

Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: May 8, 2016

It was determined that a quorum of board members was present, and the meeting was called to order by Board Chair Byron Kerr at Noon PDT. The other board members present were: Dan Carrigan, Emily Marcus, Joe Mott, Tim Reith, Njon Weinroth, Craig Whalley, and Carola Ziermann. The Executive Director, Robert Stump, was also present. Mahala Kephart was not present. There were no members of the public present, and accordingly there were no comments from them.

Consent Agenda

It consisted of the April Minutes.

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept it as submitted.

Committee Reports

Revenue

There were no updates.

Member Support

Craig has been working with Lisa, the Regional Representative Chair. A more systematic follow-up with prospective convenors is underway. Regional Representatives for digital applications have been proposed. There would be one Regional Representative with three area representatives: Email and Delphi Forum, Social Media, and Chat. Lisa is also tracking delegates for the upcoming Annual Conference.

Advisory

Focus has been on Awards. It was suggested that the Board Chair present the "Hall of Fame Award."

LifeRing Press

Emily will meet with Bobbi soon to discuss the Newsletter in more detail. She has been in touch with Mahala and Kathleen regarding essays for "Stories of Secular Recovery." Details will be discussed at the Annual Conference. About 28 to 30 essays have been received. None will be rejected although editing will be done when needed.

External Outreach

There were no updates.

Administration

There were no updates.

Old Business

***Ad Hoc* Committee Reports**

Website

The website has been moved to the new server. It is stable but slower. Efforts to increase speed are underway. There are about 300 to 500 visits per day, typically for very short times. The cost increase for the move is small.

Annual Conference

An updated schedule will be published soon.

The dinner has been firmed up.

Election registration is relatively low and needs to be extended. A motion was made to extend the deadline by two weeks. It was seconded and carried unanimously.

New Business

Njon attended the CCAR Multiple Pathways of Recovery Conference and a report is being written. Clinicians are now required to consider evidenced-based programs with multiple choices being offered, in contrast only to 12-step.

Relatedly, Byron commented that Tom Hill, a Senior Consultant at SAMHSA, emphasized that all paths to recovery should be considered, with specific reference to LifeRing, SMART Recovery, and Women for Recovery, as well as 12-step.

Byron attended an event in Manhattan. Russell Brand appeared via Skype. The event centered on transcendental meditation training. He met with Peter Dodge, of the Foundation bearing his name. Mr. Dodge commented that he was personally unable to use AA. Byron spoke to him and he subsequently received a personal email.

Byron also attended a LifeRing meeting in Greenwich, CT, and was impressed by its content and attendance.

Byron and Njon agreed that a presentation by the "In the Rooms" organization was of great interest. They will launch a test using their capability for video on-line meetings. The "In the Rooms" meetings can accommodate about 50 persons, in contrast to our Hangout and Chat video meetings that can accommodate much fewer. Stability and A/V quality were very good.

Both SMART and Women for Sobriety are already using it. One concern is that the “In the Rooms” page that would be needed to access the LifeRing meeting room is dominated by 12-step. Byron and Njon will explore the possibility of establishing a separate link that would allow access to a LifeRing room without passing through their page.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM PDT.

Submitted by Tim Reith

LifeRing Board Secretary

May 18, 2016