

Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: July 8, 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 9:00am PDT. The other Board Members present were: Lorraine Hull, Mary Beth O'Connor, Craig Whalley, Robert Mullaly and Harold Marques. New member, Donal Breen was present as well. Board Members Jason Groce and George Gidora were not present. The Executive Director, Byron Kerr, was present and the General Manager, Robert Stump, was also present. Dave Fletcher, a LifeRing member, was also present.

Public Comments

Dave Fletcher states he is present to support the efforts initiated at the LifeRing Annual Conference.

Consent Agenda

The April Minutes were moved, seconded and carried unanimously to accept the Minutes as submitted (with minor correction of spelling to be made by Robert Stump).

The April Treasurer's report was moved, seconded and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted.

The May Minutes were moved, seconded and carried unanimously to accept the Minutes as submitted (with minor correction of spelling to be made by Robert Stump).

The May Treasurer's report was moved, seconded and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted.

Financial

Discussion re: why LifeRing finances are in the red given the 12K savings in rent annually now that the brick and mortar office in Oakland has been closed. Donations have been steady. Most of income was in book sales, but now that LifeRing has gone to print-on-demand and selling books through Amazon, the actual profits are much less, despite an overall increase in sales. Would be helpful to have a more comprehensive (monthly) overview of finances/expenditures but would require services of someone like an accountant. Robert can provide access to Quicken for anyone to review.

Discussion also about member support of LifeRing through meeting donations, or "passing the hat". Reminder to members at meetings to "support the organization that supports you". Bay area meetings, as well as CT and CO regularly send in member donations. Online community: LifeRing supports online chat which costs approximately \$400-500 annually and receives very little back; there is no donations link on the site. There are expenditures related to online presence but no donations link and no income stream.

In conclusion, the Finance Committee will need to review the budget and address these concerns.

Committee Reports

Executive:

Dan Carrigan: No new updates.

Administration:

George Gidora: Not present. No new updates.

Fundraising

Craig: No new updates.

Public Persona

Rob Mullaly: No new updates.

Existing Meeting Maintenance

Harold: No new updates.

External Outreach/New Meetings

Byron: No new updates.

Professional Advisory Board

Jason: Not present. No new updates.

Pop-Up Committees

No new updates.

2018 Election

Forty nine ballots received and officially certified by Byron K, Executive Director.

Motion made to accept results of the 2018 election. Motion seconded and carried unanimously to accept the election of three new Board members.

Motion made to accept the Bylaw amendment: "12.6. The Absentee Ballot shall be publicly posted by the Board of Directors within ten days of the close of Congress, and voting shall commence immediately and continue for fifteen days past the date of public posting." Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

Welcome extended to Donal Breen, new Board member from Ireland.

Existing Meeting Management: problems with Convenors

Situation at a USA meeting where a convener is making attendees uncomfortable and affecting attendance, especially female members. What is our process for addressing concerns about convenors? LifeRing needs to have protocol for management of complaints about convenors. A pop-up committee consisting of Dan, David, Harold and

Byron is formed to address this concern. Current situation will be addressed in private session. In the meantime, Byron has written a general letter that will go out to all convenors.

Summer Fundraiser

Acknowledgment of work done by Richard Campbell on the Summer fundraiser which was very successful. Richard is going to step back from fundraising. Robert Stump is taking on the fundraising, which occurs twice a year in June and December. Next month, Network for Good is coming up for renewal for \$2400, and rather than spending that amount of money, Robert has set up a donation mechanism on LifeRing's website. Mary Beth knows a woman who has a background in fundraising and is interested in participating in fundraising efforts. She has submitted her resume. Fundraising will certainly benefit from a team effort.

Post-Annual Conference Review

Result of the Annual Conference request for more volunteers in the LifeRing community to join efforts to support and grow our organization: Steve Gonzalez is putting together a job description that summarizes the skills he can bring to LifeRing; in particular, his expertise in tactical and strategic planning applied to the marketing suggestions made by the University of Colorado students presented at the Conference. Posted in Google groups. There are a couple of other individuals, Joe Franklin and John Bennett, who are also interested in contributing to projects. John is interested in looking at LifeRing's regulatory compliance; Joseph is interested in grant management. Will ask both of them to put together a job description using the same approach as Steve Gonzales.

Mary Beth feels we need to evaluate LifeRing's overall systems: how money is spent, addressing redundancies, etc. in effort to become more effective as an organization as well as fiscally sound. Dave F. is hoping that his skills can help bring some structure to pop-up committees, to define projects and measurable outcomes. George G has been working on compiling a list of members with time/skills to offer LifeRing.

Evaluations of the conference have been submitted and reviewed but not compiled in any organized fashion; would be good to summarize the feedback, especially with regard to the research presentation, and share with Sarah Zemore. Feedback overall has been positive and will assist in planning next year's conference. New ideas generated from the conference will be put on next month's agenda.

Acknowledgment of the Colorado team who put together the Annual Conference and a thank you to all who attended.

CCAR Conference

Njon Weinroth will be speaking for third year in a row with his expenses paid for by CCAR. Arrangements were made without the involvement of the Service Center; CCAR states they sent an email that was never answered. This will need to be clarified for future participation in CCAR conferences. Mary Beth will follow up with CCAR to ensure they have appropriate email address to use for scheduling speaking events in the

future. Njon is doing a breakout session which is a summary of his personal experience in his pathway to recovery using LifeRing rather than a presentation that speaks directly about LifeRing. Will need to make arrangements to have LifeRing materials at the table. Need to find a way to *promote* LifeRing at the conference and have books and brochures. Lorraine will contact Njon about importance of coordinating future speaking engagements through the Service Center, and will speak to Njon about whether he is planning to represent LifeRing at the conference or whether he is planning to speak only as an individual.

Discussion about tabling at the CCAR conference, or whether money would be better spent at a different conference where LifeRing has not had a presence previously. Table costs \$1000. However, it is important to note that William White will be there, who is a giant in the recovery field nationwide, if not worldwide and wrote the forward to EYSS. He is a strong advocate of clear and equal choice in recovery. The CCAR conference is a huge draw because of his appearance, and would be important for LifeRing to have a presence there.

Sarah Zemore is presenting her research study at Anaheim; the description of her presentation mentions SMART but not LifeRing. Plan is to follow up with Sarah with results of conference evaluations; maybe Kathleen Gargan could approach Sarah about LifeRing not being included in the blurb about her study.

Board Member Election

Still missing one Board member.

Thank you to Craig Whalley, Jason Groce and Rob Mullaly for their service on the Board.

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
August 11, 2018