



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



Wednesday, November 8, 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  
 \* Indicates those not attending.

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

**Invited Area Governors**

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

**Agenda**

- 9:30 Call to Order ..... Jerry Strain
- Verification of Quorum (8 of 15)..... Ron Flagel
- Blessing & Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag..... TBD
  
- 9:35 President’s Welcome & Recognition of attendees..... Jerry Strain
- Agenda changes if any..... Jerry Strain
- Approval of the June Board Meeting Minutes..... Ron Flagel
- Approval of the Annual Meeting Minutes..... Ron Flagel
  
- 9:45 Opening Remarks
- President..... Jerry Strain
- Vice President..... Derek Southern
- Chief Admin Officer..... Dean Steichen
- Secretary..... Ron Flagel
  
- 10:00 Treasurer’s remarks and report ..... Karl Ryden
  - All board Members should be sent preliminary documents in advance.
  - All Board Members should have read the reports.

(Continued)

- 10:20 Year-end Certificates of Appreciation..... Jerry Strain & Ron Flagel
- 10:30 Short Break
- 10:40 Swearing in of 2018 Officers..... Jerry Strain
- 10:50 2018 Annual Meeting Plan..... Ed Benson \*
- 11:00 Regional Directors Reports (40 Min)  
(Report the effect of the Re-Organization on their region and any training issues)
- **Please keep to the subject & time allowed (5-10 minutes Max).**
- 11:40 Annual Training progress report ..... Dean Steichen
- 12:00 **Lunch** (40 Min)
- 12:40 Rules Changes (**Appendix A & B**).....Vic Mershon  
**A**) Proposal to revise Rules involving the election of State Officers (from June Mtg.)  
**B**) Proposal to eliminate display of campaign material at the Annual Meeting.
- 1:10 Standing Committee Reports  
INFOSYS..... Dean Steichen  
Insurance..... Craig Hoffhines  
Travel..... Bob Spellman
- 1:40 Old Business  
Branch Luncheon requirements and costs (From June Mtg.)..... Mark Stuart
- 2:30 New Business
- **Please advise the President of any New Business before the meeting.**
- 2:45 Adjournment..... Jerry Strain

Next Meeting State Meeting to be:

**Friday - January 19, 2018**

**Chez Shari Manteca Golf Club  
305 N. Union Road  
Manteca, California 95336**

## Appendix A

### A. PROPOSAL TO REVISE RULES 766, 767, 769, 770, and 772 INVOLVING THE ELECTION OF STATE OFFICERS

(Rule Revisions/Additions are in bold; eliminated words are in ~~strike-throughs~~)  
[Referred by State Rules Committee Chairman Dick DeVoe]

#### 1. BACKGROUND

*At the 4/5/17 State 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 and found what it considered serious equity and other concerns. Recommendations were formulated by the Rules Committee, which included to eliminate the slate, to add all declared candidate names to the ballot, and to revise the duties of the Nominating Committee.*

*At the 6/6/17 State Board Meeting, those recommendations were planned to be voted on, but the State Board deferred action until the 11/8/17 Board Meeting.*

*At the 8/8/17 Annual Meeting, a bylaw amendment submitted by several branches was proposed as follows:*

- *“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.*
- *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 floor who are willing to serve if elected.”*

*Although a majority (53%) of the voters approved the bylaw amendment, a 2/3 majority was required and it did not pass.*

#### 2. PROPOSAL- RULES 766, 767, 769, 770, and 772

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

*[Rule 766 currently stipulates that the President-elect appoints all State Nominating Committee members. Contrarily, Roberts Rules of Order specifies that the president not appoint this committee nor be a member of it.*

## Appendix A (Continued)

**Rules Committee Recommendation-** *It is time for Rules 766 to be in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, thus removing the opportunity for strong influence that a President-Elect can exert on the Nominating Committee process through appointment of the Committee Chairman. Instead, the President-Elect would submit his candidate as Nominating Committee Chairman to the State Board for approval- a simple but significant change. Also, instead of the President-Elect appointing all other Nominating Committee members, the Committee Chairman would do so- as is done with other Standing Committees.*

*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.*

*It also transfers composition of the Nominating Committee members to Rule 767.*

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)(11/8/17)~~

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

*[This rule revision:*

- reflects the Rule 766 change regarding appointment of the Nominating Committee Chairman.*
- transfers composition of the Nominating Committee members from Rule 766.*
- eliminates selection of a slate, which in the past has influenced declared qualified candidates to forgo nomination from the floor due to the advantage a slate candidate is perceived to hold. In the 17 years prior to 2017, there has been no nomination from the floor even though many qualified candidates had declared themselves to the Nominating Committee prior to slate selection. Also, of the three candidates who were nominated from the floor in 18 years (1 in 1999 and 2 in 2017), only one of the slate candidates won- a 33% win/loss record for Nominating Committees.*

## Appendix A (Continued)

- *eliminates- by not having a slate- the possibility of actual or perceived bias by the five Nominating Committee members.*
- *abolishes the policy and practice that a five-member Nominating Committee selects a slate and submits it to the President as a fait accomplis- without requirement for meeting with the State Board to mention other candidates or to justify the selections.*
- *allows- by not having a slate- each qualified declared candidate to campaign on a fair and equitable basis.*
- *clarifies the duties of this Committee.*

**Rules Committee Recommendation-** *Approve this rule revision.*

**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 qualified 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)(11/8/17)~~

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

*[The Nominating Committee duty is changed, advising the State Board of progress in finding qualified candidates rather than to submit a slate to the President].*

**Rules Committee Recommendation-** *Approve this rule revision.*

**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 1. 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.

**(Revised 11/8/17)**

## **Appendix A (Continued)**

### **RULE 770 (Notice to Annual Meeting Voters)**

*[This proposed change charges the State Secretary to submit a list of ALL qualified declared candidates- including their resumes- to Annual Meeting voters, rather than providing differing information for slate vs. non-slate candidates and having no resumes.]*

**Rules Committee Recommendation-** *Approve this rule revision.*

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 qualified 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)(11/8/17)

### **RULE 772 (Annual Meeting Ballot)**

*[This proposed change requires ALL qualified declared candidates to be on the Annual Meeting ballot.]*

**Rules Committee Recommendation-** *Approve this rule revision.*

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 **qualified 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 11/8/17)**

## Appendix B

### B. PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE DISPLAY OF CAMPAIGN MATERIAL AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

*[Referred by President Jerry Strain]*

#### 1. BACKGROUND

*At the Annual Meeting on 8/8/17, the non-slate candidate for President (Bobbie Hairston) and the non-slate candidate for Vice President (Ed Benson) furnished campaign-related items at each seat of the Annual Meeting. Bobbie Hairston provided a business card and a small compass. Ed Benson provided a ballpoint pen with the inscription "Vote 4 Ed 4 VP", along with an explanatory card: "Your write-in vote is critical. This pen is for writing in Ed Benson on the VP ballot". Both Bobbie and Ed advise that they believe these materials were helpful in gaining votes as part of their campaign.*

*After that meeting, President Jerry Strain received an e-mail from a member that states: "I was greatly disturbed by the blatant campaigning done by the two SIR members on the day of the State meeting. What is next, I fear, in the future of state meeting when the ballot has numerous candidates for a State Board position.*

*Are we going to be flooded with balloons, flags, etc... at our state meeting?*

*I feel there is a need to put this overt display of politics to rest right now, in order to prevent any future displays."*

#### 2. PROPOSAL- NEW RULE 769.1

*[This proposed rule addition is to have no campaign materials at the Annual Meeting, with the above e-mail as justification]*

**Rules Committee Recommendation-** *Disapprove this rule addition:*

- The proposal seems to be attempting to solve a problem that doesn't exist.*
- The campaign materials creatively supported a principal viewpoint of each candidate: Ed's pen reflected his comments that only a slate nominee's name on the ballot places a non-slate candidate at a significant disadvantage. Bobbie's compass reflected his comments that SIR needs to change its direction.*
- A non-slate candidate has been placed at a serious disadvantage vs. a slate candidate by the State Board over the years. For the State Board to further limit a non-slate candidate's election possibility is inappropriate.*
- If those campaign materials were considered inappropriate by voters at the time, negative feedback surely would have been prevalent at the meeting and afterward- which did not happen.*

**Rule 769.1(New) There shall be no display of campaign materials of any kind in or around the premises of the Annual Meeting place.**

