

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting (Brief Version): May 12, 2013.

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

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda this month consisted of the Minutes, the Financial Report, and the committee reports that have been received. The Consent Agenda acknowledges the receipt of those reports. A motion to accept it was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Old Business

Annual Meeting

The total number of persons registered now is approximately 150. It was noted that the venue for the Gabor Maté presentation can hold a maximum of 240 persons.

The issue of registration fees was discussed, and in particular the sharing of costs between LifeRing and the Trauma Center.

The final schedule will be posted on the website.

Comments Regarding the Upcoming Congress

There will be a significant amount of discussion about absentee voting, as it needs to be presented and be voted upon.

There needs to be an amendment to the Bylaws that increases the Board quorum definition from four to five; the Bylaws in this regard have not been updated since the number of Board members was increased to nine.

The Election

To date there are 80 delegates registered and a list of them has been compiled. A link to the website pages that contain board candidate information will be sent to all delegates to better familiarize them with the candidates. There are presently five candidates that have declared their intention to run for a board seat, and there are four openings. There may be additional candidates that come forward before or at the Congress.

Website Front Page

The feedback regarding the new page has been favorable. A box providing information about the ePal program has been added, along with a comment stating that additional information about LifeRing can be obtained there.

According to Google, two-thirds of the people visiting the website are there for the first time. A few hundred people are passing through every day.

Other Old Business

No input.

New Business

Chat Room Capabilities and Expenses

Audio/video capability is a significant adder to the total cost. The cost of text-only is considerably less. The voice (audio) feature has not been popular, nor has the video feature that has suffered from poor performance. Also, the cost for audio and video this year is more than last year when we received a larger discount. It was moved that we pay the fee monthly for up to six months while exploring other options. If other viable options have not been found by then, we will re-visit the issue. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Smoking Discussion

The discussion centered on two questions:

(1) Given that there is now a meeting at the Kaiser CDRP that advocates abstinence from smoking as well as from alcohol and non-medically-indicated drugs, can a statement be made regarding that meeting? A motion was made that the Board will make a statement that the new Kaiser CDRP smoking addiction meeting is welcomed. The motion was seconded and carried with one abstention.

(2) How do we resolve the broader issue regarding overall smoking policy?

It was agreed that this issue would be placed in the upcoming LifeRing Newsletter to promote further discussion, and with the anticipation that resolution of this issue will be achieved soon.

Report on the D.C. Funding Visit

A recent visit with various persons and agencies was very productive. A list of persons and associations that were contacted was given. A report is being written to document this activity in detail.

Volunteer Structure Discussion

Although some work in the regard has been done, a desire to proceed further was expressed: For example, when an especially motivated member comes forward and would like to volunteer, can they be helped more explicitly to promote their continued involvement? This matter will be explored more fully in the future.

An "Internship" proposal was discussed that would serve those persons who may come forward after reading about LifeRing and who want to be convenors. They might be invited to the Bay Area to stay with volunteers, attend meetings with them, familiarizes themselves with meeting methodologies, and form a network of personal connections. A specific program to address this effort will be developed.

Other Items from BOD Members

No input

Other items from non-BOD members

No input

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 1:40 pm DST.

Submitted by the Board Secretary

May 23, 2013