

**SIR Branch 146  
Branch Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
9:00 AM to 10:06 AM  
March 11, 2021**

**Note: Due to COVID-19 virus, SIR luncheon cancelled; BEC meeting held via Zoom**

Branch 146 Executive Committee for 2021

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

**Other Attendees:**

Peter Bishop, Brad Hatcher\*, Doug Eisner\*, Rob Melrose, Sam Veneziano, Jim Barry, Clint Collier, Paul Dubow, Bill Holly\*, Bruce Borgman\*, Walt Busenius\*, Ed Brands, Tony Greco, Mike Sulyma, Ron Plachy and Jim Burk\*

**Special Guest:** John Haffner\* SIR Region 5 Director

Note: \* indicates past Bir SIR

**Agenda**

**1. Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock**

- 1.a. Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM when Rich Lyon Secretary announced that a quorum was present.
- 1.b. Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock reviewed today's Agenda ( [Agenda](#) ) and asked if anyone needed any changes. No changes were requested.
- 1.c. Richard Hockenbrock requested BEC members, Brad Hatcher\* and Tony Greco to stay after the meeting for a BEC Executive Session.
- 1.d. Richard Hockenbrock requested a motion to approve the February minutes, ( [Feb. Minutes](#) ) Ed Brands so moved. John Alexander seconded . Motion carried unanimously.

## 2. Big SIR's Report - Richard Hockenbrock

- 2.a. Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock in his review of scheduled operations, noted that in April the Nominating Committee will make a report and that State assessment payments are also due.
  - 2.a.i. SIR John Haffner Region 5 Director stated that the State Board is meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> and that the waiving of assessments would be a subject of discussion.
  - 2.a.ii. SIR John Haffner also reported that today, Branch 2 Richmond is officially having their first Luncheon since the pandemic. The Luncheon is outdoors at La Strada Restaurant using social distancing.
- 2.b. Action items from the last BEC meeting includes a progress report on "non-payers" will be given in the Executive Session. Richard Hockenbrock said that some "non-payers" have paid.

## 3. Little SIR's Report – Jerry Kaplan

- 3.a. Little SIR Jerry Kaplan announced that today's speaker is Dr. Adam Wallach a dermatologist in Danville and that Dr. Wallach will be giving an interesting presentation on skin cancer. This is a topic of interest for many of us. Little SIR Jerry Kaplan thanked Larry Kaye for recommending Dr. Wallach.
- 3.b. Little SIR Jerry Kaplan reported that April's speaker is Bob Doyle the recently retired General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District which is the largest urban park district in the entire United States. The park doubled in size under Bob Doyle who also helped create the District's Regional Trail System. Bob Doyle was a co-founder of "Save Mt Diablo", an organization established in the early 1970's which preserved lands on and around Mt. Diablo
- 3.c. Little SIR Jerry Kaplan summarized his conversations with Boundary Oak who currently foresee main ballroom events limited this year with a maximum seating capacity of 50% or about 100 people. This is presuming the county attains the Red Zone or even Yellow (down from Purple) later in the year. ( [Boundary Oak memo](#) )
  - 3.c.i. Jerry Kaplan opined that if luncheons resume, they may be on a first come first serve basis like Golf and Dining Out activities which also operate on a first come first serve basis.
  - 3.c.ii. John Haffner Region 5 Director mentioned that Richmond Branch 2 has 35 members.
  - 3.c.iii. Ross Abbott, Treasurer asked if pre-paid SIRs would be given any preference.
  - 3.c.iv. George Mon, Membership answered that there are about 74 pre-paid lunches when Ross Abbott asked,
  - 3.c.v. Sam Veneziano suggested the branch could have two luncheons per month.

## 4. Secretary's Report – Rich Lyon

Rich Lyon presented three slides on the background, purpose, and members of the new Records committee. (Slides: [Slide-1](#), [Slide-2](#), [Slide-3](#) )

- 4.a. In Slide 1, Rich Lyon gave a brief history of where branch data has resided, mentioning the Access DB and the migration of Membership data from Access to Excel and Dropbox. Rich Lyon said that today, branch information is variously stored in Dropbox, One Drive, Goggle Drive, and SIR's personal computers.
  - 4.a.i. A single cloud storage platform will make it practical to share branch data across branch operations and, will also make officer transitions, branch reporting and backups easier.
- 4.b. Slide 2 depicts the central importance of Membership data because it supports most branch operations including, Secretary, Activities, Treasurer, Luncheon, Website and the Honorees branch recognition and awards program.

4.c. Slide 3 introduces the Record committee and their initial scope of work as:

- Find the best match of branch requirements to the offerings of the major cloud storage providers: Dropbox, Google, and Microsoft.
- Estimate the effort needed migrate to the selected platform to determine if that effort is “worth it” and, if so, recommend the solution to the BEC for adoption.
- If the BEC approves the recommendation, the steps migration will be determined by the platform.

4.d. In answer to a question regarding the use of a relational database, Rich Lyon said that a relational database was tested last year and could be used but, that it would require a much larger investment (added web infrastructure, additional software programming) and that no “suitable” off the shelf software had been found.

4.e. Direction from both Big SIRs Brad Hatcher and Richard Hockenbrock have been to keep it simple and see if Excel and a common storage platform can provide for the branch’s data storage and sharing needs, and that they are almost “free”.

4.e.i. Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock mentioned that he would contact the State SIR Web master to let them know what we are doing and to receive any feedback.

## **5. Treasurer’s Report – Ross Abbott**

5.a. Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock entertained a motion to approve Form 28, Ed Brands so moved and Brian McCarthy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. ( [Form 28](#) )

5.b. The Treasure’s report was presented by Ross Abbott Treasurer, who mentioned that there were very few activities. ( [Treasurer’s Report](#) )

## **6. Activities Coordinator - Bob Lucido**

6.a. Lunch and Wine (LAW). Bob Lucido moved to approve the resumption of the LAW activity and Peter Plante seconded . Motion carried unanimously. ( [Outdoor Activities](#), [LAW](#) )

6.a.i. Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock noted that State SIR has eliminated the 30-day waiting period after the approval of restarting an activity.

## **7. Biographies and Fishing – Paul Dubow**

7.a. There are now 217 biographies. All but one of the three new members inducted in February have biographies. One of today’s inductees has already supplied their biography.

## **8. Communications – SIR Call – Clint Collier**

We are trying to make SIR Call interesting so, any suggestions are appreciated!

8.a. Paul Beretz related an example where a potential member contacted him because of Nextdoor, and that the SIR Call convinced the potential member to visit the branch next month as Paul’s guest as a first step towards membership because of what he saw in SIR Call.

8.b. Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock stated that the branch is updating its materials to use “Social Activities for Men” rather than “Sons in Retirement” in advertising and forms.

*8.b.i.(1) John Haffner stated that he would let the branch know of the decisions made at the State Board meeting on March 24th.*

8.c. It was disclosed that the Nextdoor and Patch ads resulted in 6 guests at the Photography group meeting and that 5 of the 6 guests were women. The ads are gender neutral.

8.d. Bob Lucido mentioned that about half of the activities include spouses

8.e. In answer to the question, Richard Hockenbrock said that guests can attend SIR activities 3 times without joining.

## **9. Greeters –**

9.a. On hold during COVID

## **10. Historian – Gary Brown**

10.a. Not present.

## **11. Honorees – Doug Eisner, Jim Burk, Walt Busenius**

11.a. Walt Busenius reported that Ron Plachy will be receiving the Branch Honoree award and Bob Spellman is receiving the Branch 20 Year Service award. Doug Eisner will be presenting today's awards. ([Awards](#))

11.b. Jim Burk reported that on page 5 of this month's SIR Call the definition of how awards are determined is reported.

## **12. Luncheon – On hold during COVID**

12.a. Rich Lyon reported that there is prospect to take over the Luncheon responsibilities but that he has not yet been approached formally.

12.a.i. The Luncheon Manager is a committee position appointed by the Big SIR.

## **13. Membership – George Mon**

13.a. George Mon reported that this month's Form 27 ([Form 27](#)) shows a membership of 281, an increase of 11. There are 5 new members and 6 that have renewed their memberships. Four members have resigned. There were 3 database changes, one birthdate and two email ids.

13.a.i. The Big SIR and several members praised the quality of the Membership report.

13.b. Henry Thatcher moved to approve Form 27 and Ed Brands seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

13.c. George Mon mentioned all the information that was emailed is also available in Dropbox. ([Membership Report](#))

13.c.i. Ron Plachy requested the updated emails ids for the website.

13.c.ii. Tony Greco also requested the report include the nickname to be used on name badges.

13.d. Paul Beretz moved to approve the five new members: Doug Hanson, Jim Saller, Bill Schaaf, Mike Sulyma and Sam Veneziano, Brian McCarthy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **14. Member Relations – Ed Brands**

14.a. Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock requested all BEC members to notify Ed Brands if any difficulty arises when attempting to contact any SIR so that members do not lose touch with the branch.

## **15. Nominating Committee – Brad Hatcher**

15.a. Recruiting is working and will have a report next month.

## **16. Publicity – Peter Plante**

16.a. Peter Plante reported that activity advertising materials will be revamped to use "Social Activities for Men" as the SIR slogan.

16.b. The RV activity will be added to publicity pending receiving activity materials.

- 16.c. Bob Lucido noted that although LAW is now an approved activity, it is not currently accepting new members.
- 16.d. Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock reported that a new “feather” advertising banner is being considered that can be taken to advertise different SIR activities such as golf. The cost is about \$300. No decision was made to pursue this.
  - 16.d.i. Doug Eisner mentioned Gary Brown Golf Committee, as a point of contact for interest.
  - 16.d.ii. Branch 8 sells hats, shirts and other items which advertise SIR.
  - 16.d.iii. Brad Hatcher suggested that the banner be generic to the branch rather than activity.

### **17. Recruitment – Paul Beretz**

- 17.a. The slogan “Social Activities for Men” is being used and, as restrictions are lifted, and activities are restarted they too will be advertised.
- 17.b. In answer to a question from Big Sir Richard Hockenbrock, Paul Beretz stated that he has only seen Branch 8 advertising in Nextdoor and Patch.
- 17.c. Paul Beretz encouraged the activity leaders themselves to post their own adds in Nextdoor and Patch and that the ads are free.

### **18. Sunshine – Brian McCarthy**

- 18.a. Frank Lucas is back home and doing well! ( [Sunshine](#) )
- 18.b. A suggestion was made to include the SIR member’s picture in the Sunshine report which goes out as a email and is included in the monthly SIR CALL.
- 18.c. Brian McCarthy said that the next Sunshine report will be posted a little early and that he plans to attend the April BEC meeting

### **19. Travel – Milt Smith**

- 19.a. No report.

### **20. Webmaster & e-Communications – Ron Plachy**

- 20.a. No report.

### **21. Reports from other Chairs**

### **22. Old Business**

### **23. New Business**

### **24. Next Meeting**

- 24.a. April 8th, 2021 at 9:00 AM

### **25. Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Lyon, Secretary  
Branch 146

All the meeting’s slides and reports may be viewed by clicking → [here](#).