



PONY EXPRESS BRANCH 69

Minutes of the BEC Meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2024

BEC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

James Aylett, Doug Baily, Bob Baker, Jerry Buhlert, Bob Clanton, PBS Tom Costello, Rick Hom, Bob Kiehne, George Langford, PBS Tom Page, Allen Riker, PBS Lennie Silva, PRD/PBS Warren Senegal and PBS Mark Steffens.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Dan Meister (sponsor Allen Riker) and David Weightman (from Website) present at this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

BS Connor Chin called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Secy Bernie Moreno confirmed there was a quorum (9 of 12). BS Connor Chin thanked LS Lieutenant Coopwood for filling in on the July's BEC/General Meeting. This fulfills his 'Big SIR training' assignment for the year. BS Connor Chin mentioned the observances of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Columbus Day, Bosses' Day, United Nations Day, Halloween, and Thanksgiving in Canada.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

There were no corrections/additions to the September's minutes. John Popadak moved to accept the minutes as is and was seconded by Blake Thomson. Minutes were unanimously accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treas Hal Copperberg had emailed the September reports earlier for review. Secy Bernie Moreno moved and Asst Secy Bob Schrupf seconded. It was unanimously approved.

BRANCH OPERATIONS

- BS Connor Chin informed us that the State Rep said there will not be an annual Leadership Training for the 2025 Elects to attend. BS Connor Chin reminded us the Jack Reefer will remain as the State SIR Area 4 Rep. If he so elects, PBS Mark Steffens will be reconsidered for the position in 2026.
- LS Lieutenant Coopwood continues to review SIR Schedule of Branch Operations for compliance.
- Treas Hal Copperberg confirmed Form 28 Branch Cash Report (includes Branch Membership Status Report) has been submitted.

- Treas Hal Copperberg said the Fourth Quarter SIR State Assessment has already been paid prior to October 15th. It was noted that payment is made from the collection of the \$25 annual dues.
- Secy Bernie Moreno submitted the September's minutes to State Rep and Web Site Chair.
- Secy Bernie Moreno will update the on-line Form 20 of the 2025 Officers by October 31st. Process was delayed from August 31st at the request of the Area 4 Rep.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Program Chairman: LS Lieutenant Coopwood. Today's speaker will be Mr. Wood from Haggin Oak Golf Complex. Wild Things will be here in November. There will be a collection jar for Wild Things. It will be at the next luncheon to help fund their organization. LS Lieutenant Coopwood asked that suggestions for future speakers be directed to the future LS Bob Schrupf. LS Lieutenant Coopwood said he has some (picture) frames but in need of more. It was mentioned Dollar Store has them for \$1.25 each. However, the quality was questionable.
- Sunshine Chairman: James Aylett. PBS Paul Sickert fell and broke his knee cap. Howard Nielsen had hernia surgery and will be home recovering. (However, Howard did attend the luncheon.) Sandy Davis broke his right arm in a fall from a shuttle bus in Hawaii. Otis Benning not doing well. He has a blood clot and unable to walk. We were all glad to see PRD/PBS Warren Senegal present at this meeting and he has overcome his urinary tract infection. He is doing well. Jewell, his wife, is experiencing some difficulties and is in the hospital. It was asked to have a moment of silence for Amnon Igra and Bob Dant. Both members passed away in September. Mentioned later in the meeting, PBS Tom Page informed us that Pat Barrett fell at a golf tournament and injured his right shoulder. He hasn't been golfing or bowling since. He believes it is not a serious injury.
- Newsletter Chairman: John Popadak. He stated after praising everyone for timely submittal of reading material at the last meeting, this month was terrible.
- Membership Chairman: John Popadak. Started with 132, added 14, and lost 10 members. No changes expected at this time. Started the year with 130 and currently have 136 members. We have two new members today. John Popadak moved to accept both Dan Meister and David Weightman into our Branch 69. It was seconded by Secy Bernie Moreno.
- Roster Chairman: PBS Alan Weinel. Going well and is good to go. Just need to add the new members. Secy Bernie Moreno is recruiting for at least one more caller. He will notify PBS Alan Weinel as soon as he gets a volunteer.
- Recruitment and Public Relations Chairman: PBS Tom Page. He asked about the meal count and the history of members failing to attend and ability to recoup costs. BS Connor Chin informed PBS Tom Page it is to be addressed later in this meeting. PBS Tom Page said he would like to discuss it now and will explain how it is affecting recruitment. It appears some of the possible recruits (referred thru the State website) are getting offers of a free lunch by other Branches. PBS Tom Page is telling the recruits up front they will need to pay for their lunches. It appears it is turning them off. Rick Hom suggested setting aside an established amount for new recruitment lunches. The situation of the "no show" non-payments came up. Treas Hal Copperberg indicated the Branch typically does okay in covering those costs by the sale of the leftover meals, meals prepared in excess of the count, and some of the 'no show' members paying full pop for their missed meals. PBS Tom Page would like to have this discussed at the November's BEC Meeting. Secy Bernie Moreno commented that he has been secretary for about three years and this topic of meals frequently is brought up in the meetings. He stated this a topic that can't be resolved in ten to fifteen minutes of discussion during a meeting. He stated something came up on this topic in the past few days that prompted him to brainstorm this situation. He spent over four hours and noting three pages of items of concerns/solutions. He recommended that a committee be formed to address this issue. PBS Mark Steffens said he would immediately contact the 'no shows' requesting payments and had very good success. He would at times would ask for only \$15 versus the \$27. He only had one that didn't pay. PBS Alan Weinel moved to create committee and was seconded by Secy Bernie Moreno. Treas Hal Copperberg will be a member due to his knowledge and experience handling

the accounting of the luncheons. Secy Bernie Moreno will also be a member. PBS Alan Weinel and Bob Kiehne volunteered to be on the committee.

ACTIVITIES REPORTS

- Bowling Chairman: PBS Tom Page. Having fun and good competition. He'll give full report at the General Meeting.
- Golf Chairman: Rick Hom. Award lunch set for November 21st at the Spaghetti Factory. Kicked off the 2025 Renewal Membership campaign. The rates have not changed.
- Dining Out Chairman: PBS Mark Steffens. It will be at the Vince's Ristorante on November 24th.
- Bocce Ball, Poker Chairman: Asst Secy Bob Schrumpf. Had four SIR members included in the thirteen total that played. Steve Eason was the money winner. Next game is on November 20th at 1:30pm.
- Christmas Luncheon: LS Lieutenant Coopwood. He will transfer the table decorations to the 2025 Little SIR. Thanks to John Popadak who prepared the flyers for the Christmas Luncheon.

OLD BUSINESS

- BS Connor Chin presented the BEC members his printed meal count tabulations for August and September. It listed the members appealing and those that will be contacted requesting payment due to their absence. There were no objections by the BEC. BS Connor Chin will now contact members for payments.
- No other business brought forth.

NEW BUSINESS

- SIR Area 4 Rep requesting feedback regarding possible merging of Branch 93 to 69. The State prefers a merger to a stronger branch versus disbanding. Average age of Branch 93 members is 83 years. Dante Club is able to handle additional 40 attendees. PBS Tom Costello asked how their luncheon attendance was. Bob Kiehne said being a member of Branch 93, if they say they'll be there they do show up. There will be no affect to the 2025 roster as it will take a long process for the merger to be final.
- Annual SIR Inc. Meeting was attended by Asst Secy Bob Schrumpf. He took five pages of notes but will condense to a minute due to the time left for this meeting. They received 180 suggestions for a new name and 52 suggestions for a new logo. None appealed to them and none were selected. So, nothing will change. They note that most branches run themselves. They said membership went from 32,000 in 1992 to 8,000 in 2024. The number of branches went from 270 to 100. Average age of members is 79.5 years. There is a need to hire staff at the executive level to increase membership. The use of assessment money went towards two claims and the increased cost of insurance.
- No other business brought forth.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am. The next BEC meeting will be at 10:00 am on November 14, 2024.

Bernie Moreno

Branch 69 Secretary