



MINUTES

(including commentary)

Sons In Retirement, Inc.

State Board Meeting - November 10, 2009

Elks Lodge - Vallejo, CA

"Let's Have a Good Time in 2009"



Present were the following:

State Board Members -

Elected Officers

David Reiser - President
Floyd Kendrick - Vice President
Gary Gruber - State Secretary
Robert Mannell - State Treasurer
Mike Berry - Assistant State Treasurer

Regional Directors

1 Kenneth Edson 6 James Stedman
2 Ronald McCall 7 Gary Pelton
4 Larry Powers 8 David Reynolds
5 John Mason 9 Mike Nickey

State Committee Chairmen, State Appointees, other participants -

Past Presidents - Dwight Sale (2001), Jim Donovan (2005), Art Pufford (2008)
Assistant State Treasurer-elect - Karl Ryden, Chaplain/Parliamentarian - Bill Short
Publicity - Walter Schick, Meeting Arrangements - Bill Lewis

New 2010 Regional Directors-Elect -

2 - Ralph Lingis 7 - Richard Kabanek 8 - John Levis 9 - Richard Dettmer 10 - Donald Davis

President Reiser called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Secretary Gruber called the roll, including non-voting attendees, and announced that a quorum was present, with the required two-thirds of Board members present.

President Reiser thanked all for attending and being recognized via the roll call.

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

President Reiser requested approval of the minutes of the June 9 Board meeting and the minutes of the August 3 Annual Meeting. Both were accepted as presented on the SIR Website.

Vice President Kendrick offered his comments, highlighted by his surprise when President Reiser presented him with an Honorary Life Membership at Buck's Branch meeting.

Secretary Gruber gave his report concerning some of the activities he has been engaged in since the Annual Meeting. He produced the 2010 Schedules of Operations, posted the final 2009 State Roster to the website, entered the 2010 Branch Form 20s into the State Database, and posted the initial 2010 issue of the State Roster on the website. Badges were acquired for new 2010 State Officers. For the record, he reported that we have 151 active Branches, of which two are in provisional status.

Treasurer Mannell went over financial matters in some detail and stated that SIRinc is in sound shape. His projections of our status at year end indicate that we will probably finish the year in good financial condition. He offered his thanks to Assistant Treasurer Mike Berry for all his work during the several years he has been in the position. Mannell expressed his desire to receive all 2009 expenses by or near the end of the year so as to have them recorded in the current year. Also, he requested that the Regional Directors remind the Area Governors that Branch audits are due in the Area Governors' hands in early February 2010.

Assistant Treasurer Berry outlined some analyses of Form 28 Branch Cash Reports that he has done for one Area, particularly luncheon attendance percentage and spending per month for printing and for postage. The report of his findings was passed out to the Area Governors at the October AG Training meeting. During the year he has been working with Branches that regularly have errors on the Form 28, and generally pushing to get Branches to submit the report by the 10th of the month per the Standing Rules. For example, in October about a third of the Branches reported late, and there are several Branches that are many months in arrears.

President Reiser outlined the several problems that were encountered a few months ago when he tried to gain email Board approval of a new contract with the caterer for the State meals. A lot of questions arose during the process and it proved very difficult to handle that sort of thing via the Internet. To improve the methodology, he suggests that in the future, the Meeting Arrangements Chairman join in early negotiations with the caterer, and present a proposal to the Board at the April meeting, and/or the June meeting, where we can ask questions, discuss and make a decision without resorting to email. The caterer wants the contract agreed to and paid for by July 1 of each year. Dave then turned the podium over to Chairman Bill Lewis.

Meeting Arrangements Chairman Bill Lewis detailed some of the procedures involved with the caterer, how the agreement works relative to a certain number of meals for each contract year running from July 1 through June 30, paid in advance. Unused meals from one contract year are carried over to the next contract year so they are not lost. In the current contract the meals are \$9.75 each including sales tax. Lewis stated that he needs approval for 50 additional meals under the current contract. Accordingly, a motion was made, seconded and approved by the Board.

President Reiser introduced the 2010 officers for installation by Past President Jim Donovan. The following elected officers stood in place and were administered the oath of office -

President - Floyd 'Buck' Kendrick	State Treasurer - Mike Berry
Vice President - Robert Mannell	Assistant State Treasurer - Karl Ryden
State Secretary - Gary Gruber	
Director Region 1 - Kenneth Edson	Director Region 7 - Richard Kabanek
Director Region 2 - Ralph Lingis	Director Region 8 - John Levis
Director Region 4 - Larry Powers	Director Region 9 - Richard Dettmer
Director Region 5 - John Mason	Director Region 10 - Donald Davis
Director Region 6 - James Stedman	

Assistant State Secretary Stephens and Director Region 3 Christman remain to be installed.

Rules Committee member Gruber was called upon to represent Chairman Tom Smith in presenting the proposed changes to the Standing Rules. Motions to separately approve the three groups of proposed rules, with some minor changes, were seconded and approved. The approved rules are attached hereto and the revised SIR Manual will soon be posted to the SIR Website.

Information Systems Chairman Sale emphasized the need to begin encouraging the Branches to elect Branch Secretaries and Branch Treasurers who are "computer literate". He suggested that we start by making suggestions and working toward eventually enacting rules to that effect.

Sale explained the events that have gone into the design and implementation of a Branch Database and its associated programs to be made available for Branch use. It is intended to capture all kinds of data about individuals in a Branch and the resultant database can suit the needs of the officers and chairmen from that one source. Several Branches have shown an interest in this. He went on to reflect on the relative power of such a program and the probable reluctance of some Branch personnel to change the procedures they have developed in favor of something new and different.

Area Governor Training Chairman Stedman delivered a complete summary of the recent AG Training meeting. Evaluations of the meeting presentations by the attending Area Governors and Regional Directors were generally very favorable.

State Certificates Chairman Donovan enumerated the several types of certificates that have been issued so far this year. He highlighted the 66 Honorary Life Memberships that were presented during the year, mostly by President Reiser, and time and travel he devoted to the Branch visits. He mentioned that there are 154 HLM awards still available to the Branches, so this high volume of presentations might well continue for a while.

Donovan also cited some difficulties in dealing with the aging of Senior Certificate recipients, and recommended that a rule along the lines of Rule 180, which deals with the status of HLM recipients, be incorporated for Senior Certificate recipients when they are no longer a member.

Information Systems Chairman Sale interjected that the President's signature on the computer-generated certificates would be transitioned from President Reiser to 2010 President Kendrick on December 1, 2009.

President Reiser suggested several topics that the 2010 Board might want to consider. To stimulate readership of SIR Happenings, some kind of contest embedded in the newsletter might be helpful. He suggested that it be Area-oriented, so that up to 30 prizes could be awarded for a given contest.

He raised the possibility of a contest related to recruiting new members, suggesting that the Growth and Membership Committee take a look at it and possibly bring it to the Board.

He mentioned that earlier in the year we talked about, and had a presentation on, a Public Relations program. We haven't been able to find a member with PR experience to head up such an endeavor. Dave feels that the function is important to the organization and expressed his hopes that the position will be filled soon.

Dave brought up the 30,000 color brochures that were distributed to the Branches at the annual meeting and thereafter. He believes the brochures were well received and the cost and distribution efforts were worth while, and suggested that the incoming Board may want to consider doing it again.

A general discussion among members of the Board concerned the welcome-gifts that were given to all attendees at the Annual Meeting, recruiting techniques, contents of new-member packets as well as other ideas that were offered. Ideas for gifts for next year's Annual Meeting should be given to 2010 President Kendrick for consideration.

President Reiser distributed Certificates of Appreciation to most of the attendees for their service to the organization during his administration. He then delivered his farewell comments that are attached hereto and are also posted on the SIR Website. He passed out some "special" gifts to many of those who served under him and formally passed the gavel over to 2010 President Kendrick.

2010 President Kendrick took the podium and presented Reiser with a framed Honorary Life Membership certificate and a lapel pin. He thanked the officers, committeemen and appointees that have agreed to serve next year. He said as President he will put forth his best efforts and solicited ideas from the rest of the leaders in the room toward a successful year.

President Reiser adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m., followed by a catered luncheon.



State Secretary, SIRinc

Attachments -

President Reiser's Comments

Rules approved by the State Board

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PRESIDENT'S SLOGAN
"LET'S HAVE A GOOD TIME IN 2009"

NOVEMBER 10, 2009

TO ALL PRESENT AND PAST STATE OFFICERS, BRANCH OFFICERS AND MEMBERS:

MY TERM OF OFFICE IS NEARING ITS END AND I HAVE MANY FOND MEMORIES TO TREASURE.. IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR AND A PLEASURE TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SERVE AS YOUR PRESIDENT.

SOME OF MY MOST ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCES HAVE BEEN TO VISIT AND PRESENT HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS TO SO MANY VERY DESERVING MEMBERS. I AM TOLD THAT I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO PRESENT MORE HLM'S THAN ANY OTHER PRESIDENT IN THE HISTORY OF SIR. THIS OCCURRED BECAUSE THE HLM RULE CHANGES ADOPTED IN NOVEMBER 2008 OPENED THE DOOR AND I JUST HAPPENED TO BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

OUR STATE AND BRANCH OFFICERS AND STATE COMMITTEES CONTINUE TO PLAY A MUCH NEEDED ROLE THAT BENEFIT ALL OF US. WE COULD NOT FUNCTION WITHOUT THEIR HELP. WORDS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO DESCRIBE MY GRATITUDE TO ALL. IF WE HAD A VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR STATE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEN I WOULD BE IN A DILEMMA. WE HAVE SO MANY DESERVING INDIVIDUALS. SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO PAST PRESIDENT DWIGHT SALE FOR ALL THE WORK HE DOES BEHIND THE SCENE AND FOR HIS HELP AND ADVICE. PAST PRESIDENT JIM DONOVAN ALSO DESERVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR HIS EFFICIENCY IN PRODUCING SO MANY HLM AND SPECIAL AWARDS ISSUED THIS YEAR.

STATE SECRETARY GARY GRUBER DOES AN OUTSTANDING JOB PUTTING TOGETHER AND MAINTAINING THE STATE ROSTER, THE SIR MANUAL, RULES, MINUTES, MEETING NOTICES AND FOR MONITORING REQUIRED BRANCH DOCUMENTS. VICE PRESIDENT BUCK KENDRICK HAS BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE AND STEPPED IN TO ASSUME THE ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF GROWTH AND MEMBERSHIP WHILE DIRECTOR JIM STEDMAN DID AN EXCELLENT JOB AS CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNOR TRAINING.

WE OWE DON MacGREGOR OUR HEARFELT THANKS FOR CONTINUING TO PRODUCE MARVELOUS ISSUES OF SIR HAPPENINGS. FINALLY, I HAVE A WORD OF ADVICE FOR EVERYONE READING THIS. IF YOU ARE RETIRING FOR THE NIGHT DO NOT CALL PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN WALTER SCHICK. CALLING HIM LATE AT NIGHT IS LIKE DRINKING A TALL GLASS OF CAFFEINE. YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF TOSSING AND TURNING, NOT ABLE TO SLEEP, MULLING OVER IDEAS HE HAS RECOMMENDED FOR YOU TO CONSIDER.

AS I REFLECT ON THE PAST YEAR I WANT TO THANK THE STATE BOARD FOR THE DEDICATION AND COOPERATION GIVEN TO ME. THE FOLLOWING RECAP OF BOARD ACTIONS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS WE DID EARLY ON WAS TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAD MANY COMPLAINTS FROM THE BRANCHES ABOUT OUR SUPPLIER OF BADGES. WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE STATE BOARD WE ENGAGED A NEW SUPPLIER. THE BRANCHES HAVE HAD NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL WAY IT IS NOW BEING HANDLED AND FOR THE QUALITY OF THE BADGES THEY PRODUCE.

WE ALSO INSTITUTED THE LEADERSHIP ACTION PLAN TO HELP THE BRANCHES BETTER UNDERSTAND THE EFFECT OF AGEING ON THEIR BRANCH, WHAT THEY CAN DO TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP AND WHAT THEY CAN DO TO STOP MEMBERSHIP LOSS. WHILE ONLY 20 PERCENT OF THE BRANCHES TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WE DID PLANT A SEED. I WOULD HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE MORE BRANCHES WILL TAKE A SERIOUS LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

IN ORDER TO HELP RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS THE STATE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE PRINTING OF 30,000 TRI-FOLD BROCHURES WHICH HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE BRANCHES. WE ALSO PRINTED AND GAVE COPIES OF SIR HAPPENINGS TO DELEGATES AT THE ANNUAL MEETING SO THEY COULD BE ON DISPLAY AT BRANCH MEETINGS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MEMBERS WHO HELPED WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING AND. I AM VERY PLEASED THAT MOST BRANCHES WERE REPRESENTED. I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR APPROVING THE WELCOME GIFTS GIVEN TO THOSE ATTENDING. IT IS THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF SIR THAT WE HAVE RECOGNIZED OUR DELEGATES IN THIS MANNER.

WHILE MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM WE DID HAVE A COUPLE OF BRIGHT SPOTS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS WE HAD TWO BRANCHES SPONSOR NEW BRANCHES. BRANCH 171 SPONSORED PROVISIONAL BRANCH 174 AND BRANCH 136 SPONSORED PROVISIONAL BRANCH 77. THEY ARE OFF TO A GOOD START AND WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO ISSUE THEIR CHARTERS SOON AFTER THEY COMPLETE THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE 2010 OFFICERS ELECT. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE HAVE ELECTED MEN THAT WILL DO WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR ORGANIZATION. OUR FOUNDERS WOULD BE PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE PAST 51 YEARS.

FINALLY, I WISH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT ...GOOD HEALTH TO YOU AND THOSE DEAREST TO YOU.

THANKS AGAIN FOR THE HONOR OF BEING YOUR 2009 PRESIDENT.

SINSIRLY,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Reiser". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

DAVID M. REISER
PRESIDENT, SIRinc

**RULE CHANGES APPROVED
BY THE STATE BOARD 11/10/09**

Guests in SIR Events

RULE 40. Only active members of SIR and their guests are entitled to participate in activities of the organization. The number of guests shall not exceed the total number of participating SIR active members plus participating wives, companions and relatives of participating active members, and widows of deceased members. A "relative" is defined as a parent, sibling, child or grandchild of a participating member or companion. (Revised 11/10/09)

RULE 360.o. "Guest" means a SIR non-member other than participating wives, companions and relatives of participating active members, and widows of deceased members. A "relative" is defined as a parent, sibling, child or grandchild of a participating member or companion. (New 11/10/09)

RULE 367. Only active members of SIR and their guests are entitled to participate in SIR travel events or bowling and golf events involving travel. The number of guests shall not exceed the total number of participating SIR active members plus participating wives, companions and relatives of participating active members, and widows of deceased members. A "relative" is defined as a parent, sibling, child or grandchild of a participating member or companion. (Revised 11/10/09)

RULE 368. (Deleted 11/10/09)

Assistant State Secretary Duties

RULE 838. The State Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a register showing the name, address and telephone number of the State Officers, State Advisor, and Appointive Officer Assistants if any. (New 11/10/09)

RULE 839. The State Secretary shall maintain the master file for every Branch ever formed containing relatively important hard copy documents that come into his possession. (New 11/10/09)

RULE 841. (Deleted 11/10/09)

RULE 842. (Deleted 11/10/09)

Changing the Name of a Branch

RULE 335. To change the name of an incorporated Branch, the general procedure is as follows -

- a. The Branch Secretary shall contact the State Secretary who will prepare a Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation and send it to the Branch for execution.
- b. The Big Sir (as President) and the Branch Secretary will sign the form and make two copies.
- c. The Branch Treasurer will provide a check for the appropriate amount made payable to the Secretary of State.
- d. The signed form, two copies of the signed form, and the check are mailed by the Branch Secretary to the Document Filing Support Unit at the address shown at the top of the form.
- e. When the Branch receives the approved documents, a copy shall be promptly mailed to the SIR State Secretary for inclusion in the Branch file.

(Revised 11/10/09)