

**SIR Branch 146
Branch Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2022**

Venue: Boundary Oaks Golf Course Clubhouse

Branch 146 Executive Committee for 2022

		Present
Big SIR	Richard Lyon	Y
Little SIR	Bob Wilkenfeld	Y
Secretary	John Kluesener	Y
Assistant Secretary	Bob Ford	Y
Treasurer	John Alexander	Y
Assistant Treasurer	TBD	
Director 2nd Year	Bob Lucido (Activities)	Y
Director 2nd Year	George Mon (Membership)	Y
Director 2nd Year	Henry Thatcher	Y
Director 1st Year	Ed Brands (Member Relations)	Y
Director 1st	TBD	
Director 1st Year	Frank Lucas	Y

Other Attendees:

Bruce Borgman*, Dick DeVoe*, Brad Hatcher* Bill Holly*, Larry Kaye, Paul Dubow, Tony Greco, Richard Hockenbrock*, Ron Plachy, Ross Abbot, Steve Ybarra, Roy Hodgkinson, Jim Burk*, Steve Oki

Note: Past Big SIR *

1 Agenda:

Call to Order: Big Sir Rich Lyon asked if there was a quorum and Secretary John Kluesener stated that there was a quorum. Rich called the meeting to order at 9:01. Rich asked if there were any changes needed for the meeting's agenda and hearing none proceeded with the meeting.

2 Secretary:

John Kluesener asked if there were any changes to the meeting minutes of March 10, 2022 and hearing none John Alexander motioned that they be approved and the motion was seconded by Henry Thatcher. The motion carried unanimously. The Secretary then asked if there were any comments on the meeting notes of March 31, 2022. No comments were forthcoming and Henry Thatcher motioned that they be approved and John Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3 Treasurer:

- **Form 28-** The Treasurer, John Alexander reported that at the start of the month of March the balance was \$25,091.18. Major disbursements for the month included the \$490 for State Board Quarterly Assessment and \$1273.19 for the new keyboard and associated equipment. Rich Lyon mentioned that there would be a need to purchase some additional cabling for the system at the cost of \$200 to \$250. John Alexander motioned that the Form 28 statement be approved with the caveat that a further charge of about \$250 was likely. Henry Thatcher seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
- **Consolidated Bank Statement-** The Treasurer noted that as a result of the Audit Committee's recommendation we now have a statement that includes the Branch, Bowling and Golf account balances at the beginning of the month and their respective expenditures. The bowling activity is currently inactive; it generally only meets once a year for the annual tournament and the only active Branch 146 member is Pierre Mebane. A question was raised as to why we had the account if there was only one member participating once a year. John Alexander agreed to raise the issue with Pierre to see if we can increase the interest in bowling within the membership. **Action J Alexander**
- **Quarterly Budget Report-** The initial budget for the year was \$10,263 with subsequent approved additions of \$2218 (for piano removal, keyboard and book storage for the year). Through the first quarter we have spent \$2355 or about 19% of the budget. As a potential budget addition, Little Sir Bob Wilkenfeld noted that the SIR banner that we are currently using does not reflect the State's current naming and logo. He will take action to renew the banner. John noted that there was sufficient funding in the existing budget to cover this potential cost. **Action R Wilkenfeld**
- **Treasurer's Report-**John noted that in response to the 2021 audit, the report now includes a line for the 2022 dues received and a separate line for the 2023 dues received. A similar division is included for the annual lunch payers. This will clarify some of the confusion that occurs during the end-of-the-year collections.

4 Membership:

- George Mon reported that we added four new members during the month of March and that there are two potential new members who as yet have not submitted the required paperwork. All four new members have filed the necessary Covid related paperwork. One of our members passed away during March.
- **Form 27-** Current membership is 274. As of this morning we have 106 paid for the luncheon and two guests, the speaker and one of the new members. Bob Wilkenfeld motioned that we approve Form 27 and Henry Thatcher seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.
- **New Member Approvals-** It was agreed that if there are new members to be approved within the month of May it could be done by email vote since there will likely be no meeting of the BEC before the ladies day luncheon. **Action Bob Ford**

5 Luncheon Chair:- No report, continue with the RSVP format

6 RAMP:

- Bob Ford reported that there were no additional hits on the website
- Bob Lucido is now also the State Activities Chairman and the state is encouraging that Sir Branches participate in area wide activities of neighboring Branches to broaden the activities that are available to a Branch.
- Member Relations Director Ed Brands stated that we should encourage new members to join one or more activities and to work with sponsors to help in that encouragement. It was suggested that we list new members along with their areas of interest in the dropbox so that activity chairs could note their interest and contact them about joining their group.
- Bob Ford and Frank Lucas will work together on Publicity to resolve any issues with posting information at golf events to encourage outsiders to join Sirs

7. Travel: No changes

8. Honorees: Doug Eisner indicated that Bob Burley is 95 this year and will be honored at today's luncheon

9. Old Business:

- Bruce Borgman was able to find someone to take the piano but instead of trying to load the piano into a pickup it was decided on second thought to hire a company to move it. The additional cost was \$230.
- Bob Lucido said that the problem of who picks up the signs and where they are stored has not as yet been resolved with the golf group **Action Bob Lucido**
- The nominating committee has nothing new to add at this time. The status will be reviewed at our next meeting in June. **Action Brad Hatcher**
- Ladies day luncheon table reservations currently stand at 8 tables with ten guests per table. Steve Ybarra said that this was about par for the timing and that the restaurant can accommodate a total of 27 tables. Rich Lyon suggested that Steve send out an e-blast to remind people of the luncheon
- Rich Lyon postponed the dropbox training for the time being. There are on-line videos available.

10. New Business:

- Rich Hockenbrock reviewed the concerns at the state level that the number of Sirs organizations is decreasing and the age of the membership is increasing. If this continues it will lead to the death of the Sirs programs. 146 is one of only 8 state groups with membership greater than 200. One suggestion other than more active recruiting is the possibility of adding women to the organization, either spouses or non-wives. The state organization is still developing policies on this and it was decided to monitor that

development and report back at our June meeting. Brad Hatcher, Rich Hockenbrock, and Paul Henry will follow the developments and consider if and how we might proceed.

Action Rich Hockenbrock and group

- Clarification of the speaker selection process was discussed by Frank Lucas. Little Sir has the lead in identifying speakers and the potential speakers should be identified in advance to the BEC. The question on the floor was does the BEC vote to approve the speaker or is that entirely determined by the Little Sir. Our process has been for the Little Sir to identify the proposed speaker two or so months in advance so the BEC can raise any questions. That approach seems to work. It was decided to defer further discussion to the June Meeting. **Action Frank Lucas**
- Facebook has been suggested as one way to engage with potential new members. Rich Hockenbrock said that the state has now developed a Facebook page and they are available to give guidance to each Branch if the Branch is interested. Bob Wilkenfeld reminded the group that if we were to have our own Facebook page we would need to have an active administrator for the task and that we would need to take care with the data and input to protect member privacy. Rich Hockenbrock will keep the Branch abreast of developments. **Action Rich Hockenbrock**

11. Little Sir:

Bob Wilkenfeld presented a summary of the types of speakers that he is attempting to recruit for our luncheons. He has a small group of individuals who are making suggestions of types of speakers and in some cases specific individuals. He would also like to solicit names of speakers from the general membership. He will update the BEC regularly as to the types of speakers and the names of speakers as soon as they are identified but does not see the need for a vote on each potential speaker. At present he is looking at the following:

- April and May are locked in with Mary Knox the Contra Costa County assistant DA and Karen Mitchoff Contra Costa County retiring Supervisor, respectively
- A Sports caster for KTVU
- Dennis O'Donnell, CBS sports caster
- Contra Costa Water to discuss short and long term strategies in view of the global warming issues
- Someone like Don Willaby to discuss alternative energy issues. He is not a purveyor of any system
- Rich Lyon reminded the group that we also need a back-up plan in the event a speaker is not available.

Bob strongly feels that we need to establish a Records Committee to manage our on-line accounts. Once established with account owner and backup and passwords it will ease the transition at year's end and make necessary information more generally available during the year if the owner is not readily available. We also need to look closely at our dropbox organization.

12. Big Sir:

Rich Lyon emphasized the importance of bringing in new members. The average age of our membership is 79+ which is the highest we have been. We have added 30 or so new members over the last two Covid years but we have lost more as the Covid hiatus has discouraged a number of members. In 2019 we had 294 members and now we have 274. We need to establish a goal of 7 guests per luncheon to achieve our growth goal. Each member should be thinking of bringing two guests per year to our luncheons and we need to make sure they feel welcome and are invited to join into activities and service to the Branch.

Since we are not having a BEC meeting in May due to the Ladies luncheon, the question was raised as to what we do if someone has a new member. We agreed if that were the case an email vote on the new member's admission could take place and if approved the new member and spouse could be invited to attend the Ladies luncheon.