



MINUTES

(AMENDED 8/13/09)

Sons In Retirement, Inc.

Annual Meeting - August 3, 2009

Elks Lodge - Vallejo, CA

"Let's Have a Good Time in 2009"



Present were the following:

<u>Elected Officers</u>		<u>Regional Directors</u>	
President	David Reiser	1 Kenneth Edson	6 Jim Stedman
Vice President	Floyd Kendrick	2 Ronald McCall	7
State Secretary	Gary Gruber	3 George Christman	8 David Reynolds
State Treasurer	Robert Mannell	4 Larry Powers	9 Mike Nickey
Asst State Secretary	Harold Stephens	5 John Mason	10 Eckart Sellinger
Asst State Treasurer	Mike Berry		
 <u>Area Governors</u>			
1 John Damonte	10 John Kemerling	19 William Short	29 John Levis
2 Dean Steichen	12 (Vacant)	20 Roland Rempel	30
3 Richard Joyce	13 Donald Davis	21 Stan Morgan	31 Ralph Lingis
5 Richard Kabanek	14	22 Julius Manrique	32 Colin Wilson
6 Donald Walker	15 Richard Detmer	24 Ronald Saltgaver	33 Henry Iverson
7 David Rohrer	16 Stanley Barkey	25 Roy Dorn	34
8 Tom Sherba	17 Bobbie Hairston	26 Alan Harvey	
9 Neil Mayo	18 James Bible	27 Norman Whitsed	

Big Sirs of chartered Branches or Alternates - 123 total (27 absent)

Past Presidents - Mel Augustine (2000), Dwight Sale (2001), Jim Musci (2004), Jim Donovan (2005), Tom Ross (2007), Art Pufford (2008)

State Appointees, State Committee Chairmen, other participants -

Nominee for Asst State Treasurer - Karl Ryden, SIR Happenings - Don MacGregor & John Skarpelos, Rules - Thomas Smith, Meeting Arrangements - Bill Lewis, Rooster Hardware - Nat Lord, Publicity - Walter Schick, Bowling - Carl Elvik, Golf - Gene Drennan

President Reiser called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

President Reiser introduced Willie McCoy and Hank Gomez from Branch 25 who led us in singing the National Anthem.

President Reiser welcomed and thanked all and for attending and were formally recognized around the room.

In his introductory comments, Dave mentioned the mementos, State Newsletters and ballots that were given to the attendees when they registered in the lobby. He identified for the record the tellers that were appointed in the event that a written ballot becomes necessary, namely Regional Director Mike Nickey, Area Governor Bill Short and Big Sir Bill Sumner. He also mentioned the Branch 171 sponsorship of the new Provisional Branch 174 and the application he just approved for Branch 136 to sponsor a new Branch. He then called for the other officers' reports.

Vice President Kendrick reported on his experiences as Chairman of the Growth and Membership Committee, and how they tried things that weren't accepted by everybody. He intends for the committee to continue to build on the successes of the Leadership Action Plan and on what was learned in the process.

Addressing the leadership issue in a volunteer organization such as this, he challenged everyone to get involved in the many tasks that need to be done, or they won't get done. He has had a great deal of pleasure volunteering his way to the Vice President position, and if he is elected President he will be calling upon the rest of us to carry our share of the load and contribute ideas for the betterment of the organization.

Secretary Gruber reported on organizational matters. We have 150 active, chartered Branches and one Provisional Branch. He reminded the Regional Directors and Area Governors that are elected or re-elected to submit Form 44A promptly after the election. The Branches must submit Form 20 as soon as the Branch administrators names are known for next year.

He pointed out that there are 195 Members of the Corporation eligible to vote. Today's attendance records show 164 Members present, which exceeds the two-thirds necessary for a quorum.

He emphasized the importance of going to the SIR Website for reference to the SIR Manual, the State Roster and SIR Forms.

Assistant Secretary Stephens explained his procedures for maintaining corporate status for the individual Branches. The State of California biennial fee is presently \$20 per Branch corporation and is paid from the SIR State treasury.

He went on to explain his role in acquiring and distributing the plastic badges.

Treasurer Mannell reflected on his four years as State Treasurer, and the reduction in State expenses that has been realized during that time. The July State financial report is posted on the SIR Website, and we are in sound financial shape. In spite of 3.5% declining membership annually, we have been able to maintain, in a business sense, a net cash flow year to year. He thanked the State Officers for their help and cooperation that he has always received.

A request was made for an explanation of the insurance reserve. Mannell responded that insurance premiums represent some 60% of our expenses, and the reduction in insurance costs has helped significantly in the sound financial position of SIRinc. He explained the purpose of the \$25,000 reserve as being available in case of an unexpected substantial increase in premiums.

A member mentioned that his Branch produces a pie chart reflecting financial matters that is very meaningful to its members, and wondered if the SIR State financial report could do the same. Mannell agreed to start submitting such a chart for the SIR Happenings newsletter and would also have it posted on the website.

Another question related to what the insurance covers. The Insurance Committee did not have a representative at this meeting, and Mannell didn't go into detail as to coverage except to say that the broad coverage is for errors and omissions, liability, foreign travel, and umbrella. Past President Dwight Sale interjected that our insurance coverage is explained in considerable detail within the Branch Leaders Guide.

Another question was raised as to the feasibility of distributing the annual budget to all Big Sirs. Mannell responded that the budget is posted to the SIR Website, which is more efficient than a mass mailing would be.

Another question was raised as to the financial condition of the Branches. Mannell stated that the Area Governors reported at year end that all Branches were in good financial shape.

Back to insurance, a question was raised as to whether Branch officers are covered for errors and omissions under the SIRinc policy. The answer was to the negative, that the Branches will be advised annually in February as to the procedure in order to be covered by the State of California. Again, it was pointed out that this matter is covered in the Branch Leaders Guide.

Assistant Treasurer Berry reported that the error rate on the Branch Form 28 Cash Reports is near zero. It is a major concern that about half of the reports are coming in via US Mail rather than as an email attachment. The filing of hard copy reports requires considerable space.

Nominating Committee Chairman Pufford explained the procedures that the Nominating Committee used in arriving at its slate of nominees for the six elected positions on the State Board. The nominees were introduced to the attendees and the podium was returned to the President.

President Reiser read the SIR rules pertaining to the qualifications for the six officers, and called for further nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the nominations were closed. A motion was made, seconded and carried that all nominees be elected by unanimous vote. Reiser thanked the nominating committee for its efforts, dismissed them, and called for brief speeches from the nominees.

The following officers were elected for the year 2010 -

President	Floyd Kendrick	State Treasurer	Michael Berry
Vice President	Robert Mannell	Asst State Secretary.....	Harold Stephens
State Secretary.....	Gary Gruber	Asst State Treasurer	Karl Ryden

President Reiser introduced Area 10 Governor John Kemerling who led us in the SIR song.

President Reiser recessed the meeting for social interaction and lunch at 11:00 a.m. and called the meeting to order again at 12:30 p.m.

Area Governor Training Chairman Stedman emphasized the importance of maintaining and increasing Branch membership, and the importance of Branch administrators in that function. The committee will endeavor to make the training interesting, informative and helpful. The seminar will be held at the Vallejo Elks on October 20, 2009.

A question was raised about the Leadership Action Plan - Branch Self-assessment reports. Since the LAP is a program of the Growth and Membership Committee, Chairman Kendrick responded that the State Board changed the LAP in mid-stream, and he apologized for the change in focus of the committee. He anticipates taking up the matter again in August and September and evaluations of the reports would be forthcoming.

Certificates Chairman Donovan explained the ins-and-outs of the procedures involved in requesting, preparing and conferring of the awards that he produces and some of the reasoning behind them. He specifically mentioned the HLM and the Senior HLM certificates, and emphasized that he prepares the Senior HLM certificates directly and automatically from the State Database so therefore it should not be requested. He acknowledged the existence of Form 7 - Certificate of Appreciation - that is posted on the Website, especially intended to be presented to guest speakers and for similar occasions.

Information Systems Chairman Sale detailed the many administrative functions that are presently within the scope of this committee. The committee was formed several years ago to take over the varied administrative functions that were spread here and there so as to provide for consolidation and continuity.

Several months ago he started a project to develop a standard membership database program for the Branches to use. Several Branches have shown interest in the project and have contributed to it, and are actively testing the program.

Publicity Chairman Schick began his report by emphasizing the use of posters on display at the Branch luncheon sign-in area. These are large poster-board displays that can be produced commercially at a reasonable price. He went on to discuss many techniques and tools that are available for attracting new members.

There was a lively general discussion of seating arrangements at the luncheon meetings, namely cliques. Some members contended that cliques are a good thing while others advocate that they are bad. Many ideas were offered by the attendees, and the consensus seemed to be that cliques need to be discouraged.

Schick gave emphasis to the eight-page mini catalog that was passed out today, which is a great tool. He addressed the Big Sirs, suggesting that when their term of office is over to keep involved by selecting a committee to serve on. And, It is important for the Branch to determine and study the reasons why members leave.

President Reiser, in his concluding remarks, reminded everyone that it took many men to plan, organize and help put this meeting together. He thanked all who helped. He especially thanked the members for attending today's meeting and for their ideas and contributions. He wished them a safe trip home.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.



Gary R. Gruber
State Secretary