

Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: January 14, 2018

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: Lorraine Hull, Mary Beth O'Connor, George Gidora, Robert Mullaly and Craig Whalley. Board Members Jason Groce and Harold Marques were not present. The Executive Director, Byron Kerr, was present and the General Manager, Robert Stump, was also present. There were no members of the Public present.

Consent Agenda

Treasurer's Report: Approximately \$5000 in donations per Network for Good report and \$8000 in book sales. Overall decrease in funds from previous year. Discussion re: collections at LifeRing meetings. Some meeting consistently collect donations and others do not; most send in their overflow at end of the year as an annual donation. A letter reminding convenors to collect donations will be drafted by Byron with the assistance of Mary Beth. Important to communicate the importance of this function: "Support the organization that supports you".

Request that spreadsheet reporting meeting growth include annual total meetings with both new and closed meetings factored in so that a clear picture of LifeRing growth is captured. Robert will incorporate these changes in future spreadsheets.

The Consent Agenda was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously as submitted. It consisted of the December 2017 Minutes and was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the December Minutes as submitted. The Treasurer's report was moved, seconded and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted.

Committee Reports

Executive:

Dan Carrigan: No new updates.

Administration:

George Gidora: Seeking direction with regards to role. Member Support and Volunteer Coordination are both important aspects of the role. Board Members will submit list of needs or tasks for which they could use volunteer assistance e.g. writing/editing, powerpoint presentations. LifeRing members are a talented group and many may believe the only way to contribute to LifeRing is by becoming convenors.

LifeRing 2018 :Annual Conference:

Lorraine: Has created document, in collaboration with Kathleen G, Dave F. and Dan C., explaining plans for Annual Conference. There will be three areas of focus for breakout sessions: plan is for three Board Members to get involved in each focus area; for example, one to facilitate, one to do the follow-up. Do not want to be prescriptive with how it will work but believe Board Members can align their committee interests with the focus areas. Would like Dan C. to function as overall chair rather than getting involved

in any one of the topic areas. Preference for use of word “workshop” rather than “training” for convenors agreed upon.

Marketing: University students whose internship will consist of working on a marketing plan for LifeRing will be given background information about LifeRing via books, brochures and other information that we will provide them. The Marketing Committee will be communicating with the groups as well as coming up with its own ideas for marketing strategies.

With regards to public outreach, Lorraine comments that at the last meeting she convened, when asked how the attendees found out about LifeRing they all reported that it was through their counselors. This underlines the importance of more counselors and mental health providers needing to be informed about LifeRing as an option for peer support.

Pop-up committee will be formed to establish criteria for scholarships to the Annual Conference: Regional Reps are good target, perhaps convenors from more remote areas as well. Important to establish a budget for this; pop-up committee will address this and report at next Board Meeting. The budget for scholarships should be decided upon within the next two weeks; discussion will be taken offline.

Reminder that when LifeRing used the Tears MacFarland facility previously there was a scheduling conflict; therefore, important to communicate with facility ahead of time in order to guarantee availability. Need to decide whether we want to reserve two full days or one full day on Saturday and half day on Sunday. Looking at nearby locations for dinner for approximately thirty people on the Friday evening before the conference which will be informal and self-paid by attendees.

Question raised by Robert Stump as to whether national organization is expected to cover all expenses for the Annual Conference, including rental of the facility and for Sarah Zemore’s speaking fees. In past, the local LifeRing organization has picked up some of the expense. Agreement that since the Annual Conference is a national event, it will be funded by the national LifeRing organization.

Speaker fees unknown at this point: Sarah Zemore will speak for free but LR should plan to pay some sort of honorarium and cover her travel expenses, although there is a possibility that her company may cover expenses.

Motion made to approve spending \$1300 for Tears MacFarland facility rental for two days. Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

Fundraising

Craig: No new updates. See Treasurer’s report, above.

Public Persona

Rob Mullaly: Article submitted to Journal of Addiction but the journal is going through a transition, having merged with another publication. Article may not be published at all. The article relied too heavily on Marty N.'s old article from 10 years ago. We should have a finished article on hand to submit when the need comes up. The article, as it stands, may be used as outline but needs to be reworked with more original content, more current information and updates from newest version of EYSS. Ewa C. volunteers to edit the article. Once article is rewritten it, or a synopsis of it, should be posted on professional page of LifeRing's website.

Existing Meeting Maintenance

Harold: No new updates. Has been looking through HWYW and reviewing definition of Convenor role, so a short synopsis of the role can be sent to new convenors. Harold will be cc'd on new communication with potential convenors.

External Outreach/New Meetings

Byron: Attended first LR meeting at Azure Acres, which is especially significant because it is owned by Acadia Health, the largest for-profit treatment company in USA. Byron will target two of their other facilities in Santa Clara county. LifeRing Sonoma county thriving, despite the recent fires.

Discussion of how to develop an underdeveloped region. Requires a three pronged approach: including elected officials, drug courts and professional community.

Professional Outreach

Mary Beth: No new updates. Reached out to Cooley re: Amicus brief. Has sent out reminder to corporate lawyer to get letter out to Nevada as well as to review the Charter. Freedom from Religion organization mentioned as alternative if Cooley no interested. Humanist Legal Center can also be considered.

Professional Advisory Board

No new updates.

New Business

Board Elections: Craig no longer wants to serve. Dan coming up on 4 years and may not be interested in serving either. Election discussion will be put on agenda for next month's meeting.

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, February 5, 2018

