

## **Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: September 11, 2016**

It was determined that a quorum of board members was present, and the meeting was called to order by Board Chair Njon Weinroth at Noon PDT. The other board members present were: Dan Carrigan, George Gidora, Emily Marcus, Rob Mullally, Byron Kerr, Craig Whalley, and Harold Marques. The Executive Director, Robert Stump, was also present. Board Member Carola Ziermann was not present. LifeRing Member Tim Reith was also present.

### **Consent Agenda**

It consisted of the August 2016 Minutes. It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the August Minutes as submitted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Member Support**

Number of member packages sent out between January and August of 2016 up 9% from 2015. Some of the increase due to service providers who request them, and the occasional free book to prisoners. No objections to sending free books to prisoners.

Finding volunteers for prison pen pals more difficult than e-pals since requires more of a time commitment. E-pals often either disappear or join chat or email groups. Will reach out to Bobbi Campbell to mention on Facebook forum and newsletter.

#### **Advisory Committee**

Tim Reith does not intend to continue in his position as Chair of Advisory. He and Njon Weinroth will discuss offline. May want to appoint Board member for this (Advisory) Committee.

Treatment centers occasionally express interest in LifeRing's secular approach to recovery and at times request that a link to LifeRing be embedded on their website. This would be fine if the center actually offered a meeting or was interested in starting one but otherwise need to be careful as this is free marketing tool for the Center(s) and reflects both the increased visibility of LifeRing and the pressure being felt by facilities to offer Choice in recovery. LifeRing does not want to appear to be endorsing any treatment centers or providers.

#### **LifeRing Press**

No new updates.

## **External Outreach**

Mahala has served as Chair of this Committee and hopefully will continue in this position. Byron Kerr intends to get more involved himself and would like to nominate Rob as an extra. Byron will reach out to Mahala.

## **Administrative Committee**

No new updates. Need new Chair.

## **Annual Conference Ad Hoc Committee**

Report on LifeRing Annual Congress/Conference reviewed. Member participation in 2016 very low at around forty. Attendance never more than one hundred; highest numbers appeared to be in Denver 2013 with 70-80 in attendance, but this was a joint conference with another Denver-based organization.

May be useful to obtain feedback via Survey Monkey or something similar to find out why Members attend or do not attend e.g. program itself, location, cost.

Agreement to hold off going forward with current Meeting format while waiting for Ad Hoc Committee to reconfigure a scaled down version for 2017 as well as tenable goals for future years that meet LifeRing's financial needs, the needs of the Members and that can attract the Public.

Will table until final report from Ad Hoc Committee with concrete recommendations in November 2017.

## **Fundraising Committee**

According to last month's meetings, no Fundraising Committee has been formed. Peter Dodge Grant proposal should be going in in approximately one week. It has been submitted to Susan McLean. **Name/Spelling?**

## **Public Comments**

There were none

## **Organizational Restructure Committee**

No consensus for need to reorganize committee structure but can be done on case-by-case basis if deficiencies or opportunities are seen. Administrative Committee needs new Chair.

## **Additional Activity**

### **Website Audit**

Excellent report for changes to be made in order to make website run more smoothly. Action already being taken. Board has to decide if wants to redesign website.

### **Asana**

Free web-based project management tool being underutilized. Up to each committee whether they use it or not. Some new Board Members not even on the platform.

### **Ning**

Annual payment of \$588 due 11/22/16 with cost going up each year. Ning community is large, in thousands, but not all active; Many like Ning because it offers anonymity and more privacy as opposed to FB. Agreement that it would not be fair to abruptly discontinue Ning if there is a community and plan is to pay through 2017 but will need to reach out to Ning community for contributions or may not be able to keep it going.

May be useful for someone from Ning to report to the Board. Byron will approach Steve Snyder.

### **Delphi**

Cost \$100 per year. Poor platform but gets lots of use.

### **New Meeting**

Elmwood Correctional Facility in Santa Clara County.

### **Election of Officers**

Tim Reith nominated to act as Interim Secretary until December 2016.  
All in favor.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 PDT.

*Submitted by Tim Reith  
LifeRing Interim Board Secretary  
September 28, 2016*

