

**Minutes of Sons in Retirement, Luther Burbank Branch 17
BEC Meeting, via ZOOM video, Santa Rosa CA
Thursday, September 2, 2021**

Big SIR George Traverso opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Present (voting members indicated by *): Immediate former Big SIR Dennis Mangan, Big SIR George Traverso*, Little SIR Gordon Boulton*, Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister*, Luncheon Coordinator Glenn Seime, Treasurer Al Petrie*, Asst. Treasurer John Gnam*, Directors Tom Johnson*, Ken Johnson*, Elias Zegarra*, Rich de Lambert*, Steve Saulsbury.*

Absent: Asst. Secretary Terry Freeman*, Director Tom Lubas*.

Other members present: Ted Scapeccia, Neil Wheeler, Ken Johnson, Chris Nolen.

Consideration of any revisions to agenda: None requested; Boulton moves approval of agenda as is, Tom Johnson seconds; **approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Secretary's report. Wehrmeister notes that minutes of August 5 BEC meeting had been circulated on August 6, and revised/corrected per requests on the morning of August 7. De Lambert moves approval of report, Boulton seconds; **approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Treasurer's report. Petrie reports that with no transactions during the month of August, the Branch bank balance stood on September 1 exactly as it did on August 1, at \$5,624.72. Boulton moves approval of the report, seconded by Wehrmeister; **approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Membership report. Zegarra reports that the Branch membership census as of September 1 stood at 83. Tom Johnson moves approval of the report, seconded by Ken Johnson; **approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Boulton confirms submittal of Forms 27 and 28.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of plans for Branch holiday luncheon, scheduled for December 16, 2021. De Lambert urges that "we must be cautious," despite the fact that all Branch member attendees and any guests must have documented full-Covid-vaccination status at this event (as well as at any luncheon meeting or in-person SIR gathering of any sort between now and then). Question asked whether we should seek any performance by a local high-school choir group; Nolen asserted that during the pandemic, choir entertainment is inherently dangerous and should be avoided. Boulton urged that there be no invited entertainment, and no attendance by members' wives or partners. Wehrmeister said he was willing to perform vocals and lead singing of a selection of holiday songs. Nolen said that perhaps any singing was not a good idea; Wehrmeister responded that if precautions that tight seemed advisable, "then we would have

no business resuming in-person luncheon meetings.” Luncheon coordinator Seime to explore, with Epicenter’s Andrew Kilsheimer, what sort of luncheon upgrade might be possible for a modest increase above the standard per-plate charge of \$25.

Discussion of policy for resuming “free lunches” for one-per-month birthday celebrators.

Seime notes that with 15 monthly luncheons having been missed since March 2020, there are that many members who would be “owed” free lunches. **Jim Fenstermaker maintains an updated list of free-lunch recipients.** Decision on how this shortfall is to be addressed is deferred to January 2022.

Discussion of continuing “Phone Committee” to encourage/document future in-person lunch attendance. General consensus is that, given both the 18-month break in the habit of monthly Branch luncheon-meeting attendance, the new location at Epicenter, and the unfortunate off-on, fits-and-starts nature of resumption of regular luncheon meetings as we (hopefully) emerge from the most serious stage of the Covid pandemic, that continuing this Committee is essential.

Discussion of BEC policy on method(s) of accepted payments for lunches at future Branch luncheon meetings. Policy in the past was always that members were required to cite whether they were going to be in attendance; if they said “yes,” they were expected to pay the agreed amount, whether they showed or not. Question at issue is whether this policy should continue – given Epicenter’s generous allowance on July 15 to not charge for the four meals that had been promised but were no-shows. General consensus is that Branch should not continue to rely on Epicenter’s good graces in this regard; the written and signed agreement stipulated that a hard number was to be provided to Epicenter’s manager, and paid for. Decision is to keep policy as-is. Additionally, general consensus is to maintain policy of accepting only cash (or checks?) for lunch payment; there are to be no expansions to accepting credit cards or electronic payment protocols such as Venmo or Paypal.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of status of September 16 luncheon—in-person or Zoom? Boulton points out that two local Rotary Clubs of which he’s aware began resuming luncheon meetings in June, and are continuing to do so – and asks: “What criteria are we going to use to resume in-person luncheons?” Scapeccia notes that the experience of the Branch’s poker group (in which three vaccinated members tested positive for Covid during a four-hour in-person session in late July) demands that we proceed with prudent caution. Nolen notes that the average age of Rotary members is significantly younger than our SIR branch. De Lambert suggests that all members should schedule themselves to receive Covid-vaccine booster shots when they are available and at the interval suggested by doctors. Seime notes that we are the ONLY local SIR branch that did not meet in-person for lunch in August; Branch 76 met at Cattlemen’s in Montgomery Village; Branch 176 continues to meet for lunch at Charlie’s in Windsor. Wehrmeister notes that as of this date (September 2), it might be impractical to start up the necessary mechanics of the Phone Committee to make a September 16 in-person luncheon at Epicenter happen, even if a

majority of the BEC would favor the idea. Accordingly, **Wehrmeister moves, Tom Johnson seconds, to resume in-person luncheon meetings at Epicenter on October 21—subject to possible reconsideration at the October 7 BEC meeting. Approved by the BEC, with Nolen and Traverso voting “no.”**

New “RAMP” Committee requests \$300 for Branch advertising/marketing toward prospective members. De Lambert asserts that “everything” among our available marketing materials “is outdated.” Traverso says that specifically, “we need to update the cards that we give out to potential members.” Neil Wheeler notes that at the state level, SIR is developing not only a program of new and consistent materials, but a guide as to how to use them. But, he cautioned, we should NOT be premature in using them—until after we are back up and running with in-person luncheons and a full slate of in-person activities. “Don’t encourage a prospective member to start his experience with SIR at a Zoom luncheon,” Wheeler said. Petrie noted that the Branch has \$225 in received donations sitting in the bank, available to purchase marketing materials. It was also noted, at the state SIR meeting on marketing, that consistently, over numerous Branches, the activity of Golf showed a primary effectiveness in recruitment of new members. Wehrmeister moves, Zegarra seconds, that the Branch appropriate and make available up to \$300 for prospective-member marketing materials (including the \$225 in donated funds noted by Treasurer Petrie).

Petrie notes that as of 9/2/2021, he still had not received confirmation of state SIR’s receipt of Branch’s quarterly assessment.

Ken Johnson notes that he will be out of state, gone to Minnesota, from September 30 through October 19.

Adjournment at 11:14 a.m.

Future meetings:

Membership luncheon meeting via ZOOM, 11 a.m. Thursday, September 16

BEC Meeting via ZOOM, 10 a.m. Thursday, October 7

In-person luncheon meeting at Epicenter, 11 a.m. Thursday, October 21

Draft minutes submitted by Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister. Revised Oct 5.