



TWAIN HARTE SIR BRANCH 172
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Date: October 7, 2026

Place: Moose Lodge, Sonora, CA

Attendees: Clark Beermann, Ken Rorabaugh, Steve Spangler, Randy Cole, Jeff Thies, Tony Fiorini, Mark Knapp, Jerry Morrow.

Big SIR Clark Beermann opened the meeting at 10:09 AM, welcomed the Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairmen of Branch 172. A quorum was present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Steve Spangler reported that the August 5, 2026 minutes were emailed to the BEC and our Area Representative. The minutes were approved. (Rorabaugh/Beermann)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Randy Cole reported a beginning balance of \$6414 and an ending balance of \$7328 for the month of September, 2026. Receipts were \$1197 and expenses were \$282. The treasurer's report was approved. (Rorabaugh/Beermann)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Tony Fiorini is the new branch membership chair. Jerry Morrow will work with him to bring him up to speed.

GUEST SPEAKER: Little SIR Ken Rorabaugh reported that the October lunch guest speaker is Paolo Maffei.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Assistant Treasurer. Jeff Thies has volunteered to be the new assistant treasurer for the branch, with the intent to be treasurer starting in January 2027. A motion to accept Jeff Thies as assistant treasurer was approved. (Cole/Rorabaugh) He was sworn in by Jerry Morrow.

El Dorado Savings Bank Account. Jeff Thies is the new assistant treasurer and needs to be added to the branch bank account. Former treasurer Rick Cavil needs to be removed. A motion to add Jeff Thies, remove Rick Cavil, and retain Randy Cole and Steve Spangler as signers on the branch bank account at El Dorado Savings Bank was approved. (Beermann/Spangler)

Branch Awards. Tom Francis pointed on in an email that we have three members turning 90 in 2027 and will need 90 year certificates: Paolo Maffei, Harvey Uhl, and Fred Petersen. DSA pins for former Big SIRs Mark Knapp and Glenn Arlands are needed as well as one for Clark Beermann when his term ends. We have volunteer pins in the locker at the Moose which should be given to those who help set up for lunches, help with recruiting, and new member sponsors. Randy Cole mentioned that he recently issued a \$150 check to Clint's to replenish our funds for badges and awards.

Report from State. Jerry Morrow reported that the state will be raising fees on the branches again for 2027 due to high attorney fees. Jerry indicated that it was a pleasure to serve on the state board for two years as he retires from that role. He also previously served 8 years as area representative. He stated that he believes the state board is in good hands.

Christmas Party. It was agreed that the Christmas party should be held during daylight hours and that we will "keep it simple." The tentative date for the Christmas party is Saturday, December 12. There will be no December lunch.

Bulletin Updates. Jim McCracken should be removed as joke master and replaced with Jim McDonald. Jeff Thies should be added as assistant treasurer.

Area SIR Branch Closing Down. One of the other area SIR branches is tentatively planning to shut down due to inability to identify a Big SIR. If this happens, we should try to get some of their members into our branch. Jerry Morrow will talk to the current Big SIR of the branch.

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	7/1/26	6/25/26, 8/8/26, 10/29/26, 12/20/26

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 10:59 AM. The next Branch Executive Committee Meeting will be at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at the Moose Lodge, 20921 Longeway Road, Sonora.

Sir Steve Spangler
Secretary