



TWAIN HARTE SIR BRANCH 172
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Date: November 5, 2025

Place: Moose Lodge, Sonora, CA

Attendees: Glenn Arlands, Steve Spangler, Rick Cavil, Shawn Hall, Tom Francis, Mark Knapp, Jerry Jensen, Ken Rorabaugh, Randy Cole, Charles Luke.

Big SIR Glenn Arlands opened the meeting at 10:06 AM, welcomed the Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairmen of Branch 172. A quorum was present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Steve Spangler reported that the October 1, 2025 minutes were emailed to the BEC and our Area Representative. The minutes were approved. (Cavil/Rorabaugh)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rick Cavil reported a beginning balance of \$5826 and an ending balance of \$4950 for the month of October, 2025. Receipts were \$1620 and expenses were \$2496. The treasurer's report was approved. (Francis/Knapp)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Membership went from 93 to 94 during the month.

GUEST SPEAKER: For the November lunch the guest speaker is Frank Smart, veterans advocate.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget. Rick is estimating a \$400 lunch loss for 2026. A discussion on lunch options ensued. Charles suggested only giving the free lunch to guests that actually join. Mark said we could consider not offering free lunch to guests at all. Tom proposed increasing the lunch price by to compensate. He will bring this up for a vote in the lunch meeting. Randy suggested another revenue idea is placing advertising in the bulletin. Rick indicated that he emailed the SIR bylaws regarding advertising in the bulletin. Some suggested that allowing advertising could imply endorsement, and could result in a "slippery slope." *[post-meeting note: In the lunch meeting, members indicated, with a show of hands, that we should continue providing a free lunch to a first-time guest that is a potential member. In a separate vote, members indicated by a show of hands that they are willing to pay up to \$22 for lunch.]*

The 2026 budget includes an expected increase in the state assessment to \$3 per member. The 2025 budge is looking pretty close to projections.

A motion to exclude financial information from the bulletin was approved. (Knapp/Francis)

Christmas Party. Attendance at the Christmas Party has been declining over the last two years. In 2023, 57 people attended. In 2024, 44 people attended at the branch had a loss of \$300. We don't have the numbers for 2025. A discussion on whether to cancel the Christmas Party due to lack of interest was held. Tom will bring it up in the lunch meeting. *[post-meeting note: In the lunch meeting members indicated, with a show of hands, whether they would attend the Christmas Party. There were very few raised hands (~10-11). One member suggested changing the event to an evening. The members present showed little interest in attending an evening event. It was decided that Big SIR Glenn Arlands would send out an email to all members requesting a vote regarding the Christmas lunch.]*

Membership. Tom stated that we have 17 new members this year, with 2 still to be inducted. He went through the badges and ordered 4 badges for new members. Four guests have been invited to the November lunch.

Microphone/Speaker. Tom indicated that our old speakers were given to Moose Lodge.

NEW BUSINESS:

State Zoom Meeting. Glenn mentioned that there is a state zoom meeting on Friday 11/7, he plans to attend. He will send out the notice to the BEC.

2026 Lunch Price and Menu. The Moose price remains at \$19 per person plus \$25 for coffee. A motion to switch one menu item from Swiss steak to hot dogs and hamburgers was approved. (Francis/Spangler)

Online Application Form. The online form lacks a "submit" button and therefore couldn't be submitted. Dick Chimenti is working on it.

Big Sir Pin. Tom will order the past Big Sir pin for Glenn.

BRANCH ACTIVITY REPORTS:

BIKING: Chairman Sir Steve Happel leads bike rides on the second Tuesday of the month.

HORSESHOES: Chairman Sir Rich Brandau invites any interested Sir member to join the horseshoe group on the last Thursday of the month.

KAYAKING: Chairman Sir Steve Happel leads scheduled kayak trips on the fourth Tuesday of the month, weather permitting.

THEATER: Sir Dave Tibbets is coordinating group theater events at the Sierra Repertory Theatre in Sonora.

TRAVEL: Sir Charles Luke posts travel updates and coordinates travel events on our website

ACTIVITY GROUP INSURANCE APPROVALS:

The BEC has approved events for the groups below. All dates are in 2025.

Activity	Date BEC Approved	Schedule. Dates may occasional change with notification from activity chairman
BIKING	February 5	Second Tuesday of each month
HORSESHOES	February 5	Last Thursday of each month April through October
KAYAKING	February 5	Fourth Tuesday of each month May through November
THEATER	May 7	6/19

All other activity chairmen should submit approval forms for 2025 dates so these can be approved by the BEC prior to the first event date.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM. The next Branch Executive Committee Meeting will be at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at the Moose Lodge, 20921 Longeway Road, Sonora.

Sir Steve Spangler
Secretary