

Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting held on September 12, 2021

Call to Order / Introduction of Members of the Public:

It was determined that a quorum of board members were present and the meeting was called to order by Sue Betts, Board Chair at 9:01 am PST. Other board members present were: Steve Gonzales, Treasurer, Lorraine Hull, Secretary, and Mary Beth O'Connor, George Gidora, Chris Smith, Paula Gillen and Michele Kenny.

Non-board members in attendance included: Robert Stump, Executive Director; Mark F. and Mike H., LifeRing members.

Minutes and P&L Reports:

The Consent Agenda from the August board meeting was proposed for review and approval. George made a motion to approve, Mary Beth seconded and all approved.

Old Business:

Finalized Sobriety Policy Statement

Steve stated the plan is to publish page three of the policy on the website. Mary Beth expressed a concern about the "manipulation" comment. She suggested changing the language slightly. The reason for that section is because some addicts use practiced antics to obtain their goals from physicians.

Mary Beth made a motion to delete the sentence about manipulation, George seconded the motion and the deletion passed unanimously. Thanks to Steve and the committee that worked on this.

New Business:

Approval of Cooley Presentation

Reminder and approved plan for meeting next month.

Approval of Committees and Pop-Up Committees

Per section 10.4.5 of the Bylaws, committees consist of one or more members of the board. Specific clarification that there should be at least one board member on each committee will be obtained when Cooley presents next month. Sue proposed that the board approve all of the existing committees and pop ups. Michele made a motion to approve, Chris seconded it and all agreed.

Approval of Executive Committee Members

Sue proposed the following individuals: Robert Stump, Executive Director, Steve Gonzales, Treasurer, Lorraine Hull, Secretary, Dan Carrigan, former board co-chair, Mary Beth O'Connor, legal resource, and Lisa Swing-Corney, Frontier Regions Coordinator. Lorraine made a motion to approve and Paula seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

Incentives (for convenor recruitment)

Sue asked Lorraine to explain the idea to offer an incentive for new convenors, and/or for those who recommend another person to begin convening. The example of a Hydro flask was suggested. Mary Beth objected that such items could be considered a form of compensation. Steve interjected that gifts of nominal value are not compensation. This topic was tabled for further review during the upcoming Cooley legal session.

Sue requested a list of the topics under consideration to be covered by Cooley law firm.

In-Person Meetings CDC Compliance

The LifeRing Secular Recovery Statement on COVID-19 was updated on August 13, 2021. New text was added as well as new relevant links included. George made a motion to approve as written, Lorraine seconded the motion and all agreed.

ARG Participation (PALS 2 Study)

Robert and Sue had a meeting with Sarah Zemore and her executive secretary. The program should have started last month but will begin at the end of September or the beginning of October. No repeat participants are allowed. There will be a link on the PALS website for volunteers to take the survey and complete the program. The financial incentives take place afterward.

A letter or notice to convenors has been prepared with information and a link to share with meeting attendees. This is an important second part of the study that validated LifeRing Secular Recovery as an effective recovery model. The organization will receive \$2,000 upon completion. Participants will attend a meeting first and the study second. This program requires 200 total participants per recovery group.

Committees Quarterly

The first Committees Quarterly meeting was held on August 30th. Highlights regarding what each committee is doing and the progress they are making were reviewed. This new meeting will ensure less, to no overlap of committee projects and activities.

Miscellaneous Comments

Michele brought up a concern that a portion of the opening statement may seem punitive. The statements, "If you are currently under the influence, please stay on and speak with the convenor afterward." The reasons for this were discussed. Not to trigger other attendees. Showing respect for those present and sober. The statement is not viewed by the board as judgmental or punitive. The point of LSR is sobriety, they are not sober. The Meetings and Convenors Committee will review and bring back recommendations to the board.

Convenor Collaboration Committee

Chris was going to become the leader of this committee, however he proposed dissolving the Pop Up and having the work revert to the Meetings and Convenors Committee.

Adjournment of Board Meeting

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. Lorraine made the motion to adjourn and George seconded it. All approved at 10:06 am.

Submitted by Lorraine Hull
LifeRing Board Secretary
September 29, 2021