



TWAIN HARTE SIR BRANCH 172
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Date: April 1, 2026

Place: Moose Lodge, Sonora, CA

Attendees: Clark Beermann, Ken Rorabaugh, Steve Spangler, Randy Cole, Tom Francis, Mark Knapp, Jerry Jensen, Jerry Morrow, Paul Halek.

Big SIR Clark Beermann opened the meeting at 10:02 AM, welcomed the Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairmen of Branch 172. A quorum was present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Steve Spangler reported that the March 4, 2026 minutes were emailed to the BEC and our Area Representative. The minutes were approved. (Beermann/Jensen)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Randy Cole reported a beginning balance of \$6765 and an ending balance of \$7009 for the month of March, 2026. Receipts were \$2662 and expenses were \$2418. Randy reimbursed the birthday account with \$120 cash for the next 6 months of birthday payouts.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Paul Halek reported that we gained 2 new members in March but lost 3 members. The membership count went down one from 87 to 86.

GUEST SPEAKER: Little SIR Ken Rorabaugh reported that the April lunch guest speaker is Gus Mattammal, author and candidate for California Superintendent of Public Instruction.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Dues. There are 14-15 members who haven't yet paid their annual dues. It was agreed that the branch will send letters to those that haven't paid as of the end of April 1. Letters of termination will be sent certified mail with a date that payment must be received otherwise the member will be terminated. Paul Halek will prepare the letters and Clark Beermann will mail them.

Report from State. Jerry Morrow presented a booklet with branch officer information that is prepared by some of the branches. There was a general distaste to the cost of this by most board members. It would also be quickly out of date and need to be updated.

The discussion of photo releases was resumed. Jerry pointed out that SIR has never been sued or threatened to be sued over publication of photos showing members. The state recommends a photo release be signed if the photos are to be made public, such as in newspapers or magazines, websites, or social media. Photos on our own website do not need a release. It is left up to each branch what their policy will be regarding this.

Jerry noted that the state has set aside \$5000 for a marketing program focused in metro areas to gain new members. He disagreed with this, wanting the rural areas to be included as well.

Home & Garden Show. Tom Francis solicited opinions on the handouts for the show. He noted that Staples charges \$1.60 per page to duplicate these. There was a discussion on whether to include the activity list along with activity leaders and phone numbers on the back of the handout. The consensus was to remove the activities run by other branches and only include our own. Tom will edit the handout. A motion to support printing 150 copies of the handout was approved. (Rorabaugh/Knapp)

Badges. The BEC agreed to keep badge handling the way it has been, with badges being collected after lunch, rather than having members take them home.

Procedure for Picking Up Badges. Whoever picks up the badges and/or plaques from Clint's needs to provide the invoice to treasurer Randy Cole. It was decided that Randy will manage the spreadsheet that tracks the account balance with Clint's, but he needs the invoices for audit purposes.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

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.

Activity	Date BEC	Schedule. Dates may occasional change with notification
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	Approved	from activity chairman
BIKING	2/5/25	Second Tuesday of each month
HORSESHOES	2/5/25	Last Thursday of each month April through October
KAYAKING	2/5/25	Fourth Tuesday of each month May through November
THEATER		

All other activity chairmen should submit approval forms for 2026 dates so these can be approved by the BEC prior to the first event date.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM. The next Branch Executive Committee Meeting will be at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at the Moose Lodge, 20921 Longeway Road, Sonora.

Sir Steve Spangler
Secretary