

LAS TRAMPAS BRANCH 116

BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2025

Big Sir Paul Russell called the meeting to order at 9:16 AM.

Secretary Dan Lawrence confirmed a quorum was present.

The following members in attendance were:

**Executive Committee**:

Big SIR – Paul Russell

Little SIR – Brad Stribling

Treasurer – Charlie Guthrie

Asst. Treasurer - Al Satake

Secretary – Dan Lawrence

Phil Goff - Membership

Neil Schmidt – Asst. Membership

**Directors:**

Jim Tamulski

Gary Bonfiglio

Harry Sherinian

Jeff Johnson

Alan Pope

Sam Beret

**Committee Chairmen**: Fred Wachowicz, Carlos Xavier, Dave Williams, Al Farbman, Mike Ward, Dennis Snarr, Ron Armijo, Paul Ramaciotti

**Secretary’s Report**

**Dan Lawrence reported:**

* Secretary Lawrence asked if there were any changes or corrections to the November 18, 2024, and January 20, 2025, Minutes as distributed. There were none. Asst. Treasurer Al Satake made a motion to accept both Meeting Minutes as distributed and the motion was seconded by Gary Bonfiglio. The Motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report**

**Charlie Guthrie reported:**

* Branch cash balance as of 02/01/2025 is $8,908.06. The reserve balance is $9,101.10.
* January Unexcused Lunch Absences: There were 23 unexcused absences, 8 paid. Treasurer Charlie Guthrie led a discussion about the current practice of estimating the number of lunches that are submitted to Boundary Oak, using either a low or higher estimated number. After discussion, it was decided to keep the current practice of using a lower estimate number of lunches in place.
* Lunch count: 110
* So far, 110 members have paid 2025 dues.
* Charlie Guthrie made a motion to approve the treasurer report as delivered, the motion was seconded by Jeff Johnson. The motion was passed.
* Audit: Charlie Guthrie reported that the Branch Audit Report of 2024 was completed with the following remarks: the year-end balance has remained flat with the NCGA dues/payments being the major on-going annual expenditure, congratulations. General accounting practices and procedures for a cash accounting system have been followed. Ron Armijo gave a brief overview of the Branch Audit Report that was issued on February 1, 2025. Ron Armijo gave a brief overview of the report that led to a lengthy conversation that covered a wide-ranging discussion about custodial accounts, contracts for special events, insurance issues, legal requirements and whether that branch activities should be included in the meeting minutes for approval.
* Charlie Guthrie made a motion to accept the Branch Audit Report that was seconded by Jeff Johnson, the motion passed. In addition, Charlie Guthrie also made a motion to include the activities list on page two of the Branch Newsletter in this meeting minutes that was seconded by Jeff Johnson. The motion was passed. The list is listed is included under the activity Chairmans report of this month’s minutes.

**Big SIR Report**

* Big Sir Paul Russell encouraged “mixing and mingling” during meetings to help new members to connect and feel part of the Sir Branch. Paul also suggested that every member gets involved and help to grow the size of our Sir branch.
* Branch Advisory Council: Carlos Xavier presented an updated brief report. Carlos reported that continued discussion was held about the ramifications about removing the word Retirement as a descriptor for SIR Brand name. There was concern that a growing number of potential members who have retired may still be employed. It was felt that this might lead to potential new members declining membership as a possible result. Further discussion about the process and procedures for a Branch to change from an all-male SIR Branch to a mixed Branch. The Council wanted to review possible legal issues that might apply. Continued discussions on establishing goals and procedures and developing a three-to-five-year plan, with a final decision by the July 2025 meeting.

**Membership**

Phil Goff reported**:**

Current active membership stands at 185.

* New member: Logan Happel who is sponsored by Don Nix.
* New member: Jim Grant who is sponsored by Alan Polanger.
* New member: Franck Rudnick who is sponsored by Jack Mincucci.
* Willie Brown resigned because he has returned to work.

**RAMP Department Head Reports**

**Recruitment:** Jeff Johnson reported that 100 business cards were left on the luncheon tables and approximately 50 were taken. We have five guests this month.

**Activities:**

Mike Ward reported that out of 28 days in February 26 activities were active. Still trying to encourage members to become chairmen of four activities, currently without leadership. Other SIR Area 16 activities are also included, such as astronomy, cycling, cards, technical and computers, and travel.

**2025 Activities listed on page two of the Branch Newsletter**

Activity Chairman Asst. Chairman

Amiable Amblers John Riordan Joel White

Bocce Bob Huck

Book Group 1 Rich Black Steve Bort

Book Group 2 Scott Clark Alan Pope

Book Exchange Dick Kauffman

Bridge Jon Dickson Art Donaldson

Chess Gary Bonfiglio

Community Service Jeff Johnson TBA

Dino-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

Fishing Harry Sherinian Terry Miller

Golf—18 Hole Bernie Wroblewski Ed Lichtig

Golf—9 Hole Dick Chaffee D. Mclaughry

Golf—Treasurer Harry Oberle

Golf—Carmel Phil Goff

Golf—Clinic Chris Doan

Mexican Train Richard Madden Alex Lutkus

Parties Paul Russell TBA

Pickleball Ed Solomon Gary Bonfiglio

Poker Open

$ums Investment Dave Sutton, Br. 8

Sunshine Open

Theater Terry Sherman

Travel Open

Walking Tours Greg Hughes Jim Tamulski

Wine-O-SIR Dave Havlik

**Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities**

Astronomy Larry Lange (Br. 8)

Bowling Dan Weller (Br. 8)

Cycling Larry Kaye (Br. 8)

Digital Photography Meng Horng (Br. 8)

Men’s Hearts Cards Bob West (146)

**Member Relation**

Because of the late hour, Sam Beret made a few brief comments about the best way to promote member participation was to encourage them to participate in an activity of interest. Sam currently contacts an activity chairman that the new member is interested in to help them get involved.

**Publicity**

Allan Farbman reported**:** Approximately 40% of our branch membership utilize social media with Facebook the mostly used media. An article is also being developed to be placed in the Alamo/Danville News, City of Walnut Creeks Nutshell, and Rossmoor News. In addition, as a marketing tool the use of a RACK card will be placed at each local golf course.

**Little SIR Report**

Brad Stribling reported**:**

* Guest speaker**:** Dan Hanel is an author of four historical book series: “In the Shadow of Diablo.”
* 18 birthdays are being celebrated this month.
* Greeters: Paul Ramacciatti and Joe Datzman

**Miscellaneous Updates and New Business**

None

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 17, 2025

**Respectively Submitted:**

**Dan Lawrence, Secretary**