

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting (Brief Version): April 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: Online Forum Support, LifeRing Press, and Strategic Planning. It was accepted unanimously.

Online Forum Support

Delegate information on LSRsafe, LSRmail, Delphi, and Ning has been submitted. Most online meetings have named a delegate. There are about 20 delegates registered and they represent a very large number of members, particularly Delphi and Ning. Most are aware of absentee voting. We do not yet have contact information for all. We need at least an email that provides this information as the Registrar needs a list of people to whom ballot information can be sent. The voting timeline was discussed for clarification. In particular, other than the three-month lead time, already conveyed at the end of February, May 2 is the deadline for delegates to contact the Registrar.

Video Progress and LifeRing Press

Video Progress: Grant sourcing continues. Various options are still being explored.

LifeRing Press: Now that the new website is up, help is need for the creation of new pamphlets with regard to style and content that are consistent with it. Further discussions will be held at the Annual Conference as well as at meetings interimly.

Strategic Planning Committee

A new committee structure has been defined, but discussion of it will be postponed until the Congress so that new Board Members will be able to review it.

Absentee Ballot Voting System

New rules for absentee voting have been distributed to the Board and they have voted by email to accept them.

Annual Meeting

There are a number of registrations so far. We need to not exceed 250 persons, as this is the maximum that the venue will hold. Additionally, we are about to send out 1500 postcards to providers. A partial agenda was discussed for Friday that will focus on Workshops. Topics covered will include Structural Management of LifeRing Growth, Strategic Planning, and Convenor Workshops.

Website Front Page

The new front page of the website will be changed soon and will have needed improvements. A decision needs to be made regarding its content. A link from it to the location where statements from Board candidates will be given.

LifeRing Organizational Areas

Regarding the "Find Meetings" link on the website, subsets of our meetings for various areas including the SF Bay, the Denver, the Albuquerque, and the Sonoma County Areas, congruent to our Regional Representative Areas have been defined. Each area would then have its own specific meetings that would be tracked to afford a degree of independence, as well as better connectivity with the Service Center.

Selling Books with Smartphones

"Square", "PayPal", and Online Banking were discussed as alternatives to our usual practice. It was suggested that a pamphlet be prepared and distributed to all convenors that would explicitly define these procedures.

The Registrar

The question was raised as to whether the LifeRing Registrar would be able to serve as a delegate or would this constitute a conflict of interest. It was agreed that this would not be problematic.

New Survey Draft

A detailed survey draft to solicit information from members has been prepared but a timely response to it before the Annual Meeting is not expected. Previous experience was that it takes months to obtain a statistically significant sample size, and that we do not have time for this in preface to the Meeting.

Selling Non-LifeRing Books on the Website

This option will be pursued with the Ingram Book Company, the largest of which in the nation. A “drop-ship” service, in which our website takes an order and Ingram does the shipping will be pursued. This would allow us to carry a variety of books in quantity without having to deal with inventory.

Professional Advisory Board

The point was made that such a board might provide information regarding new treatment drugs and new laws relating to addiction, for example. Also this board might provide feedback on suggested areas of improvement. It was stressed that we must determine what we want this board to do before approaching any potential candidates. It was decided to take further discussions of this subject off-line.

Adjournment

There being no other business at this time, it was moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 1:15 pm DST.

Submitted by the Board Secretary

April 24, 2013