

How SIR Started

Realizing the social nature of man and the desire for the company of others, particularly those retired from gainful employment, the late Damian L. Reynolds conceived the idea of Sons In Retirement (SIR) in the Spring of 1958.

Three friends, all retired, met with Mr. Reynolds on occasion for a friendly luncheon. He suggested to these three, Messrs. Claus Hink, Lorenz. H. Hansen and Wallace Plummer, that they join him in his idea.



Damian Reynolds



Claus Hink



Lorenz Hansen



Wallace Plumer

A kickoff luncheon was held in the Clarimar Restaurant in San Mateo, California on July 29, 1958. Five additional friends of the four founders came to the luncheon. They were Messrs. George Rogers, Clarence Johnson, Conrad Lange, Lloyd Cartmill and William Torello.

The name Sons In Retirement was unanimously adopted by eighteen members of the club at a second meeting on August 12, 1958. Consideration was given to several other names, none of which seemed to make clear the purpose of this fledgling group. Because most retired men wish for nothing to do with things pertaining to inactivity or laziness, the chosen name seemed to enunciate and give dignity to retirement. Since the name of the group was Sons In Retirement, one of the original group proposed that the club's executive officer be designated as the Big Sir, a salutation "indicating maturity and respect". Second in command would be known as the Little Sir.

Rules for the club were adopted on October 28, 1958. Among them were that members were not to be solicited for donations for outside groups or purposes. On January 10, 1962, this was further clarified to state solicitation was permitted only to provide funds to carry out the purposes of the club.

Basic guidelines of Sons In Retirement were set forth in Rules and Procedures drawn up at the time of incorporation in 1959. These have been revised from time to time.

1. It was to be a luncheon club composed of men retired from gainful employment.
2. There were to be no dues, initiation fees or assessments other than normal voluntary contributions at each luncheon to cover expenses. NOTE: August 2013 Rule change allows Branches to charge Dues if they wish.
3. The organization would espouse no political party, religion, or sect of any kind.
4. Eligible men would be invited to join after attending at least one luncheon meeting and being introduced by the member who would sponsor him.
5. The club would meet monthly for lunch, at the member's expense, and a program would become part of each luncheon.

The corporation's copyrighted insignia is the rooster. Mr. Reynolds stated, "Of all the creatures on earth, none expresses independence and dignity with more sureness and aplomb than a rooster. The majesty of his presence is felt in every barnyard, and when he crows, he can be heard for miles, not a fainthearted crow, but with a noise that calls attention to his majestic being."



The new club's first bulletin was called "Yes Sir" and its publication was financed entirely by voluntary contributions, a tradition which continues to this day.

The club's slogan, "Promoting the Independence and Dignity of Retirement" speaks to the purpose and the long-range goals of Sons In Retirement, Inc., that were set forth by our founders in 1958.