

LAS TRAMPAS BRANCH 116

BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2025

Big Sir Paul Russell 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**:

Big SIR – Paul Russell

Little SIR – Brad Stribling

Treasurer – Charlie Guthrie

Asst. Treasurer - Al Satake

Secretary – Dan Lawrence

Phil Goff – Membership

Neil Schmidt – Assistant Membership

**Directors:**

Harry Sherinian

Gary Bonfiglio

Jeff Johnson

Alan Pope

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

**Secretary’s Report**

**Dan Lawrence reported:**

Lawrence asked if there were any changes or corrections to the February 17, 2025, Minutes as distributed. Jeff Johnson made a motion to amend the minutes as follows: “It is moved that the 2025 SIS Branch #116 BEC approves all its activities that appear on the second page of the current edition of its monthly newsletter, Trampas Tropics.” The motion was seconded by Charlie Guthrie. The motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report**

**Charlie Guthrie reported:**

* Branch #116 cash balance as of 02-01-2025 is $10,943.38. The reserve balance is $10,553.25.
* February Unexcused Lunch Absences: There were 17 unexcused absences, 7 paid.
* 2025 Dues are $25. So far, we have not received 2025 annual dues ($25) from 26 members. This included several new members who have just joined. After the March 2025 luncheon, a physical letter will be sent out to long-time members who haven’t paid yet, asking them to pay the annual dues or resign.
* Luncheon Court: 112

**Big SIR Report**

* Branch Advisory Council: Carlos Xavier was not present. No report was given.
* Spring Fling is scheduled for May 21st at the Kensington at Walnut Creek retirement community this year. The cost will be approximately $20. A buffet lunch will be served including music, and a photo booth will be provided. Parking is limited, so a shuttle will be available from a nearby shopping center parking lot to shuttle attendees to the retirement community.

**Membership**

**Phil Goff reported:**

It was a pleasant surprise to see an article in Walnut Creek’s Nutshell newsletter about membership in SIR Branch #116 that generated plenty of activity-resulting in two new potential members. The Branch’s webpage has been updated resulting in easier online access to the site and offering more SIR information.

Current active membership stands at 181. There were four new members for February 2025.

* New member: Bruce Lewis who is sponsored by Michael Barrington.
* New member: Gary Summers who is sponsored by Michael Barrington.
* New member: Frank Mycroft who is sponsored by Sam Beret.
* New member: Ron Wetter who is sponsored by Alan Pope.
* Seven members resigned: Jim Ranger, Sam Patti, Brad Lee, Claes Elfving, Ed Lichtig, Doug Janes and Warren Garrison. Bill McCord passed away this past month.

**RAMP Department Head Reports**

**Recruitment:** Brad Stribling made an announcement; assigning Jeff Johnson, and he agreed, to be the coordinator for recruitment.

Jeff Johnson reported:

New members will be wearing yellow name tags to identify new members at lunchtime, that will hopefully help them integrate them into our SIR Branch.

Every member should be actively involved in recruiting new members, recruiting cards are on the luncheon table.

A reminder, guests get a free lunch and if the guest joins, the member get a complimentary lunch as well.

**Activities:**

**Mike Ward reported:**

There are 22 total activities. Sunshine still needs a coordinator. Neil Schmidt is the new Computer and Tech coordinator. It was recommended that chess and travel activities be removed due to lack of interest.

Alan Polanger is the new Poker coordinator, and Gary Bonfiglio is the new Mexican Train coordinator.

Sums and Investment has a new coordinator, Tom Henry who is from Branch 146.

There are 12 separate March activities and 27 total available days with 19 scheduled activities for March.

**Member Relation**

Sam Beret was not present, no report given. Despite his absence a brief discussion was held regarding the linkage between a sponsor and a mentor. Phil Goff mentioned that the procedure for connecting the new member to an activity of interest is for Sam to notify the activity coordinator to contact the new member. A brief discussion about the differences between a sponsor and a mentor. The discussion revolved around their activity to make the new member feel welcome and provide them a good “first impression.”

**Publicity**

**Allan Farbman reported:**

The Publicity Plan for SIR Branch #116 (2025-26) has been completed. Allan said that the goal of the plan is to increase awareness of SIR Branch #116, that will hopefully attract new members and engage the community through various publicity efforts. Allan Farbman made a quick overview of the plan and said that copies of Publicity Plan are available upon request for further review by the membership.

**Little SIR Report**

**Brad Stribling reported:**

* Luncheon speakers have been identified through September.
* The guest speaker for today is Ms. Lindy Johnson, External Affairs of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. Ms. Johnson will speak about People Centered Mobility including information about autonomous vehicle programs that are in use in several areas of Contra Costa County.
* 18 birthdays are being celebrated in March 2025

**Miscellaneous Updates and New Business**

**Big SIR Paul Russell reported**:

**Guests:** Frank Colligan sponsored by Jeff Johnson and Jerry Ricker sponsored by Brad Stribling

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM. The next meeting will be on Monday, April 21, 2025

**Respectively Submitted:**

**Dan Lawrence, Secretary**