



## **2025 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**August 26, 2025**

Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center  
3780 Mount Diablo Blvd.  
Lafayette, CA 94549

Commences at 10:00 a.m.

### **Attendees**

#### **Members of SIR, Inc.**

President: Rich Carlston

Vice President: Fred Serena

Secretary: Jeff Chin

Treasurer: Carl Mason

Past SIR Presidents: All

Area Representatives: All

Big Sirs or Appointed Designees: All

Director – Branch Support: John Farcich

Director – State Activities: Michael Lee

Director – Marketing & Communications:  
Andy Danver

Director – State Documents: Bruce Corwin

Chief Information Officer: Ramesh Thadani

President’s Advisor: Derek Southern

Parliamentarian: Roy Hodgkinson

#### **Plus State Committee Chairmen and Invited Guests**

## 2025 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
10:00	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verification of Quorum</li> <li>• Pledge of Allegiance</li> <li>• Invocation</li> <li>• Welcome Officers and Guests</li> <li>• Agenda Revisions – if any</li> <li>• Review Voting Process</li> </ul>	Rich Carlston
10:10	State of SIR	Rich Carlston
10:25	Election of State Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of Nominees</li> <li>• Call for nominations from the floor</li> <li>• Vote</li> </ul>	Dave Gonzales
10:30	Vote re possible change to Articles	Rich Carlston
10:35	Vote re possible change to Bylaws	Rich Carlston
10:40	Financial Report	Carl Mason
10:55	Major Accomplishments during 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing accomplishments</li> <li>• Computer/Tech accomplishments</li> <li>• New management tools</li> <li>• Activities</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Changed Policies</li> </ul>	Andy Danver Ramesh Thadani Bruce Corwin Michael Lee John Farcich Rich Carlston & Fred Serena
12:00	Lunch	
1:00	Breakout Session1 – ARs and interested members	Fred Serena
1:00	Breakout Session 2 – All other members President’s Panel of Past and Present Presidents	Derek Southern, Rick Kindle Dave Gonzales Rich Carlston
2:00	Vision for 2026	Fred Serena
2:15	Adjournment	

**NOMINEES FOR 2025 STATE OFFICERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

PRESIDENT:	FRED SERENA
VICE PRESIDENT:	NICK FEIMER
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER:	RAMESH THADANI
STATE SECRETARY:	JEFF CHIN
STATE TREASURER:	CARL MASON
DIRECTOR STATE DOCUMENTS:	BRUCE CORWIN
DIRECTOR - BRANCH SUPPORT:	JOHN FARCICH
DIRECTOR – MARKETING:	NEIL WHEELER
DIRECTOR – ACTIVITIES:	MICHAEL LEE
AREA STATE REPRESENTATIVE:	JERRY MORROW
AREA STATE REPRESENTATIVE:	CARL DAWSON
AREA STATE REPRESENTATIVE:	OPEN

Brief Biographies:

President Candidate: (Uncontested) Fred Serena, a member of Pathfinder Branch 59 since 2017, having served as Little and Big Sir, and is currently serving as Branch Activities Chair. Fred is currently serving as Vice President as well as AR State Coordinator and Area State Representative. Fred also served on the Branch Advisory Council this year.

Vice President Candidate (Uncontested) Nick Feimer, a member of Damian Reynolds Branch 1, is currently serving as Big Sir in the branch after serving last year as Little Sir. Nick also served on the Branch Advisory Council this year.

Chief Information Officer: (Uncontested) Ramesh Thadani is a member of the Rocklin Branch 98 since 2015. He is presently the branch Bulletin editor and assists with tech issues that arise in the branch. He also developed the Branch 98 web site and is currently a backup to support it. Ramesh is presently serving as the State Chief Information Officer.

State Secretary: (Uncontested) Jeff Chin, a member of Stanislaus Branch 103 Modesto-Stanislaus, having joined in 2018 and having served as Little Sir and Big Sir, currently serving as Branch Newsletter Editor and bowling chair. Jeff is presently serving as the State Secretary and previously as the State Director of Documents.

State Treasurer: (Uncontested) Carl Mason, a member of Solano Branch 88 having joined in 2012, and serving as Branch Treasurer (2016, Little Sir (2017), Big Sir (2018), Area Governor for Area 7 (2018-2020), and holds a master's degree in accounting, and a Certified Government Financial Manager, elected as State Treasurer in 2023. Carl is presently serving as the State Treasure.

Director – State Documents: (Uncontested) Bruce Corwin, a member of Fresno Branch 159 since 2016 and having served as Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer, and with a strong background in engineering and IT, he held the position of Web Master, Little and Big Sir, and Area 19 Governor. Honorary Life Member (2021), and currently serving as Director of State Documents and Area State Representative. Bruce also served on the Branch Advisory Council this year.

Director - Branch Support: (Uncontested) John Farcich, a member of Damian Reynolds Branch 1 since 2023. John is on the Super Charger Ramp Committee for Branch 1 and will be Little Sir in 2026. This past year he served as Assistant Director of Branch Support and stepped up to Director of Branch Support when a vacancy arose. John is a volunteer for San Mateo Co and a USTA.

Director. - Marketing: (Uncontested) Neil Wheeler, a member of Luther Burbank Branch 17, is presently serving as the Big Sir of the Branch and the branch Publicity Chair, having served as Little Sir last year. Neil also served on the Branch Advisory Council this year.

Director – Activities: (Uncontested) Michael Lee, a member of San Ramon Valley Branch 128, has been its branch Activity Chairman for the past five years. He is presently serving as Chairman of Branch 128 travel and senior fitness activities. Michael has served this year as Director of State Activities.

Area State Representative: (Uncontested) Jerry Morrow, a member of Twain Harte Branch 172, previously served as State Vice President before taking time to serve in official capacities in his County. Upon completion of those governmental responsibilities, Jerry has returned to be the Area Representative for Area 9 and is currently serving in that capacity.

Area State Representative: (Uncontested) Carl Dawson, a member of Tamalpais Branch 47, was the Big Sir of the branch in 2024 and Little Sir in 2023. He is currently the Chair of the Nominating Committee for the branch. Carl is also serving as the Area Representative for Area 8.

Area State Representative: OPEN

## Motion To Amend State SIR Articles of Incorporation

### Proposed Motion:

“It is moved that the term ‘retired’ be deleted from the Second Article, paragraph B, of the Articles of Incorporation of SIR, INCORPORATED, and the language modified to read:

II B. The specific purpose of this corporation is to provide for the welfare of retired men from all walks of life who are pursuing a common goal, the enjoyment of their later years with dignity and pride, by assisting these senior citizens to renew former friendships and associations, and affording them an opportunity to make new friends through association with other retired men who also face the particular problems that confront senior men upon their retirement. The assets of the corporation are irrevocably dedicated to the foregoing purpose.”

The State Board voted unanimously to delete the term “retired” from this Article at the April 24, 2025, meeting of the Board of Directors. For this proposed change to be made, it must be approved by a majority vote at the Annual Meeting.

**Background:** Our society has changed since the time that SIR was organized. Due to the economics of our society, retirement has evolved from pensions to 401k plans and other retirement vehicles. Consequently, men now retire in their seventies and eighties rather than in their fifties. Those that still have the opportunity and ability to retire in their fifties and sixties often reenter the work force through second or part-time jobs. Consequently, practically every branch has members who are presently working.

As an organization, we need to attract members who are in their 50s, 60s and 70s to ensure our long-term survival. Accordingly, it is important that we do not use, or appear to use, actual retirement as a condition to membership.

**Impact:** This amendment will have no significant immediate impact on the branches. There is no change to the name of SIR, INCORPORATED, nor is any name change contemplated. At some point in the future, a subsequent Board may direct that each of the branches file a similar amendment to their Articles of Incorporation, but no such action is presently required. If later required, the filing fee is \$15.00.

There is little, if any negative impact on branch marketing efforts as the term “retirement” should already have been removed from current marketing materials. Similarly, there is no financial impact on any of the operations of the branches.

## Motion To Amend SIR, INCORPORATED Bylaw 110

### Proposed Motion:

“It is proposed that SIR, INCORPORATED Bylaw 110 be amended to read:

Bylaw 110. The activities of the Corporation in the formation of Branches, and in the acceptance of members therein, shall be confined to the State of California and include environs of South Lake Tahoe that extend into Nevada.”

The State Board voted unanimously to amend Bylaw and remove the limitations on creating new branches in Southern California at the April 24, 2025, meeting of the Board of Directors. For this proposed change to be made, it must be approved by a majority vote at the Annual Meeting.

**Background:** Bylaw 110 currently includes restrictions on the location of branches in California. It is believed that the geographic restriction was created for travel considerations so that all branches would be able to be represented at the Annual Meeting without undue hardship. It is also likely that potential management difficulties also contributed to the decision.

One of the significant developments resulting from the recent Covid pandemic was the increased use of Zoom to conduct meetings. Indeed, while in-person meetings still occur, the use of Zoom is now accepted and generally used for meetings of SIR INCORPORATED. The availability of Zoom, and other communication systems such as Constant Contact, now enable branch leadership to participate in State programs and activities and to attend meetings electronically.

Accordingly, the understood reasons for imposing geographic restrictions are no longer limiting factors. Branches organized in Southern California can attend State meetings, including the Annual Meeting in person or electronically. Management of Southern California branches can be accomplished through the management tools currently being used. Accordingly, there do not appear to be any meaningful impediments to establishing and having branches in Southern California or any other part of California.

**Interest:** We have many members of SIR that have moved to Southern California. Similarly, we have members living in Southern California with second or vacation homes. This past year two have expressed interest in possibly organizing a branch in their Southern California location. Presently, they cannot because of the existing Bylaw. Nonetheless, one has begun soliciting community interest within one Southern California community in the event the Bylaw is changed.

**Impact:** While there can be no assurance that branches will be established, there are millions of men living in those areas who would benefit significantly if there were branches available for them. Once the first such branch is established, it is likely that others will follow strengthening the organization.

This change does not appear to impact existing branches.