

INCORPORATED

**LAS TRAMPAS BRANCH 116**

**Boundary Oak**

 **WALNUT CREEK, CA**

**BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**March 19, 2018**

**Little Sir Jerry Hicks called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.**

**Secretary Fred Schafer confirmed a quorum was present. Executive Committee members in attendance were:**

**Little SIR Jerry Hicks**

**Secretary Fred Schafer**

**Assistant Secretary Dave Williams**

**Treasurer Jim Nickels**

**Assistant Treasurer Bob Shader, Al Satake**

**Membership Phil Goff**

**Directors**

**Peter Coggiola.**

**Harry Sherinian**

**Norm Alberts**

**Paul Ramacciotti**

**Also attending were Committee Chairmen: Alex Lutkus, Dick Chaffee, Neil Schmidt, Ben Smith, Jerry Christoperson (Christopherson), Kevin Donahue, Matt Arena and Richard Madden. Guests: Dick Thomson**

**Agenda:**

**Little SIR Jerry Hicks reviewed the meeting agenda and asked if there were any additions or changes. There were none.**

**Secretary’s Report: Secretary Fred Schafer asked if there were any changes or corrections to the February 19, 2018 BEC minutes as distributed. There were none. A motion to approve was made by Harry Sherinian and seconded by Al Satake. The motion was approved.**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

**Treasurer Jim Nickels reported the Form 28 Branch cash balance for the month ending**

**February, 2018 was $8,918.86. Jim said we were over budget for February due to the need for a three person luncheon subsidy for our last meeting (Over budget but noted that we had to subsidize 3 luncheons last month). At our current spend rate, we will have an $8,000 balance at the end of 2018. We are still collecting annual dues payments.**

**Attendance:**

**Kevin Donahue reported:**

**Current membership: 210**

 **Luncheon guests/visitors: 3 – Peter Cubanske guest of Bob Vetro, Dale Harrington and Chris Saylocks guest of Don Murray.**

**Speakers: 1**

**Excused members: 45**

**Estimated Unexcused members: 10**

 **Estimated Luncheon attendees: 163**

**6 Unexcused Letters sent out for the January Lunch. 3 Paid**

**Membership:**

**Phil Goff reported:**

1. **Our current Branch membership is 210.**
2. **1 new member will be inducted at today’s lunch meeting – Dick Savage sponsored by Andy Benz.**
3. **There are 29 inactive members.**
4. **There were no member resignations this month.**

**Big Sir Report:**

 **Little SIR Jerry reported for Big SIR Marty Katz that progress is being made to get assistants for all current Activity Chairmen. We have also added two new support chairmen: Chaplin – Art Donaldson and Storyteller – Pete Coggiola.**

**Little SIR Report:**

1. **Seating for Luncheons: Jerry reported that having two guest seating spots at each lunch table seems to be working. Matt Arena said he helped a person find an open spot to sit at at the last meeting. Jerry said it is the responsibility of all our Officers and Directors to help anyone looking for a spot to sit for lunch to find one.**

**Dick Chaffee and Jerry met this month to discuss a seating idea that Dick had. The idea is to establish a lottery system allowing each of the groups currently reserving tables to sign up for the same table for an entire year. As always, there was a great deal of discussion. The biggest concern is losing members due to not being able to sit with their friends. The other side of the coin is that new members leave because of not having a place to sit. The overall feeling was that the idea has merit. Due to time constraints, it was decided to table the discussion to a later meeting.**

1. **Jerry reported that Ben Smith was offended by being cut off when giving his committee report at the February luncheon meeting. Jerry apologized to Ben. Jerry explained that he feels the committee reports must be limited to SIR business. He cut Ben off because he was reporting on an activity which was outside of SIR. Ben feels more sensitivity needs to be displayed.**
2. **Jerry conducted a short training session on responsibilities of Directors, reminding all of the BEC that we are responsible to insure we adhere to the bi-laws (by-laws) of SIR.**
3. **Director Paul Ramacciotti reported that Michael Barrington has agreed to be Little SIR for 2019, Norm Alberts to remain as a Director, Gary Boswell to become a Director and Paul to become Assistant Secretary. This leaves one open Director Position to be filled. Phil Goff stated that in the future we should always try to fill the Little Sir position from those with past BEC experience to make for smoother transitions.**
4. **RAMP Report: Activities Chairman Norm Alberts reported on the results from the possible new branch activities survey. The #1 idea was Bocce ball. One person also suggested Pickle Ball. Norm will look into possible sites for each, as well. Bocce Ball would be co-ed. It was brought up that many people suggest activities and then never participate. Phil Goff said that he forwards new member stated activity interests to all activity chairmen. Dick Chaffee said that many new members have stated an interest in the 9 Hole golf while only 1 has actually come out to play. Jerry said that it is essential that all activity chairmen make personal contact with those stating an interest.**
5. **Jerry talked about having new member hats in lieu of pins. It was brought up that we did away with pins several years ago. It was also stated that hats are a personal thing therefore difficult to require.therefore of questionable value to new members.**
6. **Jerry brought up the possible elimination of framed remembrance certificates upon SIR’s deaths. Matt Arena, Sunshine Chairman, pointed out that these are very appreciated by widows when he gives them to them. Paul Ramacciotti pointed out that having a quality frame is also very important. Kevin Donahue stated that we should not do anything which might cheapen our remembrances for former SIR members. We will continue to give the framed remembrance certificates.**
7. **Today’s Luncheon Speaker will be Steve Moskowitz. He will speak as a Tax Attorney.**

**Old Business:**

 **State SIR’s requested email address for our members. Last month it was decided that we had furnished email addresses in the branch roster and no further information would be provided. We must now give a more decisive reply. Phil Goff had a very long discussion with State President Derek Southern who said he wants the addresses to distribute the state newsletter “SIR Happenings”. This would be a proactive action to maintain or increase membership.**

**Derek stated that an outside service will be hired to administer and send out emails. The outside service will ensure good security and not sell the list to anyone else. Communications from the state will be minimal, mostly to announce the quarterly “SIR Happenings”. The list will be purged and reestablished each year.**

**Little SIR Jerry suggested four options:**

1. **Comply with State request and send our email list.**
2. **State sends to one person (probably Trampas Topics Editor) to review and publish pertinent information.**
3. **Send to BEC only.**
4. **Do not release our email addresses.**

**After considerable discussion, the BEC decided to go with #4.**

**Other Committee Reports:**

1. **Jerry reported that there will be a Speakers Committee meeting on April 5.**
2. **Parties Chairman Jerry Christopherson reported that the Spring Fling will be held May 17 at the Bridges Club House. It will begin with a social hour at noon with lunch being served at 1:00 PM. The price will be $42/person.**
3. **Mexican Train Chairman Richard Madden asked about sending out blast emails when members were looking for Handymen, etc. It was decided that there are already many apps like “Nextdoor” which could be used for these kind of requests. That being the case, SIR would not get involved with this kind of activity.**

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45.**

**Fred Schafer, Secretary**

**Executive Committee**

**Area 16 Governor**

**Region 5 Director**

**All Support and Activity Chairmen**