

# Minutes of the 2012 Annual LifeRing Meeting: May 11 and 12, 2012

*Note: Most of the material included in this report is taken from Craig Whalley's summary posted on the [lifering.org](http://lifering.org) website.*

## Introduction

The venue was in San Francisco at the LGBT Center.

## The Outgoing Executive Director Report: Kathleen Gargan

Kathleen reported that the stability of the LifeRing Organization is strong and with bright prospects.

Growth of LifeRing was impressive:

Category	Number of Meetings, Posts, Views or Booksales (4/11)	Number of Meetings, Posts, Views or Booksales (4/12)	Increase (%)
Face-to-Face Meetings	115	153	33
LSRsafe Posts	273	1426	422
LSRmail Posts	233	678	190
Ning Members	388	1323	240
Website Page Views	700	1000	42
Book Sales (dollars)	1727	2014*	17

\*reflects book sales through April only for this year

Kathleen acknowledged and thanked Lynn Cullens, who was the driving force for our planning effort last year. Lynn has left us with a rich source of materials that will be used to continue the process.

She also thanked Filiberto Alonso for Spanish translations of some of LifeRing's material, and those who helped with bulk mailings to Tucson and Austin. Many thanks were given to Mona Hirson and Craig Whalley for establishing a database for prospective Convenors.

Kathleen reported that Carolyn Harris, a practicum student from the University of the Rockies, is helping us revamp an earlier membership survey. Included will be an in-depth organizational profile of LifeRing comparing the present to its future. She, along with Mary Ann Dunn, a trained facilitator, is helping with operational concerns.

Mahala Kephart, a professional fundraiser has agreed to structure our fundraising efforts. Also, she is about to start the first LifeRing meeting in Salt Lake City. Mahala was instrumental in designing our Board Development Workshop and Leadership Summit that took place on the first day of the Annual Meeting.

We will participate in a survey sponsored by the NIAAA through the Alcohol Research Group, the title of the project being “What Is Recovery?” The results of this survey will be presented at our 2013 Annual Meeting. Sarah Zemore, from the same group, will propose a longitudinal study to the NIAAA in October, drawing from a new membership survey.

Drs. Monterosso and Shelby met with us on the first day of the meeting regarding LifeRing visibility issues.

In the coming year the Board will oversee the work of several new committees, including Outreach, International Structure, and Communications and Volunteering. A Newsletter is also planned and many thanks were given to Carola Ziermann for driving this effort.

Finally, Kathleen thanked everyone for trusting her to hold the Executive Director position. Special thanks were given to Craig, the previous Executive Director, who has continued to be greatly involved as the Board Chair. A special thanks was given to the Board of Directors and Officers for all their help. Next year, Kathleen looks forward to continued work with Craig and the new Executive Director.

## **The Board Chair Report: Craig Whalley**

Much progress was made in the past two years in creating a more professional and focused organization. Craig stressed that the great majority of tasks is not directly related to Board Members or Officers, but rather to persons with or without specific skills who may express interest in donating their time and attention to specific tasks. In particular, Craig commented and solicited help for the following areas:

- Although Karen Ivy is doing a wonderful technical job managing the present LifeRing Website, including an upcoming major upgrade, specific less technical aspects of the Website are needed that include blog post management, as well as some sections internal to the Website that need attention.
- Fundraising efforts will be spearheaded by Mahla Kephart, but she will need some help. Those interested in helping should talk directly to Mahala.
- Online venues need new energy from Volunteers who could host a weekly chat meeting or start a new email group.
- The Planning Effort needs continued focus and direction.
- Professional Outreach needs special attention.
- LifeRing Press, our publishing arm, needs help in revising and updating brochures, both old and new.

Finally, Craig stressed that the building of a strong and viable organization, if we are to continue to bring to those who need us alternate ways to sobriety, is of paramount importance.

## **April Minutes Report: Tim Reith**

The Report for April 2012 was not voted upon but can be found at:

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

This report will be voted upon at the next regular Board of Directors meeting on June 10.

## **Financial Reports: Carola Ziermann**

Two financial reports were submitted by Carola:

### **1) 2011 Income and Balance Expense**

For complete details of this report see:

[http://lifering.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2011\\_LifeRing\\_Income\\_Expense\\_Report-Expand.pdf](http://lifering.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2011_LifeRing_Income_Expense_Report-Expand.pdf)

Briefly, Total Income for 2011 was about \$50.1K, Gross Profit was about \$42.4K, Total Expenses were about \$47K, resulting in a Net Income of about -\$4.5K.

### **2) 2011 Balance Sheet**

For complete details of this report see:

[http://lifering.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2011\\_Balance\\_Sheet.pdf](http://lifering.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2011_Balance_Sheet.pdf)

Briefly, Total Liabilities and Equity was about \$43.6K.

There being no other business at this time, Craig moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and was carried unanimously.

Tim Reith, Board Secretary

Submitted June 5, 2012