

## **Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: December 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: Robert Mullaly, Byron Kerr, Craig Whalley, Carola Ziermann, George Gidora and Harold Marques. The Executive Director, Robert Stump, was also present. Board Members Emily Marcus and Dan Carrigan were not present.

### **Public Comments**

There were none.

### **Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously as submitted. It consisted of the November 2016 Minutes and was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the November Minutes as submitted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously as submitted.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Revenue Committee**

Carola has heard back from Kaiser Foundation and will submit the grant proposal using Byron's data from the Peter Dodge Foundation grant application. Will take 1-3 months.

Amazon Smile year-to-date is \$500.

### **Member Support**

No new business.

Craig would like to resign from his position as Chair of Member Support at this time. Board will reach out to potential candidates. Non-Board Members can fill the position.

### **LifeRing Press**

Moving ahead with print-on-demand system. Running out of supply of Recovery by Choice Workbooks after which will switch to print-on-demand. Marty has been asked to prepare Empower Your Sober Self in order to be able to sell overseas. Plan to publish HWYW on Kindle and may want to consider other e-book platforms as well. Consider open source suites for publishing which are usually free. LifeRing owns full rights to HWYW, although not in writing by Marty at this point. May consider placing pdf version of HWYW on website. LifeRing does not have rights to other books: Marty may want to e-publish these himself. Further discussion tabled until Emily Marcus present.

### **External Outreach**

Byron has succeeded in finally gaining access to Elmwood Prison after four years of efforts and will support the LifeRing meeting that was started there by an inmate. Azure

Acres meeting is scheduled to begin January 2017. Outreach to SAMSA successful: they are adding Lifering to their webpage which should be updated within a week.

### **Administrative Committee**

Njon has spoken with Melly/Steve re: online meetings. No longer using 1-2-3 Flash; Hipchat is provider being used now. Somewhat limited compared to 1-2-3 Flash, for instance doesn't have voice or video capability and security seems limited. If HipChat is to be permanent we should take temporary stuff off the website because it's already been temporary for over 90 days. Njon will reach out to Melly who is in charge. General agreement that flash directed chat is becoming obsolete.

### **Old Business**

#### **Annual Conference Ad Hoc Committee**

Njon reached out to a couple of people but received lukewarm response. Looks like it will fall back to Board. First order of business is to find a venue. Njon offers to partner with someone to work out logistics. Proposal to use Lifering office facility conference room in Oakland, but this is no longer free since the building has been purchased and now there is an hourly rental fee. Kaiser on Pledmont Ave has whole new facility with big parking garage. LifeRing has meeting there on Sundays convened by John Adams, who may have ability to rent space there. Robert S. will reach out to him. There's also \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital and Humanist House in San Jose but would be preferable to make conference accessible by public transportation for those who come from out of town. Njon will ask everyone to reach out to their individual spaces and report back to LifeRing Service Center. Robert S. will consolidate suggestions.

Discussion of Content: there will be a banquet and convenor workshops. Proposal to expand on presentation given by Dave Fletcher last year at the Congress: "Leadership through Example, Influence and Design", which would be of value to regional representatives. Fred has agreed to lead convenor workshops, but he asks that his name not be published.

### **Professional Advisory Board**

Advisory Board should be interface between LifeRing and the professional treatment community.

Suggestions: B.J. Davis from Sacramento, approached previously  
Heather Fulton, Canadian psychologist, big fan of LifeRing  
Gabor Mate?

Arthur \_\_\_\_\_, MD who brought LifeRing to San Diego

Request further suggestions to go to service center /Byron and he will consolidate. Include bio, why good candidate, and contact information.

Byron will put together criteria and ask Bobbi C. to include request for suggestions in her blog.

Discussion on importance of making the Advisory Board diverse. Reminder that we need to adhere to bylaws which state that the Advisory Board needs to be composed of professionals from chemical dependency treatment world and related areas. Byron will put together criteria and ask Bobbi to include in her blog, asking for input

**Ad Hoc**

Carola opened up offline discussion of proposal to change Board Chair term to 3 years but did not hear back from anyone. The proposal for extension of Board Chair position to a 3-year term is an effort to both “put a face” to LifeRing as an organization as well as to improve continuity.

Motion to make the Board Chair position a three year term effective with Congress in 2017.

Disagreement raised, stating three year term too much of a commitment to ask of any volunteer.

LifeRing ByLaws specify that the Board Chair position is a one year position and that the Chair shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The proposed change to a three year term would contradict the Bylaws and would require an Amendment that would have to be ratified by the Congress and voted on by the Delegates.

Motion withdrawn.

Consensus that this proposal will be further developed and that a change to two or three year term commitment will be made at the Congress in 2017.

**New Business**

Giving Tuesday has been great success. First time that LifeRing has started donation campaign this early in the season. Have received \$5796 to date and hoping for a total of 10K by the end of this year. Will erase current deficit and put finances in good standing.

IRS letters have been sent out to donors thanking them for donation as well as providing forms for 2016 tax deductions. Important to acknowledge donations. A number of members have really contributed a great deal over the past year and proposal made to formulate ideas for Awards to be given at Annual Conference.

**Public Comments**

There were none.

Motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and carried unanimously.

*Submitted by Tim Reith  
LifeRing Interim Board Secretary  
January 7, 2016*