

LIFERING SECULAR RECOVERY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Sue Betts called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM Pacific Time.

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
Sue Betts	√	
Bobbi Campbell	√	
Monica Foy	√	
Joe Franklin	√	
Rafal Klopotoski	√	
Mary Beth O'Connor*	√	
Njon Sanders	√	
Robert Stump	√	
Lisa Swing-Corney	√	

* Mary Beth left at 9:41 AM

NON-BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Laura M.
- Anna ATX
- Robby J.
- Sherri T.
- Michael A

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

JANUARY 2024 MINUTES

Monica made a motion to approve the minutes. Joe seconded.

VOTE: Sue confirmed unanimous approval.

JANUARY 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Joe made a motion to adopt the December 2024 Financial Report. Bobbi seconded.

VOTE: Sue verbally confirmed unanimous approval.

ONGOING BUSINESS

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES

Mary Beth and Lisa have engaged pro bono counsel Cooley to help make a more formal arrangement with LifeRing's international entities. Cooley has provided a second draft, of the proposed agreement. Lisa and Mary Beth, are adding comments to it and will work with counsel toward finalizing the agreement.

WEBSITE REDESIGN

Robert every other spoke about the working committee for redesign, including Tim, Bobbi, Theresa, and Sue. They are meeting every other week. Sue shared the mock-up for the new front page of the website, which will serve as a template for the new site's landing page. Robert expects the new site to be in development for the next three months.

Sue spoke about the aim for making the site compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, especially ensuring that the site is accessible to the blind. Another prominent goal is to display all meeting times in adaptive time zones based on each user's location, rather than the current experience of Pacific Time display.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 BUDGET FORECAST

Joe, the Treasurer and Finance Committee head, presented the 2024 budget. Income is expected to be lower than in 2023, following the assumption that the amount of grant funds we received in 2023 may not be reached. Expenses are expected to increase by 5%, the inflation adjustment that the Finance Committee agreed to. The budget forecasts positive cash flow.

FUNDING REQUESTS PROCEDURES

Joe spoke of how the Finance Committee is streamlining the Funding Request procedure so that it is better aligned with the Income and Expense policy. Both the policy and the procedure will be combined and edited to reflect the current state of accounts and practices.

The new Funding Request procedure should be ready for Board approval in the March meeting.

DEI BOD AWARENESS – DEI INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK AND STAGES

Lisa shared the **DEI Resources** document in chat so that general members attending can view it.

The DEI document originated from the Strategic Planning Committee to raise awareness about various DEI subjects. It's a dynamic list of resources created with the goal of presenting new DEI topics for Board discussion each month. LifeRing leadership wants to publish the document on LifeRing's website, to make it available to convenors and other LifeRing members.

Lisa also requested that anyone who wants to add a new topic to the list send her an email, preferably with one or more resources about the new topic.

REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe shared the January 2024 Treasurer's report. Highlights:

- The report compares January of 2023 and 2024.
- The Percent Change column (% CHANGE) clearly illustrates income/expense differences between the two periods .
- Total Revenue is 26% higher than last year in January.
- Last year's total revenue for January was negative; this year's is positive.
- Graphs also compare the two periods side-by-side.
- Expenses are greater in January of 2024, mostly due to the website redesign costs.

LIFERING BOOK SALES REPORT

Robert produced an ad hoc report on book sales, broken down by book title. Highlights:

- Recovery by Choice remains the most popular title
- LifeRing pays royalties to Marty Nicolaus for two of the titles:
 - Recovery by Choice
 - Empowering Your Sober Self
- The other two titles belong solely to LifeRing
 - How Was Your Week?
 - Humanly Possible
- Book sales spikes in 2021 and 2022 may be attributed to covid pandemic conditions

Sue also mentioned that LifeRing offers a 20% Valentine's discount for book purchases made on February 14, Valentine's Day.

LIFERING DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Sue shared Lorraine's report for January. Highlights:

- Lorraine continues to research more philanthropic family foundations
- Lorraine will prepare a report on how Comeau Foundation funds are spent. She will present the report to Comeau Foundation representative Katie Georgidas.
 - The Comeau Foundation has made fundings of \$20,000 in 2023.
 - LifeRing hopes the spending report will inspire further donations.
- Lorraine is exploring Donor Advised Funds as another option for ongoing donations.
- Two tools for finding foundation grants are being used:
 - Grant Station
 - Candid (AKA Charity Finder)
- Thanks to Lisa's efforts, LifeRing has a platinum-level classification with Candid/Charity Finder
 - The designation allows LifeRing to display a seal on our website
 - Donors are more likely to donate to a platinum organization

LIFERING TEAMS UPDATES

LIFERING TEAMS PROJECTS REPORT

Highlights:

- The Teams Report is available.
- Lisa will present an Updated Regional Representatives Team Report soon.
- Regional Representatives' feedback indicates more interest in starting more in-person meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFERING ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS UPCOMING

- Includes Annual Meeting and Congress
- Will be on Saturday & Sunday, June 8th – 9th
- Invitations will be sent to submit delegates from meetings
- Some Board Members will term out
- Show your interest to Sue If you'd like to serve on the Board

KAISER MEETINGS

There was a brief discussion on Kaiser's call for more in-person LifeRing meetings. Highlights:

- Kaiser has reopened their facilities for in-person meetings
- There are four new meetings in Northern California Kaiser locations.
- Laura will try to get a meeting going at Kaiser Walnut Creek

OTHER TOPICS

Sue reminded all those present that proposals have a deadline prior to the Annual Congress, which is on the calendar. The deadline pertains to:

- Directives for specific Board Activities
- Changes to bylaws

Only approved delegates may vote for such activities and changes.

ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Monica seconded.

VOTE: Sue verbally confirmed unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

LIFERING PUBLIC FORUM

Laura question

LifeRing Android app & iOS app – what is the status on the development?

- Answer – App development in limbo due to constraints on developer.
- If anyone can recommend another app dev who can volunteer, make a recommendation.
- Alternative – LifeRing can pay a developer.

Sherri share

- Excited to become a convenor.
- Willing to start meetings at Kaiser's Lathrop location.
- May have a friend who can work on app dev.
- Thanks to Robby for his help in supporting her in her convening.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC BOD BUSINESS MEETING

Sue adjourned the public board business meeting. The public board business meeting closed at 9:58 AM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item #1 - Complaint that Monica handled

Item #2 - Complaints Review folder

Item #3 - Conflict Resolution Workflow and Disturbance Guidelines Draft

Item #4 - 2025 Vision

Item: #5 - Annual Congress Committee, Keynote speaker discussion

Respectfully submitted on February 18, 2024 by Monica Foy