



## **PONY EXPRESS BRANCH 69**

Minutes of the BEC Meeting on Thursday, April 11th 2024

### **BEC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

BS Connor Chin, LS Lieutenant Coopwood, Treasurer Hal Copperberg, Assistant Treasurer James Sprifke, and Secretary Bernie Moreno. Directors; PBS Ted Patterson, John Popadak, and PBS Alan Weinel.

### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

James Aylett, Robert Clanton, PBS Tom Costello, Rick Hom, George Langford, PBS Tom Page, PBS Jerry Schroeder, PBS Lennie Silva, and PBS Mark Steffens.

### **GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Les Kurtz and Ted Nishio will be inducted as members today.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

BS Connor Chin called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Secy Bernie Moreno confirmed there was a quorum (8 of 12). BS Connor Chin noted the solar eclipse occurred a few days ago and the March Madness Basketball is here. He then welcomed the two guests and said we will do their inductions during the Membership report later.

### **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

There were no corrections/additions to the March's minutes. Secy Bernie Moreno moved to accept the minutes as prepared by Asst. Secy Robert Schrupf and was seconded by PBS Alan Weinel. Minutes were unanimously accepted by those present.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Hal Copperberg reported cash was at \$4,800 at the end of March. This was about \$1,100 less than last year. The annual dues were \$3,266 which is \$51 more than last year. Year-to-date expenses are \$1,444. This is \$333 more than last year due to insurance and covering the costs of the Christmas Luncheon. Membership is at 134 members. This is up by two from last year. There were no changes to the report and accepted as is. BS Connor Chin said he will be discussing with Dante Club about lunch prices for upcoming new contract in June. He said with the current inflation he would be surprised if they don't raise the price from the current \$25 per meal. Price of the meals are paid by members and do not affect the organization's finances except is part of the budgeting process.

### **BRANCH OPERATIONS**

- LS Lieutenant Coopwood attended the State SIR meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> and will inform us of the items discussed. Two topics were discussed: 1) How to treat membership and 2) the overall status of the organization. They discussed increasing membership by inviting more guests, provide activities geared to our age group, make it more fun, play videos, play games, keep the website current, use table topics

vs. having speakers, and possibly allowing wives to participate in activities such as bowling and golf. He said there are Branches that allow the wives to participate. Allowing wives to participate in bowling/golf did not go over well with the members present. Secy Bernie Moreno said there may be some responsibilities open to wives/women. He said when he was having difficulties finding callers, his wife was willing to be a caller. The San Jose branch is growing despite not having bowling as one of their activities. They do have golf. It was also suggested that new members be invited to sit at the head table with the officers. 25% of the branches do not have a Little SIR and the Big SIR serves multi-terms. Some of the branches utilize members to temporarily fill officer/director vacancies until a permanent selection has been made. PBS Mark Steffens made us aware that our branch has had no repeat of any Big SIR. PBS Tom Page said that Branch 3 is failing due to Big SIR serving multi-terms because difficulties finding a replacement. LS Lieutenant Coopwood said members are often afraid of performing branch tasks and positions. There was a suggestion at the State meeting about possibly delegating some responsibilities. Also, inquiring new members about volunteering and providing handouts to them about position tasks. PBS Mark Steffens said we're not reaching out to enough members to find volunteers. LS Lieutenant Coopwood informed us that 'face-to-face' contact works better than phone/text/email when looking for volunteers. It's too easy to say 'no' when there is no eye contact. Need to provide travel care for those members unable to drive or not have another mode of transportation to attend activities. Our branch currently rewards recruiters with pins and bottle of wine. PBS Tom Costello said there is not a good showing of members at the BEC meeting but they do show up for luncheon. Need to let the members know they are welcome to join the BEC meeting. BS Connor Chin said he will announce that the General Meeting is open to all members and will have it noted in the branch newsletter. BS Connor Chin said minutes are to be posted on the branch website by Ross Martin. On another topic, today's speaker is unable to be here due to a situation with his mother. BS Connor Chin experienced the same scenario last year but managed to get a member from another branch to do a presentation on Electric Vehicles on the spur of the moment. LS Lieutenant Coopwood will do a presentation today. BS Connor Chin gave an update on the SIR Bowling Tournaments. Once again, Fireside's May tournament is being moved to Rocklin. In June, it will be at the brand new entertainment center in the Red Hawk Casino in Placerville. As for golf tournaments, Rick Hom said the State SIR schedules their golf tournaments late, after our branch establishes our schedule. Too many timing conflicts. LS Lieutenant then handed out a page from SIR Form 20 Administrative Personnel.

- Treasurer Hal Copperberg said the SIR State Assessment was paid on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Treasurer Hal Copperberg confirmed Form 28 Branch Cash Report has been submitted on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Membership Chair John Popadak submitted online the Branch Membership Status Report (formerly Form 27).
- Secy Bernie Moreno submitted the March's minutes.
- Nominating Committee Chair, PBS Alan Weinel said he is currently looking for volunteers for the 2025 Little SIR, Officers, and three Directors before approaching members. It was mentioned that the Directors need to make an effort to attend the BEC meetings to ensure a quorum. PBS Alan Weinel will ask for volunteers at the General Meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Program Chairman: LS Lieutenant Coopwood. Today's speaker will be himself. He has a couple of months to fill but have a couple of speakers on his list.
- Sunshine Chairman: James Aylett. Tod Davis had a very large kidney stone removed this past Wednesday. Bob Clanton finished his chemo treatment this past Wednesday. He'll go six months and do a follow up. Russell Prophet had a doctor's appointment yesterday to determine whether or not to remove his foot. Glen Halvorsen has an eye disease preventing him from golfing and driving. PBS Jerry Schroeder brought up the volunteer driver services to transport members in need of transportation.
- Newsletter Chairman: John Popadak. All is going well.

- Membership Chairman: John Popadak. We had seven transfers in and lost three for a total of 134. We will add two at this meeting. Their names are Leslie 'Les' Kurtz and Ted Nishio. John Popadak motioned and PBS Alan Weinel seconded. They were unanimously approved.
- Roster Chairman: PBS Alan Weinel. Still too early.
- Recruitment and Public Relations Chairman: PBS Tom Page. Finally received a response from the advertisement in the Mission Oaks Park and Recreation magazine. New member Ted Nishio saw the article and became a member today.

## **ACTIVITIES REPORTS**

- Bowling Chairman: PBS Tom Page. Will give complete update at today's General Meeting. The whole season has been very close. The first half saw four teams in contention. The second half saw seven teams going for first place. PBS Tom Page said he always tries to "balance" the teams and this is a good indication it was achieved. Alex Canada's "Pin Pushers" took the first half and Joe Bower's "Whatever" took the second half. The play off was yesterday and was a good and exciting game. The season's champion is the "Pin Pushers" consisting of Captain Alex Canada, Neal McCoy, Wing Tse, and Bernie Moreno. The prize handouts were done immediately afterwards with over \$6,000 dollars distributed to the bowlers. Thanks to the three consistent substitutes filling in for the season. They were James Aylett, Conrad Cookman, and PBS Rich Taylor. There will be some changes next season. Two holidays fall on Wednesdays forcing the season to start a week earlier and end a week later. Also, there will be a new start time due to another league coming to Country Club Lanes. This league consists of three people teams. After the vote by bowlers, our start time is scheduled to be 12:30 pm. However, Bobbi Nichol森 will try to move it earlier to noon taking in consideration the new league's three people teams won't take as long. Sign up will be in June. Last year we had twelve teams, this year at ten, and hopefully we can have twelve for next year.
- Golf Chairman: Rick Hom. He will present at the General Meeting.
- Dining Out: PBS Mark Steffens. He will present at the General Meeting.
- BS Connor Chin said Dennis Kramer is working a wine tasting event and Oakland A's tickets as the team will soon be in Sacramento for a few years.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Secy Bernie Moreno notified the Area 4 Representative of the negative response to the Joint Branch Picnic suggestion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Picnic Chair/PBS Jerry Schroeder said he had two items on this agenda but wanted to start off with a true story when he was Membership Chair a couple of years ago. It was about a person who submitted an application to become a new member. He'll refer to this individual as "Joe". Joe said he would show up at the next meeting to be inducted into the branch. He didn't show up and missed a couple of more meetings that followed. PBS Jerry Schroeder said he then he received a message from Joe stating he was out of town. So, PBS Jerry Schroeder called him. Joe's wife answered the phone. She was told that her husband had planned to join the SIR Branch but never attended any of the meetings. She said "Just a minute please." She can be heard yelling to Joe, "Get your ass over here and talk to this guy. Join the group and get out of my house!" Joe has been a good member of the group ever since. First item, PBS Jerry Schroeder said he is guessing the cost per person for the June 19<sup>th</sup> picnic will be \$15 per person. He was toying with the idea of it being free. Last year it was \$10 per person and \$5 for 12 years and under. The Branch subsidized \$108. PBS Lennie Silva would rather subsidize the Christmas Luncheon opposed to the summer picnic. The Branch subsidizes the Christmas Luncheon to the tune of \$23 per person. Treasurer Hal Copperberg said the cost to rent the park for the picnic is \$135. The biggest cost to the Branch is the tri-tip. There was a short discussion of possibly including hot dogs/hamburgers to bring food costs down. BS Connor Chin moved to keep the cost at \$10 per person and \$5 per child 12 years and younger with the Branch subsidizing the any additional costs. PBS Alan Weinel seconded. It was unanimously passed. Second item was obtaining trivial

pursuit questions which is the BS Connor Chin's responsibility. PBS Mark Steffens said the questions are available online. Please donate prizes for the picnic to the LS Lieutenant Coopwood. PBS Jerry Schroeder is asking for two volunteers to provide about 96 corn muffins. Bud Rogers used to supply them but he is no longer with us. Pies were a huge success last year and would like volunteers to bring some in. It was mentioned that ACE Hardware stores has very good pies for sale as well as Costco. Watermelons are also needed. We need a volunteer for Bocce Ball at the Picnic. Asst. Secy and Bocce Chair, Robert Schrupf, was suggested but he is currently out-of-state and will be approached later.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**The meeting adjourned at 11:08 am. The next BEC meeting will be at 10:00 am on May 9, 2024.**

***Bernie Moreno***

Branch 69 Secretary