

Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: November 11, 2018

It was determined that a quorum of board members was present and the meeting was called to order by Board Co-Chair Lorraine Hull at 9:00am PDT. Co-Chair Dan Carrigan was also present. The other Board Members present were: Mary Beth O'Connor, Bob Crosby, Donal Breen and Rick Thompson. Harold Marquez was excused for Veterans Day duties and George Gidora was not present.

The Executive Director, Byron Kerr, was present and the General Manager, Robert Stump, was also present.

Public Comments

There were none.

Consent Agenda

The October Minutes and P&L were moved, seconded and accepted in final format with the exception of a minor change to the spelling of Sarah Zemore's last name.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee

New and Existing Meetings (Donal, Harold)

Brief discussion of a situation with a convener who may not always adhere to the total abstinence plan. Suggestions and resources will be discussed further offline.

Finance Committee, Robert, Bob, Donal

A couple of budget questions were asked. Mary Beth inquired as to whether or not LRSR is spending money efficiently for its IT services. Also, how much money may be expected to come in by the end of 2018?

Action: Lorraine recommended a pop-up committee to review these questions.

Communications Committee (Mary Beth, George, Rick)

Met and discussed revising the skills list that highlights existing members areas of strength. Also starting a quarterly newsletter beginning January 2019. Reiterated the importance of making sure communications that represent LifeRing are reviewed by at least two sets of eyes. Rick will be the primary writer and MailChimp owner. Suggestion to revisit previous newsletters generated by Carola, a former BoD member. Lisa Swing-Corney should be contacted for information as she supports all areas except Colorado and the Bay Area.

Pop-Up Committee Updates

2019 Annual Meeting - Byron

Byron reported that even though the first location didn't work out, he has a team of two people helping him find alternative options.

Progress on Review of Bylaws – Mary Beth

Bylaws review Pop-Up Group has met twice now. Reviewed suggestions from Cooley (pro bono advisory law firm). The way the Bylaws are organized and the threads that link/refer to other sections, makes this a long and slow-going process. The group will meet again after Thanksgiving and likely another time after that.

Also mentioned that the discussion about shareholder options will continue.

Old Business

Update on CCAR Presentation

CCAR was held end of October in Florida but had significantly less attendance than the last few prior years. Njon Weinroth, former Board Chair, presented there on the first day to an audience of 45. He reported that the group was appreciative of his story and the opportunity to experience a "quasi" LifeRing meeting. The book drawing by survey was not very successful as only one person logged in to take it. Njon will still follow up with those 45 individuals and others that he met during the conference.

Action: Lorraine to follow up with Njon so that LRSR may officially reach out to the 45 contacts.

LifeRing Facebook Consolidation Plans - Steve G.

The plans for merging the LifeRing Pages and Groups on Facebook were revised with specific work details divided into four phases (copy attached). It is quite a comprehensive approach. Steve G. agreed to join the next board call to further explain implementation and timing of the Facebook consolidation.

LifeRing Website

Robert has a meeting set up with Cori Chavez of Colorado Website fame to discuss hosting and security issues for the LifeRing.org website.

Proposed 2019 Budget compared to 2018 with Assumptions

The Proposed Budget compares 9 months of 2018 to a guesstimate of income and expenses in 2019. Note, this is the first budget ever prepared for LRSR. There was discussion of the critical need to generate more funds. This will be highly beneficial in the future to determine whether conferences and other initiatives may be supported.

Convenors send money from meetings to the service center (weekly, monthly, semi-annually). There is no formula to determine what the convenors will send to the service center. Currently, Lisa Swing-Corney is reminding convenors to collect donations at meetings. Some convenors may have expenses, such as rent. There is no method of determining these required expenses. Note that LifeRing in California is not a separate entity, and that donations from meetings in California are sent to the LifeRing Service Center and go into the general fund and are not earmarked for California-related expenses.

A consistent method for convenors to submit donations should be developed. A system that makes it easy for convenors to submit donations to the service center (PayPal, Venmo, etc.)

New Business

Proposal from LRSR Canada to publish Canadian versions of EYSS and RBC

A letter proposing that LRSR Canada publish the two books written by Martin Nicolas in Canada with a special forward written by Marty was discussed. The reason appears to be financially driven to eliminate cross of the border duties and fees. There are several outstanding questions about the proposal that will need to be answered by George before the board can make a decision.

Actions: Robert and Byron will follow up with George on these questions. Dan suggested a Pop-Up committee to explore this further with George (Dan, George, Bob, Robert)

Decisions on Year End Fundraising Plan

Fundraising activity plans from now to year end were described. Jenny shared the plans to create a card or flyer that conveners may hand out at meetings. It will define giving levels, such as \$50 buys a convener kit to start a new meeting. She also plans to draft a letter that will be emailed to the convener lists. The fundraising theme will be "Give the Gift of Sobriety" for this season. She will draft these fundraising tools by end of week for the Fundraising Pop-Up Group and Board to review and approve. This campaign will begin on November 27th in concert with the National Day of Giving.

Regional Representative Role Clarification

General concerns regarding the Regional Representative role, particularly regarding what authority they have and do not have was discussed. A Pop-Up Group will be engaged to create a basic description of what is involved with the role, as well as who the individuals in the role may reach out to for support or assistance when needed.

Action: This group will include Bob Crosby, Donal Breen, Byron Kerr and Lisa Swing-Corney.

Status of Ning Interactive

Ning is requesting renewal of their "plus" service. The service is hardly (if ever) used. The lead contact for the service, Steve Snyder, a former LifeRing Board Member, has said the service is unnecessary. The board decided not to renew the "plus" service with Ning.

Public Comments

There were none.

Adjournment

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

Submitted by Lorraine Hull and Dan Carrigan
LifeRing Board Co-Chairs
December 1, 2018