

SIR Minutes of Branch 159 Executive Committee
April 11, 2024

The meeting opened at 10:15 am at Pardini's Restaurant. BEC officers present were Big Sir Steve Chase, Little Sir Mike Parker, Treasurer Garry Elliott, Assistant Treasurer Keith Lovgren and Assistant Secretary Brett Bayley. Directors present were Jerry Brady (2024), Robert Ying (2025), Russ Conrad (2025), Pete Openshaw (2026), and Butch Evans (2026). Brett Bayley proclaimed we had a quorum (10 of 12), and Big Sir Steve Chase opened the meeting.

Next, a review of the March 2024 meeting minutes was conducted. Brett Bayley moved that the minutes be approved, and Jerry Brady seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Based upon inquiries during the calls to members Pete Openshaw reported 91 members stated that they were planning to attend our luncheon today. Bruce Corwin told Pardini's to plan on serving 81 lunches.

Little Sir Mike Parker then announced that Nick Davis, family farmer from Madera, would be presenting information about owl boxes and the use of barn owls in gopher/rodent control in agriculture.

Next, the Monthly Cash Report (Form 28) was reviewed. Garry Elliott reported a small net loss of \$130.10 in our Custodial Accounts due to luncheon cost overage. The total balance shown on the March Cash Report was \$10,238.59. Brett Bayley moved that the report be approved, and Keith Lovgren seconded the motion. The report was approved unanimously.

In regard to membership information, we have reached the end of the membership renewal period and all active member annual assessments are paid. We have 171 members. In addition, we also learned that today will be the 348th meeting of our branch. The new membership chairman was introduced to enthusiastic applause. Russ Conrad has assumed those responsibilities. Butch Evans and Rich Colby have examined our present procedures and their recommendations for updates of software and hardware have been implemented. Big Sir Steve Chase volunteered a computer to facilitate these improvements. The goal was and remains to make the Membership Chairman's job simpler and to have the membership committee work up-to-date. Jerry Brady moved that the membership reports be approved, and Robert Ying seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval.

Gary Morgan, our Webmaster, demonstrated the new membership application format that will allow potential members to complete an application on line after finding our branch website. With a click on a button at the bottom of our Sir159 website homepage a prospective new member will be able to complete our membership form and have it forwarded directly to the Membership Chairman. Gary had those of us with smartphones look at the site and review the application. After discussing which activities and volunteer opportunities should be included the use of this application was enthusiastically endorsed.

Microphone time at today's luncheon will involve Brian Nicholson, Duke Marshall, Butch Evans and Pete Openshaw

There being no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.

Secretaries Robert Scott and Brett Bayley