

**Minutes of Sons in Retirement, Luther Burbank Branch 17**  
**BEC Meeting, via ZOOM video, Santa Rosa CA**  
**Thursday, August 5, 2021**

**Big SIR George Traverso opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.**

**Present (voting members indicated by \*):** Immediate former Big SIR Dennis Mangan, Big SIR George Traverso\*, Little SIR Gordon Boultbee\*, Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister\*, Asst. Secretary Terry Freeman\*, Luncheon Coordinator Glenn Seime, Treasurer Al Petrie\*, Directors Tom Johnson\*, Tom Lubas\*, Elias Zegarra\*, Rich de Lambert\*, Steve Saulsbury\*, and Chris Nolen\*.

**Absent:** Asst. Treasurer John Gnam\*.

**Other members present:** Ted Scapeccia, Neil Wheeler, Bill Grafeld, Fred Rose, Lance Thompson. Mark Burchill, Bob Zie.

Big SIR Traverso requests vote to approve immediate additions of Freeman and Saulsbury to the BEC. **Wehrmeister moves, Lubas seconds; approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Consideration of Bill McNeany for membership. Boultbee moves approval, Lubas seconds; approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Consideration of Joseph “Charlie” Bertoli for membership. Boultbee moves approval, de Lambert seconds; approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Secretary’s Report.** Wehrmeister notes that he circulated July 1 BEC minutes to the participants on July 13. **De Lambert moves approval of minutes as posted, Nolen seconds, approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Treasurer’s Report.** Petrie notes that as of July 1, Branch balance was \$5,701.68. Branch experienced a net loss of \$76.99 on the July 15 luncheon at Epicenter. Ten (10) SIR mugs were purchased at a cost of \$95.97, while the luncheon raffle brought in a net of \$96.00. Overall, this resulted in a net loss for the month of \$76.96, and a July 31 balance of \$5,624.72. **Johnson moved approval of the report, seconded by Nolen; approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Membership Report.** Zegarra reports that as of the beginning of the meeting the active Branch census stood at the same 82 as the previous month – with the addition of William Grafeld and the resignation of Paul Willihnganz canceling each other out. This total was prior to the acceptance of new members Bill McNeany and Joseph “Charlie” Bertoli. **Lubas moves approval of the report, seconded by Boultbee; approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discussion of Petty Cash.** Petrie notes that as of today, there is \$175.00 in what he terms the petty cash account; with it having been increased to that amount after adding \$75 from raffle revenues at the July 15 luncheon. Discussion among BEC as to how expenditures from petty

cash are reported; whether expenses from it must be approved by BEC beforehand (no), or just reported after the fact. De Lambert argues that it should be available for small expenses at discretion of Branch Treasurer. Because of several other pressing agenda items, **further discussion, or any change in formal protocol, tabled.**

**Discussion on future BEC meetings;** whether they are to continue via ZOOM on first Thursday of the month, or be held in-person at 9:30 a.m. on the same morning as the monthly Branch luncheon meeting. Wehrmeister argues that when and if in-person luncheons continue, after threats subside from the Covid-virus delta variant, then the BEC meeting should be held in person that morning—as Epicenter has offered space to do so for no additional charge.

However, discussion swiftly veers away from that specific question to the overall question of continued in-person luncheon meetings. Scapeccia recounts the situation at the recent Branch poker event , in which all participants were fully vaccinated—but there were infections at the event. Traverso and Seime note that they have been attempting to get guidance from State SIR as to continued approval to conduct luncheon meetings amid the delta-variant spread, but without success. Seime said he would be personally not inclined to attend an August luncheon meeting, and he thinks many others feel the same way. Following further discussion, **Traverso moves, Nolen seconds, to suspend the luncheon meeting scheduled for August 19, and subsequent luncheons until further notice.** (In discussion prior to the vote, Seime notes that he'd had a phone conversation earlier in the morning with Epicenter manager Andrew Kilsheimer, the latter indicated that he understood the current predicament, and given the community virus situation, would not enforce the written agreement.)

**Motion to suspend in-person Branch luncheon meeting for August, and until further notice, approved unanimously by the BEC.**

At request of several BEC members, Seime is requested to confirm Kilsheimer's agreement to suspend Branch 17's written agreement with an email response; **Wehrmeister so moved, Traverso seconded; approved unanimously by the BEC.**

(Later in the day, Seime wrote this email to Kilsheimer: *"Per our phone conversation this morning, I just want to confirm that the SIR Branch 17 board has decided to cancel our August lunch and poker meetings. Your willingness to accommodate us in this decision without penalty is very much appreciated. I wish I could guarantee that we won't be making the same decision in the months to come, but obviously can't. I'm hopeful that if we do need to cancel again, you will continue not charging us. Let me know if you have any concerns with the content of this email. If not, and you agree with it as is, please confirm back to me."* And before the end of the day, Kilsheimer responded with this: *"I understand that times are difficult right now and things are changing daily. We are happy to accommodate you and the SIR's. We all wish things could be different so you will not be charged or penalized for the cancellation. Hope everyone is well and that we can see each other soon."*)

Discussion follows on the prospect of canceling both Boys' Night Out and Couples' Night Out for August. **Traverso moves, Nolen seconds, that ALL indoor Branch activities be suspended until further notice; approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Given these decisions, discussion is tabled regarding indefinitely continuing BEC meetings via ZOOM versus in-person; they will obviously also continue via ZOOM until in-person luncheon meetings are resumed. The next BEC meeting, via ZOOM, is set for 10 a.m. Thursday, September 2.**

**Discuss ideas for the December 2021 luncheon program.** Given the uncertainty as to in-person luncheon meetings, this topic is tabled. However, Boultbee requests that BEC members offer him suggestions regarding this event, prior to the September 2 BEC meeting.

**Discussion of policy for resuming “free lunches” for birthday celebrators,** seeing as how more than a year of “free” birthday lunches were missed. Given the uncertainty as to forthcoming in-person luncheon meetings, this topic is tabled.

Discussion of possible penalty for four members who indicated they'd be present at July 15 luncheon but did not show up. Branch had committed for 56 lunches, and only 52 were served. But, seeing as how Epicenter elected to NOT charge us for those four unneeded lunches, **de Lambert moves to waive such penalties, Traverso seconds, approved unanimously by the BEC.**

**Resignations of Randy Coleman-Reise and Paul Willihnganz are acknowledged.**

**Adjournment at 11:10 a.m.**

**Future meetings:**

Membership luncheon meeting via ZOOM, 11 a.m. Thursday, August 19

BEC Meeting via ZOOM, 10 a.m. Thursday, September 2

Draft minutes submitted by Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister