

**Branch Executive Committee Meeting July 11, 2023 Minutes
In person meeting at Elks Club**

In Attendance:

BEC Officers: Big SIR Eddie Toews, Little SIR Rick Bronner, Secretary Gene Zanoni, Treasurer John Salmon and Assistant Treasurer Eddie Toews.

Not Present: Assistant Secretary Bill Burnes.

Directors: George Cocores, Melvin Kutsch and Marty Martin.

Not Present: Stan Enos Steven Holt and Rex Page.

Committee Chairmen: Bowling Rick Bronner, Bulletin Jim Botto, Car Club Rick Bronner, Membership George Cocores, Propane Marty Martin and RV Travel Eddie Toews.

Not Present: Chaplain Steve Gregory, Fishing Chuck Simons, Internet & Zoom Jerry Bellefeuille, Kayaking Sol Robin, Lunch Tickets Jerry Bellefeuille, Photographer Steve Belochi and Pinochle Bob Morrison.

Past Big SIRs: Jim Botto, Paul Squeri, Phil VanSwoll and Gene Zanoni.

Call to Order – Big SIR Eddie Toews called the meeting to order at 10:07

am.

Roll Call – Secretary Gene Zanoni took attendance and informed the board that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda – Big SIR Eddie Toews asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none and the agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary’s Report – Big SIR Eddie Toews asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the June 13, 2023 meeting. There were none and the minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer John Salmon presented the June 2023 monthly Treasurer’s Report.

He reported that we had a beginning checking account balance of \$15,231.96 and a month ending balance of \$15,391.70 and \$100.00 cash on hand. General Fund Receipts: Luncheon profit \$172.00, Guest expense \$17.00. Custodial Fund Receipts: Luncheon \$958.00, Picnic ticket sales \$450.00. General Fund Disbursements: Printing, Supplies and Taxes \$86.14, Postage \$21.00, Rent, Setup, Cleanup \$300.00, Birthday lunch \$20.00, Sponsor lunch \$20.00, Guest expense \$17.00. Custodial Fund Disbursements: Luncheon \$958.00, Badges (2) \$15.12. There were no additions or corrections to the presentation, thus, the report was approved as presented. Several BEC members voiced interest in receiving copies of the monthly Treasurer’s Report, to be issued via email. John Salmon left it open for those interested members to contact him for compliance.

Big SIR Report – Eddie Toews

1. Received a letter from “The Sons in Retirement Foundation, Inc.” requesting a donation from our branch. The letter was issued on behalf of SIR Foundation President, Jim Walton. This letter, which appears immediately below, was read aloud by Big SIR Eddie Toews during this BEC meeting:

The Sons In Retirement Foundation, Inc.
An open letter to all Sirs
June 12, 2023

Dear SIR Member,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones in good health and good spirits.

I am writing today to bring you up to date about The Sons In Retirement Foundation, Inc. (SIRF). And ask that you take a moment to read my important letter.

Many of you already know, the Foundation (SIRF) was established in 2019 to collect and distribute funds for SIR members who suffered significant losses in the Camp Wildfire devastation of Paradise and Magalia. Through the generosity of individual SIR members and SIR Branches the foundation collected and distributed over \$41,000 to victims of that disaster. Since then, SIRF has provided annually, Zoom licenses to support “Grants of Use” to SIR Branches wishing to hold meetings and activities online during and after the pandemic. The Foundation has other expenses as well, annual State of California fees and required liability insurance for non-profit organizations. The annual administrative costs total about \$1400. A purpose and goal of SIRF is to support the needs of SIR Branches and their members, and be prepared should an occurrence like the Camp Wildfire happen again. We also look to support other organizations for projects that make meaningful improvements to facilities and infrastructure benefitting the applicants’ local communities.

The purpose of my writing today is to solicit your support for the Foundation by encouraging you to make a donation, no matter how small, to replenish the SIRF coffers

that are now essentially empty and allow us to maintain the Foundation and continue our ability to support our members and their branches with appropriate help when needed.

The Sons In Retirement Foundation, Inc is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible within the limits prescribed by California law.

SIRF is currently managed by a five-member volunteer Board of Directors. We invite any SIR member with fundraising experience to help the Board

obtain donations that allows us to continue providing grants where needed or requested.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to your continued support. A donation form is available by clicking on the button below, or just contact me for a copy.

[Please click here for your donation form](#)

I will be happy to answer any questions or address any comments you may have, just send them to jameswalton2176@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Jim Walton, PBS 152
Foundation President

The SIR Foundation | PO Box 6125, Arnold, CA 95223

Once the reading concluded, Big SIR Eddie Toews then provided the opportunity for an open forum for the purpose of allowing our BEC to voice their collective opinion in response to this request for donation. From the comments expressed, the idea of any financial contribution in the form of a donation at this time was rejected. Marty Martin made a motion in support of this decision and it was seconded by John Salmon and was approved by the BEC. *Despite this action, any SIR member is free to make a personal tax-deductible contribution should they feel inclined to do so.*

Little SIR Report – Rick Bronner

1. Swear in new members:

Travis Rodgers

During the installation process Travis will become the initial recipient of the newly created Certificate of Membership; in addition, to receiving the customary personal identification membership badge.

2. Update on guest speakers.

Rich Lundin, an acclaimed local geologist and a member of our branch, is to be our guest speaker at today's luncheon. His presentation will include a slide show.

Elizabeth "Betsy" Coe, a County of Tuolumne employee whose extensive engagement as a case worker for the homeless, is scheduled to be our guest luncheon speaker in September.

3. Supplies needed for next month's Summer Family BBQ Picnic was held to a scant discussion. Complete consideration regarding this topic is forthcoming from the Event's Committee prior to the August 8, 2023 scheduled event.

Attendance/Membership Reports:

Membership Chairman George Cocores presented the combined review of the Membership/Attendance Report and Form 27 – Monthly Branch Membership Report for June. We started the month with 133 members and during the month we added 2 new members (Tom Clawson and Travis Rodgers) while losing none. Thus, we ended June with 135 members. The reporting was approved as presented.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT

Bulletin – Jim Botto expressed appreciation for the feedback received from the reviews of the July Bulletin's numerous drafts. He requested that any pictures taken of the August 8th Summer Family BBQ Picnic be forwarded to him for inclusion in the September Bulletin. His request arises from the fact that he will be unable to attend the event due to a prior family commitment.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Bowling – Rick Bronner participated in a June bowling tournament held in Sutter Creek and this month will participate in another tournament in Auburn. The Black Oak Casino bowling venue is closed and is currently undergoing major remodeling efforts at the cost of \$1,000,000 and is not expected to re-open until sometime in September. Commencing September 1, 2023 former Big SIR Don Banchemo has agreed to become the Bowling Chairman; thereby, providing some much-needed relief for Rick Bronner.

Golf – Rick Bronner announced that a tournament was held in June at the La Contenta Golf Course in Valley Springs, with another tournament scheduled in July to be played at the Teleli Golf Course in Sonora. Rick strongly suggests that interested participants, regardless of the type of activity, should peruse our monthly Bulletin for the latest activity updates.

RV Travel – Eddie Toews announced there were 6 rigs involved in the June outing, with the destination being the Chico Almond Tree RV Park, Chico, CA. Eddie bestowed lavish phrase for the many rewarding experiences realized by the group participants. The next outing is scheduled for Casper Beach RV Park, Mendocino, CA. during Sept 25th to Sept 30th (5 nights).

The hosts are expected to be Mike and Pam Krom and the co-hosts are anticipated to be Stan & Ruth Enos.

Old Business

1. Once again discuss having a third person setup to do the luncheon reservation list if or when the need may arise due to the fact that the two people doing it now can't do it for some reason. Any takers for this activity?

Interested members are encouraged to contact Big SIR Eddie Toews for details. Also, it is likely that he will discuss this matter further with Head Reservationist Jerry Bellefeuille.

New Business

1. Phil VanSwoll and Rick Bronner report on recruiting meeting. The Nominating Committee is composed of the following individuals: Chairman Phil VanSwoll, Little SIR Rick Bronner and Secretary Gene Zaroni. An hour-long meeting of a highly constructive nature was held on the morning of June 30th. A progress report regarding the composition status of the 2024 Branch Executive Committee is to be presented at the September BEC meeting.

2. No BEC meeting in August due to the Summer Family BBQ Picnic.

3. Birthday recognition for July.

To be announced from the result of a random drawing during today's luncheon.

4. Eddie Toews announced the Indigeny Reserve is to present us with a gift

basket and that branch member Earl Randall has contributed fifty dollars cash, along with the promise of donating several bottles of wine. All such items are to be included in our raffle activity. In addition, all members are encouraged to donate raffle prizes which they deem affordable. After all, participating attendees and our branch stand a chance to become eventual winners.

Next BEC meeting – September 12, 2023 starting at 10:00 am at the Elks Lodge.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Gene V. Zanoni, Secretary
July 27, 2023