

SIR BRANCH 146
BEC MEETING MINUTES
9:00 to 11:50 A.M. – VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL
MAY 14, 2020

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

BIG SIR (Brad Hatcher)

Brad called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, after all those wanting to attend were signed on to the ZOOM platform. All officers and directors present.

Branch 146 Executive Committee for 2020

Big SIR	Brad Hatcher
Little SIR	Richard Hockenbrock
Secretary	Jerry Kaplan
Treasurer	George Mon
Assistant Secretary	Jim Whitsett
Assistant Treasurer	Ross Abbott
Directors (2nd Year)	Milton Smith (Travel), Brian McCarthy (Sunshine), Ron Lew (Membership)
Directors (1st Year)	Paul Beretz (Recruitment), Peter Plante (Publicity), Tony Greco (Member Relations)

Also in attendance were several committee chairs (Bob Lucido - Activities Coordinator, Walt Busenius and Jim Burk - Honorees, Gary Brown – Historian and Golf Chair, Paul Dubow –Biographies and Fishing Activity rep., and Ron Plachy – Webmaster (joined for a part of meeting). No guests attended. See Attachment #1 for a full list of attendees. The minutes of the April 2020 minutes were approved (M by George, S-Peter& Approved unanimously) with no changes (Attachment #2). The agenda was reviewed with no changes made.

1. BIG SIR’S REPORT- Brad Hatcher

- a) Brad reported that the State SIR had advised that an **insurance policy** is now in place as of May 1st for the coming fiscal year.
- b) Brad referenced Ed Benson’s email of May 10 that provided specific guidance of **BEC’s electronic voting procedures and responsibility**. Attachment #3) All BEC members had read the policy.
- c) Brad referenced State SIR president Ed Benson’s memo of April 22 sent earlier to BEC members. The memo’s focus is on the procedure to follow when the **BEC considers approval of the re-start of an activity**. (Attachment #4). See following items.
- d) Brad discussed the draft **Activity Restart Request Form** developed for activity chairs to submit requesting BEC approval to re-start their group activity. Milt volunteered to expand the form based on BEC input to more clearly define what will be required of the chair to re-start the activity; Bob L. will then provide the final version of the form to activity chairs to use. (Attachment #5)
- e) Brad asked for BEC input on **how best to review the requests**. After discussion, it was determined that many requests were not expected, since most of the branch activities require face to face contact (i.e., poker, bridge, dominoes, cooking, dine out, etc.). Therefore, these would still be restricted by state and local regulations. Approvals should be able to occur at the monthly BEC meeting, or if needed, a special BEC meeting could be held. Brad will send out an e-blast to advise the membership that most Branch 146 INDOOR activities will likely not be able to start for a while (date uncertain).
- f) Brad presented re-start requests from three different activities – **Regular Golf, Nine Hole Golf, and Cycling**. Each request was discussed by the BEC in the context of meeting State SIR guidance as well as local, regional and CA state current regulations and guidance. **Regular Golf** was approved unanimously after a motion by Milt, seconded by Peter. **Nine-hole Golf** was approved unanimously after a motion by

Richard, seconded by Brian. Similarly, the **Cycling** activity was approved unanimously after a motion by Ron, seconded by Ross. In addition to these three, Jim requested that the **Bocce** activity, which he chairs, be approved to start after the Concord and Martinez bocce leagues begin their season, expected to June. As noted in the state direction, the two golf and the bocce activities cannot officially start as a SIR activity until 30 days after BEC approval. Brad will officially advise each of the chairs that the BEC approved the re-start subject to the discussion noted above. (Attachments #6,7, and 8)

- g) Brad initiated a brief discussion about **restarting luncheon meetings**. BEC members felt that it is likely that meetings will NOT be able to be held for several more months (perhaps not even until 2021). Other branches have scheduled virtual membership-wide meetings via Zoom. Brad and Richard have been invited to attend one of these upcoming meetings and will share their thoughts on whether 146 should consider this approach. The BEC consensus was that it was important to schedule membership-wide meetings as soon as possible via Zoom or another platform to let members know that SIRs is “alive and well” and that leadership is aware that outreach is important. **It should be possible to schedule a virtual meeting for June** if: 1) there is BEC support - and 2) members are willing to make the effort to plan it (including inviting a speaker and/or to present a short video of interest). Information would need to be provided to members about signing in to Zoom, etc.

2. LITTLE SIR’S REPORT - Richard Hockenbrock

- a) Discussed status of sub-committee work (Richard, Doug, Rich Lyon, Ron Lew) that is looking into a **new branch database** that will consolidate existing databases into one that will be more useful to those admin. positions that need it. Richard requested that those individuals provide the sub-committee with what column headings would be needed for them to best track their data needs.
- b) Prior to the meeting, he provided the BEC a revised update and re-write of the existing **Branch Regulations**. Doug had a major contribution to the effort. Noted that all regulations are now searchable by inserting the word/topic searched for. Motion by Jerry, seconded by Paul to adopt new regulations, unanimously approved. (Attachment #9). A section on Best Practices is being developed that will be included in the same section.
- c) Richard noted he is continuing to develop detailed **job descriptions and practices for the Branch RAMP Positions**. The *Member Relations* position has been completed and is being used by Tony. The *Activities Coordinator* position is now being developed with input expected from Bob. The last two positions, *Publicity and Recruiting*, will then be completed with input from Paul and Peter. The four descriptions will also be incorporated into the branch website under the Regulations heading. (Attachment #10).

3. SECRETARY’S REPORT - Jerry Kaplan

Nothing to report

4. TREASURER’S REPORT –George Mon

- a) George reported active membership stands at 291 as shown on Form 28. The cash balance stood at \$36,683. (Attachments #11 & 12) A portion of this represents the amount of monies collected from the 90 Annual Payers at the start of the year. About \$4,000 of the total would be for the lunches consumed if the March and April luncheons were held.
- b) Monthly Treasurer’s Report and Form 28 was accepted by the BEC.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

5. ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR – Bob Lucido

- a) Bob reported that he has sent out a request to all chairs asking if they have reached out to their members by Zoom or via phone calls to keep their interest level up. He has received nine responses already to his request sent out only a day ago.

6. BIOGRAPHIES & FISHING ACTIVITY REP - Paul Dubow

- a) Noted that bio’s of 213 members are available on the website. Four of the newest seven members have not submitted a biography yet. Sponsors are encouraged to ensure that new members submit a bio.

b) No organized fishing activities are occurring. The next meeting for the Fishing group is set for May 28th.

7. COMMUNICATIONS – SIR CALL - Richard Hockenbrock

a) Richard will be looking for more pictures and articles for the upcoming SIR Call edition. It has continued to be a challenge to publish the SIR Call with very few active activities.

8. GREETERS - Jim Whitsett

a) He noted that the group is ready and willing to greet members once meetings start again; they are continuing to “stand by.”

9. HISTORIAN - Gary Brown

Nothing to report

10. HONOREES – Walt Busenius, Jim Burk

a) Walt noted that the committee has responded to Richard’s request for what their database needs are; it will provide a central location for member information used by the Honoree’s Committee.

b) He noted that they may be able to use Zoom to present awards during the remainder of the year if no face to face meetings are held and include them more prominently in the SIR Call.

11. LUNCHEON ATTENDANCE - Rich Lyon (not present)

No report

12. MEMBERSHIP - Ron Lew

a) Ron noted with no luncheon today, no further changes need to be made to the latest Form 27 and it can be considered final. Ron will adjust the date to reflect today’s meeting date. Ron reported 291 members in Branch as of today. (Attachment #13)

b) He pointed out that the requirement that members attend five of the ten luncheons has been suspended by State SIR which makes the Branch 146 Exempt List unnecessary at this time. It was moved by Tony, seconded by Peter that the List be placed on temporary hold until further notice. It was approved unanimously.

13. MEMBER RELATIONS - Tony Greco

a) Tony reported that he developed a column for the latest SIR Call in his new role as Member Relations chair. He offered to be a channel to leadership for any member that has suggestions to offer or possible criticisms. To date, he has had no responses.

14. NOMINATING COMMITTEE -Jonathan Korfhage (not present)

No report

15. PUBLICITY - Peter Plante

a) Continuing in a holding pattern and looking for direction. With at least some activities starting (golf, bocce, etc.), BEC suggested that it is important to publicize that SIR is still operating even if in a limited fashion.

16. RECRUITMENT - Paul Beretz

a) Reported that he is continuing to work with Peter in promoting SIR and the activities offered. Now that a few activities more outreach may be possible to attract new members.

17. SUNSHINE - Brian McCarthy

a) Provided an update on the report (Attachment #14) and recent news of members who are ailing. He again suggested that all members need to be aware of others that they know may be experiencing health problems and to let him know.

18. TRAVEL - Milton Smith

- a) Reported not much change in the travel situation. Several planned trips among all the SIR branches have not been cancelled; State SIR and the branches involved are taking it slowly on whether to cancel or not. It's better if the travel agency or cruise line cancels first. Discussion still underway to find a replacement for the state travel chair. If nothing set by December, the state program could disappear.
- b) Noted that he is still working to understand the policy that State SIR charges individual travelers for their portion of the \$2,700 annual premium.

19. WEBMASTER AND E-COMMUNICATIONS - Ron Plachy

- a) Noted the Branch website (sir146.com) remains the same but is now being hosted at the State website via GoDaddy, saving the branch the cost of direct website hosting (approx. \$1,000 for the current year).

20. REPORTS FROM OTHER CHAIRS None

21. CHAIRMEN WISHING TIME ON TODAY'S LUNCHEON AGENDA? NO MEETING

22. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Discussed the issue of **reimbursement to Annual Payers** because of cancelled meetings. Still too early to determine how many luncheons will be cancelled during the year. Tabled to next BEC meeting.

23. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Status of \$1,000 donation to Boundary Oak staff** (waiters, cooks, bartenders, etc.) while luncheons are not being held. Brad is waiting to hear from management of how the monies can be distributed.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. at the Boundary Oak Clubhouse (if meeting can be scheduled). Or, if necessary, an electronic meeting will be scheduled.

ADJOURN at 11:50 AM

Submitted **Jerry Kaplan, Branch Secretary**

DIGITAL ATTACHMENTS FILED [Can only be accessed using the link below] (may need to paste)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12HDGfoFNmEhkIEQfVegYBXW8e9VD_Yr1?usp=sharing

SIR BRANCH 146

SPECIAL BEC MEETING MINUTES

MAY 26, 2020 - 10:09 to 11:35 A.M. – VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

Note: This Special Meeting was called by the Big SIR to review and act on Re-Start Requests from several Activity Chairs

BIG SIR (Brad Hatcher)

Brad called the meeting to order at 10:09 am, after all those wanting to attend were signed on to the ZOOM platform. All officers and directors present, with exception of George Mon, Ron Lew, and Tony Greco. A quorum was present.

Branch 146 Executive Committee for 2020

Big SIR	Brad Hatcher
Little SIR	Richard Hockenbrock
Secretary	Jerry Kaplan
Treasurer	George Mon
Assistant Secretary	Jim Whitsett
Assistant Treasurer	Ross Abbott
Directors (2nd Year)	Milton Smith (Travel), Brian McCarthy (Sunshine), Ron Lew (Membership)
Directors (1st Year)	Paul Beretz (Recruitment), Peter Plante (Publicity), Tony Greco (Member Relations)

Also in attendance were several committee chairs (Bob Lucido - Activities Coordinator, Rich Ahlf for Mark Curtis - Hiking, Jeff Baily - Mexican Train Dominoes Group Three, Bruce Borgman - Song SIRS and Couples Dining Out, and Bill Weinberg – Table Pool (joined for a part of meeting). See Attachment #1 for a full list of attendees. No formal agenda was presented since the only topic was the review of the Re-Start Requests. All requests had been sent to the BEC members prior to the meeting.

BIG SIR- Brad Hatcher

Brad suggested that an overall discussion of the requests be held initially before any specific request is debated and voted upon. He noted that the BEC could take one of three actions on the requests. 1) Approve as submitted, 2) approve with additional conditions, or 3) reject the request. Brian suggested that a further option may exist where a request could be tabled to a later date. BEC members agreed that also was an acceptable alternative action.

Brad said the BEC should advise the requester as to the outcome of the meeting and the reasons behind the action taken.

Discussion

Jim Whitsett (Chair of the **Bocce Ball** activity) provided new information that affects the BEC's approval of the activity taken at the May 14, 2020 BEC meeting. The Martinez and the Concord Bocce Federation have both cancelled the 2020 season. This affects the Branch 146 activity since members play at one of the facilities managed by the Concord organization. As a result, Jim has requested that we rescind the BEC approval. Motion by Jim to **rescind the approval**, seconded by Peter, and approved unanimously. (See Attachment #2)

Request for **Hiking Activity** to Resume - Mark Curtis, Chair (Attachment #3)

Rich Ahlf attended for Mark, who could not attend.

Mark earlier had provided additional information as to how he perceived the activity to take place (see Attachment #3). Mark's proposal stated that wearing face masks would be optional. After discussion, some BEC members felt that masks should be required. A motion was made by Brad to approve the re-start request (seconded by Milt) that the **Hiking Activity was approved with the understanding that the activity would not begin under SIRs-auspices until Contra Costa Health officials approved outdoor group activities** (which may or may not designate the need for face masks in outdoor activities) All members in attendance approved the motion; Jim abstained from the vote.

Request for **RV Activity** to resume – Bob Lucido (Attachment #4)

Bob explained his request to re-start the RV activity on or after June 1st. With the State SIR requirement of a 30 day lag time after BEC approval of this particular activity, a date of June 26th was set as the earliest date when the RV activity could begin to plan and schedule trips. Questions were raised about which county regulations would be take precedence if there was travel out of the local county, which is likely. The BEC agreed that local regulations and ordinances/guidance of the home county (Contra Costa) would be the determining elements to follow in deciding when trips can begin. A motion was made (Brian) and seconded (Brad) that the **RV activity could proceed with the above stipulations**. All BEC members voted aye, with Jim abstaining.

Request for **Couples Dining Out** to resume – Bruce Borgman (Attachment #5)

Bruce noted that he, in part, wanted to support the local restaurants through his activity since many were on the verge of closing because of lack of business. The BEC was asked to approve the activity to re-start any time after July 1st. There was concern that the current county regulations were not permitting any group activities and that, at this point in time, residents were still being advised to shelter in place at home. The BEC consensus was that it would be prudent to wait for a period of time to learn what the upcoming county guidance will be relative to 1) restaurant openings, 2) gatherings of small or medium size groups (since Bruce was suggesting possibly 40 members attending), and 3) the age of the possible attendees (almost all Sirs are in the over 60 age category.)

Milt made a motion that the **Couples Dining Out request be tabled** until further guidance is available, as noted above. The motion, seconded by Ross, with all BEC members approving the motion, Jerry abstaining.

Request for **Song Sirs** to resume by June 15th– Bruce Borgman (Attachment #6)

The BEC consensus was that, under the current state and local COVID 19 regulations and guidance, groups (such as singing groups and choirs, like the Song SIRs) should not be meeting together at this time. Two members of the BEC (Peter and Paul) noted they are members of Song Sirs and said that they did not want to have any in person group meetings or practices until additional guidance is available from the county. **Bruce has agreed to withdraw his request and re-submit it later.**

Request for **Table Pool** to resume – Bill Weinberg (Attachment #7)

Even though Masse's (the place where the table pool is played) is only open for a limited number of days at present and the pool tables are not available to play on, Bill was requesting approval in advance so as to be ready when Masse's is open again. Concerns were raised by BEC about social distancing and not be touching the cue ball, chalk, etc. Bill agreed to wait until further guidance was available about group gatherings and for Masse's to open for playing pool. **He withdrew his request and will submit it at a later date.**

Request for **Mexican Train Dominoes -MTD (Group 3)** to resume – Jeff Baily (Attachment #8)

Jeff Baily requested that the BEC approve a possible start for his MTD group later in July, almost two months in the future. BEC members noted that group gatherings were not permitted at this time (based on local County Health Department ordinances). Questions were raised how proper social distancing could be attained in a table game such as MTD. **Jeff agreed to withdraw his request for BEC approval** and will re-submit his request when further guidance is available about group gatherings and social distancing.

Bob will work with Brad to expand the form to being used to request a re-start so more details will be available to the BEC before the next round of requests are sent in.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. likely to be via the Zoom platform.

ADJOURN at 11:50 AM

Submitted **Jerry Kaplan, Branch Secretary**

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