Minutes of Sons in Retirement, Luther Burbank Branch 17 BEC (Board Executive Council)

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Attendees: Big SIR Gordon Boultbee\*, Little SIR Gary Bondi (via ZOOM), Secretary Terry Freeman\*, Asst. Secretary Steve Saulsbury\*, Treasurer Al Petrie\*, Asst. Treasurer John Gnam\*, Director Barry Bialkoski\*, Director Bill Grafeld\*, Director Ken Johnson\*, Director Neil Wheeler\*, Director Elias Zegarra\*, Glenn Seime, George Traverso, Bob Reuther, Rich de Lambert, Marv Schouweiler, Kurt Wehrmeister,

* signifies voting members.

**Agenda Items: Notes - (Motioned By / Seconded By - Voting Results):**

#1 Call to Order (9:47am)

#2 Approve Agenda: (Barry / Elias - approved unanimously).

#3 Approve October 2022 BEC meeting minutes as prepared by Assistant Secretary Steve Saulsbury: No questions or discussion. (Barry / John - approved unanimously).

#4 Treasurer’s Report: Approve October 2022 Form 28 & Income and Expense Detail Per Al Petrie. (Gary / Terry – approved unanimously).

#5 Approve Membership Report (Form 27): per Elias we closed the month of October with 95 members (5 new members and sadly the passing of longtime member Tom Lubas.

#6 Confirmed by Big SIR Gordon Boultbee that Forms 27 and 28 were sent to State and Area Governor.

OLD BUSINESS:

#7 Return to Bennett Valley Grill: Via an e-mail vote by the BEC, it was unanimously approved that Branch meetings would be held at the BV Grill beginning in January 2023 at our regularly scheduled time and weekday.

#8 Dues: In order to maintain the fiscal health of our Branch, Branch Treasurer Al Petrie brought to our attention the need to raise funds, and recommended that we charge dues of $25.00 per member for 2023. Per Al, our checking account will not have sufficient funds to cover Branch activities for next year without additional Branch income. It was noted that we can vote again on this issue next year if we need to raise the dues again. (Barry / Neil – one vote to abstain, and the remaining votes were in approval).

#9 Community Involvement Projects: Per Bob Reuther, our Branch Mission Statement and Vision Statements (as seen on a handout given to all the meeting attendees this morning) spells out how our Branch can become more involved in providing support to the greater Santa Rosa area. Barry mentioned our first community involvement project will be at the Redwood Food Bank on Dec 1st. Past Big SIR George mentioned that sign-up sheets were going to be placed at every luncheon table after BEC meeting. Motion to approve the Mission and Vision Statements: (Ken / Terry – unanimous approval).

#10 December Holiday Luncheon: Lunch Food Coordinator Glenn Seime volunteered to find out from the restaurant at Epicenter what our Holiday lunch menu would consist of if we paid $30.00 to $35.00 per person rather than the standard $25.00. (Barry / Al – unanimous approval).

Due to ongoing concerns by Branch members regarding Covid and RSV, the BEC decided it would be best to not have group singing of Christmas carols. If he would like, the Branch would accept singing only by our unofficial Branch crooner Kurt Wehrmeister.

New Business:

#11 It was proposed that a Distinguished Service Award be presented to Jim Fenstermaker due to his many years of service to SIR. (Neil / John – approved unanimously by the Board). This award was presented to Jim at a surprise visit to Jim’s home on Wednesday Dec 7th. In the afternoon by a group of SIR members headed by Big SIR Gordon Boultbee, and included Neil Wheeler, Bill Grafeld, Ted Scapeccia, Glenn Seime, Tom Sparrowe, and Elia Zegarra. Jim was thrilled with the honor.

#12 - #16

New member approval: Les Brodie (Sponsor is Neil Wheeler)

New member approval: Bruce Rocco (Sponsor is Rich de Lambert)

New member approval: Bob Scheibel (Sponsor is Ken Fox)

New member approval: Jim Taylor (Sponsor is Marv Schouweiler)

(Barry / Elias – all new members approved unanimously).

#17 Area 10 and State Board Zoom meetings: The State SIR is doing some reorganization, with possible elimination and / or changes to the Regional Directors and Area Governors’ roles. A reduction in state Areas has been proposed. Branch 17 has been growing, with the addition of new activities consisting of volunteer service to the community, and establishing a bi-weekly coffee club that meets at Howarth Park. Branch 76 in Santa Rosa has been having a drop in membership, and now consists of 28 members. Branch 132 Rohnert Park has also experienced a drop in membership. A golf group is still active at this Branch, but fewer players are participating. Area Governor Bob Nadell has reviewed the awards from SIR that intended to be given to Branch members for recognition of their service to SIR.

#18 Rich de Lambert de Lambert mentioned that several members from Branches 17, 76, and 132 are studying steps that can be taken to have joint Branch activities such as bocce ball. Fred Rose will also be having additional discussions with all three Branches to study if steps can be taken to work together more closely.

#19 10:47AM – Motion to adjourn (Barry / John – approved unanimously).