

**Minutes of Sons in Retirement, Luther Burbank Branch 17
BEC Meeting, via ZOOM video, Santa Rosa CA
Thursday, February 4, 2021**

Big SIR George Traverso opened the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Present (voting members indicated by *): Immediate former Big SIR Dennis Mangan, Big SIR George Traverso*, Little SIR Gordon Boulton*, Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister*, former Treasurer Glenn Seime, Treasurer Al Petrie*, Directors Paul Willihnganz*, Ken Johnson*, Chris Nolen*, Tom Lubas*, Elias Zegarra*, Rich de Lambert*.

Absent/Excused: Big SIR-in-waiting Gary Bondi, Asst. Secretary Jim Gurke, Asst. Treasurer John Gnam.

Other members present: Ted Scapeccia; Mark Burchill, Stan Borges; Area Governor Bob Reuther.

Area Governor Reuther installs Directors Nolen, Zegarra, de Lambert for calendar year 2021. Assistant Treasurer John Gnam and Assistant Secretary Jim Gurke to be installed at the March 4 meeting.

Mark Burchill updated BEC on the purchases completed from the SIRS store, on the \$300 that Branch 17 had won for having the highest ZOOM participation levels during the period following March 2020. He showed photographs of 2 floor-model pop-up promotional signs for use either during meetings or for marketing at events elsewhere in the community; 2 table-sized pop-up signs, for use at exhibits/conferences with table space; Floor pop-up designed for at Branch meeting site, indicating that the Branch is in session on this date; and an A-frame sign attachment designed for outside use leading members to the door of the meeting site. Branch had \$300 credit with the SIRS store after winning the ZOOM competitions; these items came in at a total price of \$297.60 plus tax, for a total of \$324.39. **Wehrmeister moves, Willihnganz seconds** full Branch reimbursement of that amount to Burchill; the extra amount of \$24.39 not credited by SIRS corporate will be covered out of Branch funds. **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Secretary's Report. Wehrmeister notes that minutes of the January 7 meeting were distributed, revisions requested, revised and re-distributed. **Willihnganz moves approval of 1/7/2021 minutes as revised, Boulton seconds; approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Treasurer's Report. Petrie noted that Branch balance as of 1/31/2021 was the exact same amount as 12/31/2020, with neither income nor expenses for the month: \$6,214.66. Wehrmeister moves approval of Treasurer's report; **Willihnganz seconds, approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Membership Report: Zegarra notes that with the death of Peter McGrath at age 89 on 12/9/2020 – but of which the branch was only informed immediately following the January 7

meeting — membership in the branch stands at 78 men. It was noted that a membership application is in the works; Dave Harris sponsored by Gary Bondi; this application hadn't been processed as of this meeting. **Lubas moves approval of the Membership Report, Johnson seconds; approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Submittal of Forms 27 and 28 are confirmed.

OLD BUSINESS

It is determined that the BEC must take a specific vote to approve roster of Activity Groups within the Branch, as detailed in the Minutes of January 7. **Wehrmeister moves approval, Petrie seconds; approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Traverso notes that Fred Rose and Stan Borges, recently approved by the BEC as Honorary Life Members, will soon receive appropriate badges to wear at Branch meetings and all other SIR functions.

At request of Traverso, 8 members in attendance at this BEC meeting indicate that they attended one or more of the ZOOM training sessions conducted by SIR corporate during mid-January.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to resume Branch Golf Activity/Weekly Tournaments. Word reaches us that Roy Thuestad and Jim Gurke, activity chairmen, for the Branch, of the Home and Travel Golf programs, respectively, had received a go-ahead from SIR corporate to resume Golf programs under the auspices of the Branch—with the caveat that the Activity Chairmen must agree to take full responsibility for enforcing a detailed COVID safety protocol that runs four pages, single-spaced. It was communicated that both Thuestad and Gurke had agreed to these conditions on behalf of the Golf Committee.

Wehrmeister notes that the SIR restrictions/protocol document is quite similar in its essence to the protocol from the Sonoma County Health Department that is currently being followed by Bennett Valley Golf Course operations manager Bob Borowicz, and has been since reopening BVGC in May 2020 after roughly six weeks closed. Most SIRS golfers have been, since then, playing in the same timeslots on Mondays—but technically doing so as private individuals, with no prize money, etc. Wehrmeister asked whether, if Branch 17 announces and resumes its Monday tournaments as an activity, the legal responsibility and liability will fall, no longer upon Borowicz and his staff as at present, but rather upon the Branch and specifically upon the Activity Chairmen (who would of course be financially protected through SIRS corporate Directors/Officers insurance) . . . but if a member fell ill from Covid and died, and the Branch was subsequently sued by the family, the Branch and SIR would have significant potential exposure; and as we've seen from the major payout that had to be made on behalf of Vallejo

Branch over the food-service issue, this can result in endangering SIR overall organization-wide ability to get renewals of liability insurance coverage.

Given this potential hazard, **Wehrmeister moves to table the resolution to resume Branch golf tournaments** until such time – hopefully at or before the March 4 BEC meeting – that Thuestad and/or Gurke can settle any concerns that they or BEC members might have against undertaking unnecessary risk – or, perhaps, wait to resume full Branch responsibility for golf tournaments until such time as Covid restrictions are no longer in place. **Willihnganz seconds; approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Traverso asks the gathering how many have received at least the first dose of a Covid vaccine; nine of the ZOOM attendees respond that they have.

Discussion on establishing a Branch Vaccine Assistance Team (BVAT), to work with members to make sure they can establish Covid vaccination appointments if they lack Internet access, and to drive members to these appointments if they lack the mobility. Not really any more information than that as to establishing protocols. **Wehrmeister moves, Lubas seconds, to NOT establish such a proposed “BVAT” at this time – but to encourage individual members to participate, as individuals, if they so choose. Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Update on Branch Property Records. Treasurer Petrie is in possession of the list, which remains the same as a year before under former Treasurer Seime’s possession, with the exception of the four new pieces of Pop-Up and Sandwich Board signage procured by Mark Burchill noted earlier in these Minutes. Traverso verifies this.

Update on 2021 Branch 17 Guide for Members. Traverso notes that this updated guide for Calendar 2021 has been posted on the Branch website by Jim Fenstermaker.

Caterer Insurance. Seime, who remains Branch Luncheon Coordinator despite turning over Treasurer duties as of January 1, notes that separate Branch Caterer insurance was not necessary during 2020 or ‘19 – ever since the Branch began its monthly membership lunches in the former Legends facility . . . and will almost certainly not be necessary in 2021 going forward, as he and the BEC have concluded that lunches will be held at Charlie’s in Windsor or some other licensed restaurant – NOT at a separate meeting place with an outside caterer.

Traverso notes that Assistant Treasurer (and golf co-chair) Jim Gurke will be drafting a letter to the Santa Rosa City Council setting out the Branch’s opposition to any potential closure or contraction of Bennett Valley Golf Course. Sense of BEC is that Gurke should send this letter as a private individual, not as the Branch representative – though he intends to cite and detail the Branch’s longtime use of and loyalty to BVGC. Wehrmeister moves approval, Traverso seconds; approved unanimously by the BEC.

Adjournment at 11:29 a.m. Next regular membership meeting (via ZOOM): 11 a.m. Thursday, February 18, 2021; next BEC meeting (via ZOOM): 10 a.m. Thursday, March 4, 2021.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister