



Minutes (5 Pages)

State Board Meeting - Sons In Retirement
Veteran's Building – Vallejo, California



Tuesday, June 7, 2011 – 9:30AM

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

Regional Directors

6 Dean Steichen
7 Richard Kabanek
8 John Levis
10 Don Davis

Invited Participants & Representatives of State Committees

Mel Augustine, Jim Donovan – Past Presidents; Bill Lewis - Meeting Arrangements; Larry Garvin - Travel; Walter Schick - Publicity and Tools; Carl Elvik - Bowling; John Thomason - Insurance

Call to Order

President Robert Mannell opened the Board Meeting on time

Secretary Eckart Sellinger led the Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Eckart Sellinger verified a Quorum was present

President Mannell noted a few minor agenda changes

President Mannell recognized and welcomed Board members and other attendees

President Robert Mannell requested approval of the April 5, 2011 Minutes – **MMSP** (Motion Made, Seconded, & Passed)

Remarks from State Officers

President Bob Mannell noticed on his recent visits to many branches they have slowed membership losses and many branches are now showing gains in membership; each branch is different due to mixture of member life and work experiences; some branches are showing signs of distancing themselves from SIR, Inc. and some of those are not doing well. He noted SIR has limited leadership resources at the different levels to deal with normal ongoing business, let alone branches distancing themselves from SIR, Inc. He asked the Board to think about this issue and how to address it.

Vice President Jim Stedman said he noticed from his Committee Ex-Officio role visits to the different committee meetings they are all dedicated and working hard for their committees.

Minutes Cont'd – June 7, 2011 SIR Board Meeting

Secretary Eckart Sellinger noted the gathering of Rosters from the 145 branches was laborious as over half of the branches did not meet the March 1st deadline and required a lot of follow-up communication with the branches,

Area Governors, and Regional Directors. As of today he still does not have rosters from Branches 4, 36, 149, & 164. He said the next category of items due him in September are Form 44's, Area Governor-Regional Director election results.

Assistant Secretary Charles Moss reported all branch forms SI-100 (reporting for Corporations to the State) are being processed and the State has made it easier by allowing electronic filing and paying by credit card. This allows monthly filing and eliminates the personal visit to Sacramento to accomplish this filing.

Treasurer Adolph (Gus) Lopez said the Department of Treasury is just now sending missing Form 990 notices for 2008 tax year to the branches and asked again the branch send them to Gus and not take any independent action as SIR has records of its 2008 filings. He also distributed copies of the SIR balance sheet comparing 2010 to 2011 and indicated some branches still have not submitted their last pro-rata to him (circa \$2,000 outstanding yet).

Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden indicated there are still five branches who routinely do not complete the all the information on the form and only submit total information. He needs each line to be completed. A continuing problem is to get all the branches to submit the F28 to Karl by the 10th of the following month. There is one branch that has not submitted a F28 since last September but now has a new Treasurer attempting to rectify this situation.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: Chairman Buck Kendrick was not able to attend so Committee Member Dean Steichen gave this report. He said the committee recommends the following for the 2012 Officers; President – Jim Stedman; Vice President – Richard Dettmer; Secretary – Eckart Sellinger; Assistant Secretary – Charles Moss; Treasurer – Michael Berry; Assistant Treasurer - Jim Long. **MMSP** to accept this recommendation.

Rules Committee: Vice President Jim Stedman & Ex-Officio Member made this report. The Rules Committee recommended approval of changes to Rules: 2 (Attendance), 26 (Presidential Awards), 178 (Rosters), 227 (Financial Records), 325 (Branch Charter Revocation/Suspension), 327 Interim Branch BEC by State Officers), 574 (RV Code), & 608 (Rules Committee) and not to approve change to Rule 100 (Membership Termination). **MMSP** Rules Committee also recommended approval for Rule 899 (Area Governor) but the motion was not passed. However, **MMSP** to add this proposal as a Guideline to the Area Governor Website. Please see attachments to the Agenda for details on these rules.

Certificates: Certificates Chairman Jim Donovan proposed listing the recipients of the Senior, Super Senior, and Century Presidential Certificates in the State Roster Website and received agreement to do so.

Publicity and Tools: Chairman Walter Schick discussed how to implement and use the Area Contact and Activities roster concept. He referenced Area Governor 2 Ron Smith's meeting where key Area 2 Branch Chairs, Big SIR's, and Little SIR's met and exchanged ideas. Ron plans on doing this yearly shortly after the new officers/chairs are in place. Walter said he would be available to help facilitate any similar session for any of the Areas if interested.

Bowling: Chairman Carl Elvik recapped the Bowling Statewide meeting held in January and said they have a major effort to update their Bowling Manual but are having trouble finding resources to do it. They have their

Minutes Cont'd – June 7, 2011 SIR Board Meeting

next statewide meeting scheduled in August and hopes to have all the local bowling chairmen in attendance. He indicated there are still 11 State Tournaments scheduled for this year and that Branch 62 recently won the State tournament held in Brentwood.

Training: Chairman Jim Stedman indicated the State Training Session is scheduled for October 18th at this location and all 2012 Big SIR's, Area Governors, and Regional Directors are expected to attend. He requested the Regional Directors make sure their AG's and BS's attend. There will be special breakout sessions for Big SIR's focusing on groups with similar challenges and also breakout sessions for Area Governors.

Membership: Vice President Jim Stedman distributed a 2 page "Form 27 Membership Report for the 4 Month Period ending April 30, 2011". He discussed several items covered in the report including there are 18,769 SIR members in 145 active branches, a loss of 122 members since last December 31 and 934 new members over the same period or 16% growth. He said in his communication with the branches it's clear all of them are working very hard at recruiting.

Insurance: Chairman John Thomason referred to documents distributed with the agenda indicating Moose Lodge insurance requirements that SIR, Inc. will not conform to so the few branches meeting at Moose locations will have to find another meeting location. He also discussed a branch in Area 27 with an unauthorized travel organization that needs to disband and follow bus rules 350-353. He will be submitting changes to Rules 350/351 due to a better understanding of commercial transportation liability insurance. John announced he will be stepping down as Insurance Chairman after next year (2012).

Travel: Chairman Larry Garvin said they are getting close to finalizing the SIR 55th Anniversary Event for next year. Larry said branches are having difficulty finding travel chairmen and one problem often mentioned is the amount of paperwork involved, specifically the need for so many copies of each form needing distribution. Larry suggested dropping copies sent to the AG & RD of each form but did not get enough support to make it happen. It was suggested he come back with alternative approaches as most felt it was important for the AG to know the branch travel plans. He indicated his idea of having a training session for Travel Chairs is on hold for the time being.

New Business

Nomination Process Complaint: President Bob Mannell read a letter of concern pertaining to the Nominating Committee process when interviewing prospective candidates for state office and how some of the SIR Rules were not being followed in his view. President Mannell responded in writing as well as calling and discussing the concern with the individual.

Annual Meeting: President Bob Mannell asked for 3 volunteers to be Tellers to have and count ballots at the annual meeting if there are floor nominations. Bobbie Hairston, Richard Kabanek, & Dean Steichen volunteered. MMSP to provide a recognition gift for those who attend the meeting allocating up to \$1,200 for them. Gus Lopez volunteered to identify, recommend, and obtain the gifts.

Growth & Management Committee: President Bob Mannell announced Harry Hubinger resigned as Chairman and asked for suggestions as to who might replace Harry as Chair and for another person to be added to the committee.

Minutes Cont'd – June 7, 2011 SIR Board Meeting

Old Business

“Ideas that Matter”: President Bob Mannell indicated the group still has to meet on this subject and he expects to be able to cover their results at the Annual Meeting.

Area 21 Probation Status Report: Regional Director Richard Kabanek said he and President Mannell met with all of the branch Big SIR's and noted they are carrying out their obligations in a timely and complete fashion. President Mannell lifted their suspension based on their word they would make sure the branches would continue to meet their administrative requirements, attend the Annual Meeting and Training Session as required. Richard also noted Gary Pelton had to resign as the Area Governor. President Mannell was very complimentary of Richard's and Gary's effort dealing with this very difficult situation.

Branch 40: President Bob Mannell deferred commenting on this as there is still work to be done.

Request for Waiver of Wait List Rule: Vice President Jim Stedman discussed two requests for waiving the restriction in size - Rule 74 and the acceptance of new membership requests within 90 days of application - Rule 72.

Branch 134 – Jim recommended no action at this time to their request as the branch is not at the point of exceeding their maximum at this time. He indicated we would take up the request again if they still desire at the November 8, 2011 Board meeting. The Board agreed with Jim's recommendation.

Branch 172 – Jim provided a two page discussion paper on this request and covered the key points in the meeting. The branch wants a waiver based on the idea they may move back to a meeting location requiring a waiver but at this time their location has ample room for current members and future growth. Jim, the RD, & AG have discussed this issue with the branch and the potential negative impact of a membership restriction but to no avail. After much discussion, two motions were made and passed. Motion to send them a letter from SIR, Inc. refusing their request for waiver – **MMSP** (unanimous). Motion to let them know SIR will initiate the process for revocation of their Charter if they fail to comply with Rules 72 & 74 within 90 days of the letter (Rules 315 through 325) - **MMSP** (unanimous).

CA State Fair Booth: Ralph Lingus led a discussion about SIR having a booth at this years State Fair in Sacramento. As the deadline for application is July 14th, discussion was to let Ralph determine if there was time to apply and if not to plan on this activity for next year. Ralph will lead this effort and a motion was made to: Participate in the State Fair with a booth and in principal to set aside \$2,000 for this activity for this or next year based on a recommendation from Ralph to President Bob Mannell - **MMSP**.

Regional Director Reports

Region 10 - Director Don Davis described his region and noted an issue for some of his branches is the rent for meeting rooms is on the rise causing financial concerns for some of them. He is still pursuing his goals described in the last Board meeting.

Region 8 - Director John Levis described his region and indicated branches with more activities are doing better and that interesting speakers are a must. All of his branches are struggling to get rid of non-participating members and all of the branches are working hard at recruitment of new members.

Region 7 - Director Richard Kabanek described his region and indicated 11 of his 21 branches are doing very well at recruitment.

Minutes Cont'd – June 7, 2011 SIR Board Meeting

Region 6 - Director Dean Steichen provided everyone with a 2 page handout and discussed highlights of his region: all of his AG's are doing very well; region has a net gain of 10 members this year; value of activities in the branches; goals for this year; Form 27 helps the branches focus on the important things.

Region 4 - Director Bob Hairston described his region and added the overall recruitment numbers are not that good even though the branches are making the effort and that he will be meeting with all the branches to help with recruitment.

Region 3 - Director Maynard Rodland described his region indicating financials are in good shape and he has one branch that is problematic but actively working on improving.

Region 2 - Director Ralph Lingus described his region and that he has been pushing the recruitment efforts across all of his branches but the heavy amount of snow this year has clearly impacted communication efforts.

Region 1 - Bob Mannell spoke for Director Alan Harvey indicating some of the significant branch problems in a couple of the Areas have consumed an enormous amount of effort by the Regional Director and Area Governors.

Concluding Remarks

President Bob Mannell thought this was an excellent meeting with good discussions on all topics, both those of difficulty and those discussing future plans. He will hold a meeting with the "Ideas That Matter" task force soon. He thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting on time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eckart Sellinger

Secretary

June 10, 2011 - 13:30 Hrs