



**State Board Meeting Agenda**  
 Sons In Retirement Inc.  
**Chez Shari Manteca Golf Club**  
**305 N. Union Road**  
**Manteca, California 95336**



Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 9:30 am

**State Board Members**

President: Jerry Strain  
 Vice President: Derek Southern  
 Secretary: Ron Flagel  
 Assistant Secretary: Dick DeVoe  
 Treasurer: Karl Ryden  
 Assistant Treasurer: Jimmie Johnson  
 Chief Admin Officer: Dean Steichen

Director, Region 1: Mark Stuart  
 Director, Region 2: Jerry Morrow  
 Director, Region 3: James Filippo  
 Director, Region 4: Pat Misener  
 Director, Region 5: Ed Benson  
 Directors, at Large:  
 Alan Baxter, Ed Suden, & Vic Mershon

**Invited Participants**

Past Presidents: All  
 State Advisor, Parliamentarian: Dwight Sale  
 Travel: Bob Spellman  
 Insurance: Craig Hoffhines  
 Golf: Bill Wilhelm

Rules: Dick DeVoe  
 Training: Dean Steichen  
 Bowling: Jerry Sabo  
 Bocce: Jack Meylink  
 Nominating: Don Dill

**Invited Area Governors**

No more than 5. Advise Secretary of the Name and Area before the meeting (Only 1 per Region)

**Agenda**

- 9:30 Call to Order (5 min)..... Jerry Strain  
 Verification of Quorum (9 of 17)..... Ron Flagel  
 Blessing & Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag..... Dick DeVoe
  
- 9:35 President's Welcome & Recognition of attendees ..... Jerry Strain  
 Agenda changes if any..... Jerry Strain  
 Approval of April Board Meeting Minutes..... Ron Flagel
  
- 9:45 Opening Remarks (15 min)  
 President..... Jerry Strain  
 Vice President..... Derek Southern  
 Secretary..... Ron Flagel  
 Assistant Secretary..... Dick DeVoe  
 Assistant Treasurer..... Jimmie Johnson
  
- 10:00 Treasurer's remarks and report (25 Min)..... Karl Ryden
  - All board Members should be sent preliminary documents in advance.
  - All Board Members should have read the reports.
  
- 10:25 Standing Committee Reports (40 Min)  
 Nominating..... Don Dill  
 G & M..... Ed Benson  
 Rules & Bylaws..... Dick DeVoe  
 INFOSYS..... Dean Steichen  
 Travel..... Bob Spellman  
 Training..... Dean Steichen

- 10:25 Standing Committee Reports (Continued)
- Bowling..... Jerry Sabo
- Bocce..... Jack Meylink
- Insurance..... Craig Hoffhines
- Golf..... Bill Wilhelm
- 11:05 Regional Directors Reports (5 Min per Region)
- Report the effect of the Re-Organization on their region.
  - Report any Training issues in their region.
- 11:30 Old Business
- Annual Meeting Planning (30 Min)..... Derek Southern
- 12:00 Lunch (40 Min)
- 12:40 Old Business (Continued)
- Rule changes (60 Min)..... Dick DeVoe
- A) Is a proposal to revise Rules involving the election of State Officers. **(Appendix A)**
- B) Is a proposal to amend the Bylaws involving the election of State Officers. **(Appendix A)**
- 1:40 New Business (50 Min)
- Branch Luncheon Requirements (Escalating costs)..... Mark Stuart
- Other New Business..... TBD
- \* Please advise the President & Secretary of any new business before the meeting.**
- 2:45 Adjournment..... Jerry Strain

Next Meeting (Annual Meeting) to be:

**Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Elks Lodge #6  
6446 Riverside Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95831

## APPENDIX A

### **A. Proposal to Revise Rules Involving the Election of State Officers**

*[Referred by State Rules Committee Chairman Dick DeVoe]*

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the 4/5/17 Board Meeting, there was lively discussion involving equity in the election process leading up to and including the Annual Meeting vote for seven State Officers. Subsequently the Rules Committee reviewed the current election policies and process, found what were considered serious equity and other concerns, and recommends eliminating the slate, adding all declared candidate names to the ballot, and revising the duties of the Nominating Committee.

#### **The Slate and the Ballot**

Proponents and opponents have significant differences in their views about the slate process. Proponents to the slate process generally believe that:

- the process has worked well over the years, and there is no reason to make a change.
- a non-slate-selected candidate can run from the floor. He can mount a vigorous campaign with a good chance of winning. A successful campaign happened in 2000 with Dwight Sale running from the floor as Vice President.
- a non-slate candidate must not be on the ballot. The Nominating Committee interviews the candidates, finds out how they feel about the issues, and what plans and goals they plan to implement. The Committee is in a much better position to select the best candidate than the typical voter, so that nominee should be the only one on the ballot. .

Opponents to the slate process generally believe that:

- the process has not worked well over the years as evidenced by membership losses for decades, many branches that have failed, and many others that are in high risk of failure. Leadership at the top typically has not effectively addressed the problems and their resolution.
- non-slate candidates have an enormous and purposeful voting disadvantage because they cannot be on the ballot, even though they qualified to be a candidate and may be at least as well qualified as the slate nominee. To leave them off the ballot implies that the typical voter

cannot make a reasonable decision to select the best candidate because that voter has not interviewed the candidates.

- It takes only one highly influential Nominating Committee member to sway the other members toward his preferred candidate. A candidate who prevails in Board actions that made the incumbent President unhappy with him has little if any chance to be on next year' s slate because that President will be the Nominating Committee Chairman. Nominating Committee members may favor a candidate due to warm personal ties- or conversely- may disfavor a candidate due to personal reasons.
- the slate process itself can preclude a highly qualified prospective candidate from submitting his candidacy, due to his view of the inequities within the slate/ballot process. The effect on a non-slate candidate can be severe; because of a strong opinion that the process is unfair, his future dedication at the State level can diminish significantly.

## **PROPOSAL**

*Fortunately, simple rule revisions/additions involving the State Officer election process will resolve many if not all inequity and other concerns involving the current slate/ballot process, while materially improving voter education information prior to and at the Annual Meeting.*

*Rule Revisions/Additions are in **bold**; eliminated words are in ~~strikethroughs~~)*

### **RULE 766 (President-Elect Appointments)**

*[Rule 766 currently stipulates that the President-elect appoints all State Nominating Committee members. Roberts Rules of Order specifies “ the president should not appoint this committee or be a member of it.” It is now time for Rules 766 and 767 to be in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.*

*In addition, Rule 766 currently stipulates that the the Nominating Committee Chairman be last year' s President. However, that person for whatever reason may not be the best candidate for that position. This proposal allows greater flexibility in this selection.]*

**RULE 766.** Annually by September 30 the President-elect should make all of his appointments to State Committees and other Presidential appointments pertaining to his administration, **except the Nominating Committee. The President-elect shall submit his proposal for**

**appointment of the Nominating Committee Chairman comprised of a Past President to the State Board for approval.**

~~Among these appointments, the President-elect shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of:~~

- ~~a. A chairman who shall be the then current President or, if unable to serve, the most recent Past President available, and~~
- ~~b. One other Past President; and~~
- ~~c. Three other members other than Past Presidents, who shall be past or present Regional Directors or Area Governors. (Revised 6/8/10)(6/6/17)~~

### **RULE 767 (Nominating Committee)**

*[In accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, Rule 767 proposes that the Nominating Committee Chairman rather than the President-Elect appoint his Committee members. This rule also clarifies the duties of this Committee.]*

**RULE 767. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of a Past President as Chairman, appointed in accordance with Rule 766. Other members, appointed by the Chairman, shall be one other Past President and three other members other than Past Presidents, who shall be past or present Regional Directors or Area Governors.**

~~It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to: select from the members of Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches nominees for election to state offices to serve during the calendar year next following the year in which they are elected and until their successors have been elected and installed.~~

- **receive Form 43 “Declaration of Candidacy for State Elected Office” from candidates, and confirm that each candidate is qualified for the office according to the Standing Rules.**
- **receive candidate resumes from the declared candidates, to be submitted to the State Secretary in time for him to prepare the notification to Annual Meeting voters. Resumes shall be no more than 250 words each.**
- **ensure that each of the State Offices (other than the Regional Directors and Area Governors) has at least one candidate for election at the Annual Meeting.**
- **advise the declared candidates that they may speak for up to two minutes at the Annual Meeting regarding their candidacy.**

~~(Revised 11/8/11)(8/1/16)(6/6/17)~~

### **RULE 769 (Nominating Committee)**

*[Currently, a slate of nominees selected by the Nominating Committee is submitted to the President as a fait accompli. Neither the President nor the State Board approves the slate. In fact, there is no requirement for the slate to be even submitted to the State Board for discussion about the slate decisions by the Nominating Committee.*

*Without a slate, these concerns are no longer in play. Rules 770 and 772 are written with the intent that a slate is no longer part of the process for election of State Officers.*

**RULE 769.** The Nominating Committee shall **advise the State Board at its April and June State Board meetings of progress in filling State Officer candidate positions, as well as the names of qualified declared candidates to date.** ~~submit its report to the President not later than June 4.~~ Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. A nominee from the floor must signify his agreement to accept the office if elected.

**RULE 770.** Not less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting, the State Secretary shall notify those entitled to vote the date, time and place of the meeting. The notice shall contain a list showing the names **of declared candidates for each State Officer position that were submitted to the Nominating Committee, and shall contain the resumes submitted by each candidate.** ~~and qualifications of the nominees recommended for State offices designated and the name, Branch No., and qualifying office held of other candidates, if any, for the State offices designated.~~  
(Revised 4/18/00)(6/20/2015 by the State Executive Committee)  
(Confirmed 4/5/2016)(**6/6/17**)

**RULE 772.** In lieu of roll call at the Annual Meeting, each qualified voter, at the time of registration, shall receive a ballot. This ballot shall contain:

- (1) Names of the **declared candidates** ~~nominees~~ for State Offices **submitted to** ~~recommended by the Nominating Committee.~~
- (2) Write-in space for the names of other eligible candidates nominated from the floor and who are willing to serve if elected.

**(Revised 6/6/17)**

## **B. PROPOSAL TO AMEND BYLAWS SECTION 187 (ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION OF STATE OFFICERS)**

*[Referred by 7+ Branches in accordance with Rule 609 to become an agenda item at the 8/8/17 Annual Meeting]*

*[The collective submittal states: “ We disagree with having a slate for State Officer positions. When there is more than one candidate for a position, each qualified designated candidate should be on the ballot with no preferences shown by the Nominating committee or anyone else.” ]*

**BYLAWS SECTION 187. Annual Meeting Election of State Officers:**

- a. Voting for election of State Officers at Annual Meetings shall be by secret ballot, provided, that for any office with one nominee, voting may be by voice or by show of hands. For three or more nominees for an office, the candidate receiving the largest number of votes (a plurality) shall be elected.
- b. **Not less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting, the State Secretary shall send a notice to qualified voters containing a list showing the names of declared candidates for each State Officer position that were submitted to the State Nominating Committee, and shall contain a resume (up to 250 words) submitted by each candidate.**
- c. In lieu of roll call at the Annual Meeting, each qualified voter, at the time of registration, shall receive a ballot. This ballot (including the upcoming Annual Meeting on 8/8/17) shall contain :
  - (1) **Names of declared candidates for State Offices submitted to the State Nominating Committee. No preferences shall be indicated.**
  - (2) **Write-in space for the names of other eligible candidates nominated from the flooring who are willing to serve if elected.**

**C. PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE RULE 17**

*[Referred by State Rules Committee Chairman Dick DeVoe]*

*[Rule 17 should be eliminated as noted below:*

- *Rule 17, 1st sentence, involving 2/3 affirmative vote, duplicates Bylaws Section 59.*
- *Rule 17a involving a proposal to amend the Bylaws is obsolete, covered in Bylaws Section 56 and 57.*
- *Rule 17b is obsolete, superseded in Rule 609.]*

~~RULE 17. The Branch or Corporate Bylaws may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, subject to the following:~~

- ~~a. A proposal to amend the Branch or Corporate Bylaws in any given year should be submitted to the President through the chain of corporate communications by April 1 to permit its review by the appropriate committees and the State Board.~~
- ~~b. If the President finds the proposed amendment to be in the best interest of the Corporation, he shall cause a copy of the proposed amendment and~~

~~notice of voting thereon at the Annual Meeting to be placed on the Annual Meeting Agenda and circulated to each voting member of the Corporation, not less than 30 days before the Annual Meeting.~~  
(New 11/13/07)

**References noted above are shown below:**

RULE 609. Any proposal involving the Standing Rules or Bylaws shall be submitted to the Rules Committee by the State Board, a State Officer, a State Committee Chairman, any member of the State Rules Committee, or a Branch Executive Committee. The Rules Committee shall then submit the proposal through the President to the State Board with its recommendations. Such submittal shall be in the form of an addendum to the agenda of the next Board meeting. Any State Board-approved proposal for new or amended bylaws shall be submitted as an agenda item of the next Annual Meeting.

An exception is made for a bylaw addition/amendment proposal that is submitted collectively by seven or more branch BEC' s at least 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The proposal shall pass through the State Board with its recommendations (and the President' s if different), to become an agenda item for the Annual Meeting.

(Revised 11/11/08) (1/13/15) (1/31/17)

Section 56. A proposal to amend the Branch Bylaws in any given year shall be submitted to the President through the chain of corporate communications in such reasonable time, prior to the Annual Meeting, as set forth by the President to permit its review and consideration by the appropriate committees and the State Board of Directors.

Section 57. If the State Board by majority vote finds the proposed amendment to be in the best interest of the Corporation, the State Secretary shall cause such amendment to be circulated to each voting member and chartered Branch, not less than 30 days before the Annual Meeting, a copy of the proposed amendment and notice of voting thereon at the Annual Meeting. In the event that the State Board rejects the proposed amendment and the President disagrees, the State Secretary shall cause such amendment to be circulated as above, but with the President' s comments and the State Board' s comments preceding.(Revised 8/7/00),(8/1/16)

Section 59. These Bylaws may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. (Revised 8/1/16)