

Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: March 12, 2017

It was determined that a quorum of board members was present, and the meeting was called to order by Board Chair Njon Weinroth at Noon PDT. The other board members present were: Craig Whalley, Harold Marques, Emily Marcus, Dan Carrigan and George Gidora. The Executive Director, Robert Stump, was also present. Board Members Carola Ziermann and Robert Mullaly were not present. There were no members of the Public present.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously as submitted. It consisted of the February 2017 Minutes and was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the February Minutes as submitted.

Committee Reports

Administrative Committee

No new updates.

Professional Advisory Board Committee

Byron has a number of individuals who may be of interest to LifeRing for professional advisory roles. It would be desirable to seek individuals from other US regions and internationally as well.

LifeRing Press

No new updates.

Member Support

Strong uptick of inquiries by treatment providers/centers and new members/convenors with ten new convenors in January/February combined. If increase in activity continues Craig will need assistance with all the phone calls this entails since it is important to respond immediately and strongly to inquiries, especially when from treatment providers. Suggestion made to transition this responsibility to Regional Representatives.

Revenue Committee

January was a good month and February appears to have continued with the upward trend: this may be partly a reflection of residue from 2016 end-of-the-year Donation Drive.

Exernal Outreach

Ongoing correspondence with Mykel Hall, a prisoner in Santa Clara County, exploring the possibility of starting a program working with people with substance abuse histories who are being released from prison. Would be helpful to have someone with experience in prison systems to help guide this endeavor. Also, Mykel has expressed interest in writing for LifeRing, perhaps creating a brochure for LifeRing to be used in prisons.

Progress with Elmwood Prison has otherwise stalled since the management contact there has moved on; still no connection with new interim contact.

Difficult to get volunteers for Prison PenPal program since the relationships are more long-term, intensive and time consuming. E-pals, by contrast, often consist of 0-5/6 exchanges after which the individuals usually end up joining one of the email lists.

Mahala has been doing outreach in D.C. area in effort to have LifeRing listed on government treatment facility and recovery sites.

Penny from LifeRing, Australia seeking to discuss having LifeRing establish an online chat presence in *In the Rooms*, which hosts about one hundred 12step meetings as well as a few SMART meetings and one WFS meeting. Opportunity for cross-pollination.

Old Business

Ad Hoc Committee

Annual LifeRing Meeting: review of spreadsheet form breaking down the Meeting to specific components, including venue, outline of modules, confirmation of Candace Shelby as speaker, workshops for Regional Reps. Seeking volunteers. Possible venue, Herrick Hospital, is unavailable on weekend of June 3/4; waiting to see about availability the weekend before Memorial Day or the weekend of June 10/11.

All three LifeRing books (*HWYW*, *Empowering your Sober Self*, *Recovery by Choice*) are now available online at Amazon. There has been a lot of activity with significant amount of sales.

Online Chat

Site is up and running with new online meeting schedule, one new online video chat, and five other online meetings. The new platform, Adobe Connect, is stable.

New Business

Motion was made to appoint Robert Stump as Registrar of Voters. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously to appoint Robert Stump.

Discussion re: need for Board Candidates. Bobbi Campbell may be candidate. Currently diversity-challenged.

Governance Advisory Committee has performed no real function over time thus a motion to eliminate this committee was made. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously to eliminate the Governance Advisory Committee. Five new meetings in past month started in USA and UK.

Njon will represent LifeRing at *CCAR Multiple Pathways* conference in October 2017 in Florida. Will have opportunity to hold recovery meetings while there in order to demonstrate LifeRing's approach.

Public Comments

There were none.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and carried unanimously.

*Submitted by Ewa Conroy
LifeRing Board Secretary
April 7, 2017*