

LAS TRAMPAS BRANCH 116

BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2024

Big Sir Alan Pope called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

Secretary Paul Ramacciotti confirmed a quorum was present.

The following members in attendance were:

**Executive Committee**:

Big SIR – Alan Pope

Little SIR – Paul Russell

Treasurer – Charlie Guthrie

Assistant Treasurer – Al Satake

Secretary - Paul Ramacciotti

Alan Fitzgerald - Membership

**Directors:**

Gary Bonfiglio

Dave Williams

Jeff Johnson

Roger Craig

Don Benioff

Sam Beret

**Committee Chairmen**: Neil Schmidt, Harry Sherinian, Don Schroeder, Dennis Snarr, Mike Ward, Rob Lemmo and Ron Armijo.

**Secretary’s Report:**

* Secretary Ramacciotti asked if there were any changes or corrections to the January 15, 2024 Minutes as distributed. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Al Satake, seconded by Charlie Guthrie. The motion was unanimously passed.

**Treasurer’s Report**

**Charlie Guthrie reported:**

* Branch 116 cash balance as of 2-01-2024 is $14,757.75.
* 2024 Dues: 132 of our 187 members have paid 2024 dues as of 2/17/2024. After the February luncheon, an e-mail reminder will be sent to those who haven’t paid. After the March luncheon, volunteers may be recruited to personally call members who still haven’t paid.
* January Unexcused Lunch Absences: Five paid by credit card but didn’t attend. Four unexcused absences were not paid by credit card, two forgiven (sick), two billed (one paid).
* 2023 Audit finalized:
* Auditor happy with the condition of the financial accounting system. Protocol changes and technical enhancements improved the effectiveness of the system.
* Auditor happy that the lunch subsidy was discontinued for 2024.
* Recommended review of the reserve bank balance for appropriateness and to track Square fees for budgeting.
* **Motion:** After some discussionconcerning the Branch bank balance,Al Satake made a motion to approve the 2023 Audit Report, seconded by Jeff Johnson. The motion was unanimously passed.

**Luncheon Report:**

**Alan Pope for Dennis Snarr reported:**

* 118 attendees were submitted for the February luncheon.

**Membership:**

**Alan Fitzgerald reported:**

* Current active membership stands at 188.
* Two new members will be introduced this month: Tony Latini (Sponsor: Gary Halick) and Ken Ridings (Sponsor: Bob Colvin).

**RAMP Department Head Reports:**

**Recruitment:**

**Don Schroder reported:**

* Four guests attending today’s luncheon.

**Activities:**

**Mike Ward reported:**

* Mike stated that of the 23 activities listed, 19 are operating in February. Six additional activities can be piggy-backed with other branches (Apple User ID, astronomy, bowling, cycling, digital photography and men’s Hearts card game). Two activities are still in need of a chairperson: Parties and Sunshine. There were 23 total activity days in February.
* Selective activities will be highlighted at the luncheon.
* As previously stated, Mike has four travel coupons ($100 discount) left to give away from the initial eight given to him by Overseas Adventure Travel. If all ten coupons are used by travelers through OAT then Branch 116 stands to earn $6,500.00. There is no time limit for use, but the coupons can only be used by first time travelers.
* **Branch 116 Activities Survey:** Results were given to the Board for review. 86 members (46%) responded. Results need to be communicated to the members.
* **Motion:** A motion was made by Alan Fitzgerald, seconded by Al Satake, to approve the 2024 List of Activities presented to the Board by Mike Ward (insurance requirement). The motion was unanimously approved.

**Community Service:**

**Jeff Johnson reported:**

* T-Shirts: In the community service functions that the Branch participates in, Jeff had “SIR Branch 116” T-shirts made for member volunteers to wear. The T-shirts present a publicity/recruiting venue and also distinguish Branch 116 volunteers from other volunteers. Jeff asked the BEC to cover the cost of the T-shirts.
* **Motion:** After some discussion, Jeff made a motion, seconded by Paul Russell, to purchase an initial order of 20 T-shirts with a budget for the year of $400.00. The motion passed with two opposed.

**Member Relations:**

* Sam Beret is the new chairperson for this activity. Sam will review the Activities Survey results prior to presentation to the members.

**Publicity:**

**Robin Lemmo reported:**

* Two options exist to give the Branch optimum coverage: 1) the Alamo/Danville Today (approx. 20,000 subscribers via direct mail), and 2) the Diablo Gazette with approximately 27,000 subscribers via direct delivery and on-line. The cost to advertise in the Alamo/Danville Today is increasing to $50 a month. Robin paid for a trial month out-of-pocket. Robin made a request to keep track of by what means potential members are being recruited.
* **Motion:** After much discussion and conferring with Robin Lemmo, Jeff Johnson made a motion, seconded by Paul Russell, to advertise solely in the Diablo Gazette for the next three months. The motion was unanimously passed,

**Little SIR Report**

**Paul Russell reported:**

* Guest Speaker**:** Today’s speaker will be Jim Griesemer, whose background is in the technology industry where he did development, design and use ability testing. He will talk about “AI – is it a tool or a companion”?
* 19 birthdays in February.

**Miscellaneous Updates and New Business**

* **Nominating Committee:** Chairperson Roger Craig stated that one more member is needed to complete the committee.
* **Matt Arena resolution and recognition:** Dave Williams and Jeff Johnson wrote a tribute to Matt Arena commemorating his many years of service as Branch 116 “Sunshine Chairman”. Matt will be given Emeritus Membership Status, free of membership dues. Dave Williams will make the presentation to Matt Arena.
* **Spring Fling and Holiday Party:** Alan Pope has four people helping out on the Spring Fling. As a result of the disappointing food quality at the 2023 Holiday Party, Alan will query the members at today’s luncheon on the possibility of raising event costs in order to provide better food.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:9 AM. The next meeting will be Monday, March 18, 2024.

**Respectively Submitted:**

**Paul Ramacciotti, Secretary**