**(Draft Version #3) Minutes of Sons in Retirement, Luther Burbank Branch 17**

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

**Thursday, October 20, 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\*, Immediate Past Big SIR, George Traverso Director Bill Grafeld\*, Picnic Coordinator, Ted Scapeccia, Director Elias Zegarra\*, Director Neil Wheeler\*, Director Barry Bialkoski\*, Assistant Treasurer John Gnam\*, Assistant Secretary Steven Saulsbury\*, Activities Chair Fred Rose, Rich De Lambert, David Harris

**Present Via ZOOM:**  None

**Absent**: Secretary Terry Freeman**\*,** Director Tom Lubas\*, Lunch Food Coordinator Glenn Seime, Webmaster Dennis Mangan

**Approval of the Agenda**: A motion was made Barry Bialkoski to approve the agenda for the current meeting, 2nd by Gary Bondi and approved unanimously.

**Secretary’s** **report for January:**  A motion was made by Neil Wheeler to approve September, 2022 Minutes, 2nd by Steve Saulsbury and approved unanimously.

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

Per Treasurer Al Petrie

Started month with $3,585.91:

Revenue of $80.00 (half of raffle)

Total Expenses of $341.73 (7 Lunch Guests- $171.921, Birthday Lunch-$24.58)

State Board Assessment (-$145.25)

For a General Loss of $261.73

A Custodial Gain of $44.34 (from luncheon)

Ending balance of $3369.54 (Refer to Form 28 for September)

A Motion was made by Barry Bialkoski to approve the report, 2nd by Bill Grafeld and approved unanimously.

**Membership Report (Form 27)**:

Per Elias Zegarra, there were 91 members in Branch 17 at the end September 2022 (Started January at 78 per Gordon). There was a discussion about member recruitment (original goal was to increase by at least 1 shooting for a total membership of 100) and retainment. George Traverso reiterated use of post luncheon meeting for new members and sponsors as an example of retainment efforts. There was a discussion about materials to hand out to interested parties (flyer used at fair, business cards). The monthly call is also another tool to keep in contact with members.

Historical membership record: 84 members end of 2019, dropped to 79 in 2020, and 82 in 2021.

Motion to approve Form #27 was made by Gary Bondi, 2ndby Ken Johnson and approved unanimously.

**Form #27 and #28 sent to State:**

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Recruiting and Publicity status, Including MemberFest INFO**

Neil Wheeler reported they are continuing the member and publicity programs of which MemberFest is a special outreach program implemented in the past month or so, to get more people involved in recruiting. During September and October we have processed 9 new applications. Five guests who are not applicants have attended luncheons since September, 4 potential applicants at activities and 4 additional contacts (2 thru coffee club at Howarth Park, 2 thru website). We have 10 signs out (4 went to westside of Santa Rosa (2 disappeared), keeping a few for special activities. Fred Rose has the sign for the golf course but needs a stand. The golf course has given back the banner that was inside the club house.

**Member Survey**

Neil Wheeler has gone thru and summarized questions that had text answers. The answers were categorized, and responses summarized in pie charts. Questions requesting feedback to leadership were left in text form. The report was emailed to BEC membership prior to today’s meeting. The plan is to email the report to all membership after today’s luncheon.

**Inventory and Storage Space**

Al Petrie thinks he knows where most thing on the inventory list is located. Fred Rose will put the banner from Bennett Valley Golf Course at Al’s front door. Al Petrie will email the inventory list to BEC members. The only question is Item 24 (12 bottles of wine). George Traverso confirmed he has the 12 bottles of wine plus five extra bottles that belong to SIR. George will give the 12 bottles to next year’s Little Sir. George will hold the extra five bottles for now. We have a lot of signage and nobody has been assigned responsibility. George has items 1, 2 and 3 in his storage. George also has retractable banners. George has two briefcases associated with item 15 which contain a bunch of historical stuff. George also has a bag with “bulletized info?” Need to decide on what we are going to do with the inventory. Either continue our current storage policy (various locations) or find/rent a storage locker. The Inventory list can be found on the branch website.

**Luncheon Proposal from Bennett Valley Grille**

We received proposals from Bennett Valley Grille (BVG) and Epicenter (EPI). The proposal from BVG was $33 a plate. The proposal from EPI was $26 a plate. Both quotes included tax and tip. The buffet items are similar. The issue with EPI is room size and location. Most members live closer to BVG. BVG has more room for growth. In addition, there is a small entryway room at BVG where members check in prior to entering the meeting room. After lengthy discussion about both locations a poll was taken of attendees at the BEC meeting. There was an almost unanimous vote, of those present, to move back to BVG. Gordon will take a poll at today’s luncheon. We will vote on this issue at the November BEC meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2023 Budget**

We will have to start charging dues next year. We haven’t charged dues in the last 2 or 3 years because of an abundant surplus (able to pay most expenses out of surplus). We would like to keep a surplus of about $2000 to pay for each luncheon without having to make a deposit from money collected at the luncheon. Based on Al Petrie’s analysis, a $25 membership fee is recommended for next year. Based on 85 members this would get the reserve to $4406 starting in January 2023. This should offer a sufficient surplus for the year. The membership fee is prorated for new members. Al handed out his analysis to those present for their review. We will vote on the membership fee at the November BEC meeting.

**New member approval: Hap Culp** (sponsored by Rich De Lambert). Hap pursued SIR on his own. Previously a member of Empire Breakfast Club and Rotary. A Motion was made by Barry Bialkoski to approve membership, 2nd by Bill Grafeld and approved unanimously.

**New member approval: Barney Hays** (sponsored by Jim Taylor). He was the previous treasurer of Empire Breakfast Club. He used to run a Gold and Silver shop on Third Street (now closed). Lost his wife about six months ago. A Motion was made by Bill Grafeld to approve membership, 2nd by Gary Bondi and approved unanimously.

**New member approval: Keith Hall** (sponsored by Gordon Boultbee). Keith is a friend of Gordon’s and a prior member of another branch. Keith worked in IT at OCLI, with Gordon. Then he owned a computer consulting company (KLH Consulting, Inc.) KLH is still a going concern, Keith no longer owns or is involved with it. A Motion was made by Gary Bondi to approve membership, 2nd by Neil Wheeler and approved unanimously.

**New member approval: Ron Turner** (sponsored by Harold Minkin). He has been to luncheons. He is a retired union carpenter. Was a Navy Seabee and served in Vietnam. A Motion was made by Steve Saulsbury to approve membership, 2nd by Barry Bialkoski and approved unanimously.

Note: For a variety of reasons none of the above members will be at today’s luncheon for induction. They will be inducted when they attend a luncheon.

**Approval of Book Club activity:** A vote by BEC is required to sanction it as a SIR activity. Neil Wheeler had an organizational meeting at the end of September, selected a book and planned to meet at Fred’s house 10/26 if approved by BEC. A Motion was made by Gary Bondi to approve the Book Club activity, 2nd by Bill Grafeld and approved unanimously.

**Volunteer opportunities and interest:**

Per Gordon the group cannot do anything political or religious, but members can participate as SIR members in community volunteer activities for the public good.

Rich de Lambert explained that our branch has 90 members who may volunteer for SIR activities but do nothing for the community. Rich has gone to the Volunteer Bureau and has contacted the Food Bank, Fish, Secret Santa, and others. Per Rich, the State SIR organization approved this type of activity earlier in the year. He has checked with other SIR groups in Sonoma County and none are doing this type of work. There is a huge need for volunteer work in Sonoma County. Rich recommends we form a committee to review this activity.

Initially a motion was made by Gary Bondi to approve providing SIR volunteers to charitable organizations, 2nd by Barry Bialkoski and approved unanimously. Then a lengthy discussion occurred about which comes first: 1) forming a volunteer committee or 2) approving as a sanctioned activity. Finally, it was decided that a motion could be made to approve volunteer opportunities as a branch activity prior to forming the committee. A motion was made by Barry Bialkoski to approve volunteer opportunities as a branch activity, 2nd by Gary Bondi- approved unanimously.

An appropriate name for this activity is “Community Involvement Projects” which falls under State guidelines, per Rich de Lambert.

Bob Reuther and Barry Bialkoski volunteered to be co-chairs of the committee. A motion was made by Barry Bialkoski to approve Bob Ruther and Barry Bialkoski as co-chairs of the committee, 2nd by Neil Wheeler- approved unanimously. Vice Chairs for this committee will be George Traverso and Rick de Lambert (I have no recorded record of their approval).

**Member Recognition Pins and criteria:** Gordon deferred to next meeting.

**Adjournment at approximately 10:45 AM.** A motion was made by Gordon to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Gary Bondi - approved unanimously.

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