observatory and was named Professor of the Year.

2. August was a big month for “no shows” with 25 on the list. Twelve payment demand emails were sent out to non-payers. A few had excuses and several were late August notifiers. To date, there are still 9 August Luncheon “No Shows” that have not paid. From June and July, there remain 3 holdover “No Shows” awaiting payment.
3. Next month is our Branch’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and plans are nicely coming together. The celebratory couple’s dinner dance will be held on October 8<sup>th</sup>, the day before the Anniversary luncheon. **Bill** has talked to CourseCo’s Food and Beverage Director about serving champagne and an upgraded menu. The presentations, with former Big Sirs as speakers, have been developed; and we also expect Official State Sir representation. The upgraded menu and champagne will cost \$30 per person, but our members will pay the customary \$25 per person. Estimate the subsidy from our treasury will not exceed \$1250 even if a maximum of 250 members attend.
4. Sir Wear, clothing, hats, mugs, etc., is available through a small company in Livermore: “Embroidery and Moore”. Their products were well received at the last Branch 8 meeting. Their SIR apparel order form and brochure are attached. We will contact them at a later date to set up a sales table with samples at one of our future luncheons.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT (Walt Busenius)**

No report. Absent from meeting. Minutes were recorded by John Pearl.

**TREASURER’S REPORT (Chuck Campbell)**

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

- We began August with a cash balance of \$21,101.44 and ended the month with a balance of \$20,629.57.
- August luncheon receipts exceeded luncheon cost by \$72.50.
- We are currently establishing next year’s budget and setting the dues amount for 2015. This will be finalized by October’s meeting so the dues notice can go out to the membership.
- All dues for 2014 are current.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS:**

**Activities Coordinator (Jerry Kaplan)**

- There are 41 activities.
- An additional bridge group is being formed.
- ROMEO is currently without a chairman. **Jerry** has attempted to promote a new chairman from within the ROMEO group.

- Gardening is considering merging into the area gardening group being promoted by Branch 8.
- Due to turnout and demand for Mexican Train Dominos, strong consideration is being given to forming a 2<sup>nd</sup> group.

**Biographies (Paul Dubow)** No report – absent from meeting.

**Communications (Jeff Baily)** **Jeff Baily** will continue to send out e-mail blasts to the membership as our “Communications Chairman”. Email accounts are being combined into one password protected address book within the e-communications Gmail account. There will be no need to maintain a separate back-up system of members’ email addresses. Whether it is the **Branch Secretary** or **Little Sir** who is needed to pinch hit for **Jeff** at a future date, the password protected communications Gmail account will be accessible to send email blasts.

**Evacuation Plan** The evacuation drill was successfully performed.

**Honorees (Dennis Hallett)** Two honorees today, Jim Baldrige receiving 20 year Service Certificate and **John Wilhelmy** receiving the Senior Sir Certificate.

**Ladies Day Luncheon (Steve Dawkins)** No Report

**Luncheon Attendance (Baha Zarah)**

The total count of **218** for lunch today is based on a membership base of **270**, and includes a combination of **2** new members, **6** guests, and **1** speaker, and **(61)** excused absences. Total Guaranteed to CourseCo is **202** after allowing for **(16)** post deadline “no show” absences. Allowing for 5% overrun, **212** meals will be prepared with 55% Fish and 45% meat. Also see attachment. Many last minute calls requesting excused absences were received.

**Membership (Ben Gleason)**

- The BEC approved 3 new members: **Joseph C. Jaeger**, badge #148, sponsored by **Max Burchett**; **Jerry T. Crumple**, badge#296, sponsored by **Dick Richmond**; **Don L. Dotson**, badge#8, sponsored by **Corrie Oranje**.
- **Bruce Benzler**, badge#148 and **Don Hungerford**, badge#8 resigned after 2 years on the inactive list. As a result of these status changes, the inactive list has 21 members.
- After the above changes, the total membership count will **increased by 3 to 273 members**. There are **6** Honorary Life Members. The Membership Report and Form 27 are attached.
- **Joe Jaeger** will not attend today’s meeting even though approved for membership. We have reached 273 after dipping to 262 in January.
- **Big Sir Doug** applauded all for a good job bringing in new members.

**Member Relations (Brad Hatcher)**

- The 2014 Member Survey is finalized and will soon go out to the targeted membership. It is similar to last year's but with some upgraded questions. **Brad** will announce the nature and intent of this survey at today's meeting. Copy attached.
- This year's survey goes out to the second one-third of our alphabetical membership list. Last year, the first one-third was surveyed. The Member Relations Committee will review and tabulate the responses to this survey. The results will be made available before year end.

**Publicity (Al Munayer) and  
Growth Coordinator (Bruce Borgman)**

**Bruce** will be ordering 1000 Sir Business Cards (Invitation Cards) for Sirs to fill-in their own names and phone numbers. Members will pass out these cards as another tool to seek out prospective members to sponsor.

**Recruitment (Ron Binder)**      There will be 5 guests at today's luncheon.

**Sir Call Editor (Richard Hockenbrock)**    **Richard** is the new editor who has already produced September's issue. The time frame to submit articles and the publication date will remain the same as with the previous editor. When submitting photos, **Richard** needs to know the names of the people in the photos.

**Sunshine (John Pearl)**      **John** submitted The Sunshine Report. Copy attached. On the list are **Howie King, Bob Donahue, and Dick Richmond**. Get will cards will be available for signing before today's meeting.

**Travel (Ken Richter)**      The **BEC** unanimously approved Sir Form 53, Request for Approval of Branch Travel Event for a one day bus tour to Modesto on 12/8/2014 through Travel Center, Tours and Travel, to visit The McHenry Mansion and Duarte Poinsettias Farms, with lunch in between. See attached. Cost is \$64 per person.

**Theatre (Gary Schaub)**      The **BEC** unanimously approved a Theatre Party to see "Deathtrap" at the Leshar Arts Center in Walnut Creek on 11/19/2014 starting at 7:30 pm. Cost is \$25 per person. See Attached.

**Webmaster (Ron Plachy)**      No Report – absent.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned @ 10:35 am.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 9:00 am.

**Minutes recorded by John Pearl  
Submitted by Secretary Walt Busenius**

**Attachments:**

- 1.Attendance Roster September 11, 2014
- 2.August 2014 Late and No-Show List
- 3.Sir Wear—Embroidery and Moore
- 4.Treasurer’s Report and Form 28 (Campbell)
- 5.September Lunch Count Table (Zarah)
- 6.Membership Report and Form 27 (Gleason)
- 7.Branch Member Survey 2014 (Hatcher)
- 8.Sir Form 53 -- Request for Branch Travel event: Play “Deathtrap” at Leshar Theatre  
11/19/2014 (Schaub)
- 9.Sir Form 53 – Request for Branch Travel event to Modesto 12/8/2014: McHenry Mansion  
and Duarte Farms with brochure. (Richter)
10. Sunshine Report (Pearl)