

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting (Brief Version): September 9, 2012

It was determined that a quorum of Board members was present and the meeting was called to order by Craig Whalley at 12 PM PDT. Also present were Dru Boyd, Kathleen Gargan, Joe Mott, Steve Snyder, Robert Stump, Njon Weinroth, and Tim Reith.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda this month consisted of the Minutes, the Financial Report, and the Committee Reports, the latter of which included reports for Volunteer Recruitment, Convenor Training, and Transparency.

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

Old Business

CAADAC Conference

The CAADAC Conference in San Diego was discussed and Joe will attend. The conference dates are October 4 through October 7. Conducting LifeRing meetings early in the day was discussed so that how one is actually carried out might be observed. Joe will convene these meetings.

The application for the booth was completed. It was decided that just a few books would be taken to the conference for display and that persons wanting to buy them could subsequently place an order through the LifeRing Bookstore.

Legal Considerations: Granting Charters to Other LifeRing Entities

Our legal counsel and the legal counsel of the country in question will need to define an agreement that is mutually acceptable to both parties. No two agreements between LifeRing and the country in question will be the same as there are different laws and different ways of running non-profit organizations, country-to-country. In this context LifeRing is empowered to grant charters to other LifeRing entities as per the Bylaws:

Article 6.4.8

“The Board shall have the power to grant a charter to one not-for-profit organization in each geographical jurisdiction, empowering that organization to issue and to suspend or revoke meeting charters within that geographical organization, on terms consistent with these bylaws. [Added 2004]”

LifeRing in Canada

Differences between LifeRing in the USA and LifeRing in Canada were discussed. Canada is adopting different procedures for convenor (facilitator) training and qualification. Michael Walsh, the Executive Director in Canada, offered to share the methodology of these procedures. He also offered to present any questions from us to the facilitators in an on-line survey format.

Canada is completing the first phase of a major survey project. Michael offered to share the information gained from it when it is done next month.

Canada's organizational structure is dissimilar to ours, and concerns were raised that this could be a continuing issue. An International Strategic Plan may clarify some of these concerns. The plan is being written now and will be made available to Canada upon completion.

There was no other Old Business, and the meeting proceeded to new business items.

New Business

Use of Last Names

LiferRing Board and Officers

Our current policy states that full names and contact information be used for all Board Members and Officers. Additionally, all full names already appear on the website. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to continue this policy since doing so adds a layer of transparency and professional integrity to the organization. This practice is also necessary for grant applications.

Absentee Voting and Nominations

Our online community is expressing more interest in achieving greater representation through absentee voting and nominations. Absentee voters may be more protective of their identities and may have a greater interest in anonymity. It was agreed that for absentee nominations, full names will be required before placing any name on the ballot.

LiferRing Logo Trademark

There was a discussion regarding the LifeRing logo, its status as the trademark of LifeRing, and whether copyright protection is required; we have recently changed its design slightly. Martin Nicolaus, the co-founder of LifeRing is the owner of the original trademark. We need to be certain he is aware of this situation, and that he would not anticipate a challenge in this regard.

Dr. Gabor Mate

Dr. Mate will be a guest speaker at our next Annual Meeting that will be held in Denver in 2013. There was discussion regarding a recent article of his, stating that LifeRing has a five-step program which is not true. Also in that article he suggested that belief in a higher power, as advocated by 12-Step programs, was “essential to recovery”. We requested that he not discuss these matters at that meeting and he agreed.

Bylaws

An initial bylaws proposal was drafted by the Absentee Voting and Bylaws Committee and will be released next month.

Adjournment

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM PDT.

Tim Reith

Board Secretary

September 30, 2012