

## **Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: January 11, 2015**

It was determined that a quorum of board members was present, and the meeting was called to order by Board Chair Njon Weinroth at 12 Noon PST. Also present were Dan Carrigan, Mahala Kephart, Byron Kerr, Joe Mott, Robert Stump, Craig Whalley, Carola Ziermann, and Tim Reith.

### **Consent Agenda**

It consisted of the December 2014 Minutes and the Treasurer's Report. Carola reported that the latter showed a very favorable bank balance. It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept both reports as submitted.

### **Public Forum Comments**

Steve McNulty introduced himself. He is considering becoming a LifeRing Convenor soon. Steve lives in Boulder.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Revenue**

Robert reported that all donations were received from last year and a summary will be reported next month. Donations were generous. Regarding funding, more targeted potential donors was discussed. Most income, however, is expected to continue to be from book sales.

#### **Member Support**

Robert listed the Regional Representatives that Craig identified for each United States geographical area. Their names were reported earlier by email. Craig is now working on the International Representatives and on a volunteer structure, the latter of which is planned to start modestly.

Robert also mentioned the Convenor Survey that Mahala is coordinating.

Dan commented that there would be a Convenor training session for the Bay Area on January 31. As of now, 13 persons are registered. Due to venue size, a maximum of 25 people can be accommodated. See last month's Minutes for additional details.

#### **Governance Advisory Panel**

Tim discussed Steve Snyder's suggestion that a letter be sent to the U.S. Congress in support of the recently introduced Portman-Whitehouse Bill (the "Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2014"). A joint letter, partnering with SMART Recovery and Women for Sobriety (WFS), was considered. WFS declined to participate. The SMART Recovery website provides links to three organizations that support moderation management. Since such an approach is not endorsed by LifeRing, it was recommended that we not partner with them either, and that we should send the letter only from LifeRing. The board agreed with this recommendation. "We Agnostics and Free Thinkers" (WAAFT),

another partnering possibility, will be explored in more detail. Due to time constraints, the committee proposed that we not ask this organization to participate.

It was agreed that the subject letter does not constitute a lobbying effort since it is only in support of bipartisan legislation. A lobbying effort would be in violation for a non-profit organization such as ours.

Njon asked how moderation management related to this bill. That is, do we want to be viewed as being aligned with any organization that advocates this approach? He recommended that this broader issue be explored off-line.

Njon proposed a motion by which we would proceed with a letter to Congress, only from LifeRing, in support of the subject bill. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Dan asked to see a copy of the subject letter before being sent. Tim will send a draft of it to the board. Mahala asked what the deadline was for its submission. Tim did not know, but he will pursue.

### **LifeRing Press and External Outreach**

Mahala said we are continuing to pursue submissions for “Stories of Secular Recovery.” No submissions were yet received, suggesting another call for entries. She also commented that a family member or loved-one market might be an important component for this publication. Emily agreed to be the co-chair of this committee and will meet with Mahala soon. Also, recommendations for brochure and website changes will be ready in the next few months.

### **Administration**

Njon said there was nothing new to report for the last month. He would like to schedule a Google Hangouts meeting tentatively for next Sunday (January 18), to discuss the possible re-casting of the Opening Statement, and invited anyone interested to attend. He also suggested that the Administration Committee establish a “Hall of Fame” award to serve as a permanent public repository of recognition. Another *ad hoc* group was suggested to address this effort and then subsequently, to draft a proposal for the Board.

### **Agenda Items**

#### **The 2015 Annual LifeRing Meeting and Congress**

Mahala is working with Byron, Joe, and others for speakers and overall coordination.

Peter Gaumond and Kevin McCauley, the latter through his agent Jim Clegg, are both confirmed speakers. Kevin’s documentary films include “Pleasure Unwoven” and a later one that may be ready in time for the conference. Either film will be welcomed. Mahala will meet soon with Jim to firm up arrangements for Kevin.

She is working with the Library and Facilities Manager at the University of Utah to finalize the location of the campus venue. Once it is firmed up, additional details are expected to be resolved quickly.

There is a six-person committee, located in Salt Lake City, which is ready to help as needed.

Steve McNulty asked how the conference is funded. Byron commented that historically funding was done by revenue at the door, sometimes combined with local grants and free speakers. The goal is to have the conference pay for itself. Based upon earlier conferences, about 100 attendees are expected. Admission fees were also discussed.

### **Other Items from the Board**

Byron commented that WestCare, the private defendant in the Hazle v. Crofoot case, approached LifeRing with the desire to begin a new meeting at their Bakersfield facility. He suggested that the Outreach Committee be aware of this for the future. WestCare has facilities at the state and local levels throughout much of the United States.

He also enumerated a number of new meetings, including those located in Santa Rosa, Menlo Park, and Danbury.

### **Other Items from the Public**

There were none.

### **Adjournment**

Given that there was no other business, Njon moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm PST.

Submitted by Tim Reith

LifeRing Board Secretary

January 18, 2015