

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting: May 11, 2014

It was determined that a quorum of board members was present and the meeting was called to order by *pro tem* Board Chair Craig Whalley at 12 Noon PDT. Also present were: Darrell Borland, Mahala Kephart, Byron Kerr, Jeff Koch, John Owens, Steve Snyder, Njon Weinroth, Craig Whalley, and Tim Reith.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda this month consisted of the Minutes the Treasurer's Report.

A motion was made seconded, and carried unanimously to accept both as submitted.

Report on the Office Move

The move was successful.

Washington D.C. Visit

Mahala met with the Head of Continuing Education of the American Psychological Association. He is willing to entertain a proposal from us regarding a continuing education webinar. We need to ascertain whether other sobriety organizations are also interested. More information will be provided.

New Editor for the LifeRing Blog

Craig appointed Bobbi Campbell.

Bequest Language

Mahala wrote an informational item for the Service Center. A link to it will be placed on the Website donation page. Mahala will coordinate with Robert.

A.A. Agnostica

Mahala provided an overview of her involvement. They are publishing a book of essays and one written by her will be included.

Annual Meeting

Byron commented that a note was sent to approximately 100 LifeRing persons who will not attend to solicit a greeting from them for the meeting. A few responses were received.

Security will be coordinated with the local police.

Mahala commented on Board workshop materials. She will distribute information related to the survey and planning during the week of May 11.

Geoffrey L. was previously appointed as Registrar and he has been in touch with Robert. Jeff said that Geoff informed him that he (Geoff) can only serve as a “figurehead registrar” and this is a concern. Jeff solicited a back-up plan. Byron commented that Robert is compiling all delegate information as he did last year. Specifically on vote counting and certification, Jeff said that Geoff would not have time to do this. Byron commented that the only significant problem last year was the ballot itself and the job of Registrar will not involve much work. The vote counting will be done using the same computer program as last year, and Byron, with Robert, will do this. Tim will do a manual count and, as Secretary, will certify results. The discussion continued regarding how much involvement Geoff can provide, based on Byron’s and Jeff’s differing comments. Jeff said that the Registrar’s duties are in the Bylaws and that it is not a figurehead position. It was agreed that we should hear directly from Geoff.

Newsletter

The deadline for submissions is May 13 and it will be available for the Annual Meeting.

Social Networking

This is a time consuming job, is well suited for a volunteer, and can provide a path to a Board seat. Included would be venues such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Craig will pursue such a volunteer.

Chat Funding

Jeff, Bob O., and others suggested that a new fundraising effort be created for chat, and that a mechanism be put in place whereby donations are specifically earmarked as such. Donations in this regard would be given to the Service Center and so designated. If these exceed that needed for chat, although unlikely, there should be a discussion regarding the disposition of the overflow. The annual cost for “regular” chat and voice chat was paid for by Robert, and was funded by donations. Byron expressed a concern about “autonomy.” Mahala will work with Robert and Carola to define the mechanism. Another discussion among Mahala, Robert, and Carola would be appropriate.

Predator Policy

Mahala commented that there are very few examples to serve as guidelines. She will follow up with a draft.

Brochure Revisions

Mahala sent out a new version of “It’s Your Choice.” Byron said there are now three other circuit courts that have ruled identically to the Ninth Circuit, and these rulings should be included. He will provide her with details and she will incorporate appropriately.

Mission Statement

There was a recent e-mail comment about its wording but there has been little further discussion. Byron commented that the objection was to the phrase “recovery from addiction.” Njon, Jeff, and Mahala responded to the subject e-mail. Mahala suggested that we examine its wording on a two-year basis.

Transparency

Njon commented that this subject might better be addressed at the Annual Meeting. It was agreed to postpone the discussion until then. He has been working with Mahala and Tim in this regard. If he can attend the meeting, he will conduct the Convenor Workshop on Friday evening, and this workshop would be an appropriate venue for the discussion.

LifeRing Meeting at Mountain Vista Farm

Byron commented that new residents there will be given a clear and equal choice between LifeRing and 12-Step Programs (or both).

Increased Interest in LifeRing

Books sales and Service Center inquiries have increased. A future discussion on how to deal with the increased volume and interest will be needed.

Compensation Discussion

The Executive Director also serves as the Office Operations Manager. Compensation is provided for the latter, and an increase in it was discussed. The Treasurer previously reported that the extra money requested would not pose a financial burden.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to provide the suggested salary increase.

Café Press

Byron said that we are beginning to enjoy a small profit.

Adjournment

There being no other business, Craig moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm PDT.

Submitted by Tim Reith

Board Secretary

May 17, 2014
