LAS TRAMPAS BRANCH 116

Branch Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2024

Big Sir Alan Pope called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Asst. Secretary Dan Lawrence confirmed a quorum was present. The following members in attendance were:

Executive Committee:

Big SIR — Alan Pope

Little SIR — Paul Russell

Treasurer — Charlie Guthrie

Assistant Treasurer — Al Satake

Asst. Secretary – Dan Lawrence

Membership – Alan Fitzgerald

Directors:

Gary Bonfiglio

Dave Williams

Jeff Johnson Roger Craig

Sam Beret

Committee Chairmen: Neil Schmidt, Harry Sherinian, Don Schroeder, Dennis Snarr, Mike Ward, Rob Lemmo and Ron Armijo, Fed Wachowicz, Phil Goff

Secretary's Report:

* Director Jeff Johson reported that there is a correction to the February 19, 2024, Minutes as distributed. Jeff reported that the motion, and seconded by Paul Russell, that he made on February 19 to purchase an initial order of 20 T-shirts with a budget for the year of $400 was passed with one opposed (not two opposed). A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Dave Williams, seconded by Gary Bonfiglio. The motion was unanimously passed.

# Treasurer's Report:

Charlie Guthrie reported:

* Branch 116 cash balance as of 3-01-2024 is $12,405.36 & a reserve $10,808.43.
* 2024 Dues: 164 of our 188 members have paid 2024 dues as of 3-16-2024.
* Five active members who have not paid their dues; they are Bill McCord, Ben Smith, Jerry Zampino, Dave Heck, and Lou Sandor. They are basically nonactive for various reasons.
* Following a discussion, it was decided to establish a working committee to identify an acceptable method to notify active members who are not paying dues. It was suggested that the three-person committee should include Alan Fitzgerald, Charlie Guthrie, and Dennis Snarr.
* Further discussion was held concerning the appropriateness of our bank reserve. The treasurer will examine the appropriate reserve balance based on our needs and report back with a recommendation.

Luncheon Report:

Dennis Snarr reported:

* 112 attendees were submitted for the February luncheon (37 paid but excused).
* A discussion was held regarding the current requirement to attend at least three luncheons per year. Should a minimum of three luncheons be enforced or ignored. A motion was made by Dave Williams and seconded by Al Satake to change the language concerning luncheon attendance from required to expected. Motion passed.

Membership:

Greg Hughes reported:

* Current active membership stands at 188.

RAMP Department Head Reports:

Recruitment:

Don Schroder reported:

* One new member is expected to attend today's luncheon.
* One guest is expected to attend today’s luncheon.
* Two applications were submitted to join, status unknown.

Activities:

Mike Ward reported:

* Mike stated that of the 23 activities listed, 19 are operating in February. Six additional activities can be piggybacked with other branches (Apple User ID, astronomy, bowling, cycling, digital photography and men's Hearts card game). Four activities are still in need of a chairperson: parties, poker, travel, and sunshine. There were 25 total activity days in March with 11 activities expected during this month.
* Selected activities and leaders will be highlighted at the luncheon and an article placed in the newsletter.
* As previously stated, Mike has four travel coupons ($100 discount) to give away from the initial eight given to him by Overseas Adventure Travel. If all ten coupons are used by travelers through OAT, then Branch 116 stands to earn $6,500.00. There is no time limit for use, but the coupons can only be used by first time travelers.
* Branch 116 Activities Survey: Results were given to the Board for review. 86 members (46%) responded. Popular highlights from the survey were chess, theater/opera, computer technology, CPR, weekend excursions, and day or half-day trips.

Member Relations:

* Fred Wachowicz led a discussion about member status and ideas to enhance membership. Some of the issues that a membership survey revealed were the quality of lunch, seating issues, sound system, and a desire for more social time during luncheons.
* Sam Beret felt that the two primary issues were the quality of the lunch meal and seating issues related to new members seating, especially when attending their first meeting.
* After a lengthy discussion it was decided that a small committee, led by Big Sir or Little Sir should be formed to explore options or alternatives to address the luncheon issues and/or a possible change of venue.
* In addition, to addressing the seating issue for new members, a motion was made by Paul Russell, seconded by Charle Guthrie, to establish a designated table for three luncheons near the front for new members. New members would be identified with a special name tag. The motion was unanimously approved.

Publicity:

Robin Lemmo made a very brief comment about the coverage SIRS is getting by advertising in the Alamo/Danville Today and the Diablo Gazette. Responses are being received. However, we need to discuss how the organization can reach and attract a more diverse population.

# Little SIR Report

Paul Russell reported:

* Guest Speaker: Today’s speakers will be Janet Hoy and Paul Derkson of the League of Women’s Voters who will make a presentation about Misinformation and Disinformation.
* 16 birthdays in March.

# Miscellaneous Updates and New Business

Jeff Johnson advised that a Food Bank Barrel from chapter 8 will be placed outside in April. No other updates or new business.

Adjourn:

Big Sir adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Dan Lawrence, Assistant Secretary