**(Draft Version #2) Minutes of Sons in Retirement, Luther Burbank Branch 17**

**BEC Meeting via In-Person and ZOOM video, Epicenter, Santa Rosa CA**

**Thursday, March 17, 2022**

**Big SIR Gordon Boultbee opened the meeting at approximately 9:45 am.**

**Attendees: (voting members indicated by \*)**

**Present:** Big Sir Gordon Boultbee\*, Little SIR Gary Bondi\*, Treasurer Al Petrie\*, Director Ken Johnson\*, Director Tom Lubas\*, Immediate Past Big SIR George Traverso, Lunch Food Coordinator Glenn Seime, Director Bill Grafeld\*, Webmaster Dennis Mangan, Picnic Coordinator Ted Scapeccia, Director Elias Zegarra\*, Director Neil Wheeler\*, Assistant Treasurer John Gnam\*, Assistant Secretary Steven Saulsbury\*, Barry Bialkoski.

**Present Via ZOOM:**  None

**Absent**: Secretary Terry Freeman**\*** (vacationing in Hawaii)

**Approval of the Agenda**: A motion was made by Tom Lubas to approve the agenda for the current meeting, 2nd by Neil Wheeler, approved unanimously.

**Secretary’s** **report for February:**  A motion was made by Steven Saulsbury to approve February 2022 Minutes, 2nd by Ken Johnson, approved unanimously.

**Treasurer’s report (February 2022 Form 28 Income and Expense Report)**:

Treasurer Al Petrie explained there were total expenditures of $161 ($28 for Jim Fenstermaker for printing, $10 for a Badge for Immediate Past Big Sir George Traverso, $25 for a Birthday Lunch and $75 for 3 guests. ($98 reported in Form 28) and revenue of $60 from the raffle for a loss of $100 for the month. Current Balance is $4408.24. A motion was made by Gary Bondi to approve the report, 2nd by Tom Lubas, approved unanimously.

**Membership Report (Form 27)**:

Per Elias Zegarra, there were 80 members in Branch 17 at the end of February 2022 (Still 1 member to induct). Going forward Elias will fill in lines 5 and 6 of Form 27 (Monthly activities such a golf, poker, etc. Activities which occur more frequently than once a month are only counted once). Motion to approve Form #27 was made by Ken Johnson, 2nd by Tom Lubas, approved unanimously.

**February Forms #27 and #28 sent to State:**

Little Sir Gary Bondi confirmed the February Forms #27 and #28 were sent to State and Area Governor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**June Picnic Status Report:**

Ted Scapeccia reported the results of the recent poll to determine if a picnic was financially feasible. Branch 17 had 81 potential attendees (members and guests) and Branch 176 had 56 potential attendees (members and guests). The poll indicates there is enough interest to proceed with the picnic. The picnic is Thursday June 16th at the outdoor event center located at Windsor Golf Course. The picnic will be catered by Charlie’s. The price for the picnic will be $40 to SIRS members and guests. Charlie’s price for the lunch is $39 per person. The proceeds from the raffle will cover the cost of everything else which is approximately $6 per person which includes beer, wine, and soft drinks. Soliciting donations for raffle prizes from members is needed. In the past members donated and/or solicited donations from businesses they had a relationship with keeping SIRS at an arms distance. Ted reports they have a strong committee particularly from Branch 17 but will need more help for the raffle and runners on the day of the picnic.

There is a disconnect between Branch 17 and Branch 176 on COVID requirements. The committee agrees individuals need to be fully vaccinated but a difference of opinion exists for the necessity of a signed waiver particularly for spouses for outdoor activity. Per Gordon, State guidelines require a signed waiver for outdoor activities.

Branch 176 is just “rolling out” the wavier for their branch per Ted. Ted believes he can get this issue resolved.

Flyers for the picnic will be placed on tables at the March luncheon and will be included in future BARK publications. Tickets will be sold at the April and May luncheons. Tickets can also be bought by mail (coordinated by Al Petrie).

Branch 17 already has waivers for members and Ted will coordinate getting waivers for Branch 17 guests.

**Luncheon No-Shows Discussion**

February luncheon attendance was more than estimated by the phone committee. Gordon suggested we take a wait and see position on charging no-shows. The current position of the BEC is “not to charge.” Historically it was the policy that no shows were charged. There was discussion around who “eats” the cost of no-shows (SIR or Epicenter).

**2022 Member Guidelines Document**

The Member Guidelines document goes to new members and existing members each year (electronically or by paper). There is a need for rewording a section called “State Guidelines” that lists 5 items that supposedly exist in the state manual, but basically are not in there per Gordon. Gordon indicated these are good points for every member to know. Neil and Gordon are doing some “word smithing” on this section to include the intent of these items. “State Guidelines” has a section on nondiscrimination which is being added to Branch 17’s document. Per Neil the idea is to update Branch 17’s document to represent what SIR is today.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Replacement of Tom Johnson as members relations chair:**

 As chair of nominating committee George Traverso is putting himself in for replacement for the Members Relations Chair. A motion was made by Tom Lubas to nominate George. The motion was 2nd by Bill Grafeld, approved unanimously.

**Replacement of Tom Johnson as director:**

As chair of nominating committee George Traverso nominated Barry Bialkoski as replacement for Tom Johnson. A motion was made by Gary Bondi to nominate Barry, 2nd by John Gnam, approved unanimously.

Gordon inducted Barry as a director of the BEC so he can vote on items for the rest of the meeting.

At this point in the meeting Barry, who is a member of several other foundations including Redwood Lions Memorial Foundation, asked if it was appropriate to make a request for donations to Redwood Lions Memorial Foundation to be sent thru Lions International Foundation to support Ukrainian victims in Poland, Romania, etc. Redwood Lions Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and has a matching donor. Barry clarified the request was to individuals and not the SIR organization. Every dollar goes to Lions clubs in Poland, Romania, etc. to support Ukraine victims. Barry would like the request to be put out in the BARK newsletter and announced at today’s luncheon.

Discussion by BEC members felt this request was appropriate as long as it was being made to individuals and not the SIR organization. This point was made again at the end of the meeting.

**New Recruiting Chair Status:**

George Traverso proposed Denny Hutton for the Recruiting Chair position. Denny will attend today’s RAMP meeting. After some discussion a motion was made by Ken Johnson to nominate Denny, 2nd by Gary Bondi, unanimously approved.

The RAMP committee now has all chairs filled per Gordon.

**“I’m Doing My Part” pins**

State’s effort to recruit new members was started just before the pandemic but was then shutdown. State provided pins and criteria for awarding them.

The State’s program objectives are to energize members and their spouses/partners to recruit new members and encourage more members to volunteer for branch functions. Members who bring a guest, including spouses and partners who made the original contact, or have performed significant volunteering services will receive recognition at a branch luncheon. The recognition would include a “I’m Doing My Part” pin and a picture in the BARK. Each branch can expand the award if desired.

After discussion it was decided initially to limit recognition to members whose actions resulted in a new member and not to other volunteering activities. Members will be limited to one pin even if they bring in multiple new members. The recognition will be retroactive to January 2022.

Neil Wheeler pointed out that part of the original State program was showing a “I’m Doing My Part” Video (8-minutes) to members. Neil had concerns about the Video content and part of the message it carried. Neil recommended the BEC review the video at a future BEC meeting to decide if we wanted to show at future luncheon. Neil will send a link of the Video to BEC website.

**Alternatives to resignation of elderly members**

The BEC has waived the attendance requirement because of COVID. Gordon doesn’t see any reason to ask people to resign until paying dues is resumed. Can still send them the BARK to help keep them informed. After discussion Gordon summarized that the philosophy is not to force anyone out because they cannot attend the luncheons and to encourage them to stay a member.

**RAMP Status**

All chair positions of the RAMP committee are now filled.

Neil Wheeler indicated there has not been a RAMP meeting since last summer and thought it would be good to get together to regroup and remind each other of the different roles. There is a meeting today after the luncheon. Gordon suggested Neil give an update on the status of RAMP at the next luncheon.

Motion to adjourn made by Tom Lubas, 2nd by Gary Bondi, unanimously approved.

**Adjournment at approximately 10:45 AM.**

Draft minutes submitted by Asst. Secretary Steven Saulsbury. Notes made from cell phone recording of the meeting.