

Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: March 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, George Gidora, Robert Mullaly, Craig Whalley, and Jason Groce. Board Member Harold Marques was not present until the very end of meeting. 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

The Consent Agenda was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously as submitted. It consisted of the February 2018 Minutes and was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the February Minutes as submitted. The Treasurer's report was moved, seconded and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted.

LifeRing 2018 Annual Conference

Annual Congress: purpose is to review possible amendments and nominations for Board; it is a legislative process. Its original purpose was for members to get together and talk about LifeRing.

Any LifeRing member who wants to submit a proposed amendment at the LifeRing Annual Congress must follow a specific procedure; the Board is obligated to discuss any proposed amendments.

Discussion re: whether there will be audiovisual recordings of the Annual Conference. Current plan is to videotape Sarah Zemore's talk. No plans for streaming at this time.

There will be free wi-fi at the conference. Attendees need to register for the conference, partly for the purpose of estimating how many people will attend; expecting 50-60 plus members of the public.

Tickets for the barbeque on Saturday evening are purchased separately. Board members should plan not to leave until 3-4pm on Sunday in order to take advantage of the full day's scheduled activities.

Discussion re: the ARG press release of Sarah Zemore's research study and the subsequent articles in the Fix and the Vox which provoked a great deal of negative reactions within the LifeRing community. It appears that an unfortunate remark by Sarah was then misquoted by the articles, mistakenly presenting LifeRing as though we advocate moderation. LifeRing should submit a formal response to the articles. Byron

has already composed a draft; he and Dan will collaborate on the response then submit to the Board who will have forty-eight hours to review.

LifeRing will also need to reach out to Sarah Zemore to make her aware of the controversy that has arisen. Robert S, Byron or Marty should contact Sarah since they have ongoing relationship(s) with her.

LifeRing can look at this experience as a good object lesson with regards to public outreach/public persona. It is a valuable training exercise in how to handle the misconceptions that may arise when associating with a professional who inadvertently misrepresents LifeRing.

There is an opportunity here to turn this into a good news story and LifeRing should have this corrective issued on lifering.org.

Committee Reports

Executive:

Dan Carrigan: No new updates.

Administration:

George Gidora: No new updates. Will be in London during the conference; plans to reach out to London LifeRingers.

Fundraising

Craig: No new updates. Had budget meeting in March; progress made but nothing to report.

Public Persona

Rob Mullaly: No new updates. ASAM conference booked; Byron will be attending.

Existing Meeting Maintenance

Harold: No new updates.

External Outreach/New Meetings

Byron: No new updates.

Professional Outreach

Mary Beth: Has created spreadsheet for conferences that LifeRing may be interested in attending. They are all very expensive. Reason for spreadsheet is to decide how much LifeRing wants to spend on these conferences. May be better to do succession of smaller, regional conferences rather than the larger, national conferences. Need to finish budget; once the budget is done the Board will know what has been budgeted for conferences and can make better decisions. Need to consider what will be the return on our investment in tabling an event? Some of the costs may be offset.

Professional Advisory Board

Jason: No new updates.

Budget

Discount on books for convenors or potential convenors: \$5 off each book available by emailing Robert S. or Craig directly. Also, information about bulk discounts available on LifeRing's webpage.

Robert proposes offering EYSS for \$10; does not consider it part of income but rather a form of public outreach/public persona.

New Business

Re: engagement agreement with Cooley. Motion made for Board authorization allowing Mary Beth to sign an engagement agreement with Cooley on behalf of the Board. Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

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
April 6, 2018*