**Minutes of Sons in Retirement, Luther Burbank Branch 17**

**BEC Meeting, via ZOOM video from home quarantine, Santa Rosa CA**

**Thursday, July 2, 2020**

**Big SIR George Traverso opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m.**

No audio recording

Traverso called roll:

**Present:** Former Big SIR Dennis Mangan, Big SIR George Traverso, Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister, Treasurer Glenn Seime, Directors Paul Willihnganz, Gordon Boultbee, Al Petrie, Ken Johnson, Elias Zegarra, Rich de Lambert.

**Absent/Excused:** Little SIR Gary Bondi, Asst. Secy. Jim Gurke, Director Chris Nolen.

**Other members present:** Tom Lubas

Agenda for this meeting circulated electronically beforehand; Traverso asks if anything should be added. Seime moves to approve agenda as is, Wehrmeister second; **approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Secretary’s Report:** Wehrmeister notes that revised/corrected minutes were sent to Traverso, Seime, Bondi and Mangan and posted to the Branch website; moved and seconded (did not identify whom) to approve minutes as revised. **Approved by voice vote of the BEC**—Boultbee abstains as he had not seen them.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Seime notes that there had been zero transactions since June 4 BEC meeting; therefore no new Form #28 must be submitted. Balance on hand still $6,477.58; with 79 members on the rolls, 4 of those still delinquent in dues. Seime notes that State SIRS assessment is due during July; it will be $143.00. Willihnganz moves approval of Treasurer’s Report, de Lambert seconds; **approved unanimously by the BEC.**

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

**Traverso notes that he’d spoken with Little SIR Bondi,** who is recovering at home from a medical procedure, but that further treatment was necessary in the near future. Wehrmeister agrees to request from BEC to send a card of concern on behalf of the entire Branch; this card was sent Monday 7/6/2020.

**Traverso notes that Boys’ Night Out activity chair Don Malvestiti had submitted the proper form to resume BNO.** General discussion notes that Sonoma County was about to reimpose Covid-related prohibition on indoor restaurant dining, and any social gathering (inside OR outside) involving more than 12 persons. Wehrmeister moves to **table** the request, Boultbee seconds. **Motion to table approved by voice vote of the BEC – Petrie votes no.**

**Prospect discussed to continue Free Lunch Drawing from among any given month’s Birthday Boys** – once the Branch resumes in-person luncheon meetings. Seime moves approval, Willihnganz seconds; **approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Seime briefs BEC on ongoing conversations with managers of Legends, regarding prospect of resuming in-person luncheon meetings**. He first contacted both Heather Hamm and Jodi \_\_\_\_\_ -- but both these employees are on unpaid furlough. So he contacted their supervisor at Legends corporate, Lauren Grey out of Rancho Solano. Asked whether, presuming indoor dining will remain forbidden through perhaps the end of calendar 2020, if Legends could provide us with box lunches for a “properly distanced” seating outside on the patio—at least until very late in the year when presumably the rains would begin.

The answer was “no,” for two reasons: First, the entire Legends kitchen staff is furloughed until (most likely) indoor dining can resume; the only available “meal” is rotisserie hotdogs out of the machine in the bar. Ms. Grey said she’d be willing to augment that hotdog or Polish sausage into a box lunch, but the other factor comes from the Sonoma County Office of Environmental Health—which told Seime that until further notice, even where outdoor dining is allowed, there can be no social gathering, even outdoors, of 12 or more unrelated persons.

**Willihnganz moved to table any further discussion of resuming regular monthly Branch luncheon meetings** until we receive any further update from Sonoma County officials regarding social gathering limits. De Lambert seconds. **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Treasurer Seime notes given this situation, that best projections indicate that the Branch will be spending roughly $1,500.00 less** than the amount budgeted for calendar year 2020. He suggested the prospect either a reduction in member dues for next renewal at the end of this year, or perhaps an investment of some sort in new-member recruitment. De Lambert and Johnson suggest that we might consider one or more philanthropic gifts from the Branch to other organizations or foundations in need in the community right now. Mangan, however, reminds the group that SIRS corporate bylaws prohibit such giving to other organizations.

Wehrmeister suggests that it might be prudent for the branch to continue amassing and hanging onto such cash reserves until we know more about what the months ahead might bring; it seems conceivable that, if Legends is no longer available when indoor dining resumes, and we have to go elsewhere, that the additional costs that could be incurred by banquet/catering operators could result in luncheon costs that could balloon well above the $25/plate that we have been paying at Legends. What if we can’t get a banquet luncheon for less than $40 or $45 per plate, he asked. We might want to be in a position where we can significantly subsidize the luncheon price for at least a temporary period.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Traverso notes that we nominate Bob Reuther** from the Branch to serve as Area 10 Governor. Wehrmeister moves approval, Boultbee seconds. **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Normal SIRS schedule calls for submittal of Form 20 (with revised slate of officers for calendar 2021) on or before August 31.** Slate (with Gary Bondi as new Big SIR) was already submitted, back on April 17. Corporate asked in return: “How did you vote?” Have since learned that if the meeting is “virtual” – via ZOOM – the vote by membership must be UNANIMOUS.

After much discussion. Wehrmeister moves, Petrie seconds a motion that Wehrmeister should formally submit the 2021 slate to SIRS on or before August 31 (this will give time for Bondi to determine whether he feels he can serve in 2021), with the vote of the membership to then occur at the first available IN-PERSON meeting (hopefully before December 31). **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Mangan noted that he had received inquiry from a Samantha Litten representing an entity called “Retireguide.com,”** which wished to advertise in the BARK newsletter and otherwise market itself to our members. Mangan noted that there would be no incoming revenue involved; that this entity was essentially seeking free advertising before our Branch members. Wehrmeister moves, Seime seconds, to decline this offered arrangement. **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Brief discussion of the concept of an Honorary Life Membership in the Branch,** an honor to be conferred as a gesture of appreciation to senior members. Apparently other Branches have done this, but there is no knowledge of exactly what it entails; whether it perhaps exempts the conferee from ever again having to pay dues. Wehrmeister moves, Willihnganz seconds, motion to table further discussion until we have more pertinent information. **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Next full Branch meeting Thursday, July 16, 11 a.m., via ZOOM.**

**Next BEC meeting: Thursday, August 6, 10 a.m., via ZOOM**

Adjournment at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister