Aug 8: Quick recap

The meeting began with Kevin presenting a new streamlined approach for managing branch information using the Membee database system, which would allow branch secretaries to update details in real-time and improve member directory management. The group discussed implementation challenges and security concerns, with volunteers expressing interest in piloting the system while addressing potential double work issues if branches maintain parallel Excel sheets. The latter part of the meeting focused on area representation roles and communication challenges within the organization, with discussions centered on improving leadership recruitment, AR effectiveness, and ways to enhance connections between individual members and the State Board.

Next steps

- Kevin to set up Membee access for Paul and send documentation
- Kevin to identify 3-5 pilot branches for Membee implementation
- Nick to speak with Chief Information Officer about Membee implementation for Branch 1
- Andy to review list of potential AR candidates and make recommendations
- Fred to visit with John Oprah in Auburn to discuss 2026 vision
- Greg to identify potential AR candidates in Area 2
- Richard to work with Fred on developing more manageable AR role requirements
- Kevin to work with Membee team on implementing search function or ability to view 50 records at a time
- Kevin to continue gathering Form 20/22 submissions while Membee implementation progresses
- Andy to coordinate with branches in Area 1 regarding AR responsibilities
- Fred to reach out to Area 2 branches to establish communication and gather information
- Greg to form a subcommittee to explore ways to connect individual members to State Board and officers
- Fred to work on identifying and developing potential future leaders within branches
- Rich to help branches identify and contact Area Representatives
- Derek to confirm soda beverages will be included in catering for upcoming meeting
- Greg to follow up with State Board regarding his proposal for member engagement
- Fred to continue developing relationships with outlying areas as Area 15 AR
- Rich to work on implementing a leadership development process for branches
- Fred to establish regular communication channels with Area Representatives
- Greg to carry forward message about flexible AR meeting arrangements to State Board

Summary

Membee Branch Information System Update

Kevin presented a new streamlined approach for providing branch information to the state using the Membee database system. He explained the evolution of forms 20 and 22, highlighting the challenges with the current electronic system. Kevin proposed giving branch secretaries direct access to update branch information in Membee, which would be reflected in real-time in the Member Directory. He requested volunteers to pilot this new system and gather feedback before a potential rollout to the entire organization.

Branch Management System Demo

Kevin demonstrated a new system for managing branch information and member directories. He showed how branch secretaries could log in and update branch details, including meeting times,

leaders, and member information in real-time. Kevin explained that only two branches currently have all their members in the system, and he is working with Membi to improve search functionality. He also demonstrated how to add new branch leaders for 2026 and update their roles.

Membee Database System Overview

Kevin presented Membee, a database system for managing branch member information, and discussed its features with Paul and Fernando. Kevin explained that branches would keep their local databases while using Membee for basic member management, noting that their branch reduced 9,700 records to 2,500 active members during a previous database conversion. Fernando shared his experience merging two branches, which took 4-5 hours of manual data entry, and demonstrated how to create custom titles in Membee. The discussion concluded with Andy raising questions about title consistency and sorting options, which Kevin addressed by showing how to change sorting preferences in the system.

Membee Database System Implementation

The meeting focused on Membee, a database system for managing branch member information. Kevin explained how branches can use Membee to update member data in real-time, with authorized users able to access and modify information through login credentials. Several volunteers expressed interest in piloting the system, with Paul and Nick agreeing to discuss implementation with their branch staff. The group discussed security concerns, with Kevin assuring that data is protected behind login credentials, and Fernando highlighted the system's benefit in immediately updating treasurers after mergers. The conversation ended with Richard noting widespread support for the system among branches, though some concerns were raised about potential double work if branches maintain parallel Excel sheets.

Area Representative Role Evolution

The meeting focused on the role and responsibilities of area representatives (ARs) in the organization. Richard and Fred discussed changes to the AR election process, including giving the Vice President the authority to hire and fire ARs to streamline operations. They emphasized the importance of ARs as communication channels between branches and the state, helping coordinate efforts and provide support to branches. Greg raised concerns about the lack of AR presence in his area, questioning the necessity of the role. Fernando and Nick shared positive experiences with ARs, highlighting their ability to foster cooperation among branches and provide valuable insights from the state. The group discussed challenges in staffing AR positions and the need to make the role more manageable and appealing. Wes, a new AR, shared his experience and vision for the future of ARs, emphasizing the need for active engagement and growth.

Area Representation and Communication Strategies

The meeting focused on challenges and strategies related to area representation and communication within the organization. Andy shared his experience with the Mid Peninsula area, highlighting the importance of in-person meetings and building trust over time. Richard emphasized the need for flexibility in area representation, suggesting that representatives should focus on helping branches rather than adhering to a rigid structure. Michael Garcia proposed a revised model where area representatives could offer value-added assistance to branches that need it, rather than maintaining a one-on-one relationship with each branch. The discussion concluded with Greg presenting a proposal aimed at improving communication between the state and branches, which he plans to take to the board of directors for consideration.

Improving State Board Member Engagement

The group discussed concerns about the lack of connection between individual members and the State Board, with Greg proposing the formation of a subcommittee to explore ways to improve this relationship. Nick and others agreed that while a more democratic process is desirable, getting volunteers for leadership positions remains challenging due to the time commitment required. Andy highlighted that branch growth and member engagement have long been issues, suggesting a need to make serving in leadership roles more appealing and manageable. Fred proposed extending officer terms to two years to allow for better continuity and experience. The conversation ended with Richard complementing the group's previous work on policy changes that have already improved member activities and engagement.