



Minutes of the SIR Annual Meeting  
Sons In Retirement, Inc.  
Vallejo Elks Lodge

August 4, 2008

The meeting was brought to order by President Art Pufford at 10:00 A.M. Present were all members of the SIR State Board. Also present were Past Presidents Mel Augustine, Jim Donovan and Dwight Sale. Committee chairmen present were John Thomason, Insurance; Bob Lippincott, Rooster Hardware; Warren Senegal, Rules; Bob Perry, Travel; Jim Petruk, representing Growth & Membership; Dwight Sale, Information Systems with members Don MacGregor and Gary Gruber; and Eldon Parr, State Advisor. Area Governors and SIR branch representatives, usually Big Sirs, were also in attendance. A quorum was present.

President Pufford graciously thanked all of the officers and volunteers that helped organize and make this annual meeting a success. Without the team led by Region 4 Director Bill Lewis, we would not have a meeting. President Pufford stated that SIR currently has 156 branches with over 21,000 active members. As always, recruitment of members is needed.

President Pufford administered the oath of office to Sir George Christman as the new Region 3 Director. Sir Rock Sorgman had to resign for health reasons.

President Pufford presented a SIR State Honorary Life Membership to past Region 3 Director and State Rules Committee Chairman, Warren Senegal. Warren's service to his Branch 69 and to numerous State SIR offices and committees was praised by President Pufford.

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

The Minutes of the June 10, 2008 SIR State Board meeting were approved as published.

President Pufford emphasized that the Honorary Life Membership program is a very positive part of SIR and for the morale of the branch. He stressed that when branches submit applications for HLMs they need to be sure that they outline in detail the reasons for the awarding as well as the Form 45. Only the President or his designated representative is authorized to present these awards.

President Pufford introduced the members of the State Board. The following members were called upon to speak:

Vice President David Reiser welcomed the meeting attendees. He talked especially to branch Big Sirs. Branch leaders need to encourage branch activities and work as hard as possible to retain members and recruit members. Remember that there is no substitute for a well-run meeting, so do your planning.

He recalled that this is the 50<sup>th</sup> year of SIR and that our organization is a success. Vice President Reiser thanked the attending branch representatives for taking leadership roles and being a part of a most successful and unique men's organization.

At this time President Pufford introduced the members of the SIR State Board. President Pufford also introduced the Past Presidents who were attending. Invited guests and committee chairmen, attending, were introduced.

Secretary William Short was introduced by President Pufford. He stated that this is a very important month for branches. Branch Big Sirs need to refer to their SIR Schedule of Branch Operations - 2008. It is time for branch elections and for reporting the results to the SIR Roster chairman. Secretary Short also emphasized that communications within the branch and between the branches and the State SIR are important to the smooth operations of the branch.

President Pufford stated that any changes to branch rosters or HLMs should be reported to the Chairman of the State Roster Subcommittee, Sir Gary Gruber, preferably by e-mail.

Treasurer Robert Mannell was then introduced by President Pufford. He stated that the July financial report is on the SIR website. Treasurer Mannell said that by the end of the calendar year the SIR treasury will have a slight surplus of funds. The increase to \$.50 per mile for travel reimbursement, effective July 1, 2008, has so far not been a strain on the treasury. Treasurer Mannell praised Assistant Treasurer Michael Berry for his efforts in working with branch Treasurers. Errors in working with the financial Form 28 are decreasing. Mike has done an outstanding job compiling branch data and collecting the Form 28's from the branch Treasurers.

The SIR State Nominating committee's slate of officers for 2009 was introduced to the meeting assemblage by Secretary Short. There were no nominations from the floor. President Pufford then called for a vote on the nominated slate of officers and received a unanimous yes voice vote. The following SIR State Officers were elected for 2009:

President ----- David Reiser  
Vice President ----- Buck Kendrick  
Secretary ----- Gary Gruber  
Treasurer ----- Bob Mannell  
Asst. Secretary ----- Hal Stephens  
Asst. Treasurer ----- Michael Berry

The newly elected officers for 2009 gave brief acceptance speeches.

DAVID REISER, President elect, thanked the State Nominating Committee for their support and thanked those who voted for the committee's recommendations. He stated that he was honored to be the 2009 President elect. He stated that he could not ask for a better slate of officers with which to serve. They are all professionals and he is looking forward to an outstanding year for SIR. He praised the State committees for their dedicated work and they deserve our compliments and gratitude.

BUCK KENDRICK, Vice President elect, also thanked the Nominating Committee and all those people who have served in State SIR jobs. He stated that he accepts his job with some trepidation, because he knows it will be a demanding one. He said that he has been watching Vice President Dave Reiser performing his numerous roles. He now hopes in 2009 to give President Reiser his dedicated

support as he leads our organization. As SIR Vice President, Buck intends to use his communication skills, listen and act on branch concerns and to help plan for the future of Sons In Retirement.

GARY GRUBER, Secretary elect, thanked the "Academy...". He stated that his name has been mentioned doing numerous jobs that he will continue doing. He is going to continue producing The SIR Manual, the State Roster and SIR forms. He said that he really does also spend quite a bit of time on the Website. He is looking forward to being SIR State Secretary. He thanked the Nominating Committee for this honor and will give it his best shot!

BOB MANNELL, Treasurer elect, reflected that he has enjoyed working with the SIR State Board for the past three years as SIR State Treasurer and is looking forward to doing so in 2009. He thanked the meeting attendees for their support.

MICHAEL BERRY, Assistant Treasurer elect, encouraged branches to send Form 28 information via e-mail to save his mail carrier and his poor mailbox from undue stress. He thanked the corporation voters for their support.

HAL STEPHENS, Assistant Secretary elect, thanked the attendees for their support. He explained that his main job was the filing of the State of California Form S/I 100, the Branch non profit corporation form. Hal stated that he assists the State Secretary with State Board operations and assists with the Board Minutes preparation..

President Pufford called upon each Regional Director to introduce their Area Governors in attendance.

President Pufford introduced Vice President elect, Buck Kendrick. Buck explained the need for branch member accountability especially for SIR members living alone. He suggested that each branch provide an emergency contact person for each member. This could be part of the membership information stored in the branch database.. There could be space provided on our SIR membership application form for a "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) name. He also suggested that on our membership applications we could include member cell phone numbers.

President Pufford introduced Information Systems Chairman Dwight Sale who explained about the importance of a quality branch speaker program. He posed the question, "Where do you find good speakers?" This led to the introduction of Bob Edwards, Program Chairman of San Jose Branch 32. (An information sheet entitled BRANCH SPEAKER'S PROGRAM, by Robert Edwards, was passed out to all attendees.)

Bob's three key ideas, as he outlined them in his introductory words were: Program Chairmen improve with longevity; Advance notice of the next three speakers helps member recruitment; and Get-togethers with other Area and Region Program Chairmen are beneficial. He explained that the Program Chairman of any branch need not be the Little Sir. He stated that advertising future speakers in the branch newsletter was an outstanding way to promote luncheon attendance and membership recruiting. The Program Chairman needs to be given the tools to do a quality job and he needs access to speakers by contacts with other branch program chairmen.

Jim Stedman, Area 2 Governor, explained and graphed the SIR Aging Project. He stated that 95% of our SIR branches have had a loss in membership since their peak year. Every branch that shows a higher average age of its members declined in total active members. Region 6 Big Sirs were surveyed in the Aging Project and it was found that as the average age per branch member increases, the active

member totals decrease. New members that are younger is the answer to maintaining branch membership.

Jim Petruk, Region 9 Director, spoke to the fact that Baby Boomers should be the “target audience” for promoting Sons In Retirement. He distributed packets to the meeting attendees with sample introduction cards and a four page information sheet entitled, “The Baby Boomer, a Younger SIR Member” and other hints on adding new members to the branch. Advertising activities that appeal to younger retirees and lively co-ed social functions would help liven up branches. Jim listed many suggestions in his younger SIR member handouts. He emphasized that a strong, organized, hands-on effort led by the SIR State will be the key to recruitment. His ideas were well received and a positive direction has been charted.

Bob Perry, Travel Chairman, announced that the Reno 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trip will happen. Refer to the travel e-mail.

Eckart Sellinger, Chairman for Area Governor Training, stated that the October 21, 2008 training session will provide the information and materials needed by Area Governors to conduct branch-level training sessions. The Governor Training session will start at 9:00 A.M. at the Vallejo Elks Lodge. This is a mandatory commitment for Area Governors. The Area Governors will conduct sessions following their training for branch officers. There is no substitute for a well run branch and with the packet of materials obtained at the training session, each branch will be ready for 2009.

There being no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned by President Pufford at 1:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



William T. Short, SIR State Secretary.  
August 12, 2008