



Board Of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 12, 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	√	

*Rafal absent 9:25 – 10:06 AM

Non-Board Members Present:

- Anna ATX
- Laura M.
- Robby J.
- Taresa N.
- Michael A.
- Raymond
- Daniel R.

Approval Of Consent Agenda

April 2024 Minutes

Monica made a motion to adopt the April minutes as presented. Sue seconded.

VOTE: Sue confirmed a majority vote to adopt, with one abstention.

March 2024 Financial Report

Lisa had raised a question about the Statement of Financial Position during the April meeting.

- The payroll taxes liability varied from the prior year by \$6,000.
- Robert has since investigated and solved the mystery.
 - He had requested extra payroll tax withholding from his paychecks.
 - The withholding had been misclassified in QuickBooks.
 - The extra taxes accumulated as a liability rather than paid to the IRS.
- Robert will have LifeRing pay him the \$6,000 in a check payment to remove the liability.
- The March Financial Report now displays a \$4,500 liability classified as “Robert’s \$6,000 payable. April’s report has a similar \$1,500 entry, accounting for all \$6,000.

Njon made a motion to adopt the March 2024 Financial Report, as amended. Monica seconded.

VOTE: Sue confirmed a majority vote to adopt, with one abstention.

April 2024 Financial Report

Sue made a motion to adopt the April 2024 Financial Report, as presented. Joe seconded.

VOTE: Sue confirmed a majority vote to adopt, with one abstention.

Ongoing Business

Relations With International Entities

Mary Beth and Lisa have collaborated with Cooley on an Agreement for International Entities.

- Goals for the agreement:
 - Must be fair for both sides.
 - Must be short but comprehensive.
 - Must be readable for non-English speakers.

- The current draft of the agreement meets these criteria and will be reviewed in today's Executive Session.

Website Redesign

Bobbi shared the latest developments:

- The web developer is working on a third iteration of the front page mock-up, taking into account the Website Committee's latest proposed changes.
- Work will begin on the content pages.
- Bobbi will work with Robert on evaluating old content for relevance.
- Taresa and Daniel have been valuable in providing technical expertise and fresh eyes.
- The biggest piece will be the Meetings page, making meetings easy to find.
- Robert's menu ideas will be shown at the next meeting/congress.
- [Prototype page](#)
- [Test page](#)

New Business

Board of Directors Letter of Commitment

The Letter of Commitment outlines the duties and responsibilities of Board members.

- Sue and Lisa have updated the letter.
- No major changes have been made, most changes update language choices.
- The edits to the document have not been integrated, and will be integrated so that the document can be adopted at the next Board meeting.

Sue made a motion to table the adoption of the letter until next month.

VOTE: Sue confirmed a majority vote to table approving the letter.

Funding Request: CCAR | MPRC In New Haven, August 2024

Mary Beth requested \$1,500, including LifeRing books, for her attendance, and a table, at the upcoming Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery Conference, Multiple Pathway of Recovery.

Mary Beth addressed the questions that arose in the last meeting and today:

1. Is there a local Connecticut resource who can attend instead of Mary Beth?
 - Local LifeRing members are unable to make the attendance commitment.
2. Does CCAR offer a stipend to attendees?
 - At the last event, Mary Beth got a gift card worth \$100 as a keynote speaker. There may or not be something similar this year.
3. Is there a return on investment, ie. has this conference given LifeRing a bigger New England presence in the past?
 - Conference attendees are from regions other than New England.
 - 30-50 attendees have signed up for the newsletter.

- Books have sold out and personal donations have increased.
- Google stats also show new visitors to the website.

Joe added that the Finance Committee has approved this request.

Joe made a motion to approve the CCAR/MPRC funding request. Bobbi seconded.

VOTE: Sue confirmed a majority vote to approve, with Mary Beth abstaining.

2024 LifeRing Annual Conference

The Annual Conference will be held June 8th and June 9th, from 9am to 2pm PDT.

Johann Hari suggested as a keynote speaker

- Mr. Hari is known for a popular Ted Talk where he said “The opposite of addiction is connection”.
- He is also a best-selling author of *Chasing the Scream*.
- Although his speaker fee is \$25,000, he has agreed to provide a video address as our keynote speaker, free of charge.

More on the conference agenda:

- Mary Beth to conduct a workshop.
- The [provisional agenda](#) is posted:
- Feedback on agenda welcome.
- Delegates representing meetings will present reports.
- Delegates at large – Board members must sign up to vote. May 30th is the deadline.
- Proposed bylaw changes to be discussed in today’s Executive Session.

Reports

Treasurer’s Report

Joe shared the Treasurer’s report, with January – April numbers, compared to the same period in 2023. Highlights:

- April saw increases in income from prior months.
- April 2024 income was lower than 2023 income, due to a Comeau foundation donation in 2023.
- Expenses are higher in 2024, attributed to paying the Director of Development
- There was a net profit in April 2024 as opposed to losses in February and March.

LifeRing Development Report

Sue shared Lorraine's Development Director's Report. Highlights:

Grant Funding

- Lorraine is working on two grants
- Lisa put together a packet for an Ohio grant
- Fundraisers tried for SAMHSA grant but were unable to meet their requirements
 - SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency
 - Tying in relationships with hospitals, RCOs (recovery community organizations), and IOP (intensive outpatient programs)s may help get future SAMHSA grants
- Fundraisers also trying for grants from
 - Mutual of America Community Fund
 - Comeau Foundation (have contributed before)

LifeRing Book Sales Report

Robert presented YTD book sales numbers. Highlights:

- Sales lower in April
- Discussion regarding whether count of books sold aligns with book revenues in the Financial Report.

LifeRing Teams Updates

Social Media Update

Bobbi shared social media efforts. Highlights:

- New Facebook & Instagram pages – Members encouraged to like these pages
- Currently listing online and In-person meetings as events on Facebook page
- The old Facebook page still has followers, who are being encouraged to move to the new page.
- Future Facebook content will be specialized postings with convenors and members sharing about themselves and their meetings.
- LifeRing's Twitter/X account remains the same. Mary Beth tags it in her X posts.
- Email Bobbi for help in sharing and promoting content on social media.

Regional Representatives Quarterly Update

Lisa reported on the recent quarterly meeting of Regional Reps.

View the Quarterly Report [here](#).

LifeRing Teams Projects Report

Sue gave a brief overview of the teams. View the report [here](#).

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 10:04 AM.

Strategic Plan Review

Lisa mentioned the four goals of the strategic plan:

1. Increase engagement
2. Increase awareness
3. Optimize operations
4. Fund the mission

Last month, convenors were encouraged to have attendees mention LifeRing in their interactions with medical professionals and other members of the recovery community. Everyone is encouraged to share ideas for increasing engagement and other goals, in the Public Forum and by emailing Lisa.

LifeRing Public Forum

Laura

- Appreciates the clarification of acronyms used in LifeRing.
- Is compiling a list of acronyms and their meaning.

Taresa

- Is now co-convening the Thursday, 5pm meeting.

Adjournment Of Public BOD Business Meeting

Sue adjourned the public board business meeting.

The public board business meeting closed at 10:12 AM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item #1 – International Relationship and License Agreement

Item #2 – Bylaws changes

Item #3 – Cooley appreciation gift

Respectfully submitted on May 26, 2024 by Monica Foy