

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting: March 9, 2014

It was determined that a quorum of board members was present and the meeting was called to order by Board Chair Joseph Mott at 12 Noon PDT (Joe was elected the new Board Chair at last month's meeting when Craig stepped aside). Also present were: Byron Kerr, Jeff Koch, John Owens, Steve Snyder, Robert Stump, Njon Weinroth, Carola Ziermann, and Tim Reith.

New Business

Consent Agenda

The Agenda consisted of reports from the treasurer and secretary. There were no committee reports.

A correction needed to be made to last month's minutes. The secretary agreed to do this.

With this change agreed to, it was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the Agenda.

Website Content Committee

The committee met on February 16 regarding appearance and content. There will be a detailed update next month.

Election Registrar

Byron said that several persons approached for this position have declined. He still felt it was inappropriate for him to hold this position. It would be preferable for a non-board member to do this job; in the absence of this, a board member should be chosen who would not be up for election this year. Jeff is willing to serve. It would be desirable to have a non-board member help him.

A motion was made to appoint Jeff as the registrar. It was seconded and carried with abstentions from Byron and Jeff. The remaining board members still constituted a quorum.

Old Business

Survey

Robert has the information, but Mahala (not present) is the "owner." Carola said that she would like to include the results in the next newsletter. Tim agreed to send an email to Mahala asking for a written report. The survey ended last October with 380 responses.

Annual Meeting

Byron discussed the venues: The Glaser Center offered a further unsolicited reduction in rental price. The rental would be for 12 hours, allowing sufficient time to accommodate our dinner as well. This is Byron's "Plan B" suggestion, but with the additional reduction by the Glaser Center, rendering the cost to be about the same as "Plan A." The Arlene Frances Center was discussed and it was agreed that its size and condition would not be appropriate for the public Saturday meeting.

Accordingly, Byron proposed that the Arlene Frances Center be used for Friday and Sunday, and the Glaser Center for Saturday. A motion to this effect was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Dinner was discussed. Byron proposed a specific known caterer and he will present an exact cost next month. It will be about \$25 per head.

A convenors workshop and training session was briefly discussed, along with a more general discussion of the overall meeting schedule and timing. No firm decisions were made.

Marty has agreed to give a short opening statement and also one of the introductions. It was agreed earlier that Mahala would head up a workshop for the board. How this would be incorporated into an overall board meeting was discussed but with no firm conclusions. Byron will send out an updated agenda draft based on today's suggestions and, with possible interim comments, it will be ready for approval next month.

Suicide Policy

A meeting in Sacramento on this topic was discussed last month. The meeting will be held during the weekend of March 15. It was agreed last month to not implement a policy until after the meeting. Marty B. will attend and it was agreed to invite him next month for a report. Composing a very general policy to educate convenors, and possibly a brochure with additional detail was suggested. It may not serve us to have an official policy *per se*. We already have crisis referral information on the website. It is important to differentiate between creating official policy and putting forth some guidelines; there could be liability issues if a specific policy was not adhered to. SMART has a good statement in this regard and using parts of it was discussed. Jeff will follow up.

Dates and Locations for the 2015 Annual Meeting

Salt Lake City and Albuquerque were discussed as possibilities last month. It was felt that a location decision should be made as soon as possible because of the planning efforts required. Joe suggested that we form an Ad Hoc Committee to determine location.

It was moved that Byron, Njon, Mahala, and Tim constitute that committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Committee Structure

Jeff will use his existing draft and incorporate input from Tim and Robert to compose a new structure for presentation at the Annual Meeting. The newly elected board will review and approve it.

National Speakers Bureau

Jeff will address this topic next month.

New Business

SOS and Logo Trademark

Byron reviewed this issue with Marty who felt that in another context, it would be advisable to consider a trademark infringement lawsuit; in this context it would be best to wait and see whether the organization expires of its own accord. Delaying response from us would not imply tacit approval. The board agreed with these comments. Joe also spoke with Marty who further said that from a legal perspective, and looking at it as a trademark lawyer, it would be a marginal case. Marty would not be able to represent LifeRing in any possible legal action since in the past he has represented SOS, and is thus precluded from taking a position against that organization. Joe said that if we wanted to pursue this in the future we might solicit *pro bono* help as SOS has done in the past. It was agreed to put this matter on the agenda for next month.

Adjournment

There being no other business at this time, Joe entertained a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm PDT.

Tim Reith

Board Secretary

March 17, 2014 – Happy St. Paddy's Day