

Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: July 9, 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: Dan Carrigan,, Byron Kerr, Emily Marcus, Robert Mullaly, and Craig Whalley. New Board Members Mary Beth O'Connor, Lorraine Hull and Jason Groce (replacing Carola Ziermann for remainder of her term) were present. The Executive Director, Robert Stump, was also present. Board Members George Gidora, Harold Marques and Carola Ziermann were not present. Member of the Public, Kathleen Gargan, was also present.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda and Treasurer's report were moved, seconded, and carried unanimously as submitted.

June 2017 Minutes from Annual Meeting and BOD meeting discussed: Dan Carrigan submitted the notes and would like another Board Member who was present to help rewrite notes into narrative form in order to post on LifeRing website and to facilitate follow up on the ideas brought forth during Annual Meeting. Craig W. volunteered. It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the June 2017 Minutes as submitted with understanding that Dan C. and Craig W. would collaborate on rewriting the notes in a narrative form.

Committee Reports

Administrative Committee

No new updates

Governance Advisory Committee

Still looking at reformulating: need to follow up with interested parties. Byron to follow up with Candace Shelby for her input and collaboration.

LifeRing Press

No new updates.

External Outreach

Contact at Elmwood County Jail has been transferred to San Quentin: may present possibility of inroad in the state prison.

Member Support

MD at treatment center in Brooklyn has expressed interest in starting LifeRing meeting at his facility.

Revenue Committee

No new updates.

Committee Structure Review

Pop-up committee identified nine areas/committees which correspond to the number (nine) of Board Members. The document is on Google Docs and should be reviewed by all members as it is a “living, breathing document” and will help with the division of labor between Board Members. Zoom meeting found to be very helpful in offering capability to modify the document together as a group.

May be useful to have each Board Member head up a committee and also serve as participant on one other committee in effort to have each Board Member familiarize themselves with more than one area.

Discussion re: process for assigning committees, e.g. by having each member choose three areas of interest, by using a “first come first served” approach or by seniority. Critical for members to review the document on Google Docs and be prepared to vote in new committee structure at August Board meeting. Further discussion will be taken off-line via email thread.

Will need to have someone serve as Interim Board Chair in order to facilitate August meeting. Motion to appoint Dan C. made, seconded and voted on unanimously to appoint Dan Carrigan as Interim Board Chairman.

Old Business

Elections

Voting will be completed by July 14, 2017. Approximately 38% of those eligible have voted.

Annual Conference Review

General consensus positive: “It was refreshing to focus on LifeRing’s identity, who we are, who we were and on our direction going forward”. The setting was physically very pleasant and the smaller size of the Annual Conference lended a more intimate experience. There was good dialogue, and a sense that the conference left members feeling energized and more engaged with LifeRing and its mission. The opportunity to pick a category beforehand to work on with other members was seen as a very positive experience, promoting a deeper sense of commitment and general empowerment. Conference also presents the opportunity to pull in other LifeRing members who attended to get more involved, as their willingness to go to the trouble of coming to the conference indicates their investment in LifeRing.

Zoom Video Meeting

Will use Zoom Video for monthly Board Meetings going forward. If someone does not have the hardware to support Zoom or enough bandwidth there is a call-in audio option. Both video and audio should be recorded. Plan to do trial of Zoom meeting prior to August Board Meeting. Scheduling for this will be done offline.

In The Rooms

Penny P. continues to convene a video meeting on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM EST on *In the Rooms*. The meeting is very popular and she is receiving a great deal of positive feedback. She has been asked by the site owners to encourage more LifeRing members to sign up for *In the Rooms* and to list LifeRing as their primary “fellowship”. Bobbi C. has communicated this request to general LR members via email; Board Members are asked to sign up as well. The goal is to create an uptick in LR membership on the website, create “buzz” and increase visibility. The website is intherooms.com. Listing LifeRing as primary support group can be done on profile page where it asks for primary fellowship. Robert, Craig and Bobbi C. will be having meeting with In The Rooms owners via Zoom in near future.

Survey

2013 Survey is complete, but page two should not be there. Will make adjustments to document.

May be useful for a pop-up committee to work on a new survey. Survey Monkey is usually used. This is an area where the Professional Advisory Panel would be useful, in identifying the questions to be asked in accordance with industry standards.

New Business

E-Books

Kindle version of HWYW, new edition., will be published. Discussion about using platforms other than Kindle, such as Google, will be taken offline.

By Law Proposals for Election Process

Current process too long: ten days to prepare ballot and then thirty days to post ballot on the website before voting takes place. Proposal to shorten the process so that elected Board can be seated at next Board Meeting. A pop-up committee will be formed to address the election process so that it can be voted on as a By Law proposal at next Annual Conference.

Book Sales

Steady increase in books being sold to general public. This year’s increase most likely related to switch in sales model by utilizing Amazon. Volume is up but but just a little less revenue due to Amazon fees. Have to factor in the fact that Craig is currently handling book sales through LifeRing for free; this task could not be done by a casual volunteer and if LifeRing paid someone to handle the book sales it would incur costs as well. Pop-up committee will be formed to address this area.

Public Comments

Kathleen Gargan reports that the LifeRing Community in Colorado would like the next Annual Conference to take place in Denver, CO. Kathleen has done research pertaining to this proposal: feels that LR CO has many connections and supports including Candace Shelby at the University of CO who could arrange to have the Philosophy Department sponsor the LifeRing Annual Meeting. The same space that was

used for 2013 Conference would cost \$375.00. Denver would be central to New Mexico, Utah and not too far from California and Canada.

Further, will have to decide if we want smaller “Inward Facing Meeting” in 2018 such as the 2017 Conference which was mostly LifeRing members or whether we want an “Outward Facing Meeting” with speakers and counselors. If smaller meeting could spend the additional money on other creative ideas such as flying in Regional Reps.

Kathleen Gargan and four members of CO community will meet to put together a proposal with summary of their ideas and send it to the Board to be reviewed and possibly voted on by the new Board at August meeting. Pop-up Committee may be formed to work on this area.

Additional Comments

Rob Mullaly had productive conversation with Lisa Swing Comey re: LifeRing in Would like to add to August’s agenda to discuss LifeRing international.

Transition to New Board

Njon Weinroth states that it has been a pleasure serving as LifeRing Board Chair, thanks everyone for their work during his term and gives a warm welcome to Lorraine Hull, Marybeth O’Connor and Jason Groce. He hopes their experience will be as gratifying as his has been. Njon feels he is stepping away and leaving the work in very capable hands.

Emily Marcus also welcomes the new Board Members, encourages them to take on as active a role as they want and to hold each other accountable. “Long Live LifeRing!”

The Board, in kind, thanks Njon and Emily for their service to LifeRing.

Adjournment

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

Submitted by Ewa Conroy
LifeRing Board Secretary
August 12, 2017

