



## **PONY EXPRESS BRANCH 69**

Minutes of the BEC Meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2025

### **BEC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

BS Lieutenant Coopwood, LS Bob Schrumpf, Treasurer Hal Copperberg, Secretary Bernie Moreno, and Assistant Secretary PBS Alan Weinel. Directors: Doug Bailey, Bob Baker, PBS Connor Chin, and Bob Clanton.

### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

PBS Tom Costello, Gregg Hess, George Langford, Ross Martin, PBS Tom Page, John Popadak, PBS Jerry Schroeder, PRD/PBS Warren Senegal, PBS Lennie Silva, and PBS Mark Steffens.

### **GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

'Member to be', Wesley Ellinghouse (sponsor Blake Thomson) was present at this meeting.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

LS Bob Schrumpf conducted the meeting as BS Lieutenant Coopwood informed us that he would be late as he had to drive his wife to an appointment. Meeting to order at 10:01 am. Secy Bernie Moreno confirmed there was a quorum (initially 8 of 12 but with a final count at 9). LS Bob Schrumpf mentioned the upcoming observances till our next meeting. He also welcomed the guest.

### **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

There were no corrections/additions to the March minutes. PBS Alan Weinel moved to accept the minutes as is and was seconded by Bob Clanton. Minutes were unanimously accepted.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treas Hal Copperberg was accepting the lunch payments at the entrance and was not present at the BEC Meeting to give us a run down on the finances. It was noted the treasurer's report is emailed to the Officers/Directors and is in the monthly Branch 69 Newsletter for viewing prior to each BEC Meeting. That being said, Secy Bernie Moreno moved to approve and Doug Bailey seconded. It was unanimously approved. When Treas Hal Copperberg appeared later, he reported on the mandatory annual dues collection status. As of this meeting, 29 have yet to pay. He says he has a list and notifies the member as they sign in. He will follow up with letter and email notifications after this meeting. He follows the process as established by this Branch. PBS Mark Steffens suggested a Branch Officer personally phone these individuals. Personal contacts with the individuals are usually more effective. It was also noted some of these individuals are actively participating in Branch activities.

## **BRANCH OPERATIONS**

- BS Lieutenant Coopwood was not present but Secy Bernie Moreno informed the attendees that the No Caterer's Insurance Form 63 was recently filed by the BS Lieutenant Coopwood with the SIR State Insurance Chairman and State Rep. Secy Bernie Moreno has on file the electronic copy of the form. A question arose why the Branch is required to file this form. The State SIR needs to know if any of the Branches utilizes a caterer, or not, for their activities so they can insure accordingly.
- LS Bob Schrumpf does monitor compliance of the Schedule of Branch Operations and report issues as they arise. As addressed in the past, this is achieved by the Secy listing the tasks per the SIR State Schedule of Branch Operation on the monthly BEC Agenda.
- Secy Bernie Moreno reported no correspondences received and any required submittals are addressed in the section, Branch Operations.
- Secy/Membership Chairman did submit online the Branch Membership Status Report Form 65 early in the year.
- Treas Hal Copperberg had already paid the SIR State Assessment due April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Treas Hal Copperberg confirmed Form 28 Branch Cash Report (includes Branch Membership Status Report) has been submitted.
- Secy Bernie Moreno submitted the March minutes to State Rep and Web Site Chairman.
- Nominating Chairman, PBS Connor Chin continues to search for a 2026 Little SIR after receiving a couple of negative responses. Director Ron Peters term will soon be up and PBS Connor Chin said he will fill that vacancy.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Program Chairman: LS Bob Schrumpf. Today's speaker will be Mark Hoffmann of The Sports Leisure. He will be giving us some information about traveling.
- Sunshine Chairman: James Aylett. Unfortunately, James tested positive for Covid and unable to attend. However, Secy Bernie had a few members situations to inform the group. First, he mentioned Ritchie Carlson's wife, Glenda had a terrible fall at home a few weeks ago. PBS Tom Page also provided more details. She sustained a head wound and injured her neck bone. Fortunately, Ritchie was home as she would have bled to death from the gash on her head. She had neck surgery and was able to start walking but this was then interrupted by her contracting gout. Good news is that she should be home in about a week. Secondly, Caller Wing Tse has for over six months not been able to get a hold of PBS Rich Taylor by phone, text, or by email. He was wondering if anyone knows of his status. No one had an update but it was mentioned his wife Patti had some health issues and could be a reason. Thirdly, Roland Rodriguez and his mother were in a parking lot accident over a month ago. They both are fine. In addition, it was mentioned that Steve Eason had front and back neck surgery scheduled. They did perform one but it required a redo and is scheduled in about a week. PRD/PBS Warren Senegal informed us that his wife, Jewell, has a hole in her artery and is in hospice care. Bob Clanton said he had his last chemo treatment this past Monday after a year's worth of treatments. He's proud to announce he is cancer free. No other updates to report. On another note, Caller Bob Clanton said Otis Benning's health is preventing him to attend the luncheons/meetings. He is concerned he will not be able to meet the minimum attendances per Branch policy. He wants to remain a member and will pay his dues but is inquiring how to make this happen. Secy Bernie Moreno recalled a member in the Branch roster listed as 'Excused Absence'. (It turns out to be Vernon Freeman.) Someone said we no longer do this. After some discussion regarding amending the policy, Secy Bernie Moreno stated that his health is preventing him from attending. That in itself is an excusable absence and per existing policy, he is not subject for removal from the Branch. All concurred the existing policy requires no amending to accommodate Otis's request.
- Newsletter Chairman: John Popadak. He said the Newsletter is going fine. He is receiving articles in a timely manner.

- Membership Chairman: John Popadak. Started with 138 members, 4 new members, lost 2, and ending up with 140. John Popadak has a soon to be member, Wesley Ellinghouse, present today. His sponsor is Blake Thomson who was unable to be present. Secy Bernie Moreno moved to induct Wesley as a member and LS Bob Schrumpf seconded. He was unanimously accepted. Christopher “Chris” Miller was not present at this meeting but did attend the General Meeting at which time he was inducted into the Branch 69. Chris’s sponsor is PBS Mark Steffens.
- Roster Chairman: Asst Secy PBS Alan Weinel. Again, he said not much going on at this time. On another note, he will not be attending the May 8<sup>th</sup> BEC Meeting. He has brought cases of wine at today’s luncheon to cover the upcoming May’s luncheons. He needs someone to handle the extra case for the May’s luncheon. Recent new member, John O’Neal has officially assumed the Book Club responsibility today.
- Recruitment and Public Relations Chairman: PBS Tom Page. The Mission Oaks bi-annual magazine (30,000 circulation) did come out and surprisingly contained our Branch 69 advertisement despite them requesting \$30 per member per year rate to renew advertising in their magazine. We did not pay the renewal.
- Picnic Chairman: PBS Jerry Schroeder. It will be Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The planning is going great. Still need salads for the picnic. Mark Kraut and Jan Kraut will continue to donate pies and ice cream.

## **ACTIVITIES REPORTS**

- Bowling Chairman: PBS Tom Page. He’ll give a full report at the General/Lunch Meeting.
- Dining Out Chairman: PBS Mark Steffens. The Buckhorn BBQ & Grill was great as the chef came out and personally conversed with the group. Next dinner is at Cheesecake Factory on Arden Way on April 29<sup>th</sup>. May 20<sup>th</sup> will be at Fat’s Asia Bistro in Folsom.
- Bocce Ball, Poker Chairman: LS Bob Schrumpf. Poker/Texas Hold ‘Em is scheduled this Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. 13 to show up with 3 openings. Entry fee is \$10.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- No other old business brought forth.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- BS Lieutenant Coopwood was not present to give status on meal attendance and collection of March’s lunch.
- Branch 69 Website update by Ross Martin. Professional services originally quoted over \$2,500 but his son provided the set up for free. Website not set up for money transactions. Nor will he publicly post member rosters and financials (financials are deleted from the Branch Newsletter before posting to site). Ross assumed the \$60 software cost and the \$22 domain fee. He recently updated the Branch Procedure and Activities Listing. Ross is looking to hand the reins over to someone new after over ten years as the chair.
- Board of Directors future participation: BS Lieutenant wasn’t present but PBS Mark Steffens suggested mixing a little variety in speakers. Maybe have a comedian? Will bring up for discussion at next BEC Meeting.
- A member suggested extending free meals for members reaching life milestones to include the months afterwards. Secy Bernie Moreno read John Popadak’s 1/8/2024 email stating existing Branch Procedure #5.6: ***“Anyone who has a 90<sup>th</sup>, 95<sup>th</sup>, or 100<sup>th</sup> birthday will be given a free lunch. The Big SIR (or designee) will send the member a birthday card. Any member and his spouse who has a 60<sup>th</sup> or 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the calendar year will be given a free lunch (money permitting) at the Ladies Day/Holiday Luncheon.”*** For the Branch to pay for all the monthly meals after a member reaches a life milestone would stress the finances. (For example: A member reaching a birthday milestone in January will cost the Branch \$297 per year (\$27 x 11 months). After a discussion, it was agreed the existing procedure should not be amended.
- No other new business brought forth.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 am. The next BEC meeting will be at 10:00 am on May 8, 2025.

**Bernie Moreno**

Branch 69 Secretary