

**Minutes of the Branch Executive Committee Meeting
April 14, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

Big Sir Pete Gates called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. There were 16 Branch 146 members present as guests. (See attached attendance roster)

BEC ROLL CALL

Secretary **Terry Marchione** announced that a quorum of the 2011 BEC members was present with Assistant Secretary **Jim Meehan**, Treasurer **Dick Woodman** and Director **Bill Hoban** absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted and approved.

BIG SIR REPORT

Pete Gates reported on a meeting with an outside consultant regarding the possibility of hiring someone to assist in the administration of the website. Further details were offered by **Terry Marchione**. He also relayed the positive feedback from the Area Governor on Branch 146's 1st Quarter report. Among other comments, the Area Governor suggested that the Branch share it's recruitment/retention plan with other Branches.

LITTLE SIR REPORT

Jim Burk reviewed today's speaker—**Ivy Morrison**, the public information officer for Caltrans, who will provide some background and an update on the 4th bore of the Caldecott Tunnel. Jim also announced the speaker for the May Ladies Day luncheon will be **Teri McKeever**, the women's swim coach at Cal Berkeley and coach of the US Olympic women's swim team. Jim also provided a report on a meeting held with Courseco regarding the problems encountered at the March lunch. Courseco acknowledged the problems and assured us that steps will be taken to avoid such problems in the future.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary **Terry Marchione** had nothing further to report\

TREASURER'S REPORT

Assistant Treasurer **Chuck Clark** reported a 2011 budget forecast has been done and that, at this time it appears that no voluntary contribution will be required this year. This will be monitored as we move forward with regards to any unexpected expenses that may arise during the year. (The monthly treasurer's report and Form 28 are available on the Branch website).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee—**Sir Dennis Hallett** reported that, overall, the committee has been successful in identifying candidates for 2012. However, the search continues for one key position.

Membership—**Steve Sprague** reported that we have 5 new members in April, which brings the membership to 261. **Steve** proposed that **Ed Chase, Alan Elnick, Dennis Kaump, Frank Lucas** and **Guy Rudberg** be accepted as members of Branch 146. This motion was adopted unanimously. Further, **Steve** announced four changes to the roster: **Jerry Berggren** has been placed on the inactive roster, **Bob Poirier** and **Orren Rupert** have transferred to Branch 8, and **Bill Rash** has resigned due to a move out of the area. (See attached membership and Form 27 reports).

Recruitment and Retention—**Sir Jack Calloway** reviewed our recruitment and retention program. In general the results are very positive for the Branch. After only 4 months, we are over halfway to our goal of 26 new members for the year. The conversion rate of guests to members is a little below the goal set by the Big Sir. We are converting guests at a rate of a little over 50% versus a goal of 67% set by the Big Sir. Based on current information we expect that rate to rise in the next couple of months.

Publicity—**Sir John Harrington** updated us on the efforts of the publicity committee. They have been able to place meeting announcements in several local newspapers. These are free of charge as long as there is space available. It was noted that this has resulted in at least three men inquiring about membership in the Branch. The committee has further plans to place similar announcements in public locations (golf courses, libraries, etc.)

Attendance/Luncheon—**Bob Mehus** reported a lunch count of 210 for today's lunch with a guarantee of 193. There were 59 excused absences. As a result of the meeting with Courseco some adjustments have been made in the way the guarantee is calculated. Hopefully this will assist in reducing some of the problems encountered in the availability of meals. (Report attached)

Website—Webmaster **Terry Marchione** provided further details on the meeting with the website consultant—**Shirley Christie**. Shirley currently maintains several websites and is available at a reasonable cost. She prepared a maintenance agreement for approval by the BEC. This agreement was presented and a motion made to accept. The motion was approved. Essentially the agreement is open-ended whereby it may be cancelled by either party at any time. Our plan is to conduct a three month trial to determine if the agreement works for both parties. No additional funding is required beyond what is available in the approved website budget. (A copy of the agreement is attached to the hard copy minutes).

Activities Coordinator—Steve announced that the area activities coordinators will meet periodically to compare notes. Due to travel, Steve will not be available to attend this meeting.

Travel—Terry Marchione, on behalf of **Bob Spellman** requested approval for a May, 2012 travel event, “Romance of the Rhine & Mosel”. This was approved. (A brochure is attached to the hard copy minutes.)

Dinner Dance—Chairman Vince Rettew reported on the dinner dance held on April 13th at Zio Fraedo’s. A conflict with travel resulted in a smaller attendance than desired however a good time was had by all. Future dinner dances will be scheduled to avoid conflicts with other events.

Golf—Sir Joe Fuchs informed us of a new chairman for the golf group—**Ed Malboeuf**. Ed will be replacing **Ron Binder** who resigned the chairmanship but will remain on the committee. Also, **Sir Bill Laws** has joined the committee.

New Business—Big Sir Pete presented a motion to revise Branch Rule 29. Currently the rule asks members that are unexcused from the lunch for a “voluntary” contribution equal to the amount paid by attendees. The revision removes the word “voluntary” and instead asks for payment. Further, refusal to pay for two or more missed luncheons may subject the non-conforming member to termination, expulsion or suspension under Article 9 of the State SIR Manual. (copy of motion attached).

Also approved under new business was a request for reimbursement for an expenditure of \$31.68 by the MAC users group.

Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 11:05.

Attachments

January 13th BEC Attendance Roster
Membership Report and Form 27
Luncheon Chair’s Report
Brochure—Romance of the Rhine and Mosel
Motion to revise Branch Rule 29
Request for reimbursement by MAC users group
Website Maintenance agreement.