



Minutes (3 Pages)

Annual Meeting of Sons In Retirement Corporation

Veteran's Building, 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo, CA

Monday, August 1, 2011 at 10:00 AM



Present at the Annual Meeting:

Members of the Corporation:

State Elected Officers, Past Presidents (Kendrick, Reiser, Sale), Regional Directors (all but Region 1), Area Governors (all but Area's 10, 14, 16, 21, 25, 26, 32), and Big Sirs of the Chartered Branches (all but Branches 4, 16, 21, 23, 27, 41,44, 50, 54,58,65, 67, 104, 107, 110, 121, 127, 129, 136, 139, 140, 142, 148, 152, 154, 155, 157,163, 164, 168, 172, 178, 179)

Invited Participants & Representatives of State Committees:

Dwight Sale – State Advisor & Information Sys.; Bill Short – Chaplin; Bill Lewis - Meeting Arrangements; Walter Schick and Ed Benson – Publicity & Tools; Gene Drennan – Golf; Carl Elvik – Bowling; Don Cummings and Jack Streckfus– RV ; Larry Garvin – Travel; Buck Kendrick – Nominating; Don MacGregor and John Skarpelos – SIR Happenings; Michael Berry – Nominee, 2012 State Treasurer; James Long – Nominee, 2012 Assistant State Treasurer

Call to Order

President Robert Mannell call the meeting to order @ 10:08AM

Chaplain Bill Short led the Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Eckart Sellinger verified a Quorum was present

President Robert Mannell noted few agenda changes

President Robert Mannell welcomed everyone to the 52nd Annual meeting. He introduced the current and newly nominated officers, special invited guests, and committee representatives. He introduced each of the Regional Directors who in turn introduced their Area Governors who introduced their branch representatives.

Remarks from State Officers:

Vice President Jim Stedman briefly commented on his role as back up to the President and as the Ex-Officio Committee Member where he indicated all of the committees are healthy and being guided by a group of dedicated SIR's.

Secretary Eckart Sellinger reminded everyone the Form 44's (Notification of Election) are due from each of the Regional Directors and Area Governors.

Assistant Secretary Charles Moss reported all State items have been reported and are up to date.

Treasurer Gus Lopez referred to a financial handout provided to everyone and noted branch assessments are due to him by today – he said about 30 branches are still outstanding.

Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden commented on Form 28's noting branches should make sure they balance and that the Big SIR should always get a copy of his branch financial Form 28.

Election of Officers:

Nominating Committee Chairman Buck Kendrick thanked the members of his committee and the candidates then introduced the nominees for 2012 State Offices: President – James Stedman, Vice-President – Richard Dettmer, Secretary – Eckart Sellinger, Assistant Secretary – Charles Moss, Treasurer – Michael Berry, and Assistant Treasurer – James Long.

President Robert Mannell called for nominations from the floor and there were none. He then asked for a vote by the attending members by acclamation and the nominations carried as presented. Bob congratulated everyone and indicated it was time for acceptance speeches.

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Acceptance Speeches:

President elect Jim Stedman thanked everyone and said he intends to build on the successes of SIR next year.

Vice President elect Richard Dettmer said he was honored by his election to office and would lead by example. He indicated these are difficult times and we together will make SIR stronger. He believes in a bottom up approach and to work hard but also to have fun.

Secretary elect Eckart Sellinger thanked everyone for their support and looks forward to a very positive year for SIR.

Treasurer elect Michael Berry said it's great to be back and has already made room at home for the transfer of the Treasurer Files and materials.

Assistant Treasurer elect James Long is looking forward to a smooth transition in December and that process has already begun.

Old Business:

Banners & Signage – Treasurer Gus Lopez discussed the progress in developing new displays for use by SIR. Examples of all the items were on display for everyone to see at this meeting. The original intent was to use these at the State Fair but the cost to enter a booth at the State fair were more than expected or authorized. However, the materials Gus developed will be useful at many other events participated in by Regions, Areas, and Branches. The package of displays updates the SIR image and brand. Items available would be: Banners – hanging 2X6 & 2X10, table and vertical retractable ones; other items would be a table cover with or without imprinted logo, prize wheels (24” or 36”) with suggested prizes as travel mugs or tote bags.

It's expected these items will be available to order on the SIR website but the committee is still developing the forms and processes for this. The items can be ordered eventually as a full set or individually. Gus suggested we might consider ordering some initial sets as the vendor will give us a better deal during the month of August. Everyone thanked Gus for a great job in putting this together for SIR. President Mannell asked the officers to get together after the close of the meeting to continue discussions on what the next steps should be.

Catered Luncheon

Committee Reports:

Information Systems - Chairman Dwight Sale started his report by recognizing the passing of Gary Gruber who was an exceptional SIR and truly an exceptional man. Gary started his branch activities in 1993 and later was elected as 2nd Assistant State Secretary with duties including producing the State Roster along with additional assignments as time passed. Gary was instrumental in moving SIR from a paper based administration to an electronic based administration. Gary held several key State positions before his resignation in 2010 because of health reasons. We have lost a great friend and SIR – a man for all seasons.

Dwight commented on many of the Infosys accomplishments and challenges including Data base, E-mail, Web sites both state and branch, state roster, forms, manual, Sir Happenings, and certificates (certificate recipients are now listed on the Website). Infosys is still looking for more new people to work on these and other important tasks. He also announced he is stepping down as Chairman of Infosys, a role he has had since 1996, and turning the position over to Dean Steichen. Dwight will still be active in Infosys.

Publicity and Tools – Chairman Walter Schick discussed the many items for branch use found on the Branch and Area Tools section of the Membership and Recruiting area of the SIR Website. He discussed using Form 21 to order SIR stickers and brochures to share with members and that they will also be able to order hats, jackets, and shirts soon. He said new members of the Growth and Membership Committee are Gus Lopez, Ed Benson, and Joe Futch. He discussed the handout “Publicity & Tools Report for August” which focuses on activities for couples and the “Legacy of One ... or More”. He will send any branch a list of the 10 easiest couple's activities to start if they contact him. He suggested using full sized signboards to make activity posters for display at luncheons and special functions.

Membership and Training - Chairman Jim Stedman said the required State training for 2012 Big SIR's, Area Governors, and Regional Directors will take place here on October 18th. Jim then discussed membership results of the 145 active branches for the first half of this year. He said there was 100% response to the submission of Form 27 by the branches. He provided a handout to all attendees showing the top 20 branches with the appropriate statistics, big sir contact information, and branch size for the following categories: Members In – 91 branches exceeded the goal and Jim pointed out that retirees are joiners given a quality branch to join;

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Luncheon Attendance - the goal was exceeded by 45 branches and this will improve as branches eliminate non-active members; Guests – top 20 ranged from 31% down to 15%; Members Out - ranged from 0% to 3%; Members In – ranged from 27% down to 11%; Branch Growth - ranged from 16% down to 6%; Jim also had a list of the top 20 in branch size which ranged from 392 down to 187 members and he reflected on the question is there a branch size too large and noted many branches are now growing too big for their current meeting facilities. Jim noted that in all categories of the Top 20 statistics there were branches of all sizes, little to big.

Travel - Chairman Larry Garvin indicated his committee is working on revising and simplifying the Travel Book, rules and guidelines. He said the 55th SIR celebration activity in 2013 will be a cruise and they are now down to three finalists in the vendor selection process.

RV – Co-Chairman Don Cummings said they had their first committee meeting earlier this year and are looking for additional members to add to the committee. He asked the Big SIR's to canvas their branches to see if anyone would be willing to help and have them contact Don. He also asked for branches that have Branch RV Clubs to contact him.

New Business:

New State Web Site Page - Dean Steichen who manages the State Website demonstrated the new look to the lead Web Page and discussed the changes which will be implemented August 15th. He said the current Member Information line will be replaced with a “Branch Administrative Materials” icon. He provided a handout to the attendees.

Ideas that Matter: President Robert Mannell discussed the results of the “Ideas that Matter” effort and recapped the results. Ideas already acted on are: participation in the CA. State fair was dropped due to expense; eliminated Area 30 moving its 2 branches to another Area; changed the requirement so now the only paper copy of a branch roster needs to go to the state secretary; implemented a new member certificate available on the SIR Website; reduced required signatures on Travel Forms 28 and 59. Items still in progress: make the Big SIR a two year term (branches have that ability currently); elevate the Membership Chair to a BEC Board Member status; develop a Membership Card for SIR members; place more accountability on the Area Governor and Regional Director. Bob is still interested in receiving more suggestions that matter so let him know if you have any (problems accepted if suggested solutions accompany them). Work is ongoing with Publicity and Tools to make these and other ideas available on the SIR Website including who to contact for more information and help.

Concluding Remarks: President Robert Mannell thanked Bill Lewis and Jim Stedman for help in setting up for today's meeting and thanked all the presenters and attendees for their participation. He noted that in his travels to branches those with many activities make it more attractive to younger men to join and thus the success of SIR. If branches have less than 10 activities they should talk to Walter Schick (Publicity and Tools Chairman) to get ways to increase activities. He said Areas that have a speaker's bureau where speakers are discussed make for a better selection of luncheon speakers. If finding a Little SIR is difficult, maybe move the Speaker Coordinator responsibility from the LS job and assign it to some other member. He said SIR will be putting more emphasis electronic tools and Web sites like Face Book to interest younger members. He reminded everyone the more you put into SIR the more rewarding SIR is to you.

Adjournment: President Robert Mannell closed the 52nd Annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Eckart Sellinger
State Secretary
08-03-2011

