

## **Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: February 8, 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 PM PST. The Board members present were: Dan Carrigan, **Byron Kerr**, Emily Marcus, Tim Reith, Craig Whalley, and Carola Ziermann. LifeRing Executive Director Robert Stump was also in attendance.

### **Consent Agenda**

It consisted of the January 2015 Minutes and the Treasurer's Report. Craig commented that the latter was very positive, and that the Revenue Committee will be meeting soon to consider this year's budget. Since there may be extra funds, ideas for spending and spending priority were solicited. It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept both reports as submitted.

### **Public Forum Comments**

There were none.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Revenue**

Carola reported on two items: Mahala filed a grant application with Safeway that unfortunately was denied. A budget meeting is planned soon at which time funding issues related to the SLC Annual Meeting will be addressed. Njon commented that a "budget template" might be created from this effort and could then be used for subsequent years.

#### **Member Support**

Dan reported on a successful convenor training session in Emeryville last month. Turnout was good. "Motivational Interviewing" was discussed by Dee Dee Stout, followed by role-playing breakout sessions. Byron, Robert, Craig, and Njon attended. The unstructured and conversational nature of this session made the reporting of it difficult. There is another training session scheduled for July that will focus on motivational interviewing specific to groups. Byron reported that there was a great amount of video recorded. It will be substantially reduced for general distribution.

Craig reported that the Regional Representative organization structure is firm. Online Representatives were identified and appointed: Melly for chat rooms and Steve for social networking were named. By next month all representatives will be identified.

Byron, the Regional Representative for California reported that **Area** Representatives are in place for Northern California but persons are still needed for the Bay Area and Sacramento.

Volunteer recruitment had limited response and success. Craig and Mahala discussed approaches to take, with focus on structures to promote further growth. Volunteer recruitment for email and book order efforts, jobs currently managed only by Craig, is of a very high priority as volumes for each are increasing. Anticipated future growth will render volunteer recruitment for those jobs even more essential.

### **Governance Advisory Panel**

Tim briefly described some follow-on activity from last month. Steve Snyder drafted a letter in support of the Portman-Whitehouse Congressional Bill (see its details in last month's minutes), and submitted it to the BOD for review. Njon, with additional input, sent it. Tim acknowledged Steve's effort in this regard.

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

Emily reported that a meeting is planned for next month.

Byron reported that work was done on the "Choice" brochure, and a draft of it will be submitted soon to the present committee for review and approval.

Cindy Kemp from Connecticut provided background on the "Multiple Pathways of Recovery Conference" to be held in Mystic, CT, on October 19-21. She would be pleased to represent LifeRing and help in any way. She will partner with Mona in this effort. Cindy suggested that we may need the participation of someone with more LifeRing experience as well. The nature of our participation is not yet defined but will be firmed-up soon. Njon will discuss this matter with the Conference Executive Director Phil Valentine.

### **Administration**

Njon and Robert met recently to discuss a new version of the Opening Statement. A preliminary draft was written. Other ideas continue to be solicited. A final draft will be ready in a few weeks.

The creation of "Hall of Fame Awards" was discussed. These awards would go beyond the usual "Pioneer Awards" that are presented each year at the Annual Meeting. They would acknowledge those persons who have made significant contributions to LifeRing over a sustained period. It was suggested that such awards might be permanently posted on the website. The criteria for these awards need to be defined.

### **Secular Branch of AA (WAAFT) and LifeRing**

Njon contacted the Executive Director of WAAFT to explore the possibility of working with them in some capacity. There were mutual misgivings: WAAFT has "Traditions" which forbid them from participating in any official way with organizations other than those of AA. A work-around amenable to all might be to put together via a "Secular Coalition." Such an arrangement would

not engage the organizations themselves, but rather the individuals in those organizations. WAAFT is considering this proposal but it is too early to define a plan.

## **Agenda Items**

### **Items from the Board**

Carola commented on her attendance at an AOD Services Open House where she met its Executive Director. She is serving on the Public Policy Committee, affording her good opportunities for significant impact. The Director told her that the county is replacing their out-of-date materials, and LifeRing will be listed on all new documentation and their website. Njon commented that he is building additional relationships, due to his new membership on the San Francisco Mental Health Board.

### **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 12:45 PM PST.

Submitted by Tim Reith

LifeRing Board Secretary

February 23, 2015