



Live Longer, Live Happier, Join SIR

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November 9, 2020

To: Branch Big Sirs, Little Sirs and Secretaries
Copy to: SIR Board, State Committee Chairmen and Area Governors

Fellow SIR Leaders,

On March 16, 2020, the California Department of Public Health released guidance on the prevention of COVID-19 transmission. The Department found that all non-essential gatherings should be postponed or canceled until further notice.

On October 9, the Department updated its [guidance](#) (please click to see the document) to allow limited, outdoor social gatherings of no more than three households for duration of under two hours. This new guidance effectively prohibits SIR-sponsored meetings, activities and events. The new guidance applies to all California counties, regardless of their current risk classification or risk tier. State regulation is of a higher tier than County or City, and must be obeyed.

It is, therefore, the directive of the SIR Executive Committee, based upon the current California Department of Public Health requirements, that there will be **no in-person SIR-sponsored meetings, luncheons or events of any kind until further direction is received from SIR State Executive leadership.**

For the purposes of this directive, a meeting or event shall be considered SIR-sponsored unless it is organized and sponsored by an identifiable third party. Should the sponsoring third party sponsor a private activity, luncheon or event, it is important to note that it too must comply with all California and applicable county directives. Of course, since the private activity, luncheon or event is not approved by SIR or any SIR-affiliated organization, it would not be covered by SIR insurance.

This directive is disheartening to all of us, but SIR must obey the law. Of course, Branches are encouraged to utilize non-traditional techniques such as ZOOM to conduct meetings and activities remotely and to remain in close contact with their members via ZOOM, telephone, email and bulletins.

The State Executive Committee also directs all Branches to immediately rescind any previous in-person activity, luncheon or event approvals previously granted, and, make their members aware of this State Regulation through Branch-wide emails, bulletins or other means.

As my term as President ends, I wish I had better news for you. It appears, however, that effective vaccines may be on the horizon. With your help, SIR will overcome these setbacks. Please engage your members through non-traditional means and prepare for the future when COVID 19 is finally behind us and a degree of normalcy returns.

Best regards, and stay safe,

Ed Benson, SIR State President

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