



## Top 10 reasons Branch 35 should open membership

# The Future of SIR Branch 35

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## Brief Background

- Women in SIR (WIS) is a State SIR strategic topic
- Briefed at our BEC for past 3 years
- In 2025, a Branch 35 survey was conducted
  - Results showed a need to be addressed
  - WIS was discussed at the Oct 15th BEC with Pros and Cons
  - BEC voted to bring this topic to all members

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DAVID  
LEFFMAN

## Top 10 reasons Branch 35 should open membership

### 1. Promote Inclusivity and Modernized Dynamics:

- In 1958, US workforce was 68% male
- In 2025, the US workforce is 53% male
- It is logical that our branch evolve with time
- A co-ed branch reflects diversity
- Aligns the Branch with values of inclusivity/gender equality
- Women should have same enjoyment and dignity as men
- Creates a more diverse and dynamic branch
- Combats loneliness - a major goal of SIR

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## Top 10 reasons Branch 35 should open membership

### 2. Removes Major Barrier for Joining Branch 35

- Currently men and women work, play & socialize as equals.
- Younger men are not interested in joining a "male" only organization

### 3. Improve Long-Term Viability

- As a men's-only club, our branch is outdated
- Adapting is crucial for the our branch's future health

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## Top 10 reasons Branch 35 should open membership

### 4. Reflects Reality

- Retirement is shared by both men and women
- Our branch dedicated to "the dignity and enjoyment of retirement" should logically be open to all
- New members are fully acclimated to co-ed environment

### 5. Deeper Social Connections

- Women also seek social engagement & friendships.
- Creates a more diverse and dynamic branch
- Combats loneliness - a **major goal of SIR**

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## Top 10 reasons Branch 35 should open membership

### 6. Richer Activities

- Expand current activities
- Introduce new activities
- Make our club more appealing to a broader audience

### 7. Diverse Perspectives

- A co-ed environment exposes all to a wider range of viewpoints, life experiences, and professional backgrounds
- Diversity stimulates conversations
- Keeps our minds sharp and alert

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### 8. Fosters a more welcoming environment:

- Our branch welcomes women to all events
- Full membership creates a genuinely inclusive atmosphere (and less 'fraternal')
- Reflective of the community we serve
- A meaningful step toward a stronger, more vibrant branch

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## Top 10 reasons Branch 35 should open membership

### 9. Adds New Leadership Ideas:

- Women bring complementary leadership styles, skill sets, and organizational ideas
- Enhances what we already do well
- Enriches the branch's volunteer leadership

It is the future of our Branch

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## Top 10 reasons Branch 35 should open membership

### 10. Securing the Future and Longevity of the Branch:

- A strategic move for the long-term health of our Branch
- Promotes inclusivity, understanding, and diverse perspectives
- Potential new leaders

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## Top 10 reasons Branch 35 should open membership

*“The Mission of SIR is to enhance the lives of our members lives through fun activities and events – while making friends for life”*

A co-ed membership model

- Directly supports the mission
- Does Not change the mission
- Progressive and Pragmatic

**It is the future of our Branch**

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