

# SONS IN RETIREMENT

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SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC.  
with 73 Branches and 17,625 Members

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**BIG SIR Dwight O. Moore** is shown welcoming Area 1 Governor Harry S. Moyer at Southern Peninsula Branch No. 5 in Palo Alto, among the fortunate Branches of the original Area 1 Sons in Retirement, Inc. members to hear Governor Moyer. He had prepared a comprehensive history of the organization's first 20 years of remarkable growth to 17,625 members, presenting it at the 20th Anniversary celebrations.

## History of SIR's Founding

Presented by Harry S. Moyer Governor area 1, 1976–1978

The preparation of this history would not have been possible without the painstaking efforts of the officers of Branch No. 1 when known as the original Peninsula Branch from 1950 to 1970 who had maintained excellent minutes of the organization and its founding stages – and which were compiled by their branch historian John J. Brauner in 1968.

## 20th SIR's Anniversary

It was April 1958 when the idea for the founding of the SIR's organization was first casually discussed during a luncheon meeting in San Francisco of the Royal Order of Jesters, Court No. 4, and auxiliary of the Islam Temple of the Shrine.

Those sitting together at one luncheon table were Damien L. Reynolds, Claus J. Hank and Lorenz Hansen.

Damien, who had retired from an executive position with The Columbia Steel Co., knowing that his fellow Jesters would also soon retire, suggested that it would be an excellent idea to establish an organization for retired men in the community in which they resided. Probably they could have a luncheon program with regular meetings for the purpose of maintaining old friendships, making new acquaintances, and promoting a general interest for a retired man, he suggested.

Both Klaus Klink, who was soon to retire from Standard Oil of California, and Lorenz Hansen, with a long experience in banking and finance, express general interest in the possibility offered by Damon's proposal and agreed to assist him in furthering the project and agreed to meet again to discuss the matter.

Toward the middle of June 1958, Mr. Reynolds had the initial staffing pattern for the proposed organization worked out. For the purpose of getting the club on an operating basis he had determined to ask Mr. Hink to serve as his immediate assistant. Mr. Hansen was to be the designated treasurer because of his extensive financial background.

In the meantime since the first meeting in April, Mr. Reynolds discuss the proposal with Wallace C. Plumber, who had been secretary, recorder, and trustee of the Peninsula Consistency (now Burlingame) Scottish Rite, Mr. Plumber assured Mr. Reynolds that he was interested and would cooperate completely.

Toward the end of June 1958, by which time Mr. Hink had returned from his travels immediately following his retirement, Mr. Reynolds called a meeting of these men to meet

at his home in Hillsborough and discuss with him his proposed assignment of duties of each officer and the designation of their group as the Founders Executive Committee.

At this meeting and other informal discussion meetings came tentative understandings and agreement, many of which serve the club to this day.

The first luncheon meeting of the four founders was held at the Clairmar Restaurant in San Mateo on June 23, 1958. At this meeting the matters that have been previously tentatively agreed to or reviewed and steps were taken to prepare working rules and regulations, the formulation of the by-laws.

They decided another luncheon to which friends of the founders, who were eligible for membership, under the basic guidelines agreed to, would be invited.

As a result of this agreement the founders extended invitations for a luncheon to be held at the Clairmar on July 23, 1958 to 10 men. Nine men attended.

In addition to the four founders, the other five men attending this luncheon meeting, along with the founders have been designated "Charter Members." They were George Rogers, Conrad Lange, L. E. Cartmill, Clarence E. Johnson and William Torello.

After this first meeting there was much to be done: Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Hink devoted their full-time and attention to promoting the club - meeting frequently at their homes – discussing operating problems, prepared membership forms and notices, and the organizational structure, with the club's by-laws and proposed rules and regulations.

On August 12 the four founders met to select a suitable name for the club. Mr. Reynolds read off a list of suggested names which had come to his attention as follows:

- Ancient and Honorable Sons of Rest
- Work Dodgers Luncheon Club
- Faithful Old Fellows
- The Honey Dews
- League of Aimless Fellows (L. O. A. F.)
- Fellow Oldsters
- Young Oldsters
- Restful Sons
- Sons in Retirement



On motion of Larry Hansen, seconded by Worley plumber, the committee unanimously agreed to propose at the next luncheon that "Sons in Retirement" be adopted as the official name of the club. Mr. Hansen suggested that the name seemed appropriate to give dignity to retirement, the inevitable lot of most men.

The term "Sons in Retirement" originated with Claus J. Hink, who pointed out that the term could be abbreviated to "SIR", a salutation indicating maturity and respect. From there it was but a short step to designate the top officer of the club the "BIG SIR" and the second in command as the "LITTLE SIR."

At this same meeting which also included the other charter members and new stalwarts Joe Weber and Harry Brown, the idea involved to finance the club through voluntary contributions.

It was decided that at the next meeting scheduled for September 18 to give this matter a trial run and at that meeting the practice of "Passing the Jug" was born, my dropping \$39.00 in Claus Hink's hat. There were 36 men in attendance at this meeting.

At the September 1958 meeting of the club it was decided a larger meeting place was required. Little Sir Claus Hink submitted a report covering places available at several locations and it was decided that the next monthly meeting would be held at Kim's Restaurant on Donnelly Ave. in Burlingame.

At the fourth meeting of this club in October 1958 there were 42 members in attendance. \$35.00 was contributed. Two additional executive committee members were appointed – a membership chairman and an attendance chairman.

The executive committee meeting in October 1958 decided to have a news sheet or bulletin. Damien Reynolds, Big Sir, was the designated editor of the publication. He named it YES SIR and Volume 1 – No. 1. was published during February 1959. There had been only \$29.02 in the club treasury on January 1, 1959 but they were going to have their newsletter.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee of Sirs in Jan. 1959 thought was given to adopting an emblem which would be appropriate in promoting the pride, independence and dignity of retirement. Little Sir

Claus Hink suggested the rooster as having these attributes. His suggestion was adopted by the executive committee in January 1959 – and made part of our identity with the rooster on our Masthead at the first issue of the YES SIR in February – with the following explanation:

In commenting on the adoption of the rooster as the emblem of the club, Big Sir Reynolds said, "One of the principal areas of the Sons in Retirement concerns itself with the well-being, youth and happiness of the retired man. Of all creatures on earth, non-expresses independence and dignity with more Sureness and aplomb than the rooster. The majesty of his presence overshadows all other barnyard creatures, and when he crows he can be heard for miles, not in the faint hearted manner, but with a noise that calls attention to his majestic being."

The extent of the work involved – the devotion of these founding members in particular, and the milestones of events that took place within the short period of one year or 12 months, have been just partly related to you so far.

In February 1959 the first roster printed listed 108 members, with members' name, address, telephone number, previous business affiliation and the number assigned to each member from the cards made when he joined the club.

In March 1959 - the Executive Committee arranged for the first liability insurance coverage.

With the advice of an attorney, Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Hink completed all preliminary and legal requirements for the Articles of Incorporation and forwarded the application for incorporation with proper sworn statements attached, to the Secretary of State on February 3, 1959. The original file in Sacramento shows endorsement dated February 11, 1959. So now we're in business.

(History of SIRs Founding to be concluded March 1979 issue.)

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### **No. 1 Big Sir Honored**

At Placer Gold Branch No 37, Auburn, they have retired badge No. 1 in memory of their first Big SIR.