

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting (Brief Version): March 14, 2013

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

New Business

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda this month consisted of the Minutes, the Financial Report, and three Committee reports. It was passed with no objections.

Video Project

A list of grants is being compiled and this effort is be coordinated with the Fundraising Committee Chair. New brochures that will be published in tandem with the video are being worked on.

Reprint of the *Recovery by Choice* Workbook

A pricing quote was distributed for its printing. One printer was the cheapest by far since they print the books themselves. The cost is about one-half of that which we paid last time. The Board authorized that we proceed with an order of 2500 books.

Discussion: Absentee Ballot Voting System

This discussion was motivated by the upcoming Annual Meeting and Congress to be held in Denver from May 31 to June 2, 2013. It centered on the merits and drawbacks of Plurality Voting Systems [such as First Pass the Post (FPTP) and Borda] vs. Majority Voting Systems [such as several types of Ranked Choice Voting Systems (RCV)].

According to Robert's Rules of Order if no person gets a majority then no seats are won. In an FPTP system (plurality) this is possible but not in any of the RCV systems since iterative voting always results in majority winners (with the exception of ties, for which there are several methods to resolve). Robert's Rules of Order state that no candidate can be seated without a majority. This could happen with FPTP but not with RCV systems.

Random simulation tests of the RCV systems was done with the conclusion that while first and second place winners were essentially the same for all, there were ties for third place in some tests, assuming that there were three Board seats up for election and more than three persons were running for those positions. Several ways of resolving ties were explored.

A role vote was called regarding which voting system was preferred. That is, a vote was called to determine the preference of the Board for either a Plurality or a Majority System.

There were five votes for a Majority System and four votes for a Plurality System.

It was noted that within the Majority Systems, there was still a choice among several different voting and counting schemes.

There is a set of 11 Rules described for majority voting by Amherst College. These rules are widely used and they represent standard majority voting and counting schemes. Rule 7 relates to tie-breaking. While retaining all other rules, the Board defined a new Rule 7 that was deemed more suitable for the election at hand. Accordingly it was agreed that the Amherst Rules would be used with that modification to better resolve tie votes.

Annual Meeting and Congress

We have two locations firmed up in Denver and they are paid for. It was suggested that a donation of \$10 for LifeRing members to attend be charged. We are charging \$25 at the door for non-LifeRing members and \$20 for those that are pre-registered. Rental of the facilities will come out of Colorado funds. There will be no charge for the sessions on Friday since these will involve discussions related to activities that are internal to the LifeRing organization. Also, we will not charge for the Congress on Sunday.

Ms. Candice Shelby has agreed to be one of the speakers and she would do this for free. Her focus will relate to the book she is writing. It was agreed that we would move forward on this.

On Saturday we would start with Dr. Mat e, an addiction expert and book author, followed by presentations from non 12-Step organizations (Women for Sobriety, SMART Recovery, and LifeRing). In the afternoon Ms. Shelby would speak followed by a presentation from the Center for Inquiry (CFI).

New Website

The website has a new look and will soon have a new front page.

New "Preferred Provider" Web Page

There was a discussion on possibly using a term other than "Preferred Provider" on one of our webpages. It was suggested that we use "Endorsed" instead of "Preferred." (That is, the provider endorses us). Furthermore it was suggested that we might solicit an endorsement letter from each provider. Emails and letters would be sent to treatment centers to ask them if they support LifeRing. If they do, then we would put them on the list.

Update: Discussions with the Sonoma Sobriety Council

It was reported last month that LifeRing objected to the Council's use of specific language referring to 12-Step programs in their policy documents. Encouraging changes have been made. For example, residents of county treatment centers are now being bussed to LifeRing meetings. Attendance has been problematic for some residents, although the majority is sincere and engaged.

Board Vacancies

As stated in the Bylaws, three Board seats come up for election each year. Therefore there exists the possibility that new Board members might be seated based upon voting. The discussion above, regarding Plurality vs. Majority voting schemes, therefore becomes important.

CPA Engagement

A CPA has volunteered some of her time to handle our tax issues *pro bono*. She needs us to sign a standard CPA engagement letter that would be for her insurance purposes, and is needed even for *pro bono* work. The letter provides no obligation on our part for any action.

New Business

The Spring Newsletter was discussed, particularly regarding the editor's desire to write an article in which it would be stated that absentee voting of any kind would not be supported by preference of the editor. The Board had no objections and the editor was urged to proceed. Additional input was also solicited.

Adjournment

It was commented that although there were a few items left to discuss, none of them were urgent. Because of the long meeting, it was decided to delay those items until the next meeting.

There being no other urgent business at this time, it was moved that we adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Submitted by the Board Secretary

March 20, 2013