



2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2025

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

IN ATTENDANCE: 7

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:

Director – Marketing & Communications:
Andy Danver

Director – State Documents: Bruce Corwin

Chief Information Officer: Ramesh Thadani

President’s Advisor: Derek Southern

Parliamentarian: Roy Hodgkinson

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Rich Carlston. Secretary Jeff Chin verified the existence of a Quorum for the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by the Invocation and a general welcome by President Rich Carlston.

2. President Carlston made a presentation concerning the State of SIR using a Power Point (“PPT”) slide presentation. The PPT slide presentation, State of SIR, is posted on the State website in the Membership Section under the heading 2025 Annual Meeting.

Note: All future references in these minutes to materials posted on the State SIR website refer to the 2025 Annual Meeting location in the Members Section.

3. Dave Gonzales, Chair of the State Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers for election and called for any nominations from the members. Receiving no nominations, Dave then proceeded with the vote on the election of State Officers for 2026. The vote to elect the following officers was unanimous with no abstentions or negative votes:

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

President Carlston advised that because Wes Howard had recently agreed to become the third Area State Representative, he was not able to be included for the vote. Nonetheless, President Carlston noted that Wes will be appointed by the Board to fill that open position.

4. Amendment of Articles of Incorporation:

President Carlston conducted the discussion and vote on amending the Articles of Incorporation of State SIR (SIR, Incorporated) to delete the term “retired” from the Second Article, paragraph B. He advised that the Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt the proposed amendment.

Thereafter, it was moved, and seconded, 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 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 men who also face the particular problems that confront senior me . The assets of the corporation are irrevocably dedicated to the foregoing purpose.”

The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions or negative votes.

5. Amendment of Bylaws:

President Carlston conducted the discussion and vote on amending the Bylaws of State SIR to remove the geographic limitations set forth therein to permit branches to be created throughout the State of California. He explained that there has been interest expressed for two potential branches in Southern California. He advised that the Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt the amendment.

Thereafter, it was moved, and seconded, that Bylaw 110 of the State SIR Bylaws 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 motion passed unanimously with no abstentions or negative votes.

6. Major Accomplishments during 2025:

The Directors on the Board of Directors each made presentations concerning the accomplishments in their area of responsibility in 2025.

The materials and information presented by Andy Danver, the Director of Marketing and Communication, are posted on the State SIR website.

The materials and information presented by Ramesh Thadani, the Chief Information Officer (CIO), are posted on the State SIR website. In addition, he reiterated the new

sign-in requirements of the members section to the State SIR website to ensure all attendees were aware of the new id and password.

The materials and information presented by Bruce Cowin, the Director of State Documents, are posted on the State SIR website.

While Michael Lee, the Director of Activities, was unable to attend, his report was presented by President Rich Carlston.

John Farcich, Director of Branch Support, discussed training programs that will be presented. His materials are posted on the State SIR website.

In addition to the Directors, both Fred Serena, Vice President, and Rich Carlston, President, discussed new policies adopted this year. Fred Serena discussed Policy 13 appendix. (Record Retention) and Policy B-14 (First Aid) appendix. Rich discussed Policy 12.

7. Financial Report:

Our Treasurer, Carl Mason, then presented his 2025 financial report, which has been posted on the State SIR website.

8. During the Afternoon, there were two separate breakout sessions. One involved a panel of three former Presidents of SIR and Rich Carlston moderated by our Secretary Jeff Chin. The other session was conducted by Fred Serena for ARs and members who might be interested in becoming an AR.

The President's Panel consisted of Derek Southern, Rick Kindle, Dave Gonzales and Rich Carlston. Each Former President, and current President, addressed a different topic.

- Derek Southern addressed benefits of SIR and how to attract and retain baby boomers. Derek's materials are posted on the SIR website.
- Rick Kindle addressed the importance of the Big Sir and Little Sir getting training so that they are prepared to assume their leadership role.
- Dave Gonzales addressed the need for personal contact to get members to step up and assume key leadership roles.

- Rich Carlston provided information for Little Sirs on how to find speakers and arrange programs for lunch. Rich's materials are posted on the SIR website.

The AR session facilitated introductions among the ARs with information about job responsibilities by Fred and a presentation by Andy related to responsibilities of an AR.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

