



MINUTES

(including commentary)

Sons In Retirement, Inc. State Board Meeting - January 20, 2009 Knights of Columbus Hall - Vallejo, CA



Present were the following:

State Board Members -

Elected Officers

President David Reiser
Vice President Floyd Kendrick
State Secretary Gary Gruber
State Treasurer Robert Mannell
Asst State Secretary Harold Stephens
Asst State Treasurer Michael Berry

Regional Directors

1	Kenneth Edson	
2	Ronald McCall	7 Gary Pelton
3	George Christman	8 David Reynolds
4	Larry Powers	9 Mike Nickey
5	John Mason	10 Eckart Sellinger

State Appointees, State Committee Chairmen, other participants -

Past Presidents - Dwight Sale (2001), Jim Donovan (2005), Art Pufford (2008)	
Chaplain/Parliamentarian Bill Short	
Information Systems - Dwight Sale	Golf - Gene Drennan
Bowling - Carl Elvik	Growth and Membership - Gary Pelton
Insurance - John Thomason	Publicity - Walter Schick
Nominating - Art Pufford	State Certificates - Jim Donovan
Travel - Bob Perry	State Badges - Hal Stephens

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 installed three Board members - Hal Stephens, George Christman and Mike Nickey.

Secretary Gruber stated that a quorum was present, with the required two-thirds of Board members present. The minutes of the November 11, 2008 State Board meeting were approved as published on the official SIR Website.

President Reiser offered his opening comments, first apologizing for the fact that today's meeting was inadvertently scheduled on the same day as the new U.S. President's inauguration and festivities. He went on to request that the current Regional Directors' quarterly reports be provided to both the outgoing President Art Pufford as well as to himself. The Area Governors will all be invited to join us at the April 7 Special Board meeting. Following today's Board meeting, the State Executive Committee will be meeting to discuss the format of our pins and whether we should consider an alternate supplier.

Vice President Kendrick outlined his handling of Form 15 Expense Vouchers that are submitted to him for approval. A question was raised as to whether the fifty-cent mileage reimbursement rate was mandatory or is it permissible for the claimant to enter a rate less than that. Both Kendrick and Reiser indicated that "up to" fifty cents is allowed. Kendrick also reported that he has been attending State Committee meetings as an ad hoc member.

Secretary Gruber reported that he has received 19 Branch Rosters so far, reminding the Regional Directors that all 2009 Branch Rosters are due to him by March 1, hard copy via US Mail. He said he would send out a status report to the Regional Directors in early February.

Treasurer Bob Mannell reminded the Regional Directors that each Area Governor, after receiving the annual Branch audit reports, is to provide certification of the financial condition of the Branches in his Area. He went on to say that the recently approved Insurance Reserve bank account is in process and should be in place around the end of this month.

INFOSYS Chairman Sale explained the basic structure of the committee, starting off with the Website subcommittee, and progressed on down through the rest of the subcommittees. He highlighted the recent appointment of Past President Jim Donovan as State Certificates Chairman. Dwight cited the hundreds of certificates that were produced in 2008, including a major effort in reclassifying 10-year HLMs as "Senior" that meant generating and mailing letters to all involved Branches and others interested. The subject of broadcast emails invoked some discussion among the Board members concerning the fact that we can disseminate information embedded in the message itself, or insert a hyperlink pointing to an item on the website. A broadcast email with an attachment does not work well for some recipients.

Bowling Chairman Elvik summarized the efforts of the committee to encourage increased participation in the many tournaments offered. Secretary Gruber received clarification as to what the State Committee's role is in the tournaments put on by the Branches, versus the "State Tournament" run by a Region. Elvik said that if a Branch wishes to stage a tournament, it should try to put it on the State Tournament Schedule for the publicity that the schedule offers and to avoid conflict with other tournaments. He offered the 2009 schedule for Board approval, and a motion was made, seconded and approved "to approve the bowling tournaments shown on the official SIR Website on or about the dates shown".

Insurance Chairman Thomason announced that the insurance premium for 2009 has been reduced by \$10,482 -- from \$ 50,665 to \$40,183. The fact that it decreased at all was contra to what is happening with commercial policies. He indicated that the brokers feel that this is about the bottom, and we will likely see an increase in 2010. He then brought up the subject of California Code Section 5239 coverage for Branch E&O insurance. The existing Rule 617 states that he has a deadline of December 15 to provide Branches with instructions on how to cover themselves for the following year. The underwriters don't quote premiums in a current year pertaining to the following year, so he will propose a change to the rule to provide a deadline in January of the insurance year. Thomason will ultimately provide the required instructional text for Email Chairman Berry to embed in a broadcast email to the Branches.

Nominating Committee Chairman Art Pufford stated that the six State Elected Officers positions will be up for election at the Annual Meeting in August. Candidacy Form 43 must be submitted to him by April 15. The committee will then provide a slate of nominees to President Reiser by June 1. Pufford will see that a broadcast email is provided to Email Chairman Berry for dissemination to Branches and State administrators, soliciting applications from the general membership.

President Reiser, reporting on behalf of SF Giants All SIR Day Chairman Chuck Roberts, requested a motion to approve the San Francisco Giants versus Pittsburgh Pirates game on Wednesday July 29, 2009. A motion to that effect was made, seconded and approved.

Travel Chairman Perry reported that he needs to make an annual estimate of travel events for the insurance brokers. He pretty much develops this estimate for the following year based on events held in the previous year, using the completed Forms 50, 51, 52 and 53 that he receives. He stated that many Branches are not consistently providing him with these documents. He pointed out that the rules are quite clear that the Branch Executive Committee is responsible for the Branch travel program, and made a plea for enforcement of that requirement plus stricter Branch enforcement of the other pertinent rules in the Travel Code. In the general discussion, a number of proposals and alternative solutions were offered, but Perry stated that he would probably be able to do his job effectively if only the four forms were submitted to him on a timely basis and he seemed to prefer that the Regional Directors place the emphasis there.

Golf Chairman Drennan summarized the State Golf program, specifically outlining each of the ten State tournaments scheduled for 2009 and being offered to the State Board for approval. The committee had received negative critiques of past tournaments, and steps have been taken to make changes in response thereto. The committee's goal is give the golfers what they want. They have already seen positive responses participation-wise to tournaments in 2008. A motion was made, seconded and approved "to approve the golf tournaments shown on the official SIR Website on or about the dates shown". Included in the schedule, and therefore approved, are the travel events scheduled in November-December 2009 in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico.

Growth & Membership Chairman Pelton reported on a recent five-hour meeting of the committee, and he is enthusiastic about the program proposed by Buck Kendrick entitled "Ideas That Work". It involves soliciting recruiting ideas from the Branches that will be published in SIR Happenings as well as on the SIR Website. Pelton wants to acknowledge Branches that have shown growth, and cited several such Branches in the Regions under George Christman, Larry Powers, Jim Stedman and his own Region. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of two things -- leadership from the Regional Director and activities within his Branches.

Publicity Chairman Schick summarized the recruitment efforts he has been involved with. Emphasis is presently within his own Area, toward recruiting the newly retired and therefore younger members. A tri-fold brochure is being worked on with G&M. The present effort is toward developing the publicity that will attract the newly retired in his Area. Several members from every Branch in the Area will be brought together for recruitment purposes and possible appointments of Recruitment Chairmen. Emphasis is the newly retired. Some of the tools and ideas will come from G&M and INFOSYS that will attract newly retired men. At this point, he is testing ideas and developing measurement techniques.

Treasurer Mannell, under New Business, brought up the matter of billing the Branches for the Big Sir meals at the August 3, 2009 Annual Meeting. It was moved, seconded and approved "to include the charge for the meal in the 2nd quarter pro rata assessment invoices".

Vice President Kendrick led a discussion of the new "Leadership Action Plan" to be recommended to the Board for approval. The plan was approved by G&M and distributed to members of the State Board and others for review, comments and questions. Implementation would be top-down, from the Regional Directors through the Area Governors to the Branches. First step would be to show many of the Branches that there is a problem by having the Branches complete the assessment form that is based on age. The Branches will need to collect basic data such as the age of each member. There is also a quarterly report form. At this time, both forms are in draft status. Kendrick went on to state that the program is voluntary for the Regions, and the forms will only need to be completed by participating Branches. A motion was made and seconded, and considerable discussion ensued. At the end of the discussion, the motion was amended "to approve the plan concept as developed thus far", and was adopted by majority vote.

President Reiser brought the meeting to a close by thanking all for their help and advice, and mentioned how fortunate we are to have so many volunteers who do so much for us without ever asking for recognition. He asked that we spread the word that our slogan for this year is "Let's Have a Good Time in 2009". The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



Gary R. Gruber, State Secretary