



The Rooster Crows!

The Scoop from the Coop

April 2025

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News Of The Day From State

I receive copies of newsletters from several branches. I read everyone of them and enjoy them. You may recognize the pictures above and below. It is great to see that our members are vibrant and active. If you aren't sending me a copy of your newsletter, please do.

As mentioned in my last newsletter, the Board is beginning the planning process for the future via a business plan or defined rolling plan approach. Several branches will be involved with this process along with the Board. But, I want to hear from you and get your suggestions. I have heard from a few of our members who have had excellent suggestions and thoughts. Make sure we get yours.

As we start this planning process, we are also going to finalize and clarify some of our policies. For example, we'll finalize the policies considered by the BAC and addressed in my March newsletter. We need to clarify that wives and significant others can attend SIR activities as a right under the membership of their spouse. They are not "guests" within the meaning of the current policy on guests. We will be revising the policy to make that clear and explicit. If there are other policies that you think are ambiguous, please let us know what they are and why they are ambiguous.

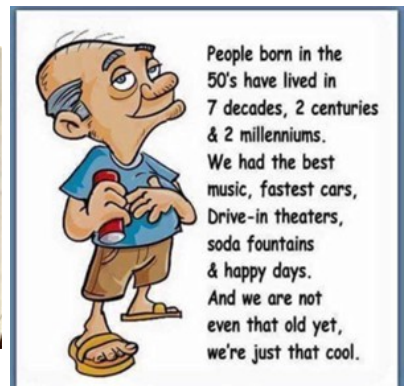
Finally, we are also looking at new administrative policies which we should already have had. For example, we need a record retention policy. We also should have cash reserve guidelines. We should have guidelines addressing first aid and safety for our members. We are working on each of these. If you have comments on these, or any others that you think we should have, let us know.



April 20 - 26 is National Volunteer Week. Let's take time that week to express our appreciation to our many State and Branch volunteers who work so hard for us. SIR exists because of them. Please make sure they know how much you appreciate what they are doing. **My special thanks to all of you who serve to make life better for our members.**

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Please join me in welcoming **Ramesh Thadani** to the Board of Directors. Ramesh is our new CIO, brings a lot of experience and is doing a terrific job.



People born in the 50's have lived in 7 decades, 2 centuries & 2 millenniums. We had the best music, fastest cars, Drive-in theaters, soda fountains & happy days. And we are not even that old yet, we're just that cool.





Topics for Discussion at Your BEC

I believe that one of the important roles that we perform at State SIR is to facilitate the sharing of ideas. Here are a few of my thoughts and suggestions about topics which I believe each BEC should regularly consider and discuss:

1. **Lunch Meetings.** How can we increase attendance at our lunch meetings? This simple question raises many more. For example:
 - a. Why aren't members attending? Have non-attending members been surveyed?
 - b. Do our members feel they get value and have fun when they attend? If not, how can we change that?
 - c. Would occasionally changing the format improve attendance? Instead of a speaker one month, maybe a game day or joke day? How about a business meeting or an entertainer? Maybe have theme lunches.
 - d. When guests attend, is the lunch a positive or a negative in their decision to join?
2. **Community Awareness.** Are we taking positive actions to let men in our community learn about our branch and its activities? Again, more questions follow:
 - a. Do our members enjoy our programs and are they proud to invite others to them?
 - b. Are we engaged in local community activities and events? Are we encouraging our members regularly to be engaged in the community and rewarding those that are?
 - c. Are we letting the community know what we are doing on Nextdoor and other local media?
 - d. Do we make brochures and cards available to our members and encourage their use?
3. **Safety from Scams.** Repeated reminders about prevalent internet scams and frauds protects everyone. State SIR has conducted training on these dangers, which training is posted on the website, and we have leaders who can assist branches with their training. But, don't forget resources available through the police, the County, and other organizations.
4. **Leadership.** One of the most common concerns I hear is that "no one in the branch will step forward to accept a leadership role." This is a serious problem. The strength of the branch is found in its leadership. Maintaining and strengthening that leadership requires new people to volunteer, bringing their energy, enthusiasm and new ideas to the branch. We encourage you to consider putting a Help Wanted Column in your newsletter. Let all of your members know of your needs and what the position(s) entails. Let them know how fun it is to work on the leadership team and about the friendships they will form serving with others. Last year in Branch 8, we found volunteers by asking for them through a survey. This year, when I asked for volunteers to serve at State SIR, members stepped forward to fill the need. We hope, and suspect, that you will be pleasantly surprised if you ask for volunteers through your newsletter.
5. **Recognize Service.** We have many people volunteering their time and energy. Has your BEC recently discussed how to thank them and express your appreciation for all they do?

