

LifeRing Board of Director's Meeting – Sunday, June 1, 2008

Attendees and Call to Order

Board of Directors:

Robert Bradley
Chet Gardiner
Kathleen Gargan
Mona Hirson
Martin Nicolaus
Owen Poole
Andy Ross
Michael Walsh
Carola Ziermann

Officers:

Martin Nicolaus, CEO
John Bateman, Treasurer
Jim Ringland, Secretary

With this meeting, the Board welcomes new members Michael Walsh and Carola Ziermann and offers departing members Mark Leone and Craig Oxenford many thanks for their service.

This meeting was held as part of the 2008 LifeRing Congress held at the Sheldon Conference, Herrick Hospital, Berkeley, California. Marty Nicolaus called the meeting immediately following the Delegates Meeting.

Approval of minutes

(Approval of the minutes from the May meeting will be held until the next meeting.)

Financial report

(This was included in the Delegates Meeting the preceded the Board meeting.)

Insurance

The board discussed briefly the issue of insurance for LifeRing: both general liability insurance for the organization and a more narrowly focused policy just covering the board of directors. (See the minutes of the Delegates Meeting for more background.) The board authorized Carola Ziermann to pursue, evaluate, and act on obtaining liability insurance for members of the Board of Directors provided the annual premiums are between \$900 and \$1,200. This will be paid out of LifeRing funds. The organization will, of course, welcome donations from the board members to offset the costs.

Conferences

The board reaffirmed the value of LifeRing attendance at major conferences (APA, NAADAC, CAADAC) and reaffirmed their earlier agreement to reimburse reasonable expenditures those acting as our official representatives. Kathleen Gargan will be supporting the NAADAC conference in Boston specifically asked that LifeRing support either airfare from Denver or lodging. All agreed that this was within the earlier agreed-to bounds.

Regional/Geographic Convenors

The 2008 Annual Report (include with the minutes of the Delegates Assembly) includes the following:

We also have a slowly growing pile of **unfinished old business** to attend to.

Probably the most urgent of these items is the establishment and staffing of regional and local geographic convenor positions. Approved at the Denver Congress in 2007, this project remains on the drawing board. It needs to take life.

Such coordinators would provide a framework for regional growth by providing a local point of contact for new meetings. They could also serve as links between local meetings and the larger organization.

The board noted that several people had taken on such a regional position implicitly: Mona is doing so in the greater New York City area and Kathleen is doing so in Colorado.

After some general discussion, Marty agreed to coordinate the task of establishing such a network of coordinators.

Convenor Development

The group had a wide-ranging discussion on convenor development. (The topic came up at several points during the preceding Delegates Meeting.) We noted it was at once important to develop new convenors and counterproductive to hand a meeting off to a person too soon. None-the-less, having new convenors in place plants the seed among the wider membership that service is good. As such, we need to do more to encourage convenors to pass their role to others and to mentor/train potential new convenors. As a first step, the group agreed to revive/update a pamphlet that Carola had put together a while back on convenors.

2009 Congress Site

The board concluded its meeting by discussing the location for the 2009 Congress. Odd-year Congresses have been the Eastern North America (Brooksville, Florida, Guelph, Ontario, and Denver Colorado – "East" being defined generously in this case). It was noted that a Congress can give a local group visibility and help develop connections. That impact is variable however: Kathleen indicated the last year's congress in Denver probably had limited impact in this regard. The group noted that a Canadian location might present difficulties. Canada now not allowing visitors from the United States citizens with felony DUI convictions to enter. That may bar some of our members. There was a brief discussion of other locations, such as Greenwich, Connecticut, with no conclusions.

The board decided to put out all call asking local LifeRing organizations to come forward if they would like to host the conference. (In 2006, for instance, both Denver and Philadelphia expressed interest.) A final decision will be made by the September 14, 2008 Board of Directors meeting.

Concluding Events

A formal welcome was extended once again to the new Board members.

The next Board meeting will be on July 13. This meeting replaces the regularly scheduled June 8 meeting.

The meeting then adjourned.

Group pictures were taken immediately thereafter.

Respectfully Submitted,

James T. Ringland
Secretary, LifeRing