



The Rooster Crows!

The Scoop from the Coop

February 2025

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HAPPY
GROUNDHOG DAY



HAPPY
PRESIDENTS
DAY



News Of The Day From State

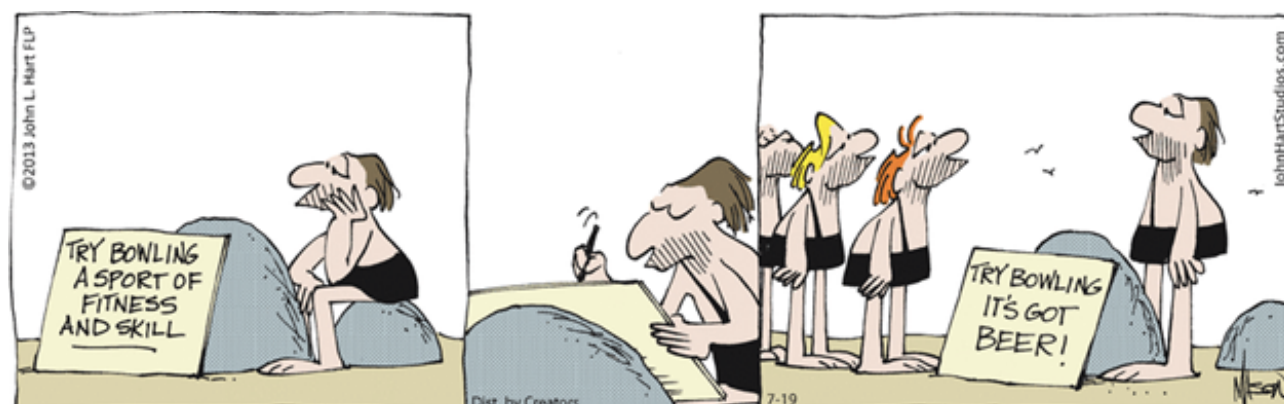
- If you use Medicaid with a supplemental policy or you use a different health insurance, you may have an opportunity to receive up to \$130 a year by being active in SIR.
- We are working with an organization named Grouper. Because health insurers recognize the importance of social and physical activity, they pay their insureds through Grouper to encourage these activities.
- Essentially, if your insurance has a contract with Grouper, you can qualify for this monetary benefit through your SIR activity. On signing up with Grouper, you receive a check for \$50. Thereafter, you can receive a \$20 quarterly check simply by being active in SIR. Note: This is an annual benefit.
- SIR also benefits with a one-time payment and referrals from the Grouper network.
- Look for more information about this opportunity from your BEC in the near future.

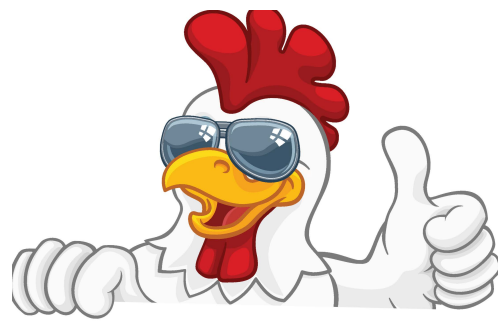


...to everyone who served as a Big Sir last year. Branches, please ensure you recognize their dedication and service. Also, don't forget to award them your Branch DSA under Policy 10



**Why is bowling a better sport than golf?
It's hard to lose a bowling ball.**





Branch Advisory Council

This year we established a Branch Advisory Committee (the "BAC"). The purpose of the BAC is to provide guidance and suggestions to State SIR to assist in its decision making.

The BAC is composed of representatives from 25 branches coming from 12 Areas. The BAC meets via a Zoom call the second Friday of every month. To date, we have had three meetings. After the meeting, I prepare a summary of the meeting, which is distributed to each of the members. If you would like a copy, please let me know. Below is a brief summary of actions taken by the BAC:

November Meeting: This was an organizational meeting but the BAC did discuss the status of branch filings of Form 20 and what action State SIR should take to ensure branches timely compliance with branch filing obligations.. There was discussion about the importance of the form, its use and the time when it should be filed. Comments also included the difficulty branches have had with the form and how better communication between State SIR and the branches might resolve some of the problems. Our CIO Kevin King is reviewing the form and how the submittal process can be improved. As of the date of this newsletter, all branches have filed their Form 20.

December Meeting: The topics discussed were:

1. Should Policy 31 be amended to enable State SIR to access fines or penalties to branches that refuse to submit required forms or to pay dues? A consensus was reached that financial penalties were unlikely to be effective and need not be included in Policy 31.
2. Should the traditional titles of "Big Sir" and "Little Sir" be kept or changed to, for example, President and Vice-President? No consensus was reached but several relevant factors, including cost, tradition, and member feedback should be considered. Several branches now use internally the President and Vice-President titles.
3. Should the name of SIR be changed to a more neutral or modern name? A consensus was reached that the name SIR should not be changed.
4. Should branches be renamed as "chapters"? A consensus was reached that there is no compelling reason to make that change.
5. The final item discussed was the importance for the branches to adopt and discuss procedures for responding to a medical emergency.

January Meeting: The topics discussed were:

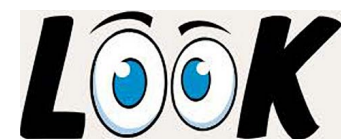
1. The first topic discussed was the Grouper program and the opportunities presented by that program. There was consensus that BECs should be the initial point of contact for disseminating information about the program to their members. Training will be required for the BECs about the program.
2. Should the term "retirement" be removed from all SIR branding and marketing materials? After a thorough discussion, a consensus was reached that branches should have flexibility in their marketing approaches to allow them to target potential members effectively, regardless of employment status.
3. The last topic discussed was a draft policy to be followed if a branch elects to move from a men-only branch to a mixed branch. There is one mixed branch and at least one other that has voted to become a mixed branch. The draft policy is designed to ensure that any branch to change does it correctly to ensure that SIR is protected legally and via its insurance. A consensus was reached that the draft policy should be reviewed by counsel to ensure that it provides appropriate protection for SIR and accomplishes the purpose for which it has been drafted.



Unlike each of the last 20 years where we lost on average 4.5% of our membership each year, in 2024, we lost only **0.8%** of our membership!!
GREAT WORK EVERYONE!! Thank you



BUT LET'S KEEP MOVING FORWARD!



City / Branch	Month	Day	Bowling Center	Code	Tournament Manager(s)	Phone
Albany / 43	Jan.	Tue 14	Albany Bowl	4	Dave Ettinger	707-847-8008
Albany / 43	Feb.	Thu 17	Country Club Lanes	4	Tim Davis	916-752-0775
Albany / 43	Mar.	Wed 6	Albany Lanes	4	Ann Thornton	916-752-0448
Albany / 43	Apr.	Mon 22	Albany Lanes	4	Ann Thornton	916-752-0448
Albany / 43	May	Tue 14	Albany Bowl	4	Ann Thornton	916-752-0448
Albany / 43	Jun.	Wed 12	Albany Bowl	4	Ann Thornton	916-752-0448
Albany / 43	Jul.	Thu 19	Albany Bowl	4	Ann Thornton	916-752-0448
Albany / 43	Aug.	Fri 26	Albany Bowl	4	Ann Thornton	916-752-0448
Albany / 43	Sep.	Sat 3	Albany Bowl	4	Ann Thornton	916-752-0448
Albany / 43	Oct.	Sun 10	Albany Bowl	4	Ann Thornton	916-752-0448
Albany / 43	Nov.	Mon 17	Albany Bowl	4	Ann Thornton	916-752-0448
Albany / 43	Dec.	Tue 24	Albany Bowl	4	Ann Thornton	916-752-0448

SIR Bowling held 16 tournaments in 2004. The number of bowlers for each tournament was between 60 and 200.

