

AN INTRODUCTION TO SIR

Welcome to SIR, an organization whose sole purpose is to promote the Independence and Dignity of Retired Men by assisting them to renew former friendships and by providing the opportunity for new friendships through association with other retired men. It is a non-profit public benefit organization solely for retired men and all activities are planned solely for the benefit of members.

SIR stands for Sons In Retirement, a name adopted by 18 members at the second meeting in 1958 as a name that gives dignity to retirement, the inevitable lot of most men. The SIR copyrighted insignia is the Rooster. Quoting Damian Reynolds, the founder of SIR: "Of all the creatures on earth, none expresses independence and dignity with more sureness and aplomb than the Rooster. The majesty of his presence is felt in every barnyard and when he crows, he can be heard for miles".

The core of SIR is a monthly luncheon meeting where members can meet and relate to each other and plan activities. These activities are golf, bridge, travel, bowling, chess, fishing, and any other activities the members may desire. The central core is the luncheon meeting and it is important that the members attend every meeting possible. It is so important that the founding fathers established the rule that any member missing more than three consecutive meetings without notifying the Attendance Chairman, giving a valid reason, or attending less than six (6) meetings in the last 12 months are subject to termination by due process. The success of a branch depends on a full attendance at the luncheon meetings. Fellowship is the essence of SIR. Introduce yourself to other members and see that guests are made welcome.

SIR operates under a State Board, incorporated under the laws of the State of California and sets policy for each of its Branches, also incorporated individually. It does not endorse any political, religious, ideological or similar organization or cause, and any solicitation of funds by anyone at any branch meeting for the support of, or contribution to any cause, crusade, or any charitable or civic project, no matter how wormy, is prohibited.

SIR is financed by voluntary contributions only. All dues, fees, and assessments, as well as fund-raising activities are prohibited. The original idea was that suitable containers be placed on each table for contributions at each meeting. This made for a rather unpredictable status so some branches, 101 included, have requested that each member make a yearly contribution instead. This is a purely voluntary contribution and may be more or less than the suggested amount or may be nothing at all. SIR has no paid staff and none of the officers are paid, so all money goes to the operation of the organization. The State Board requires a certain amount for each member and this is used to pay insurance for all branches for liabilities at their meetings or activities and also for travel costs of the officers and supplies and other administrative costs. The main branch expense is the monthly Newsletter or Bulletin. It is important that each member contribute what he can for the financial stability of the organization.

SIR is an organization for retired men only. Today the law requires that "men only" clubs must meet the requirements for a "strictly private club". To do this they must:

1. Limit activities to members and bona-fide guests.
2. Screen applicants for membership by requiring that each new member be sponsored by a present member.
3. Avoid business-oriented activities.
4. Avoid activities open to or involving the public.
5. Limit activities, however worthy they may be, to those which are for "pleasure and recreation".
6. Comply with the filing requirements of the Secretary of State, the IRS, and the Franchise Tax Board.

Membership in SIR carries an unwritten obligation to participate in branch activities. You will help by accepting responsibility for any duty which the branch may need or by volunteering for committee work, especially in areas in which you have experience or a personal interest

Membership may be terminated by breaching any of the rules (such as the attendance requirements) and procedures or the directives of SIR or by serious misconduct or where his conduct clearly establishes abandonment" of his privileges, or "constructive resignation" of his membership. In any termination proceeding, a member is entitled to "due process", including a 5-day written notice and the right to enter his pleas in writing or to appear in person before the executive board.

Membership is worth only as much as the member contributes. The benefits are many, the obligations few, but they are of such importance that a prospective member should seriously consider them before he accepts membership.