

**Minutes of Sons in Retirement, Luther Burbank Branch 17
BEC Meeting, via ZOOM video from home quarantine, Santa Rosa CA
Thursday, September 3, 2020**

Big SIR George Traverso opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

No audio recording

Present (some joined in progress): Immediate former Big SIR Dennis Mangan, Big SIR George Traverso, Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister, Treasurer Glenn Seime, Asst. Treasurer Al Petrie, Directors Gordon Boulton, Ken Johnson, Elias Zegarra, Rich de Lambert, Chris Nolen, Paul Willihnganz; Area Governor Bob Reuther.

Absent/Excused: Little SIR Gary Bondi, Asst. Secretary Jim Gurke.

Other members present: Ted Scapeccia, Tom Lubas.

Secretary's Report: Wehrmeister notes that minutes from the August 6 meeting were posted on August 13. Willihnganz moves approval of the minutes as posted, Boulton seconds.

Approved unanimously by the BEC.

Treasurer's Report: On Form 28, Seime reports that dues receipts for August of \$90, against an expenditure of \$49 for printing of the BARK newsletter, resulted in an increase of \$41 in the Branch bank balance, standing as of 8/31/2020 at \$6,405.08. Wehrmeister moves acceptance of the report, Boulton seconds. **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Membership Report from Zegarra: Form 27 shows 79 members; all 79 paid. Wehrmeister moves approval, Willihnganz seconds. **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Big SIR Traverso confirms submittal of both Forms 28 and 27.

OLD BUSINESS

Traverso informs the BEC that Branch 17 received State SIRS' "ZOOM Awards" for both June and July. This is based on documentation of the greatest number of Branch members spending the highest number of minutes in Branch-related ZOOM meetings or activity. This qualifies Branch 17 for awards of materials or apparel from the statewide SIRS store. At suggestion of several BEC members, Traverso agrees to consult with Mark Burchill, who has been more active than most in online club purchases, both with SIRS and Rotary. Reuther urges that the award purchase be used on member-promotion materials; the consensus of the BEC agrees.

Traverso briefly notes ongoing situation with Little SIR Bondi, battling cancer, currently undergoing chemotherapy. Bondi has indeed been nominated and elected Big SIR beginning

January 1, 2021; Traverso states that if necessary, and requested by Bondi, he is willing to stay on to continue the functions of Big SIR after that date.

NEW BUSINESS

Status of Legends banquet facility at Bennett Valley GC: Treasurer Seime reports that after considerable effort, he identified and contacted the Santa Rosa municipal official responsible for administering the city's leasing of the bar/grill/banquet facility at Bennett Valley GC (site of Branch 17's luncheon meetings from August 2018 until this past March, when indoor banquets and indeed any meeting of more than 12 unrelated people was curtailed because of the Covid-19 pandemic).

Jennifer Santos, a manager with the city parks department, informs us that Legends corporate office has been "attempting to negotiate the termination of its lease" at Bennett Valley. This means that whenever groups such as ours are cleared by Sonoma County officials to conduct indoor luncheon meetings, hopefully at some point early in 2021, we will have to seek another venue. Wehrmeister voiced opinion that "this is actually good news"; that Legends was perpetually understaffed, and that a better restaurateur should be able to run a better-service operation in what is a modern and very attractive facility, with a "captive audience" to a degree.

Seime noted that Fred Rose, whose career was in the food-service industry, has agreed to partner with him to explore options/alternatives in the coming weeks/months. He noted that Branch 76 has indicated that it wants to partner with Branch 17 whenever in-person luncheon meetings can be held.

Wehrmeister asked whether it was practical to consider Charlie's restaurant at the Windsor Golf Club; consensus of discussion is that it would not be: "We're a Santa Rosa branch, and that wouldn't be convenient for a lot of our members."

Wehrmeister moves to table discussion until Seime and Rose have information to report, and/or Sonoma County moves to relax C-19-related restrictions to allow for a group our size to even gather outdoors in-person—let alone indoors. Willihnganz seconds. **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

Discussion of potential luncheon speakers at ZOOM meetings. Mangan advised that he will be in contact with the Buck Institute of Novato, which since 1999 has been the "first independent biomedical research institute in the world focused solely on aging." Consensus that a speaker from "the Buck" would be ideal for our group. De Lambert notes that Little SIR Bondi had compiled a list of several potential speakers, and that such listing should be reviewed. Reuther suggests that perhaps the Sonoma Women's Forum should also be contacted. Traverso advised that for the Branch's ZOOM meeting at 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 17, we'll have a recorded video presentation, a "NIC Talk" (?) on "The Future of Aging."

Consideration of candidates for Honorary Life Membership. Stan Borges and Fred Rose are the two candidates previously presented by the search committee. Mangan relates that SIRS Corporate—presuming the two candidates are approved by the state board—will forward to the Branch appropriate parchment-type certificates, which it instructs the Branch to have appropriately matted and framed. Additionally, SIRS Corporate advises as to specifications on special Honorary Life Member badges for the newly approved members. Resumes are to be forwarded to the Area Governor (Reuther); he approves and forwards to the state board. Willihnganz moves, Wehrmeister seconds, approval of both candidates Borges and Rose; consensus is that they're both qualified for the honor many times over. **Approved unanimously by the BEC.** Wehrmeister asks if HLM designation involves the waiving of annual member dues for the rest of the HLM's life—as is the case with similar designations in both the Moose and the Elks fraternal orders. Mangan offers his view that it should be, and general consensus agrees. Willihnganz moves, Wehrmeister seconds, that—presuming HLM designation is approved by the state board, that the Branch waive any further obligation for annual dues for both Borges and Rose. **Approved unanimously by the BEC.**

De Lambert asks that BEC meeting minutes should be individually distributed by email to the entire BEC – via bcc. Wehrmeister agrees to do so.

Wehrmeister moves adjournment, Willihnganz seconds. **Adjournment at 11:10 a.m.**

Forthcoming meetings: full Branch (via ZOOM) 11 a.m., Thursday, September 17; BEC, 10 a.m., Thursday, October 1.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Kurt Wehrmeister