

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting: January 8, 2012

It was determined that a quorum of Board members was present and the meeting was called to order by Craig W., at 6:30 pm PST. Also present were: Kathleen G., Dru B., Laretta M., Joe M., Lynn C., Robert S. and Tim R.

Minutes: Tim

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the November Minutes:

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/liferingBOD/files/2012/>

Financial Report: Robert and Craig

The report for November, 2011 was posted:

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/liferingBOD/files/2011/Financial%20Reports/>

In summary, for November, the gross profit was about \$3.4K and total expenses were about \$2.9K resulting in a net income gain of about \$0.5K. However, there was a deficit for January through November of 2011 of about \$5.8K.

In December donations and book sales were high but we likely still will finish the year with a deficit of about \$2K to \$3K. Fundraising is crucial. Under new business, Robert commented that we will need a treasurer, since there is now a conflict of interest given that he is managing the office now. However he will continue to do the financial reports and would make them available to the treasurer. Many thanks were given to Robert for stepping up to managing the office in Rachael's place. It was noted that the treasurer need not be a Board member.

Planning Report: Lynn

Lynn has been working with Liz on the knowledge base. She is looking toward next week to start up the planning process again.

Prospective Convenors Meetings: Lynn and Mona

They have been working as a team to put a plan together on how we would contact people who are interested in convening. Letters are being sent out to new convenors, along with suggestions for meeting format. Craig commented that it would be helpful to try to determine the impediments that exist for starting up a new meeting.

Annual Meeting Progress: Njon, Kathleen and Laretta

Njon was not present at this meeting but did post a summary of his progress:

Njon's building (The Hamilton) did not accept our offer to rent the space. His plan now is to use the LGBTQ Center on Market Street, with which we have a good relationship. He has been in touch with the Events Coordinator and a plan will be put together. The cost would be substantially less. The Center is also close to a number of good hotels and restaurants.

Kathleen asked if we have firmed-up a date for the Annual Meeting. Laretta commented that the change of venue makes the date more flexible, and no other action on this matter was taken up at the meeting.

Annual Pride Celebration Report: Njon, Joe and Laretta

Njon's report also included comments on the annual gay pride parade and celebration:

In October, a notice was sent out to the convenors list, the local San Francisco list and the LGBTQ portal on Google Groups. The response from volunteers to organize the event has not been high, and Njon suggested that we hold off on our participation until there is a measurable demonstration of willingness to participate from a group of our members. There were no objections to this, but no one present at this meeting said they would be willing to take this effort on. Lynn commented that she may know someone who might be willing to do this.

Some concerns were raised about sobriety at such an event: Joe commented that he attended a pride celebration in the Los Angeles area a few years ago and that there was a sober area designated at the end of the parade. He wondered if there was anything like this in the San Francisco events. Laretta commented that in San Francisco there was a booth area, grouped together, and which informally were places which would provide a sober atmosphere. Robert commented that there was a \$900 entrance fee, but Laretta commented that the fee could be less for a non-profit organization. Her rough estimate in this regard would be about \$400 to \$450.

Fundraising: Lynn, Robert, Kathleen and Craig

At this time Lynn had no numbers for the most recent appeal. Craig estimated that we possibly raised about \$5000 in the last two months, mostly from various forms of appeals. Robert commented that for December we raised about \$3,600 in donations and about \$1000 from sales through the website bookstore.

Craig commented that both donations and book sales were up for the year, but that expenses were even higher, resulting in a net deficit.

Mahala Kephart is being nominated as the chair of the fundraising committee. She is a new member. Kathleen commented on her background which is in university fundraising activity and she is therefore very well suited to this position. She is interested in starting a meeting in Salt Lake City and has been active in LSRsafe. Lynn provided a possible wording of a motion to name Mahala to this position. Lynn commented that we need to formally establish a fundraising committee as this is a requirement of the IRS. It was decided that, before the Board votes to have Mahala head up this committee, we should make sure that she is in agreement. It was moved, seconded and carried to establish the "Financial Resources Initiative Team Committee" (without naming Mahala specifically).

Relationship with the Canadian LifeRing Organization: Kathleen, Craig, Joe and Lynn

Kathleen and Craig had a discussion with Michael. He expressed the desire to establish better communication. Robert mentioned that he and Michael have a good working relationship. Craig commented that it was an item of concern that Canada might proceed in a different direction than we. Joe asked if there would be any formal way to establish a formal vehicle for communication with Michael. Lynn suggested that we delay this action for one month so as to make it part of the planning process; we need some time to review the international model of the planning process before we have a meeting with them. Joe suggested that we have an informal meeting with them first to ensure a friendly working relationship. Kathleen agreed to pursue informal discussions with them in preface to the Annual Meeting.

Mailings to Tucson: Kathleen and Tim

Tim thanked Robert for doing the labels and letter mail merge for the Tucson mailings, and that Lynn provided excellent documents that were included. We mailed 60 packets right before Christmas. Kathleen has been doing follow-up calls this week and has done 45 calls so far. She has talked directly with five or six people who were happy to learn about LifeRing. We will be doing this for other locations as well.

Practicum Report: Kathleen, Laretta and Lynn

Kathleen proposed that we start over as the proposal contains actions that we have already covered in the Planning Document. Kathleen suggested that we put together some topics that we have specific interest in so that they might be incorporated in the practicum. It was agreed that this would be a good way to proceed. Kathleen suggested that we share what has already been done in the Foundation Document. She and Lynn will discuss these matters this week. She also suggested that we think specifically about what we want out of this process. Laretta

suggested that we review an earlier survey that was done to further promote incorporation of ideas.

Eating Disorders Group: Kathleen

There was no additional activity to report upon this month.

Ireland's Donation: Craig, Joe and Kathleen

Craig suggested that the Board formally send thanks to them for their generous monetary donation. Joe moved that the Board send a formal letter. The motion was moved, seconded and was carried unanimously.

"Al Anon" Discussion: Joe, Laretta, Craig, Lynn and Robert

Joe asked if LifeRing has anything resembling Al Anon. There is an e-mail group that addresses this issue, but it has not really caught on. Volunteering for this purpose has not been forthcoming; someone needs to take the initiative. Lynn commented that we should have a discussion with Karen I. and Marty. It was suggested that such an initiative be incorporated into a future agenda.

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and was carried unanimously. The meeting ended at approximately 7:45 pm, PST.

Tim R., Board Secretary

January 13, 2012