



Minutes (4 Pages)

Sons In Retirement State Board Meeting

Veteran's Building – Vallejo, California

Tuesday, April 5, 2011 9:30AM-2:15PM



Present at the Board Meeting:

Officers

Robert Mannell – President
Jim Stedman – Vice President
Eckart Sellinger – Secretary
Adolph (Gus) Lopez – Treasurer
Charles Moss - Assistant Secretary
Karl Ryden - Assistant Treasurer

State Board Members

1 Alan Harvey
2 Ralph Lingis
3 Maynard Rodland
4 Bobbie Hairston
5 John Mason

Regional Directors

6 Dean Steichen
7 Richard Kabanek
8 John Levis
9 Richard Dettmer
10 Donald Davis

Invited Participants & Representatives of State Committees

Area Governors; George Kranen (1), Maynard Rodland (3), Robert Aiello (7), Jimmie Johnson (9), Al Odabashion (13), John Mendonca (14), Gale Jeffers (15), Harvey Durrett (17), C. Robert Staib (18), William Short (19), Eugene Elliot (20), Alan Harvey (26), Ed Nissen (27), Colin Wilson (32), Donald Dill (33) Past Presidents; Mel Augustine, Jim Donovan, Buck Kendrick, Dwight Sale; Dwight Sale – State Advisor & Information Sys.; Bill Short – Chaplain; Bill Lewis - Meeting Arrangements; Larry Garvin – Travel; Buck Kendrick – Nominating; Roger Danielson - Giants

Call to Order

President Bob Mannell opened the meeting on time at 9:30AM

Chaplain Bill Short led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Eckart Sellinger verified a Quorum was present

President Bob Mannell noted a few agenda changes

President Bob Mannell welcomed the Board Members, Area Governors, and other attendees

President Bob Mannell asked for approval of January 18, 2011 minutes. No changes made and **MSP** (Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed)

President Bob Mannell installed **Maynard Rodland** as **Region 3 Director** replacing **Neil Mayo** who recently passed away.

Remarks From State Officers

President Robert Mannell discussed the request to Area Governors to present their ideas for improvements to the SIR organization at today's meeting. Those who responded with handouts had them posted on the Web with today's agenda. He will put together a small committee of Regional Directors (RD's) and Area Governors (AG's) to take all suggestions and review, select, and prioritize them. He is determined to make sure that these ideas will not be presented and forgotten. He said he has noticed a very positive change related to increasing membership and getting new younger members when having conversations with different AG's and Big SIR's.

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Vice President Jim Stedman said he will include his comments in his presentations on Training and Membership later in the program.

Secretary Eckart Sellinger discussed the need to have AG's work with the branches to improve their reporting responsiveness based on his experience getting timely branch Form 44's last year and rosters during the last couple of months. Rosters were due to him February 28th and he had received less than 50% of them by then. As of today, he is still missing 20 rosters from 12 Areas – 35 days past due.

Assistant Secretary Charles Moss had no comments.

Treasurer Gus Lopez indicated there were still 15 branches who had not submitted their branch assessment for the last quarter. He provided a branch listing showing how much each branch owes for the 2nd quarter assessment. He also discussed the filing of IRS Form 990 by each of the branches. After some discussion, **Gus, Dwight Sale, and Bob Mannell** will meet during the break to decide on an approach for the State to file these forms for the branches. He said if branches receive F990 requests from the IRS they should send them to him and not respond to the IRS.

Note: After **Lopez, Mannell, and Sale** met during the break, they confirmed the State will do all the IRS Form 990 filing for the branches.

Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden has a concern over branches that collect NCGA golf dues prior to year end and book them as Assets. He will address this in an email to all branches with direction on how to handle these dues.

Committee Reports

Nominating – Buck Kendrick indicated he had applications or promises for all positions except for Assistant Treasurer. He said the published due date for applications is April 15th but he will extend it to April 25th. He will still accept applications for all positions until that date. He said his committee plans on holding interviews in early May. Qualifications for positions can be found in Rules 768 & 815-876.

Information Systems – Dwight Sale referred everyone to his report (an attachment to the Agenda) and discussed items found in his report. He discussed the 3 SIR Websites and their purpose and who is responsible for them. He discussed the SIR Data Base, email process, State Roster, Rule Manual, Forms on the Website, State Certificates, & SIR Happenings. His organization is looking for talented people to help in most all areas of Infosys.

Publicity – Dean Steichen reported for **Walter Schick** and again reminded us the 4 part article “California SIR” is on the Web and each branch should share it with their membership. He referred to the Publicity attachment found on the Web with the Agenda, noting ideas for recruiting, use of area wide contact and activity lists, suggestions of area meetings between common branch activities (i.e. travel, activities, membership, speakers, etc.). He encouraged everyone to use the information found on the Web site under Publicity and Tools.

SF Giants – Roger Danielson indicated it's a lot different dealing with the successful Giants this year compared to recent past years. The Giants have sold 800 thousand more seats this year compared to same time last year. He also noted they are using dynamic ticket pricing (tickets do not have amounts printed on them). SIR Giant Day will be Wednesday August 10th. Unfortunately, **President Mannell** will not be able to throw out the 1st pitch (disappointed, Bob said he had been in training to toss the first pitch for some time now) as all 1st pitches have already been allocated by the Giants. Roger said the process for branches to get tickets can be found on the SIR Web site.

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Training – Jim Stedman said it will be held October 18th here in Vallejo this year and Big SIR's, Area Governors, and Regional Directors will be invited to attend (same as last year). His committee will offer training on several subjects and will have a breakout session matching branches of similar size and interests with a suggested agenda and led by Regional Directors.

Membership – Jim Stedman is very pleased as he received 100% branch response for January and February Form 27's. He referred to his Report attached to the agenda and commented on: total membership goal and results, new member goals and results, lost members, and luncheon attendance goal and results. Over all, he said the branches are showing significant signs of success.

Travel – Larry Garvin said his group is making progress on putting together a travel specific training program for branch travel chairmen. He pointed out the monthly Travel Newsletter available to Travel Chairs and suggested they be available at the branch monthly luncheons. He said they are starting the planning for the SIR 55th Anniversary coming up in 2013.

River Cats - Jim Johnson said Monday, May 9th is SIR Day for the River Cats. Tickets are \$17.00 and we have 60 seats reserved for SIR.

Old Business

Area 21 Probation Status – Region 7 Director Richard Kabanek indicated one of the six branches (#115 Pebble Beach) voted to drop from SIR so we lost 158 members with that change. He said the other 5 branches are meeting expectations and doing very well.

Branch 40 – President Bob Mannell said there is still more work to do on this issue and wasn't ready to discuss it at this meeting.

New Business

SIR Audit – President Bob Mannell recapped the SIR Audit of 12/2010 indicating all aspects of the audit passed. **MSP** to accept the Audit results.

Meeting Arrangements – Chair Bill Lewis proposed a contract for 500 Meals at \$8.50/meal. **MSP**

Waiver of Wait List Rule – President Bob Mannell said this request from Twain Harte Branch 172 will be handled by the Regional Director and it was not discussed at this meeting.

Area Governor Ideas for Improvement

President Bob Mannell again indicated that all ideas will be evaluated and prioritized by a volunteer committee of RD's, AG's, and himself. Volunteers to help include: **Alan Harvey (R1), Bobbie Hairston (R4), Richard Dettmer (R9), and Robert Staib (A18)**. **President Mannell** will set a time, place, and agenda for the first meeting.

Al Odabashian, Area 13 – Al's suggestions related to: changing wording on the new member application to emphasize semi-retired or prospects who can devote time to SIR and meet our requirements; changing attendance rule from 12 rolling months to the calendar year; creation of a spread sheet for each branch member reflecting ongoing status, activities, etc.

Maynard Rodland, Area 3 – Maynard's suggestion was to realigning Branch 14 from Area 3 to Area 9 and Branch 69 from Area 9 to Area 3 for better efficiency and balance. This was voted on by the Board – **MSP**.

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Gale Jeffers, Area 15 – He discussed three ideas; increasing the Big SIR term to two years allowing for the BS to become more effective due to serving 2 years; suggested not distributing the Branch Roster to other branches in the Area to save costs and reduce risk of unwanted communication (SIR Sale said he would draft a Rule change to do this and have it for the next Board meeting); suggested publishing the State SIR Happenings monthly instead of quarterly.

Alan Harvey, Area 26 - Alan commented that his proposals maybe influenced due to his area where geography/distance are factors in his work as AG. His discussed the following ideas: clarify Rules 90 & 100 and make sure Inactive Status is not used as a way to avoid dealing with problem members; better understanding of the connection between membership growth and a successful branch; not enough specificity in the documented roles for AG's and RD's, especially as to their accountability in a branches success; more documented work to define what "baby boomers" are looking for and need when retired.

Ed Nissen, Area 27 – He suggested State resources allocate more to providing branches with training and marketing materials to help them in their recruiting efforts. He suggested the State send materials routinely to the branches and not have the branch have to ask for them – ideas such as Posters, Brochures, and "How to start a conversation with a prospective member" were commented on by Ed.

Colin Wilson, Area 32 – Colin discussed 4 ideas: provide more forms on the Web that can be filled out by the user; perceived inconsistent required signers between travel forms 48 & 59; placing a long ago suggested "Membership Certificate" on the Web (**Dwight Sale** said he will have it done in a week or so), and branches creating a calendar package to offer volunteers full of usable documents.

Donald Dill, Area 33 – Don discussed the following ideas: recognize the importance of the branch Membership Chairman by elevating his position to be similar of other Branch Officers; have the Little Sir take some responsibility for new member recruiting; renew the SIR Mission Statement with a solid look at what SIR should be in 10 years; create a membership card that will offer discounts with retailers, restaurants, golf courses, etc – use our leverage of 19K members to get these member benefits.

Concluding Remarks/Wrap-up

President Mannell said he had two late ideas for improvement suggestions sent to him: **Leroy Nagel, Area 22** suggested the development of a membership card offering discounts and indicated 3 branches in his area already have these; **Robert Carlstrom, Area 31** suggested Regional and State recruiting efforts like a booth at CA State Expo. **Ralph Lingis, Region2 Director** agreed to investigate the cost of a booth at CA State Expo. **Treasurer Gus Lopez** will provide cost estimates for portable signage to use in a booth. **Treasurer Gus Lopez** suggested we add a tear-off return card to any materials we distribute for recruiting so the prospective candidate can return it to us for follow up action. A suggestion from the floor was made to move Branch 70 to Area 3 and move Branch 137 to Area 19 thus eliminating Area 30. This was voted on by the Board – **MSP**.

President Mannell closed the Board Meeting at 2:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eckart Sellinger
Secretary