

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting (Corrected): November 11, 2012

A quorum of Board members was present and the meeting was called to order by Craig Whalley at 12 noon PST. Also present were Dru Boyd, Kathleen Gargan, Jeff Koch, Joe Mott, Steve Snyder, Troy Spears, Robert Stump, Carola Ziermann, and Tim Reith.

Consent Agenda

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried that the Board accept the Consent Agenda as posted.

Old Business

Logo Discussion: Craig, Joe, and Steve

Joe and Steve requested clarification regarding the logo design. It was decided to delay this discussion pending comments from Njon (not present at this meeting).

Canada: Craig

Craig received an email from John Banks, the new Chairman of the Canadian Board and will follow up with him soon.

Trademarks: Robert

Robert commented that Marty suggested that the phrase “Empower Your Sober Self” be trademarked as well. The fee is another \$275. There was a consensus that this should be done, and that LifeRing would pay for it. Robert will send Marty an email to this effect.

(Secretary’s Note: Joe’s comments on open vs. closed, focused, and process addiction meetings are paraphrased below, interspersed with comments from others at the Board meeting. His comments were summarized in an email from him to me).

Open vs. Closed, Focused, and Process (Behavioral) Addiction Meetings

Open vs. Closed Meetings: Joe and Others

Joe commented that an “open” meeting is defined as a meeting that is publicized and held in a public place. A “closed” meeting is defined as a meeting that is held in an inpatient treatment center or a prison, for example, and only patients and inmates can attend (because the facility itself is “closed.”). The bylaws make this distinction by addressing who can represent such meetings (“open” meetings elect a representative; for “closed” meetings, the convenor is the representative.

Process Addictions: Joe, Dru, and Others

Joe does not support the idea of opening LifeRing to process addictions. Also, he does not support “special meetings” for gamblers, sex addicts, or overeaters for example; we should only extend the

LifeRing name to meetings that address alcohol and drug addictions. Process addiction meetings could be designated a “affiliate” meetings and we might support their development.

Focused Meetings: Joe, Kathleen, Craig, and Robert

Previously we agreed that we would be open to focused meetings, such as LifeRing meetings for battered women, and that these would be legitimate meetings with attendees deciding whom to admit and whom to exclude. At that time our position was to see how these meetings fared, and if they succeeded, to learn from them and incorporate their ideas into our Outreach Program.

The question of meeting attendance (at regular meetings) by people without chemical addictions was raised. Kathleen commented that the phrase “anyone can come to our meetings” leads to some confusion and that the handling of this issue should be stated more clearly in the bylaws. Craig commented that such situations should be handled by the convenor.

Robert commented that the meeting charter is explicit regarding the purpose of the meetings: It is somewhat exclusive now; the corporation charter says that LifeRing “is here to serve recovering alcohol and drug addicts” and it is implied that LifeRing meetings would conform to this definition.

Convenor Workshop: Dru, Troy, and Robert

Marty made a presentation at the Workshop regarding the general idea of convenorship and the process of “sober self to sober self.” His presentation will appear on YouTube. The Workshop was open to people on the convenor list for email questions. Questions regarding Workbook meetings were raised, but there was little experience with them by those present. Troy commented that there were Workbook meetings in the Modesto area. We expect to have a second meeting in February.

Convenor Considerations: Kathleen, Dru, and Craig

Kathleen reiterated some comments by Miriam Cotton in Ireland where meetings are rather different than those in the U.S. and that such differences make the convenor role more challenging there. Craig commented that our Opening Statement sets the groundrules for meetings, and that he will follow up with Miriam in this matter.

Next Newsletter: Carola

The deadline for contributions to the next Newsletter is December 15. Carola would like to include comments about fundraising as well as publicity regarding our Congress next year. Perhaps comments regarding Dr. Mate’s upcoming book might be solicited. The Convenor Workshop could also be mentioned with additional clarification next time. Also, a list of treatment providers that support LifeRing might be included. The Newsletter can serve as an additional resource to the distributed at treatment centers.

Other Business: Craig

Absentee Voting: Jeff, Craig, and Others

Jeff proposed that a special meeting be set up to address this subject in more detail. A date of November 25 was agreed to and Tim will set up the meeting.

Meeting Adjournment: Craig

There being no other business, Craig made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm PST.

Tim Reith

Board Secretary

November 24, 2012