

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting (Brief Version)

November 10, 2013

It was determined that a quorum of Board members was present and the meeting was called to order by the Board Chair at 12 Noon PST.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of the Minutes and the Treasurer's Report. It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that these reports be accepted without revision.

Survey

There were 380 participants. This number is comparable to a recent SMART Recovery survey, even though they had about three times as many face-to-face meetings as we. About one-quarter of respondents indicated that they would participate in LifeRing activities, such as fundraising or other volunteer work.

2014 Annual Meeting

Several meeting venues were discussed. A proposal will be made to the Santa Rosa City Council to allow us to use their facility at no charge, since otherwise the cost would be over \$2000 for just one day. Other venues are less costly.

There was a lengthy discussion about the subject of "choice in recovery" for an invited speaker to address (that is, a speaker who would address the requirement of government agencies to provide non-religious choices for recovery options). Some persons thought that this presentation would be tangential to the purpose of our organization; we do not want to give the impression that we are working within the legal system. However, the choice of religious or non-religious recovery programs is required of government agencies; it is the law, and accordingly the purpose of this presentation would be for awareness only. This sort of presentation would be informative, particularly for convenors. Several other potential speakers for other topics were also discussed.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to conduct a vote by the board members on whether to invite a featured speaker to the Annual Meeting who would address the subject of choice. The vote passed, four to three with one abstention.

Fundraising

An end of year solicitation is in preparation. The "Just Give" vehicle was discussed. It is a viable and easy way to solicit gifts. It is worth a test, particularly at year-end. The role of convenors in fundraising was also discussed (beyond "passing the basket"). It was agreed that considerations

regarding funding support for the Annual Meeting should be put on the agenda for the December board meeting.

Website

A video, previously posted on the front page, was replaced by a book graphic that links to the bookstore. All board members were urged to subscribe to the blog, also prominently shown on the front page. Solicitations for blog content were made.

Brochures

There needs to be an approval process in place for new or rewritten brochures for board approval. Some brochures have been translated into Spanish. The one that is formatted will be sent to the Service Center for consideration.

The 2013 Annual Report

It was suggested that we publish such a report. It would include items such as meeting count, finances, and a short summary of LifeRing in 2013.

Closed Meetings

Previously, closed meetings were posted along with open meetings in the PDF file available on the lifering.org website. During the last few months, these listings were changed so as not to include these meetings. The bylaws state that chartered meetings, open or closed, should be listed. The terminology used in listing these meetings was discussed. It was agreed that these meetings should be listed, but with mention that they are "closed." There are presently 26 closed meetings, nationwide, that are not listed.

Adjournment

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously, that the meeting be adjourned. Some items were not covered due to meeting length. They will be taken up at the next meeting.

Submitted by the Board Secretary

November 20, 2013