



LIFERING SECULAR RECOVERY MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Lorraine Hull graciously offered to chair the meeting as Sue Betts was not feeling well.

The meeting was called to order by Lorraine at 9:01 am PDT. Board members present were Sue Betts, Chair; Lisa Swing-Corney; Lorraine Hull; Mary Beth O'Connor; and Michael Toal. LifeRing members of the public present included LifeRing Operations Manager Robert Stump and LifeRing Community Member Mark Franklin.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes for January were made available by the Secretary.

Approval of Profit and Loss Statement

Sue motioned to approve the January 2023 Profit and Loss Statement. The motion was seconded by Mary Beth O'Conner and Michael Toel. All were in favor.

ONGOING BUSINESS — STATUS UPDATES

Conflict of Interest Policy

Concerns were brought forward regarding legal language and investment interests. Because of the sensitivity of these topics, the board agreed to move this item to the Executive Session.

LifeRing Board members Steve Gonzales and Bobbi Campbell joined the meeting

Authorized Signer – Bank Requirements

Susan E. Betts (LifeRing President for banking purposes) and Lisa Swing-Corney (LifeRing Assistant Secretary for banking purposes). Removed from authorized signers are Mary Beth O'Connor and Dan Carrigan.

Sue made the motion to approve of language for banking purposes. The motion was seconded by Lorraine and all were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Strat Plan Status

The LifeRing 2023-2024 Strategic Plan has been posted on the LifeRing website. Lisa informs that board that committees and Regional Representatives are referring to our strategic objectives and goals as we move forward. Projects include in-person meeting grant allocations, projects Regional Reps are working on as outlined in the RR quarterly report. Notification of Strat Plan publication will be rolled out to the LifeRing Recovery Community through the newsletter and opt-in email lists.

DEI BOD Awareness

The language on LifeRing's current Nondiscrimination Policy is dated. It was proposed that pronouns be changed to "they" to reflect gender naturalness. Link to Formal Complaint Policy has been added to this policy. New discrimination and inclusivity language is presented for final review prior to next BOD meeting in March.

Commeau Foundation Funding

Lorraine shared the Proposed Uses to Advance LifeRing spreadsheet introduction project funding allocations. These projects were initially reviewed by Treasurer Steve Gonzales and later agreed upon during the project funding allocation meeting with BOD members Bobbi, Lisa, Lorraine, Michael, Rafal and Sue. Projects were ordered by importance with the in-person grants program ranked as the top priority for funding. Michael proposed a vote. Steve reminded the Board that we've never voted on a budget package before and suggested we vote on each proposed project individually.

LifeRing Board Member Anna Bedolla joined the meeting.

Steve made a motion that the 8 items on the spreadsheet be given the feedback to proceed from their inquiry status and to prepare for budget requests. The motion was seconded by Lorraine and all were in favor. It was agreed that the next steps in the allocation process will be individual budget forms submitted to the Treasurer.

In-Person Meeting Grant Proposal

Lisa brought forward the In-Person Meeting Grant Proposal which would allow individual funding of no more than \$250 per start-up and existing in-person meetings. Eligibility will be based on a consistent history of meeting donation collections and responsiveness to communications and check-ins. Grantees will be required to provide weekly meeting reports identifying the number of attendees, donation accounting, and meeting expenses. In-person convenors will commit to keep new meetings open for at least 6 months.

LifeRing Regional Representative Kathleen Gargan joined the meeting.

Michael suggested including language about promising to actively seek donations as attendance allows for new meetings. Lisa agreed that we don't want to put additional burdens

on new convenors and explained that grants will be awarded as reimbursements once expenses are reported.

Lorraine brought up concerns about promotional expenses which Lisa explained fall under “printing” or “other”. Colorado Regional Representative Kathleen Gargan stated Colorado is managing its own meeting funding and will not be included in this in-person grant program.

Lisa made a motion to approve the in-person meetings grant program with an initial individual allocation of \$100 with a program funding cap of \$1,500. Michael seconded the motion and the program was approved unanimously.

Replenishing In-Person Meeting Grant Program

Lisa Swing-Corney clarifies that an initial cap of \$1,500 funding is set for the in-person meetings grant program and, if needed, increased funding will be requested, Meeting money collected by in-person convenors will be used to replenish program funding. Impact on the general fund would be minimal. In 2022, the amount of \$1,048 was donated to LifeRing from Frontier Region in-person meeting money. 2023 in-person meetings money donations are projected to be the same or higher. The In-person Regional Reps are working together to better identify convenor payments.

Michael proposed a rolling \$1,500 and Lisa agreed that in-person meetings money exceeding \$1,500 will be rolled over to the general fund. Allocated funding will be reviewed on an as-needed basis as the number of in-person meetings grows. The BOD agreed to table voting on the proposal at this time.

Acting Chair Lorraine Hull asked Secretary to clarify that the board had two votes:

1. The 8 items on the Commeau Foundation funding spreadsheet be given the feedback to proceed from their inquiry status and to prepare for budget requests.
2. In-person meetings grant program be initiated with an initial allocation of \$100 with a cap of \$1,500.

High Level Financial Review

Treasurer Steve Gonzales announced that LifeRing’s cash position is strong. s proceeding as normal. We had a sizable uptick in donations at the end of the year and in January 2023. Adding January and February 2023 donations, LifeRing has no deficit. Steve has initiated the tax return process and will track deadlines.

Lorraine asked if there was a way to reflect more expenses allocated to outreach projects and other activities. Steve clarified that there is no separate line for outreach expenses on the 990 Tax Form and that these expenses are buried in “other expenses” line items 15 and 16 on the form. He further explained that grantors don’t pay for operational expenses including outreach projects. Finances can be defined in grant proposal narratives and interviews.

Michael asked about expense categories. Steve said these can be tagged in QuickBooks records. Operations Manager Robert Stump explained that there are subcategories on the monthly P&L Report. Mary Beth brings up SMART's success in grant applications and suggested our grantwriters review their public records for strategies.

Steve reminded the BOD that we're in a bit of a trap because volunteer hours and efforts are not reflected on the 990.

Kathleen asked about the difference between the line items for Amazon Sales and LifeRing Press. Robert shared that Amazon Book Royalties go to author Martin Nicolaus and LifeRing Press Sales include all book sales. Book sales in 2022 was approximately \$1,800.

Committee Status Review

Social Media | Lorraine gave Bobbi a big shout out for her efforts in promoting LifeRing on our social media pages.

Grants | Lorraine brought forward a trend in grant funding eligibility toward projects to support traditionally underrepresented groups.

MCC | Sue informed the BOD of new in-person meeting activity and thanked the Regional Representatives for their efforts.

Regional Reps | Lisa stated that Regional Representative projects are outlined on the Regional Reps Quarterly Report linked on the agenda. She praised the new meeting map now active on the in-person meetings page.

LifeRing App | Sue asked Michael about the LifeRing App. He explained that he's working on consolidation to make it simpler. Meetings, Chat and Blog Posts with notifications are live and Michael is working on a Privacy Statement as well as an anonymous login.

Outreach | Mary Beth's memoir From Junkie to Judge was published on January 20th. Prior to the publication date, Mary Beth recorded 10 or 12 podcasts and has more lined up. Publications included articles on the dangers of 12-step programs and the importance of multiple paths to recovery. Judge O'Connor also appeared on television numerous times and was able to mention LifeRing. She has a number of speaking engagements with atheist, humanist, and judicial organizations as well as conference presentations. Sue thanked Mary Beth for being such an excellent representative for LifeRing.

Secular Recovery and Secular Awareness

Anna brought forward the idea of secular recovery as an underserved group. Lorraine shared that, in her experience, there have been no notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) which highlight religion as an underserved group. Anna suggested looking to atheist groups for funding opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Michael made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 am. The motion was seconded by Sue and approved by all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board met to discuss:

- LifeRing Conflict of Interest Policy

Respectfully submitted on April 7, 2023 by
Sue Betts