

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting: July 13, 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: Dan Carrigan, Mahala Kephart, Byron Kerr, Emily Marcus, Joe Mott, Steve Snyder, Robert Stump, Njon Weinroth, and Tim Reith. The meeting started at 12 noon PDT.

Election Results

Congratulations were extended to the two returning board members (Njon and Byron) and the two new members (Emily and Dan).

Based on the agreement of the manual vote count with OpaVote, the Secretary certified the results:

Byron, Emily, and Njon were each elected to three-year terms, and Dan to a one-year term, filling out the remaining sequential terms of two resigned board members.

Officer Elections

Njon was nominated for Board Chair, Carola for Treasurer, and Tim for Secretary. There were no other nominations. Voting was unanimous for each.

Consent Agenda

It consisted of the Minutes the Treasurer's Report. There were no committee reports.

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the May 2014 Minutes as submitted. (The Annual Meeting Minutes are not voted upon until the following year.)

Because there is always a one-month offset in the Treasurer's Report, the present one does not reflect expenses for the Annual Meeting. With this understanding, it was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the present report as submitted.

Annual Meeting

There was a small profit. There was no accurate measure of attendance. The dinner was attended by 35 to 40 persons.

Committee Reports

There were none.

Committee Structure

The original structure, composed of 12 committees, was proposed and accepted in June 2012. It defined a tri-annual reporting schedule for each committee, but did not function well with respect to goal definitions and timely reports.

Some later structure drafts were composed last year, but no action was taken. Recently, Njon drafted and circulated to the Board a new committee structure proposal that defines fewer committees, each of which assume ownership of a broader range of responsibilities. The range of each, when combined, may better reflect our overall goals, schedules, and objectives more congruently with those of the LifeRing Organization. Further action was tabled until next month, with interim off-line discussions.

Communication Protocols

Njon briefly described his suggestions for new protocols with an emphasis on transparency. It was agreed to combine detailed discussions of this matter with the off-line discussions regarding committee structures referred to above. Google + “Hangouts” was discussed as a possible communication vehicle. It is free and has audio/video capability.

Concerns regarding transparency and confidentiality were raised, but in the interests of time, it was decided to continue this discussion off-line.

Book Sales and Office Hours

Books sales have increased substantially, along with other matters such as requests for information. If this trend continues, more help will be needed. This trend reflects the general nature of the economy.

Note that with this increased activity, there is an increased need for volunteer help, and solutions must be addressed.

Website Blog and Books Page

Craig appointed Bobbi Campbell as the blog editor, and it was agreed by all that she is doing a very good job. Her interest in creating a book page for the website was discussed. It was moved that she should be given this responsibility. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Chat Funding

A new funding method for chat was discussed among Njon, Melly, Steve and Convenors. This reflects a desire to become more independent from LifeRing, and insofar that such an effort results in better communication and unity among the membership, the Board endorsed those efforts. It was also welcomed that the funding burden for chat would then be carried by them.

Steve commented that there was a meeting among online convenors to discuss a more efficient way to deal with meeting verifications. A process to ensure consistency in this matter was discussed. Centralization is needed and there is movement toward that goal. There is an ongoing effort regarding consistency in form verification wording.

Predator Policy

Mahala drafted a document on this subject. The omission of the "...moral and potential legal obligation..." phrase in the last paragraph was requested and agreed to.

A motion was made to accept the document as policy with the proposed change. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Transparency

There was no discussion.

Individual Rights and Responsibilities Policy

Mahala also drafted this document. As policy, when personnel issues arise, a reference will be in place. Such policies are standard for non-profit organizations. This policy draft is written broadly enough to cover any staff member or volunteer.

There was some concern that respect for each other is not explicit in the draft. This needs further off-line discussion and it was decided to do so with a follow-up next month.

Alcohol and other Drugs Advisory Boards

Carola was appointed to the Contra Costa County (CCC) Advisory Board. She and Byron met with the CCC Board Director and subsequent discussions resulted in an invitation to start a LifeRing meeting in San Quentin. Visits to similar boards in Santa Clara and Sonoma Counties are planned. Most counties have a public entity of this sort and relevant information is available on the Internet. Being beneficial, visits to other boards of this sort are planned.

NAADAC Advertising

The costs are large. There is no reduced rate for non-profit organizations, except perhaps by negotiation. This topic will be handled at committee level for assessment and structure and will be addressed here later.

Personnel Item

It was agreed that a Special Board Meeting would be scheduled to address this matter.

New Meeting in Boston

This meeting will be our first one in a large northeastern city. It will be held at McLean Hospital that is affiliated with Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General.

Board Meeting Calendar

Njon will take Mahala's input and post a calendar with meeting dates. The possibility of a web page posting, absent the agendas, was discussed. Minutes could be posted subsequently.

Other Matters from BOD Members

Njon reiterated his thanks to Emily and Dan.

Steve was thanked for his many years of service.

Byron added that LifeRing New Zealand is starting soon.

A second personnel issue was briefly mentioned and it was agreed to address it at the upcoming Special Board Meeting referred to above.

Adjournment

There was no other business. Njon moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm PDT.

Submitted by Tim Reith

Board Secretary

July 24, 2014