



February 3, 2007

Minutes of the State Meeting
Sons In Retirement
Vallejo Elks Lodge
January 23, 2007

The Special Meeting was called to order by President Tom Ross at 9:17 A.M. Present were all of the SIR State Board except Region 6 Director Glen Schimelpfenig. Also present were Past Presidents Mel Augustine, Jim Musci, Jim Wyatt, Jim Donovan, and Dwight Sale. Committee chairmen present were Warren Senegal, Rules; Jim Donovan Growth & Management; Dwight Sale, Information Systems; Bill Lewis, Training; Bob Perry, Travel; Dave Betts, Golf; Nat Lord, Bowling; and Eldon Parr, Advisor. Twenty four Area Governors were also in attendance.

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

Introductions of The SIR State Board, Past Presidents and the attending Committee Chairmen were made by President Ross. Each Regional Director introduced his attending Area Governors.

The intentions of this Special Meeting were explained by President Ross. Six "brainstorming" groups were to meet at different parts of the main meeting room and the lounge area. Their task was to discuss six concern topics plus any other topic the group thought important. They were to record the group's consensus about each. During the regular meeting, each group leader would be called upon by President Ross to report the outcome of the "brainstorming". Approximately 40 minutes were given for this activity.

At 10:10 A.M. the SIR State Board Meeting was called to order by President Ross. President Ross instructed the Area Governors on their roll as observers and not participants in the meeting.

A quorum was present and the Minutes of the November 14, 2006 Minutes were approved as published on The SIR website.

Secretary Bill Short announced that Branch Rosters were to be sent to him in hard copy only by March 1, 2007. Area Governors were urged to remind their Branches that the Branch Rosters are important to the Information System network and must be sent to the State Secretary.

Vice President Art Pufford welcomed the attendees and made the request that the Area Governors instruct their Branches to be sure to update the 2007 State Officers in their branch bulletins. He also stated that Expense Claim Vouchers, form 15, for 2006 expenses need to be sent to him immediately. Purchase receipts should be stapled together so that individual receipts do not get lost.

Assistant Treasurer Howard Berkman reported that The SIR Treasury has a surplus of funds at this time. He suggested that we could decrease the pro rata from \$1.15 per member per quarter to \$1.00 per member per quarter. He suggested that we refer to the current Treasurer's Report for the reduction reasoning.

Under Board Action Items, Rule 12 was reviewed by Rules Committee Chairman, Warren Senegal. It was amended to read as follows:

- a. No member is required to participate in State events. Every Member shall be provided an opportunity to do so to the extent that facilities are available on a first served basis.
- b. This rule is applicable to all State events, including State travel events. It is not applicable to events scheduled for limited segments of the membership such as bowling and golf tournaments, or State sporting events such as SIR Day at the SF Giants, or to State RV rallies. Rule 12 was passed by the Board.

Following the discussion to reduce the quarterly member pro rata from \$1.15 to \$1.00. A motion was made and passed by the Board to reduce the Branch member quarterly pro rata by \$.15 effective second quarter 2007.

The State Bowling Events Schedule for 2007 with on or about dates was adopted by the State Board . Copies will be distributed appropriately.

SIR Day at the Oakland As 2007 was set for June 20, 2007; SIR Day SF Giants was set for August 9, 2007; SIR Day Sacramento River Cats was set for May 23, 2007. Each was a separate item and each was approved and passed by The Board.

The use of the Vallejo Elks Lodge was discussed including the \$3.00 per person charge per meeting. The State Board approved the written contract agreement as written and designated the State Meeting Coordinator, Bill Lewis to be The Board's signing agent. Bill Lewis will report to The Board.

Golf Chairman Dave Betts reviewed the tentative dates for the two golf tournaments in Mexico. The Committee has yet to select which SIR Qualified Travel Agency they wish to use so this along with the other required details will be submitted to the State Executive Committee for their review and hopefully their approval. The State Board will then have to ratify this at the June Board meeting.

Under Unfinished Business, The State Board voted that a Raider football game be designated as a Sporting Event. Past President Mel Augustine was appointed coordinator of the event for fall 2007.

The results of the items discussed at the Special Meeting of Regional Directors, Area Governors and Past Presidents were reviewed. The spokesman for each of the six groups reported in turn to the assembled regular meeting attendees. A memo of The Results of Discussion was sent to all SIR State Board members by President Ross..*[Editors note: A resume of these results is attached to these minutes]*

RV Committee Chairman Jack Streckfus reported on the upcoming RV Rally at French Camp. Approximately 100 rigs are signed up for the April 22-26 2007 event. Social activities are planned and a golf tournament will be held. The event will be held near Manteca.

Growth and Management Chairman Jim Donovan stated that we have a crisis that is not improving in SIR regarding membership. He asked especially that the Area Governors in attendance take back to the branches this message. He also said that each Branch needs to work on three things, an active Recruiter, a Committee for Membership and a Program Chairman. Focusing and working on solving the critical membership problem will be the committee goal this year.

State Travel Chairman Bob Perry and President Tom Ross met with Golden Gate Tours to hear the new proposal for the SIR 50th Anniversary event. The new event will include a flight to Hawaii, a cruise of The Islands and then a cruise back to San Francisco. Bus pickup/delivery

will be made at central Northern California points. The Board approved this plan. A second approval was made by The Board to appoint Bob Perry "Designated Member" for this event so that he may sign the contracts and appoint group leaders as needed to assist the members traveling.

Information Systems Chairman Dwight Sale made an appeal for interested computer SIR members to join the INFOSY team. He needs help. He stated that we have over 8,000 SIR members in our State Data Base and that the information is used regularly. All of the SIR State forms are available on the SIR Website.(www.sirinc.org)

Branch Officer Training Chairman Bill Lewis gave an encouraging report of the 2006 program and is looking forward to the Area Governor Training Session, October 25, 2007 in Vallejo. Current training materials are on the SIR Website.

Nominating Committee Chairman Bob Curley stated that at this time all of the State officer positions for 2008 have an applicant except for Assistant Treasurer. He encouraged any qualified, interested applicant for any of the State positions to complete the instructions on form 43 and forward the application to him.

Golden State Warriors Chairman Jim Wyatt has a SIR Day game scheduled for April 12, 2007. This is an afternoon game at Oracle Arena. Questions may be directed to Jim Wyatt or to the Warriors 510 986-5408.

President Ross talked about his expectations for Regional Director Quarterly Reports asking that no financial or membership items be given. He receives that information from the SIR Website each month. His recommendation was to KISS the report, Keep It Short and Simple. He mentioned that many Branches now have Web Sites that help in the communication with members and among other Branches.

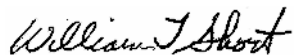
The Form 59 checklist for travel events should be used by each Branch to help the BEC follow the trail of Branch Travel Events. This form is an excellent organizational tool.

It was mentioned that Gary Gruber and Otto Zimmerman have the SIR Gold Seal embossing tools for awards documents.

President Ross emphasized that corporate chain of command is needed when questions, concerns or misunderstandings occur within the Branch. The Area Governor should be the first person contacted if a Branch Big Sir is in need of Counsel.

There being no Announcements or Unfinished Business, the meeting was adjourned by President Ross at 1:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



William T. Short, SIR State Secretary

Note... The SIR State Audit Team of Chairman Gene Drennan and Member John Fontes conducted an audit in the Library of The Vallejo Elks Lodge for the following groups on January 23, 2007 beginning at 9:00 A.M.:

State Treasury, State Bowling Committee, State Golf Committee and State RV Committee. The results were satisfactory.



SIR MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 24, 2007

TO: State Board Members

FROM: Tom Ross, 2007 President
ITEMS

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF DISCUSSION

The results of the Issues and Discussion Items resulting from the six (6) groups consisting of Regional Directors and Area Governors, and Past Presidents and State Committee Chairmen present at the State Board Meeting of January 23, 2007 in Vallejo are:

- 1) Do we need to re-evaluate our current organization structure to ascertain if we can function with 8 Regions and 24 Areas?

Result: All six groups responded in the affirmative. One group requested geographical considerations to be taken into account.

Action: One must understand that if we go from 10 to 8 Regions and from 32 to 24 Areas, each Region and Area will necessarily be larger in size. Past President Jim Donovan was appointed as Chairman of a Special Committee to explore the various options and present the recommendations of the Committee at the June 5 or November 13, 2007 State Board Meetings. The President also appointed the following members to this State Realignment Committee:

- Past President Mel Augustine
- Past President Bob Curley, who is also the current Region 8 Director
- Past President Jim Musci
- Region 1 Director Gene Parker
- Past President Dwight Sale
- Past President Jim Wyatt

- 2) What can be done to improve the quality of the Annual Meeting within the limitations we have with the existing facility?

Result:

1. Start the Meeting later.
2. Require written reports in advance and allow oral reports by invitation only.
3. Allow Branches to give proxies to their Area Governors
4. Adhere to the Agenda for topics and allotted times
5. Use speaker cards to document questions and have these given to the speaker
6. Allow Branches to vote by mail in advance of the meeting

Action: All of these suggestions will be considered except two. It is felt that attendance at the Annual Meeting by the Big Sir of each Branch, or the designated alternate from

RESULTS OF DISCUSSION ITEMS

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the elected Officers of the Branch, is of the utmost importance to the SIR Organization.

- 3) Should the Honorary Life Members currently assigned to Branch 0 due to their being uninvolved with their Branches for at least 24 months be retained in this Branch 0 category or should they be designated an HLM Emeritus?

Result: Designated them as HLM Emeritus assigned to their home Branch. They will not be used in the count of authorized HLMs for their Branch.

Action: A Proposal to amend Rule 24.g. will be submitted to the State Rules Committee for their review and action to prepared a recommended proposal implement this and it will be submitted to the State Board at its June 5, 2007 Meeting for action.

- 4) Should the Guidelines contained in the back portion of the SIR Manual be deleted?

Result: The majority of responses indicated these Guidelines could or should be removed from the SIR Manual. There were a couple of suggestions indicating that the Guidelines should be put on the SIR Website.

Action: The Chairman of the SIR Manual will be requested to remove the Guidelines from the SIR Manual on June 1, 2007. This will allow those Branches, Area Governors, and Regional Directors who value those Guidelines to download them for their personal files.

- a) Should some of the “How To” documents on the SIR Website be included at the end of the SIR Manual?

Result: The majority of the Groups prefer to leave these documents on the SIR Website.

Action: The documents will remain on the Website.

- 5) Should our attendance Rule 100.b. be changed from “the previous twelve consecutive month period” to the “calendar year”? Should Rule 100.a that specifies that a member who has missed three consecutive meetings without contacting the appropriate person to be excused be deleted?

Result: The majority of the Groups prefer to make no changes to these Rules.

Action: None

- 6) Should Area Governor and Branch Officer Training Sessions be formalized and included in the Standing Rules? Should the training be mandated for new Area Governors and Branch Officers or should it be mandated for the Governors and Officers regardless of how long they have held these positions?

RESULTS OF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Result: The majority of the Groups want the training sessions to be included in the Rules and it should be mandated for the Area Governors and Branch Officers regardless of how many years they have held the position. One group felt that the outgoing Area Governor should not be required to participate in the Branch Officer Training Session. One Group felt the Branch Officer Training Sessions should be conducted in January of the year the Officers take office to avoid the Holiday season, most felt it was OK the way it is.

Action: This will be referred to the State Rules Committee to review and draft their proposed recommendations for the enabling Rules and have them submitted to the State Board at its June 5, 2007 Meeting for action.

7) Other Issues and Items identified by the Groups.

Result: Most Groups indicated they had insufficient time to discuss additional issues. Some Groups provided the following:

1. The State Organization should include an Advertising and Marketing Budget.
2. Use of the Form 40 – Speaker Exchange, should be mandated.
3. We need a definition of “semi-retired”.
4. Annual voluntary “contributions” should be changed to “dues” and made mandatory.

Action: The actual amount of time the Groups had to discuss the issues was about 30 minutes. This was not a sufficient amount of time, but it was all that was available due to the number of Agenda items that had to be covered. We will try to improve that for next year or possibly at another such meeting this year if sufficient issues surface. None of the foregoing items represented a consensus of all of the groups but it does provide some food for thought. It is interesting to note that one Group wanted SIR Inc. to include a budget for Advertising and Marketing. It is assumed they want the State to advertise for the Branches as a whole, and yet the Board has just approved a 15 cent reduction in the pro-rata for the active members of each Branch.

Note: On the January 23, 2007 memo to the Regional Directors regarding the Issues and Discussion Items it stated: The Spokesperson for each group will document the group findings on a form provided to him and give it to the State President. I received this form from Groups 1 – 4 – 6. The foregoing was prepared by the forms received plus the notes taken by the State President and State Secretary.