

**SIR Branch 146
Branch Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2022
9:00 AM to 10:52 AM**

Venue: Zoom Meeting

Branch 146 Executive Committee for 2022

		Present
Big SIR	Jerry Kaplan	Yes
Little SIR	Rich Lyon	Yes
Secretary	Bob Wilkenfeld	Yes
Treasurer	John Alexander	Yes
Assistant Secretary	John Kluesener	Yes
Assistant Treasurer	Dave Steinberg	No
Director 2nd Year	Bob Lucido (Activities)	Yes
Director 2nd Year	George Mon (Membership)	Yes
Director 2nd Year	Henry Thatcher	Yes
Director 1st Year	Ed Brands (Member Relations)	Yes
Director 1st	Bob Ford	Yes
Director 1st Year	Frank Lucas	Yes

Other Attendees:

Peter Bishop, Walt Busenius*, Jim Burk*, Bruce Borgman*, Clint Collier, Ben Gleason, Brad Hatcher*, Richard Hockenbrock*, Bill Holly*, Brian McCarthy, Ron Plachy, Milt Smith

Note: * indicates past Big SIR

Agenda

Call to order: The Secretary announced that a quorum of BEC members was present. Big Sir, Jerry Kaplan called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Jerry asked if anyone had any changes to the agenda, and hearing none, proceeded with the meeting.

Secretary – Bob Wilkenfeld

The Secretary requested approval of the Minutes for the November 11 and December 8, 2021 BEC meetings. John Alexander put forward the motion and Jerry Kaplan seconded. The motion carried unanimously. ([November 11, 2021](#), and [December 8, 2021](#))

Treasurer – John Alexander

John Alexander reported that the Branch’s checking account balance at the end of December was \$25,624.29 ([Treasurer’s Report](#)). \$880 in 2022 dues were collected in December. Large expenses last month were for the Ladies Day luncheon and purchase of two wireless microphones. John Alexander moved to accept [Form 28](#). George Mon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Standing Reports

Membership – George Mon

George Mon reported that no new members joined in December. George reported that 14 members resigned, for various reasons and one member died. George also reported that there were 3 changes to the member database due to changes in phone numbers and email addresses. ([Membership Report](#)).

George Mon reviewed [Form 27](#) which shows the Branch with 292 members as of January 1, 2022 and an attrition of 11 members in January. John Alexander moved to approve Form 27, and John Kluesener seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

297 letters were sent out last year to Branch members calling for payment of the 2022 dues. As of January 9, 271 responses have been received, with 253 members renewing their membership, 17 members resigning and one member deceased. There are 16 members who have yet to renew. Jerry Kaplan asked for BEC members to contact these potentially resigning members to see if we could get some of them to renew their membership. Ed Brands volunteered to do so.

George Mon asked the BEC to consider attendance exemptions for Stan Matsumoto and Herb Wilson. Both members have paid their dues for 2022. Following some discussion, it was concluded that no action was currently needed as the Branch's attendance requirement for monthly luncheons has been suspended due to COVID-19.

Finally, George indicated that 264 signed COVID Waiver forms have been received from members; 256 from their spouses/partners; and 17 from guests. As of January 9, 89% of the Waiver forms mailed to members have been returned. ([COVID Waiver Tally](#))

Travel – Milt Smith

Milt reported that there no changes to approved outings and no new trips were proposed. He continues to seek a member to support him with travel planning.

Big SIR – Jerry Kaplan

Jerry Kaplan reported that Boundary Oak has temporarily waived the penalty to have less than the minimum attendance at the monthly lunch. They also waived any penalty for cancelling the January luncheon on relatively short notice. Jerry asked if our Branch should consider holding the monthly luncheon at Boundary Oak, with Branch 116, while COVID depresses attendance within both groups. There was general agreement within the BEC members that such an approach should be considered.

Jerry Kaplan proposed the appointment of Charles Schreiber (Chair) and Ben Gleason to the 2022 Audit Committee. Bob Wilkenfeld so moved, and John Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous support.

The Big SIR suggested we plan for an in-person February BEC meeting and member luncheon. Following BEC discussion and input from guests at the meeting, Rich Lyon put forward a motion that both the February BEC meeting and member luncheon be held via Zoom. Henry Thatcher seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Finally, Jerry Kaplan announced that Branch 8 was organizing an outing to the March 12 Golden State Warriors game in San Francisco. He asked if our Branch wished to co-sponsor the outing. There was no support among the BEC to do so, given concerns over the latest surge in COVID infections.

Little SIR – Rich Lyon

Rich Lyon announced that Nancy Schlossberg, RN, from John Muir Medical Center, will be the speaker at today's monthly luncheon. Her topic is gastrointestinal health. The speaker for the February luncheon will be Branch 146 member Bob Finlayson, who will discuss Grand Juries. The March speaker will be Jamie Knox, the new Chief of Police for the City of Walnut Creek.

Schedule of Operations – Bob Wilkenfeld

The Secretary indicated that there were two important items on the January [Schedule of Operations](#): (1) Verify that the State SIR assessment was paid by January 15; and (2) Secure approval of the year's Branch activities and associated schedule. John Alexander (Treasurer) verified that the State SIR assessment has been paid by our Branch. Bob Wilkenfeld also indicated that the Branch 146 Activities and associated calendar required approval by the BEC (refer to the Activities Chair report below).

Honorees – Walt Busenius

Jim Burk announced that Pete Gates would be recognized at the January member lunch as a 20-Year Member, and Hank James as a Super Senior.

Recruitment & Publicity – Bob Ford & Frank Lucas

Frank Lucas submitted his [Publicity Report](#).

Bob Ford informed the BEC that a contact in Martinez has been identified for Patch, enabling us to now reach that community. He also indicated that he is drafting a recruiting letter and will be submitting it for BEC approval.

Activities – Bob Lucido

Bob Lucido presented the proposed Branch's [2022 Activities](#) as well as the annual calendar for the [Fishing Activity](#). Rich Lyon moved for approval of the Branch's Activities and calendar for the Fishing Activity. Bob Ford seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The State Big SIR recently sent an [email](#) to Officers and Directors of each SIR Branch, regarding the extension of the State of California's mask mandate, for indoor public venues, until February 15. Bob Wilkenfeld and Bob Lucido informed the BEC of the direct impact of the extended order on Branch 146 activities and recommended that our Branch also go on record to encourage members to wear masks at sponsored activities conducted indoors at private locations, such as member's homes. Following BEC discussion, Bob Wilkenfeld put forward a motion directing the Activities Chair to notify the Activity Coordinators of the extended State Health Order and to inform them that the Branch 146 Executive Committee is strongly suggesting that members and their guests wear a mask at Branch-sponsored activities taking place in a private residence, until February 15, even though masks are not required by the Order. Jerry Kaplan seconded the motion and asked for additional BEC discussion, and input from

guests at the meeting. Bob Wilkenfeld called the question and Jerry Kaplan took a voice vote of the BEC members present. The motion passed with a vote of 10 “Yes” and 2 “No.”

Member Relations – Ed Brands

Ed Brands requested some assistance to help him structure his new role. Rich Lyon volunteered to assist.

Sunshine – Brian McCarthy

Brian announced that three members had been added to the [Sunshine Report](#). He stated that he has been unable to reach Hugh Ferguson to get an update on his condition. Bob Wilkenfeld mentioned that he saw Hugh a few weeks ago in front of his home, and that Hugh’s physical condition remains poor.

Old Business

Jerry Kaplan reported that the Branch’s piano has recently been damaged and reminded everyone that Boundary Oak has asked that we remove it from their facility. He has asked Bruce Borgman and Steve Dinning to assess options for replacement and disposal of the piano and recommend a course of action to the BEC at our next meeting. John Alexander, Branch Treasurer, will join Bruce and Steve in the assessment.

New Business

Jerry Kaplan would like the BEC to consider at our next meeting whether we should expand the COVID-19 vaccination requirement, for attendance at in-person activities, to include a booster injection.

Adjourn 10:52 AM

1. Next meeting (scheduled for Zoom) - February 10, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Wilkenfeld, Secretary, Branch 146