

## **Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: October 8, 2017**

It was determined that a quorum of board members was present, and the meeting was called to order by Board Chair Dan Carrigan at 9am PDT. The other board members present were: George Gidora, Jason Groce, Lorraine Hull, Harold Marques, Rob Mullaly, Mary Beth O'Connor, Byron Kerr and Craig Whalley. The Executive Director, Robert Stump, was also present. There were no members of the Public present.

### **Public Comments**

There were none.

### **Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously as submitted. It consisted of the August 2017 Minutes and was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the August Minutes as submitted. The September 2017 Minutes were submitted late and have not been reviewed by everyone so the September Minutes will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously as submitted.

### **Committee Reports**

**Executive:** Dan Carrigan has ideas about streamlining process of responding to requests for information about LifeRing. Would also like to improve his own communication with Board members between Board meetings in effort to better coordinate the work being done. Long-term goal is to search for new Executive Director.

**Craig and George have switched committees: George will do Administrative and Craig will do Fundraising.**

**Administration:** George Gidora. No new business.

### **Conferences and Training:**

Lorraine Hull: Submitted NAADAC report written by Kathleen Gargan. Generally pleased with ability to interface with so many people; approximately 270 business cards received as well as a great deal of interest from attendees. Question: was the money well spent? Book sales increased considerably in the two weeks after the NAADAC conference. An organization called Road to Recovery, which is very close to SAMHSA, and who specialize in addiction and pain medicine will be starting a LifeRing meeting in Denver suburb; they also have a clinic in Steamboat Springs with high percentage of Olympic athletes who become addicted to opioids and they are also interested in starting a LifeRing meeting.

Lorraine would like a LifeRing response letter/email to go to the contacts whose business cards were gathered; would also serve as template letter for future use as follow-up after national conferences. Lorraine will coordinate with Mary Beth and Rob

Mullaly. Kathleen Gargan is working on putting all the contact information into a database.

Discussion re: LifeRing providing larger share of financial support for national conferences since LifeRing as a whole reaps the benefits. Would be beneficial to research conferences being held nationally in the future and have Board Members determine as a group which conferences to support going forward.

## **Old Business**

### **Fundraising**

Craig: Fall fundraising email request has gone out, thanks to Rich and Bobbi Campbell. Network for Good is all set up. Rich Campbell has composed a letter and re-submitted grant proposal with the Peter Dodge Foundation.

### **Public Persona**

Rob Mullaly: Apart from increasing LifeRing's visibility with the Annual Conference in Denver, no new business. Lisa Swing-Comey has submitted update on LifeRing International which Rob will forward to all Board members. Jason agrees to work on having greater presence on Twitter by posting regularly . Lisa, Bobbi and Robert Stump all have log-in information for Twitter account.

### **Existing Meeting Maintenance**

Harold: Has updated website relative to Sacramento area and plans to reach out to other areas. Problems with Kaiser South: had to stop two meetings due to lack of room availability; Lisa found a room for one of the meetings.

### **New Meetings**

Byron: Seattle seeking to increase presence. Observation that once two or three meetings get going in an area the meetings seem to snowball. New meeting in Harrison, NY and Florida. Connecting with treatment facilities very important in growing meetings.

### **Professional Outreach**

Mary Beth: With regards to "legal issue" has spent time finding representation as well as finding pro bono assistance with trademark issue.

Mary Beth and Byron hosted a table at the Multiple Pathways of Recovery conference in San Jose with some encouraging results: LGBT center in San Jose offered space for a LifeRing meeting and a parole officer contacted Byron about having a LifeRing meeting at the County parole facility. Mary Beth is putting together a list of things that are helpful to have at conferences.

Mary Beth is also looking at old LifeRing presentations in an effort to update and synthesize them into a Template Presentation; plan is to create a five minute presentation, a fifteen minute presentation, and perhaps an even longer version.

Research paper needs attention as it is due sometime in December. Rob Mullaly, Byron, MaryBeth and Ewa are interested in working on this; Martin Nicolaus may offer suggestions. Note that comments were sent to Sarah but she replied that essentially she would not “change anything”. Only concern is that SMART appears to be more accepting of moderation and that LifeRing is grouped into that category as well.

### **Professional Advisory Board**

Jason: There is no current professional advisory board so will be starting with a clean slate. Discussion about ideal composition of the advisory board: Candace Shelby may be interested; individuals from the treatment industry, both medical and psychiatric/mental health; a CPA was mentioned; people from advertising, media, fundraising, business people, elected officials/policy makers with care taken to abide by 501 3c rules.

### **Pop-Up Committees**

2017-2018 Budget/Financial: Need to develop a financial policy with budgetary process to increase professionalism and transparency. This is especially important when requesting money from companies and foundations. Robert will prepare a summary of current guidelines and a pop-up committee will be formed as follows: Craig, Dan, Byron, Robert and Mary Beth.

### **New Business**

#### **2018 LifeRing Annual Conference**

Lorraine: Four to five person committee working together on 2018 LifeRing Annual Conference in Denver, CO planned for June 2-3, 2018. Committee has location in mind but this has not been confirmed so looking into other venues.

Possibility of LifeRing scholarship funding mentioned. Sarah Z. is on list of potential speakers and has confirmed her availability. There is a local counselor associated with NAADAC who is interested in giving a talk about Stigma. Seeking to have perhaps eight speakers from Recovery profession as well as a speaker to address organizational development for the Board, particularly with reference to how to increase growth of LifeRing. Dave Fletcher is mentioned as a potential speaker as well as the possibility of an outside consultant. Have reached out to Bobbi Campbell as well as Bob Crosby re: using social media to increase awareness, interest and excitement about the upcoming Annual Conference; will coordinate with Jason.

#### **LifeRing Oakland Office Move**

Robert has explored virtual locations but these cost money so will be going with a FedEx location in Hayward for LifeRing’s mailing address. All items from the office need to be removed by 12/31/17 when the lease expires.

### **Wish List**

Seeking videographer to put together a film with 4-5 people giving testimonials in order to reflect LifeRing's culture and diversity. Will require a budget of around 5K.

**Public Comments**

There were none.

**Adjournment**

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

*Submitted by Ewa Conroy  
LifeRing Deputy Board Secretary  
October 31, 2017*