

LAS TRAMPAS BRANCH 116

BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2025

Little Sir Brad Stribling called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

Secretary Dan Lawrence confirmed a quorum was present.

The following members in attendance were:

**Executive Committee**:

Little SIR – Brad Stribling

Treasurer – Charlie Guthrie

Asst. Treasurer - Al Satake

Secretary – Dan Lawrence

Asst. Secretary-Bill Foulds

Phil Goff – Membership

Neil Schmidt – Assistant Membership

**Directors:**

Harry Sherinian

Gary Bonfiglio

Jeff Johnson

Alan Pope

Sam Beret

Jim Tamulski

**Committee Chairmen**: Dave Williams, Al Farbman, Mike Ward, Dennis Snarr, Ron Armijo

**Secretary’s Report**

**Dan Lawrence reported:**

Lawrence asked if there were any changes or corrections to the March 17, 2025, Minutes as distributed. There were none. A motion to accept the minutes as distributed was made by Al Satake and was seconded by Gary Bonfiglio. The motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report**

**Charlie Guthrie reported:**

* Branch #116 cash balance as of 04-01-2025 is $14,808.75. The reserve balance is $10,60260.
* March Unexcused Lunch Absences: There were 12 unexcused absences, 4 paid.
* 2025 Dues collection is over for the year. We had 8 members who never responded to the physical letter I sent and were resigned. NOTE: new members who join after 4-01-2025 do not owe dues for the year.
* Spring Fling: 36 (60 max) have signed up thus far.
* Luncheon Court: 115

**Big SIR Report-Brad Stribling on behalf of Paul Russell report**

* Spring Fling is scheduled for May 21st at the Kensington at Walnut Creek Retirement Community this year. The cost will be $20. A buffet lunch will be served including music, and a photo booth will be provided. There were concerns about the lack of adequate parking. As a result, the retirement management will provide adequate parking in an area next to the retirement community facility.
* Survey: Fred Wachowicz and Mike Ward are working on a survey for the purpose of determining the sentiments of members about luncheon meals (food selection) and the possibility of adding additional branch activities. When Fred returns, he will provide a report at a future BEC meeting.
* The Storyteller for today will be Roger Craig because our former storyteller has transferred to another SIR Branch. A suggestion was made to investigate a new method or procedure for providing a storyteller for future luncheons. One possibility would be to develop a pool of storytellers of interested members. In this way, one member isn’t “stuck” providing a story each month. No decision was made at this time.

**Branch Advisory Council**: Carlos Xavier reported that the Branch Advisory Council met last Friday. During the meeting there were discussions about tax status, retirement age, and the development of a business plan. Concerns were also discussed about declining membership. In addition, the Council also talked about the elements that contribute to a vibrant branch. They suggested strong leadership at the branch level, increased member participation in activities, and limiting the tenure for the Big SIR to one year. No final decision was made at this time. The Branch Advisory Council’s next meeting will focus on whether to hire professional marketing companies in addition to previously listed discussions.

**Membership**

**Phil Goff reported:**

Current active membership stands at 173. There were four new members for March 2025.

* New member: Frank Colligan who is sponsored by Jeff Johnson.
* New member: Adam Rios who is sponsored by Jeff Johnson.
* New member: Jim Arnald who is sponsored by Jim Tamulski.
* New member: Jerry Ricker who is sponsored by Brad Stribling.
* Bob Colvin is a returning former member.
* 9 members resigned: As a result of no responses to the physical letters sent out by Charlie Gutherie.
* On a very sad note, Jim Barstow, a former Big Sir passed away while I was typing out the minutes for today’s BEC meeting.
* 2 members, Garrett Romain and Steve Beck transferred to Branch 128.

Although it is disappointing to have these resignations, it is the proper thing to do to “clean up the books.” These former members were not paying dues and were not actively participating in any activity.

There was a suggestion and discussion about taking a “deeper dive” in the future to examine reasons, etc. for the “no-responses” resignations before considering their removal from the branch membership roster. Charlie Guthrie said that these resignations only occur during March and April each year. Charlie and Dennis Snarr will have further discussions offline for a possible solution to satisfactorily address this issue.

**RAMP Department Head Reports**

**Recruitment:** Jeff Johnson reported:

12 new members to date. Our goal is to recruit 20 new members by the year’s end, and we are on track to beat that goal.

We have 4 guests attending today’s luncheon. Guests will be sitting at a separate table wearing yellow name tags. The guests will be introduced sooner on the luncheon agenda.

As a reminder, every current member should be actively involved in recruiting new potential members, recruiting cards are on the luncheon table.

And guests get a free lunch and if the guest joins and the member get a complimentary lunch as well.

**Activities:**

**Mike Ward reported:**

Sunshine, poker and golf Carmel still need coordinators assigned. Neil Schmidt is the new Computer and Tech coordinator.

Goal clinic is added; however, it is on a hold until next year due to no venue availability this year, and the Golf Carmel activity will be determined at a future date. Sums Investments’ chairman is Tom Henry from Branch 46.

There are 13 separate April activities and 26 total available days with 21 activities scheduled for April.

**Member Relation**

**Sam Beret reported**: that the procedure for connecting the new member to an activity of interest is working well because of the activity coordinator reaching out to the new member. In addition, the new member-table is also working out well because it facilitates the new member getting acquainted with other members. Sam also said he was pleased to see the introduction of a guest table as well.

**Publicity**

**Allan Farbman reported:** that he is continuing with print media with some success. The Danville/Alamo newsletter printed a nice article; and will be on a pause for a few months. We are relying more on our three social media accounts: Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. Allan indicated that he has heard positive comments from social media about our SIR branch.

Next month, Allan said that he intended to announce to branch membership, encouraging them to utilize our social media accounts. They will be able to log onto Instagram and post information about their SIR activity with others. It is hoped that this process will blossom into something more interactive resulting in increased membership.

**Little SIR Report**

**Brad Stribling reported:**

* The guest speaker for today is Captain Bill Nelson, USNR. Captain “Bill” Nelson will share his experiences as a carrier-based navigator during the Korean War, and Director of nuclear weapons engineering at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Bill is currently one of the docents on the USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier and will also share with us his duties as a docent as well.
* 12 birthdays are being celebrated in April 2025.
* Dave Williams volunteered to arrange for the “happy birthday” song that will honor their birthdays. On a side note, Dave declined the opportunity to sing the “happy birthday” jingle solo.

**Miscellaneous Updates and New Business**

None.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 AM. The next meeting will be on Monday, June 16, 2025

**Respectively Submitted:**

**Dan Lawrence, Secretary**