

**Minutes of Sons in Retirement, Luther Burbank Branch 17  
BEC Meeting, via ZOOM video, Santa Rosa CA  
Thursday, November 5, 2020**

**Big SIR George Traverso opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.**

**Present:** Big SIR George Traverso, Immediate former Big SIR Dennis Mangan, Treasurer Glenn Seime, Directors Gordon Boulton, Elias Zegarra, Rich de Lambert, Al Petrie, Paul Willihnganz.

**Absent/Excused:** Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister, Little SIR Gary Bondi, Asst. Secretary Jim Gurke.

**Other members present:** Fred Rose, Area Governor Bob Reuther, Ted Scapeccia, Stan Borges.

On motion by Paul Willihnganz, the previously distributed **Minutes of the October 8 BEC Meeting were approved.**

Glen Seime presented a brief Treasurer's Report. The only transaction between 9/30 and 10/31 was payment of the SIR state assessment of \$135.08, leaving a 10/31 bank balance \$6,266.83. On motion by Gordon Boulton, **the Treasurer's report was approved.**

Membership Report (Form 27): Zegarra reported membership steady at 79, all paid. On motion by Gordon Boulton, **the Membership report was approved.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Dues.** The BEC discussed the subject of Dues for Calendar Year 2021. Given the significant reduction in expenses resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic which has prevented us from holding in-person luncheon meetings and activities other than virtual ones via Zoom, and the continuing nature of these restrictions, coupled with the adequacy of our current bank balance, Big SIR George Traverso expressed the view that we should probably waive dues for CY 2021, and invited discussion. Some BEC members agreed, and voiced concern that we would lose members, especially new members, if we charge dues before we can resume social activities. Other BEC members voiced concern that this might send the wrong signal, impair cohesiveness, and create the impression that we are no longer functioning.

On motion by Gordon Boulton, seconded by Al Petrie, and after further discussion, the **BEC voted to suspend dues for Calendar Year 2021.**

Further discussion produced general agreement that we could still solicit donations to help offset continuing operating expenses, and that the Board would be free to reinstitute dues as a membership requirement whenever the resumption of normal activities makes it appropriate.

Big Sir George Traverso appointed Paul Willihnganz to draft an announcement of this action for the BARK newsletter.

**“Foundation Status.”** Bob Reuther reported that the State Sir prohibition of charitable gifts by Branches remains in effect. A brief discussion followed.

**Indoor Lunch Meetings.** Glenn Seime reported on his contacts with possible luncheon venues.

A. Legends (Bennet Valley Golf Course). A follow up inquiry to the Mayor of Santa Rosa regarding the status of Legends brought a prompt e-mail response that the City Council will be addressing this matter at a closed meeting on November 10, and Glenn will be advised of the results.

B. As previously reported, the Santa Rosa Country Club seems too expensive.

C. The Flamingo is interested and quotes a price of \$32. Lions Club members pay \$25 and a small sample give it fair or “good for the money” reviews. Things there are in limbo.

D. Cattlemen’s Restaurant in Montgomery Village is very interested in hosting us and suggested we sign up for a free, non-binding “placeholder” for luncheons on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month whenever they are permitted to resume indoor dining for groups of our size. They have a large room in the rear. Glenn recommends this. On motion by Gordon Boulton, after discussion, the **BEC voted to authorize Glenn to sign up for “placeholder” status with Cattlemen’s on a non-binding basis.**

**State SIR Store Credit Purchases.** In Mark Burchill’s absence, there was no report on purchases from the State Store which the BEC authorized last month with our \$300 in “Zoom Competition” awards. Big Sir George Traverso to follow up.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Inventory Storage.** Glenn Seime reported that he recovered from a storage closet at Legends the Branch’s property consisting of a flag and stand, a banner and base, and an A-frame easel and signs. He was unable to locate the bag containing a supply of raffle tickets. The recovered items are now in a hallway in his home, pending transfer to a volunteer custodian. Big Sir George Traverso volunteered; he will pick up and be the custodian for these items.

**Next Meeting:** December 3 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

On motion by Boulton, **the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.**

*(Minutes draft submitted by Paul Willihnganz, volunteer pro tem, 11/5/2020)*