

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting (Brief Version): January 13, 2013

It was determined that a quorum of Board members was present and the meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon PST.

New Business

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda this month consisted of the Minutes, the Financial Report, and three committee reports.

Minutes

The Secretary's report was unanimously accepted.

Financial Report

The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

Committee Reports

According to the Tri-Annual Committee Reporting Schedule, three committee reports were due this month:

- Volunteer Recruitment and Coordination
- Convenor Training
- Accountability and Transparency

There was some discussion of which committee the newsletter activity should fall into, but for now, that activity was left in the Accountability and Transparency Committee.

There was also some discussion regarding the Convenors' Workshop that was held recently. A video was made of that workshop, but everyone had not seen it or the link to it. The link to it will be put on the website.

Old Business

Facebook Management

It was asked if we could recruit a manager for the LifeRing pages on Facebook. We also need someone to post there regularly. A volunteer agreed to do this.

Fundraising

The arrangement of meetings planned in the Washington D.C. area was discussed. The planned trip there last October was postponed because of storm Sandy. Discussions will begin in May with several agencies.

Strategic Planning

It was agreed that a meeting would be held prior to the next board meeting to specifically address the impact to the bylaws of the recent international organization proposal. The timing of possible changes in the bylaws was discussed and it was suggested that for the 2013 Congress, we proceed with the newly revised bylaws as defined now and that we postpone until after then to assess and possibly change again the bylaws as they would be impacted by the international structure proposal.

Bylaws

A PDF that describes the “overlay” that would be put onto the bylaws regarding the absentee voting issue will be sent. We want the same requirements of the absentee candidates that we would have for those actually present at the Congress. It was felt that it was inappropriate to require certain information from people that were absent, and then not require that same information from those present. The Registrar will put together a plan that would be fair to all.

The next newsletter will come out in March and that would be the time that we need to have the Registrar publish the requirements for absentee nominations and ballots. This will be done.

New Business

Video Proposal

The proposal was discussed by the Executive Committee, and it was felt that committing money toward this effort should be delayed until it is known where that money would come from. The video will address the nature of LifeRing meetings, and in effect would be a video version of our brochures. We anticipate that the reprinting of the Workbook will be a costly expense that must be factored into funding for the video effort.

It was also mentioned that an agreement was made to record an audio book version of the “Empower Your Sober Self” book. The recording was made and the preparations involved in getting its release are in progress.

Website Changes and Use of the Word “Convenor”

Some of those interested in starting a meeting have been confused by the name “convenor” and many are not sure where to look on the website to determine how to proceed. To address this confusion, the main menu heading on the website was changed from “Convenor” to “Meetings” to make things more clear. A small box on the side of the website regarding how to start a meeting was also added.

The question about the use of the word “convenor” on the website was raised; it may not be a word that is clear to all people. It was felt that “convenor” is a special word in the context of LifeRing in contrast to AA and “sponsorship” for example. The “convenor” word is part of our branding. It was suggested that the word “facilitator” could be incorporated as part of the “convenor” definition since people are familiar with that word and what it signifies.

Adjournment

A motion was entertained to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 1 PM PST.

Submitted by the Board Secretary

January 19, 2013