



**LIFERING SECULAR RECOVERY MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**  
**SUNDAY MAY 14, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER AND IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC ATTENDEES**

The meeting was called to order by Sue at 9:00 am PDT.

Board members present:

- Sue Betts (Chair/Interim ED)
- Anna Bedolla (Interim Secretary)
- Bobbi Campbell
- Steve Gonzales (Treasurer)
- Lorraine Hull
- Rafal Klopotoski
- Mary Beth O'Connor
- Lisa Swing-Corney
- Michael Toal

Non-board members present:

- Robert Stump (Operations Manager)
- Joe F
- Kathleen
- Michael A

**Approval of Minutes**

**April Minutes:** Lisa had a question about signatories on the checking account. Sue, Lisa, and Lorraine have been approved, but have not actually been added as signatories. Anna will make the change (Corrected 5/30). Motion to approve as amended. Rafal first motion, Bobbi second.

**VOTE:** Approved

**Approval of April Profit and Loss Statement**

Steve looked at minutes and did not see mention of the large donation. Motion to approve, Lorraine first, Bobbi second.

**VOTE:** Approved

**ONGOING BUSINESS — STATUS UPDATES**

**Secretary and BOD Members**

Anna confirmed she is taking the minutes for this meeting.

Sue introduced Joe Franklin who is the Colorado treasurer and a candidate for the BOD. Joe lives in Denver, has 7.5 years of sobriety, and has been with LifeRing for seven years.

Sue asked the BOD members to bring forward any candidates for the BOD by May 24th.

Sue also plans to reach out to each board member about their experience on the board, what they'd like to see moving forward, what is/is not working, and whether they plan to run again. She thanked everyone in advance for speaking with her.

### **Authorized Signer -- Checking Account / Credit Card**

By end of the week.

Lorraine will not be renewing another board term, and has asked whether that means she should be taken off the account. Sue asked to hold the topic for later. Sue, Lisa, and Robert are currently on the account. Taking Mary Beth and [former BOD chair] Dan. .

### **BOD Action | Timely Posting of BOD Minutes**

Sue mentioned Mike H input about having minutes posted timely, she followed up and he just wanted to raise it as an issue.

### **Comeau Family Donations/Funding Proposals**

Lorraine has shared with Katie G, who contacted us regarding her family desire to make a donation to LifeRing, how we are proposing to use the funds and strategic plan. Katie's response was positive and advised that they would again be donating \$20K this year. Steve clarified that this would be in addition to the \$25K that has already been donated. The next Comeau donation will be discussed in the New Business section of the BOD meeting. Katie would also like to share her story. Kathleen is putting together a new version of Humanly Possible. This new book will be a collection of shorter stories (300-500 words) with focus on turning point for sobriety.

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

### **CCAR MPRC | Iowa – 8/21 through 8/23 | Funding Request**

Mary Beth is planning to attend and will be manning the LifeRing table. She has also been invited to be a keynote speaker. She requested \$750 as well as materials and has raised this at the Outreach committee. Outreach presented a proposal for funding, which is on the agenda for funding requests, and \$300 for books and pamphlets. Steve clarified that it is up to \$300 (not to exceed). Steve motioned to approve, Lorraine seconded.

**VOTE:** Approved.

### **Director of Development | Contractor**

Sue reminded the BOD that last month she mentioned the opportunity to fund a consultant to assist with fundraising projects. An exceptional candidate has been identified who would be available to contract for 40 hours/month. The Fundraising, Marketing, and Communications Committee had asked that Sue bring this forward, and she asked to discuss the candidate and the funding costs during the Executive Session. The goal would be that eventually this position would fund itself. The BOD would vote on it next month.

Mary Beth asked whether we would need to engage Cooley to develop the contract, because it will take them time. Sue asked that the question be held until the Executive Session. Contractor would work under a 1099. Steve asked if we do this would that mean we would not be able to fund the Executive Director position. Sue's thoughts were that the person would either transition into the ED role or help us find one. Sue will continue as interim ED. Steve asked whether that meant the role would be net-zero or net-positive to LifeRing. Sue said the expectation is that it would be net-positive. Steve stressed the importance of metrics, especially since this is a contract position. Michael clarified that the metric would be dollars brought into LifeRing. Sue confirmed that the candidate would provide monthly reports to the board, and quarterly targets. Lisa counseled patience because it takes time to develop relationships that result in money. Steve agreed that there would be start-up time and funding the position would be a significant expenditure. Because he is not seeking to continue his BOD position, Steve asked to be recused from voting, although he may offer other questions for consideration. Lorraine suggested that we need to understand how much money will be needed for this position to start developing relationships, and Mary Beth stressed that we need to be willing to accept the risk that this investment may not pay off.

Ivona joined 9:25 pst

### **Executive Director | Board Chair**

Sue likes being the BOD chair and interim Executive Director, but cannot be both for grants, etc. Sue wants BOD input about her role, how to move forward, and what is best for LifeRing during the Executive Session. Mary Beth suggested the topic might be better to wait to discuss and make a decision until the new BOD is in place.

### **Proposed Amendment to Current Bylaws | Bylaws Article 7.1**

Mary Beth offered to be chair to review Bylaw changes. Her role would be to ensure we are not creating inconsistencies. Sue proposed a Bylaw change to article 7.1, which is about bringing forward proposals for amendments. Rather than delegates, Sue recommends changing it to be the members, which she believes will better meet the criteria of not creating inconsistencies.

### **2023 LifeRing Annual Conference**

The Annual Conference is June 3-4. Sue shared that a potential keynote speaker, Candice Shelby, has been identified and she invited Kathleen to talk to the board about Candice.

Kathleen shared that Candice has spoken to us before and that she has studied psychedelics within psychotherapy, which might be an interesting topic for a keynote. She acknowledged it might be a controversial topic, and therefore we might not want to risk it. Instead, she could write an essay for publication on our website. Candice is a former convener and a professor of Philosophy in Colorado. Steve warned we might have people express objections, and Rafal pointed out that regardless of whether the drugs were legal or illegal, they could be abused. The issue is how it is going to be presented. If it is about research and the results, that would be acceptable. Mary Beth shared that the data is mixed and asked what would be the benefit of having the article under LifeRing's banner. Lorraine suggested that rather than an essay, perhaps Candice could host a salon for those who are interested. Lisa asked, and Kathleen confirmed, that the message would not be part of the annual conference. Robert requested that Candice give a synopsis of what she would present to the BOD prior to our making a decision.

Mary Beth left 9:44am pst to a previous engagement.  
Michael A joined 9:45am pst

Sue reminded everyone that delegates at large need to register by 6/5. Bobbi said that we have three that have officially registered. Delegate at large is a BOD member or a regional rep. Michael A asked whether a delegate has to have 6 mos sobriety, and Sue confirmed. Sue asked how we are doing for meeting delegates, Bobbi said that we have good showing from online meetings, and that she will send another email reminding conveners to submit delegates for their meetings. Sue thanked Bobbi for being our registrar.

### **Emily Marcus Awards | Positive Recovery Impact Award**

Sue provided an overview of who Emily was and that she bequeathed \$25K to LifeRing as a legacy donation. Lorraine and Bobbi came up with the idea of the award. Lorraine shared the award criteria. There will be a number of awards, including one that all members can vote on, recognizing outstanding contributors to the LifeRing vision. Award winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting.. Shared screen image of the pin that will be awarded.

Bobbi mentioned Emily's father is a rock and roll music writer, critic, and historian who wrote for *Rolling Stone* magazine, and is well known in that community. Sue encouraged BOD to use the link to vote. All winners will be posted on the webpage along with Emily's bio.

### **Relations | International Entities**

Lisa talked to Mary Beth and found out the ball was in Lisa's court. Lisa will follow up with LifeRing Canada and will have something to share with BOD next month.

### **DEI BOD Awareness: BOD DEI Resources | Are You Ableist? – A quiz**

Sue asked Lisa for an update. Last month, Lisa shared two Ted talks about ableism. She found a quiz and encouraged the BOD to take the quiz, which is on the DEI resources page. Lisa

found it helpful and educational to identify how we can be unintentionally ableist. Sue thanked Lisa for her efforts.

Bobbi asked who decided what is “ableist”? People, a national group? Lisa believes this largely comes from the disabled community, so there may be some differences of opinion. Lorraine mentioned that some of those organizations were listed after the quiz.

Lorraine left the meeting at 10:03am pst

### **High Level Review of Finances | April 2023**

Sue thanked Steve for pulling the high level review together. Steve said finances look good because of the \$25K donation, and we are well positioned for success. He will be retiring from his BOD role next month. Expenses have popped up a little; in Jan/Feb we spent a significant amount for outreach, and there was a large jump for recovery meetings (Sue thought this was probably due to more in person meetings). Steve agreed that as we get more meetings, we'll have more expenses. He doesn't see any issues. Although upon questions from Rafal, it appears that there were issues/errors with some of the numbers in the report (Expenses+COG) Steve fixed errors in the spreadsheet. Book sales are down from this time last year.

### **Committees and Workgroups Updates**

Communications/Fundraising Results: Sue stated that as of May 13th Donorbox contributions were \$11.6K (\$4K higher than last year). 70 sustaining donors. She shared the workgroup dashboard.

Quarterly town hall is Sat 5/20.

Sue asked if any committee leaders had any updates? No.

Sue asked Lisa whether there was any update from regional reps. No. Forum is unique because it is publicly searchable on Delphi. Forum moderator Margit encouraged more people to check it out.

### ***ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING***

Sue asked if there was any other business that the BOD needed to cover. There was not, and Sue adjourned the BOD meeting at 10:17 pst.

Motion to adjourn Rafal, Bobbie/Lisa second.

### ***PUBLIC FORUM***

Joe F is running for the BOD.

**ADJOURNED:** 10:18am pst

## ***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

The board met to discuss:

- Director of Development | Candidate Review
- Emily Marcus Award
- External LifeRing Meetings
  - Redefining Naming Conventions | Special Interests vs Special Focus
  - BOD Involvement
- Executive Director Search | Engagement Opportunities | Paid | US
- International Relationships

Respectfully submitted on May 30, 2023 by  
Anna Bedolla