



Minutes of the SIR Annual Meeting
Sons In Retirement
Vallejo Elks Lodge
August 6, 2007

August 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Ross at 10:00 A.M. Present were all members of the SIR State Board with Al Dumont, Area 31 Governor representing Region II. Also present were Past Presidents Mel Augustine and Dwight Sale. Committee chairmen present were John Thomason, Insurance; Bob Lippincott, Supplies & Hardware; Warren Senegal, Rules; Bob Perry, Travel; Dwight Sale, Information Systems with members Don MacGregor, John Skarpelos, Gary Gruber; and Eldon Parr, State Advisor. Ken Edwards, new chairman of the Growth and Membership Committee, was in attendance with G.M. members, Tom Smith, Carl Raaka & Jim Petruk. Area Governors and SIR branch representatives, usually big sirs, were also in attendance.

Chaplain Short gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Ross introduced the State officers and the Regional Directors. He gave background information on the committee chairmen in attendance. President Ross gave a hardy welcome to the branch representatives and the Area Governors. He explained the purpose of the Annual Meeting which is to elect State Officers for the up-coming year and to amend the corporate bylaws. He explained that the State corporation has 159 active branches, 32 Area Governors, 10 Regional Directors and 6 elected SIR State Officers who must annually conduct business for State SIR. President Ross also stated that we would have a treat this year from Branch 88 here in Vallejo. A full orchestra would be playing for our enjoyment during our late morning break and during the lunch hour. He thanked Don Waterbury, Branch 88, Big Sir for this.

At this time, President Ross presented SIR's highest honor to three dedicated SIR State leaders for their continued service. Eldon Parr, SIR State Advisor; Don MacGregor, Happenings Editor; and John Skarpelos, Happenings Assistant Editor were given SIR State Honorary Life Member awards. All three were given warm rounds of applause and congratulations by the meeting attendees.

The bylaw proposal to change the Growth & Management Committee to the Growth and Membership Committee was unanimously passed by a voice vote of the membership. The formation of a State Insurance Committee was also unanimously passed by a voice vote. Under Section 225 of the Corporation Bylaws there are now 12 Standing Committees with the inclusion of the State Insurance Committee.

The election of SIR State Officers was held. There being no further nominations for any of the six offices, a motion was proposed and seconded for a vote for the Nominating Committee's selection for 2008. A voice vote unanimously elected the following SIR State Officers for 2008:

President -----Arthur Pufford
Vice President-----David Reiser
Secretary -----William Short
Treasurer -----Bob Mannell
Asst. Secretary -----Hal Stephens
Asst. Treasurer-----Michael Berry

The newly elected officers for 2008 were introduced and gave brief acceptance speeches.

ARTHUR PUFFORD, President, emphasized that "Working Together for Success" will be the 2008 theme for SIR. He stated that we all need to contribute & cooperate. The opportunity is there and the Growth and Membership Committee will take the lead.

DAVID REISER, Vice President, gave the message that big sirs need to consider taking on the next level of responsibility as Area Governor. He emphasized that there is a great deal of satisfaction and enjoyment in being a part of the State SIR team. He encouraged involvement past the branch level.

WILLIAM SHORT, Secretary, echoed the idea that we need to follow the theme, "Working Together for Success." He stressed that communication among branches and among SIR State officers is essential. Branch bulletins, SIR Happenings and recruiting brochures are great tools to convey the SIR ideas.

BOB MANNELL, Treasurer, emphasized the fact that branches need to look to their newly inducted, younger members for leaders. Don't overlook these members. He also thanked Howard Berkman for his efforts this year as Assistant Treasurer and welcomed back Michael Berry for the 2008 year as Assistant Treasurer. Bob thanked the branch representatives for their financial support in keeping State SIR in the black in 2007.

HAL STEPHENS, Asst. Secretary, explained that his main focus was the filing the State of California form S/O 100, the Branch non profit corporation form. (Hal pays for the yearly filing from SIR State funds). Hal stated that he assists the President and follows when the Secretary tells him where to go!

MICHAEL BERRY, Asst. Treasurer, thanked the attendees for their support and encouraged branches to submit their form 28s regularly following the 2008 monthly schedule.

President Ross reminded the branch representatives that the Branch pro rata funds that are sent each quarter by each and every Branch pays for a number of State services. The four dollars per member, per year goes a long way in financing SIR.

President Ross called upon Jim Petruk a member of the Growth and Membership Committee to speak. Jim stated that we need to tag the baby boomers and encourage them to join SIR. Activities will bring in new members. He emphasized that SIR members do not need to be fully retired to become members. "The survival of Sons in Retirement depends on us attracting Boomers to join our organization." We must change our image from old guys to upbeat moderns. Media promotions and direct mailings to predetermined Boomer communities is needed. Jim's ideas were well received.

Bob Crum, a member of the Growth and Membership Committee spoke. He chronicled the formation of Branch 13, founded in 2003, in Lincoln Hills, Placer County. The branch growth has been fantastic over the past 3 years. Other areas in California are ripe for SIR..

Ken Edwards, the new chairman of The Growth & Membership Committee encouraged SIR members to use the SIR website "sirinc.org" for information. His parting words were, " Let's get this SIR organization moving!!"

Carl Raaka of the Growth & Membership Committee explained the public relations program phase of membership acquisition. He encouraged each big sir to download the P.R. program from the SIR website. He stated that there are three public relations points to remember... implementation, implementation, implementation.

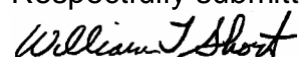
Information Systems Chairman, Dwight Sale informed the assembled group about INFOSYS. He stated that we need to get the word out to our communities about SIR. For members, the website needs to be utilized. SIR activities are available on the website. The SIR Roster can be accessed with a password available for your branch Email Contact The website contains all the forms needed for SIR business. He stated that each Branch has an e-mail contact and every Area Governor, State Officer & Regional Director has an e-mail address. Dwight stated that The SIR State Roster is produced each year by Gary Gruber who also updates the SIR Manual. The lower left hand corner of each Manual page has the latest revision date. When sending in forms, always check the bottom of each form for instructions.....

Dwight emphasized that the latest form should be used. The forms are found on the SIR website. Use the latest form!!! Also found on the website "SIR Happenings", training materials, President's letters, meeting dates, meeting agendas,& meeting minutes. Remember..."sirinc.org"

Dwight explained that we publish "SIR Happenings" at little expense to State SIR as it is downloaded from the SIR Website. Don MacGregor would like branch stories and encourages them. Send stories as Word Documents to him.

There being no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned by President Ross at 2:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



William T. Short, SIR State Secretary