

# SIRS Branch 145 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2020

**1.0 Call to Order** at 1:02 pm.

**2.0 Roll Call**: The following officers and directors were present for a phone conference virtual meeting: Paul Wright, Mark Wahlman, Tony Moles, Richard Baines, Harry Martin, Bill Rutherford, Stephen Helmer, Ram Rao, and John Coakley. The following members were absent: Chester George, Phil Schrock and Robert Gorbet.

**3.0 Guests**: None present

## **4.0 Approval of the Minutes for August 11**

A motion was made by Harry M. and seconded by Bill R. to approve the minutes of the August 11 meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

## **5.0 Committee Reports**

**5.1 Treasurer's Report**: Harry M. reported the beginning balance was \$2149.67. Harry noted that our branch had an ending balance of \$2070.89. There was a decrease for the month of \$78.78 due to the newsletter expense. A motion was made by Tony M. and seconded by Bill R. to approve the Treasurer's report. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Harry also suggested we pay the quarterly assessment for active members only, such as golfers. There are 72 golfers at this time. Harry will contact the State SIRS representative to ask where the authority to collect the assessment is derived from, and he will also express our concern with paying the assessment for inactive members in our branch during these difficult times.

**5.2 Membership Report**: Stephen H. reported there are 132 members and that there was no net membership change for August's Form 27, but we did remove one member's name who passed away, Mike Daniger. Stephen also noted that he added a name to membership as Andy Lagomarsino joined in the golf tournament as an active member. A motion was made by John C. and seconded by Bill R. to accept the membership report. The motion passed unanimously.

**5.3 Golf Report**: Bill R. reported that the schedule is normal for our golf group.

**5.3.1 Confirm Guest Policy**: Bill discussed golf and insurance issues with guest golfers. In regard to that, Bill R. made the following motion, which was seconded by Mark W.: *SIR members may invite a guest to play in our scheduled golf tournaments. With the following guidelines:*

- 1. Guests should meet the general requirements of SIR members-age, gender etc.*
- 2. Guests may only play in one golf tournament a season.*
- 3. There is no limit on the number of times a member may invite different guests to our SIR golf tournaments.* The Motion passed unanimously. It is our

understanding this will provide liability insurance to those guests participating in the tournaments.

**5.4 Little Sir:** Mark W. said there is nothing new to report. We have two speakers available when we do begin regular meetings again.

## **6.0 Old Business**

### **6.1 Picnic:**

**6.1.1 Status of Refunds/ Contributions:** Harry reported that eleven donations were made from ticket sales for the picnic with an additional two general donations made by club members. A \$350 donations deposit has been made to the club account. Only one member requested and received a ticket refund for \$25.

## **7.0 New Business**

**7.1 Zoom Wine Appreciation:** After a short report from Paul, a motion was made to continue the Wine Appreciation Group as zoom meeting only until such time as we are able safely do them in person. The motion was made by Tony M. and seconded by Mark W. The motion passed unanimously.

**7.2 Annual State SIR Meeting:** Paul and Mark gave a thorough report on the State SIR zoom meeting as follows.

**7.2.1 Branding and Marketing:** The top items were 1) the changing of SIR By Laws to reflect the ability to do zoom meetings instead of in-person meetings. 2) A discussion of insurance rates, and the thinking that they are not expecting them to decrease in the near term. 3) The financial condition of the branches and that the dues collecting branches are doing better financially than those that are not collecting a regular dues. Paul reported that that one branch conducted a one-time special assessment with 60% of their members paying. 4) Member engagement is still an issue up and down the state. 5) A ByLaws amendment was made at the State SIR meeting that BEC members cannot designate a proxy to vote for them at a BEC meeting. After the report, there followed a broad discussion of SIR Branches health and activity levels.

Paul and Mark noted that the report from the marketing consultant from MCO Associates, who was hired to do outreach to new and old members, was a reasonable and a fundamentally good report to the club. She reported that SIR should improve its website and enhance and align the brochures. At this time, the report had not been accepted by SIR nor had it been financed.

**7.2.2 Reopening Plan:** Paul W. will draft a plan to present at the October BEC mtg. It will include the following items: Any meetings will follow the county and state public health guidelines for COVID 19. It will present the in-person guidelines for meetings. The policy will also stipulate that the BEC will approve the guidelines for each

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activity at least two weeks prior to the activity beginning. Mark W. also noted that the state SIRS also adopted a reopening plan. Paul's role will also be to monitor our progress along the reopening time line.

**7.3 Member Outreach:** Paul W. noted it may be two to four more months before we are back to anything close to our regular luncheon meetings again. He thought it would be appropriate to contact members to check on them and to maintain club contact with them. Paul will draw a list of three or four points to discuss with members when we call them. After some discussion, it was decided that golfers need not be contacted because they are still meeting regularly. The volunteer callers are Paul W, Mark W., Stephen H, Tony M., and Harry M. Stephen H. will work with Bill R. to develop a list of members to be called, and then the list will be distributed to the callers.

**7.4 October Newsletter:** The newsletter was discussed. Next month's newsletter will include a list of the continuing officers and directors for our branch based on the motion from last month's meeting.

**8.0 Good of the Order:** Harry M. mentioned that the club could raise funds selling advertising in the newsletter. He did stipulate that the Bylaws say that advertising cannot benefit a member. If it does, those proceeds must be turned over to the Branch for deposit into its account. If it does not benefit a member, then the proceeds are allowed to go to the advertiser.

**9.0 Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bill R.. and seconded by Harry M. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Submitted By Tony Moles, Secretary.