

SIR Minutes of Branch 159 Executive Committee
July 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, Assistant Secretary Brett Bayley, and Secretary Robert Scott. Directors present were Jerry Brady (2024), Mark Isonio (2024), Russ Conrad (2025), Robert Ying (2025), Butch Evans (2026), and Pete Openshaw (2026). Robert Scott proclaimed a quorum was present (12 of 12), and Big Sir Steve Chase opened the meeting.

Next, a review of the June 2024 meeting minutes was conducted. Garry Elliott moved that the minutes be approved, and Robert Ying seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Based upon inquiries during the calls to members, Pete Openshaw reported 90 members stated that they were planning to attend our luncheon today. Bruce Corwin ordered 85 lunches from Pardini's.

Little Sir Mike Parker then announced that Mike Watney, retired Fresno State golf coach, would be presenting information about how to improve our golf swings at today's luncheon.

Next, the June Monthly Cash Report (Form 28) was reviewed. Garry Elliott reported a net loss of \$17 in our General Accounts because our gain from our 50/50 drawing was offset by officer expenses. However, we gained \$95 in our custodial accounts because our luncheon income exceeded our luncheon costs. Therefore, our cash balance at the end of June 2024 was \$10,134.75. Jerry Brady moved that the report be approved, and Mike Parker seconded the motion. The report was approved unanimously.

The following agenda item concerned the membership reports. The Membership Report indicated that today would be the 351th meeting of SIRs Branch 159. As of the end of June, we had 170 members. To date, we have inducted 14 new members but lost 22. At today's luncheon, we have three new members that are eligible to be inducted. The approval of this report will include a vote to accept an additional candidate. Mike Parker moved that the Membership Report be approved, and Brett Bayley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Form 27 report was then reviewed. The report also indicated we had two new members during June. Also of interest, the section of the report involving luncheon attendance was mentioned. At our June luncheon, 49% of our membership was in attendance. This percentage is our average monthly attendance. Pete Openshaw moved that the Form 27 report be approved, and Mike Parker seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval.

The first old business item involved a report from our Nomination Committee. It was reported that we need a volunteer for our 2025 Little Sir position.

The following discussion involved our progress in consolidating our historical records. It was reported that we have approximately 10 small bins of materials. It was suggested that we

investigate the cost of a small storage locker for our records. Gary Morgan will report on this issue next month.

Next, there was a lengthy discussion about the SIR townhall meeting that was held on June 26, 2024. It was attended by approximately 250 SIR members. Bruce Corwin, and others who attended this Zoom meeting, reported information regarding proposed changes involving the following: organization name, logo, officer titles, mission statement, membership requirements, and organization structure. The goal of these changes is to attract new and younger people, improve and expand our branch activities, make our community aware that SIR exists, and to change the direction of our organization. Also, all members are encouraged to become more familiar with the State SIR website. More information will follow as the different branches review these ideas.

We also discussed our sponsors being more involved when they bring in a new member. It was suggested that sponsors not only introduce the member to others, but also help educate the new member with our branch organization, website, and activities.

It was also suggested that we review our expectations of the “Greeter” activities. It was agreed we need to expand our current practices. An easy improvement would be for all branch members to make an effort to introduce themselves to all new members.

The last new business item basically involved finding new members. It is felt that by adding more varied branch activities, we will be more attractive to new members. Closely related is the suggestion that we study and adopt an advertising program to make our branch more known in our community.

Microphone time at today’s luncheon will include Duke Marshall and Brian Nicholson.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Secretaries Robert Scott and Brett Bayley