

Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: February 11, 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, Robert Mullaly, Craig Whalley, Jason Groce and Harold Marques. Board Member George Gidora was 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.

Public Comments

There were none.

Consent Agenda

Treasurer's Report: Savings back up to \$30K, same as at beginning of 2017. Received check for \$8K from prison in Canada which was very helpful.

The Consent Agenda was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously as submitted. It consisted of the January 2018 Minutes and was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the January 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: Not present; no new updates. Had requested that Board members fill out form he had emailed detailing their skill sets so that volunteer coordination could be generated from where there were gaps that needed to be filled.

Fundraising

Craig: No new updates. Disappointed in December's fundraising.

Public Persona

Rob Mullaly: No new updates.

Existing Meeting Maintenance

Harold: No new updates.

External Outreach/New Meetings

Byron: Recently contacted by someone who was interested in starting a new meeting in Auburn, CA.

Judge in Santa Clara County got in touch with Byron recently; wants to recognize LifeRing for their mandated program.

Conversely, in San Mateo County, when asked if they would acknowledge LifeRing they agreed to do so but did so only by transferring to a third party; the third party then added LifeRing only as "Other" on their website. Byron reports that this type of thing occurs all over America where courts directly refer to AA. When asked to provide alternatives they transfer it to third parties; thus, in theory, relinquishing governmental responsibility, However, the third party (such as Voices of Recovery, which is AA leaning) becomes a government agent, which is then controlled by the government anyway.

Byron and Mary Beth have also begun an initiative with Steve Gonzales targeted at Silicon Valley: working on composing a draft letter targeting any authority in Recovery arena such as legislators, judiciary, legal, bureaucracy, etc. Includes LifeRing's mission statement.

Professional Outreach

Mary Beth: Working on spreadsheet for conferences that LifeRing may be interested in attending. Time intensive process. Particularly interested in the ASAM conference in San Diego. Cost is around \$1000. Would be good opportunity for tabling the event. Byron would like to attend, believes it is money well spent. LifeRing has received a great deal of response from attending conferences in general.

Motion requesting that LifeRing pay up to \$1500.00 for combination of tabling fee for ASAM conference as well as paying for Byron's expenses to attend as Executive Director. Seconded and carried unanimously to pay for tabling ASAM event and travel expenses for Byron Kerr.

Craig, as Treasurer, lends cautionary note that we cannot continue to make these decisions on ad hoc basis. The spreadsheet that Mary Beth is working on will help with decision-making and budgeting process in the future.

Professional Advisory Board

Jason: No new updates.

Budget

Craig: Would like to schedule a telephone conference to discuss "practice" budget. Scheduled for March 4, 2018.

LifeRing 2018 Annual Conference

Lorraine: Discussion about scholarships including how much LR is willing to provide for financial support and whether the scholarships be merit based or need based. Consensus that financial assistance should be merit based: request that applicants write a little blurb about what they're doing for LR and what their plans are for volunteering in future. Need criteria in order to avoid any appearance of favoritism. Having sponsorship also desirable.

Budget for scholarships (or subsidies) set at \$1000. May be best to provide partial subsidies, spreading assistance out over a greater number of applicants; for instance four \$250 scholarships.

Venues has been confirmed with no conflicts. Lorraine working on information about lodging, seeking places that may have non-profit discounts. Warwick Hotel is possibility.

Tentative Conference Agenda:

Conference starts at 9am Saturday and ends 4pm Sunday.
Registration will be through Event Brite.

Friday - Dinner at 7pm with Sarah Zimore. This dinner is optional.
Registration for dinner separate.
Solidify schedule for Saturday.
Need agenda for Sunday's Congress: 8am - Noon.
Board meeting will need up to one hour.

Saturday dinner will be \$25-30 per person - expect to have 30 people.
Sign-up will be on Lifering website or can pay at dinner. Plan is to get bus to take everyone to Bear Creek State Park for catered BBQ followed by engagement opportunities. Plan for campfires under the trees and stars of Colorado; will do some mix-ups to encourage people to interact. Bus will then take everyone back to their lodgings around 9pm.

Discussion re: Board approval of guests for Sarah Zimore's speech; local treatment people would be interested in this latest research. Can send invites with vouchers waiving \$10 fee for counselors and treatment professionals who are interested in learning about LifeRing. For instance, there's a state representative who is interested in changing how substance use disorder is treated and is interested in attending. It is a great opportunity for LifeRing to reach out to the treatment community and to elected officials.

Important to make sure that everyone is greeted and welcomed and that we obtain contact information for those outside of LifeRing who attend so that follow up can be done.

Also, need to start working on content of breakout groups. One of the sessions may consist of a question and answer period, with questions possibly emailed beforehand.

Effort being made to get the word out with frequent posts asking people to “Save the Date” etcetera. Bob Crosby is very involved, getting the word out and answering inquiries on LifeRing CO Facebook page. Information should be on LifeRing’s main Facebook page as well and is already on LifeRing’s website.

New Business

Board Elections: Need to appoint Registrar: Byron volunteers since has done this before. Need to recruit people to run for Board. Jason G. plans to run. Dave Fletcher suggested as candidate, among others.

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
March 8, 2018*