

**Minutes of Sons in Retirement, Luther Burbank Branch 17  
BEC Meeting, via ZOOM video from home quarantine, Santa Rosa CA  
Thursday, August 6, 2020**

**Big SIR George Traverso opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.**

No audio recording

Traverso called roll:

**Present:** Immediate former Big SIR Dennis Mangan, Big SIR George Traverso, Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister, Asst. Secretary Jim Gurke, Treasurer Glenn Seime, Directors Gordon Boulton, Al Petrie, Ken Johnson, Elias Zegarra, Rich de Lambert, Bob Reuther.

**Absent/Excused:** Little SIR Gary Bondi, Directors Paul Willihnganz, Lance Thompson, Chris Nolen.

**Other members present:** Fred Rose

**Secretary's Report:** Wehrmeister notes that minutes from the July 2 meeting were sent to Traverso, Seime, Bondi and Mangan via email; with no revisions requested they were posted to the Branch website; Seime moved, Johnson seconded their approval. **Approved by voice vote of the BEC**—Boulton abstains as he had not seen them.

**Treasurer's Report:** On Form 28, Seime reports that with the disbursement of \$143.50 during July for the Branch annual assessment to the SIRS state office, and the receipt of one member's \$30.00 dues payment, the Branch sustained a net loss for the month of \$113.50, to \$6,364.08. Wehrmeister moved approval of Treasurer's Report, Johnson seconded; **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Membership Report** from Zegarra: Form 27 shows 79 members; 76 paid. Wehrmeister moves approval, Boulton seconds; **approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Big SIR Traverso confirms submittal of both Forms 28 and 27.**

Noted in conversation that three members still remain unpaid for calendar 2020; Traverso advises that he will contact each personally.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Possibility of refund from State SIRS of liability-insurance portion of \$143.50 assessment just paid.** Traverso notes that since Branches have had no activities allowed since mid-March (and likely won't through the remainder of calendar 2020 at a minimum), it stands to reason that, because Branches therefore are generating zero liability exposure during this period, the state governing body should consider refunding to branches that portion of the annual assessment applied toward a liability insurance premium. Question arises from a BEC member as to how

much that would amount to, Mangan replies that it would be no more than \$10 or thereabouts. General consensus is that such amount is trifling, not worth seeking a refund on—and in any event, recent insurance losses organization-wide have far surpassed the premium, that the prospect of actually securing such a refund is unrealistic.

**Feasibility of resuming outdoor monthly in-person luncheon meetings at Legends/Santa Rosa.**

Treasurer Seime, who has served as Branch liaison with both Legends banquet operators and with the Sonoma County Health Department, noted two facts:

First, despite reports from elsewhere that the Legends corporation (which runs golf-course bar/grill/banquet operations elsewhere in California) has decided to “pull the plug” on any future operation of the Bennett Valley GC facility going forward, Seime said in his most recent conversation (during this past month) with Lauren Gray, Legends operating officer working out of Rancho Solano, there was NO such indication. They remain willing to serve us if and when Sonoma County regulations allow.

Secondly, it remains clear at the moment that there is NO legal way, right now, to conducting in-person Branch luncheon meetings in any venue—indoor or outdoor, public or private property (including any member’s backyard). Because current regulations throughout Sonoma County preclude ANY social gathering of more than twelve (12) unrelated persons. Given continued too-vigorous growth of Covid-19 cases, we do not anticipate a change in this within the next 30 to 60 days, certainly.

**Traverso asks discussion on Treasurer Seime’s earlier information regarding excess funds and possible uses...**possibility of reduced dues in 2021, more \$ for member retention and new member recruitment, subsidized lunches, and any other suggestions. Seime said that such decisions can wait until later in the year when we have more information, unless someone has a suggestion that the BEC would want to move on earlier. No action taken at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Traverso notes that he will be attending the annual state SIRS meeting** (via ZOOM), scheduled for three hours on Wednesday, August 19.

**Traverso notes that the Branch received a First Place Award of \$100, from statewide SIRS, in Zoom Meeting competition.** Question now becomes, how to redeem this award. Receive in cash? Take it in that dollar-amount of fliers and other marketing materials from statewide SIRS? Or SIRS clothing, or new/additional banners? It is noted that there are several available options shown in the “SIRS Store” on the statewide SIRS website. Traverso asks BEC members to look at options there in the coming weeks, Accordingly, Wehrmeister moves to table this question until September 3 BEC meeting, Seime seconds. **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Traverso asks guidance and direction re: submittal of our 2021 Branch Slate of Officers (ALREADY POSTED on the Branch website) to membership for a vote at meeting Thursday, August 20.** It is noted that state SIRS has indicated that if a new slate for '21 (as opposed to the 2020 officers simply serving an additional full year, which was provided as an option) is to be approved by ZOOM meeting of the membership, such vote MUST be UNANIMOUS—and if it is

not, THEN such vote must be taken via paper secret ballot . . . obviously an inherent logistical nightmare given our current meeting restrictions. One way or the other, Secretary Wehrmeister is required to submit the approved slate to the state SIRS Secretary on or before August 31.

***(POST-MEETING NOTE: Reuther received word, subsequent to adjournment, from Ed Benson, that State SIRS Board had reconsidered—and had decided that UNANIMITY WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED IN A ZOOM-MEETING VOTE; that a simple majority to approve the 2021 Slate of Officers would suffice.)***

Consensus is that—given that the 2021 state was already approved by the BEC and posted for review by the membership—we should proceed with such a vote on August 20. **No additional motion required.**

**Nomination for Honorary Life Membership of SIRS**—Traverso informs that he's been notified by SIRS state secretary that Branch has potential openings for two eligible members to be nominated for an Honorary Life Membership; the only member in recent years who had received this honor was the late Doug Weber, who died on February 15. Basic qualifications are that a man must have been a member for at least five years and had to have a consistent record of exemplary service to SIRS and/or the Branch. General consensus is that Branch 17 currently has several members who would be worthy of this honor. Consensus is that a committee should be formed to review qualifications from among the 49 members who've met the chronological requirement and update the BEC on their findings/considerations at our September 3 meeting. **Constituting the committee are Big SIR Traverso, Immediate Past Big SIR Mangan and former Big SIR Fred Rose.**

Wehrmeister moves adjournment, Boulton seconds, **approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Adjournment at 11:13 a.m.**

Next general membership meeting of Branch 17, via ZOOM, at 11 a.m. Thursday, August 20.

Next BEC meeting, via ZOOM, at 10 a.m., Thursday, September 3.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister