

The International Ringing Cedars Association

Committee meeting # 16 (via Skype)

Date: 03-08-09

Time/duration: 17:00 to 21:07 GMT

Committee: Chairman – Liz Ashley
 Vice Chairman – Nara Petrovic
 Secretary – Steven Amey (minutes)
 Public Relations – Peteris Spels

Apologies :

No.	Subject	Action // Who / when?	Comments	Action
1.	Minutes of last meeting/date	The minutes will be approved later in the week.		
2.	Constitution	<p>The main focus of this weeks meeting was the completion of the Articles of Association.</p> <p>Nara suggested that organizations that join the IRCA can form partnerships on the basis of membership which would include additional benefits that are not a part of regular membership.</p> <p>Peteris suggested that each country could create an association, or some kind of unity. So, for example if there are organisations from 10 different countries each of the countries organisations select their own representative to be considered as a potential candidate for the board positions.</p> <p>Peteris also proposed that organizations enter with one vote regardless of the number of members they bring in, plus the members of this organization can subscribe to IRCA individually and have the right of individual vote.</p> <p>Nara noted that the GA resolves the most crucial issues and is</p>		Liz will clarify the unclear questions with lawyer.

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		<p>comprised of <i>all</i> members. And all other issues are discussed by the delegates and representatives from various boards, workgroups, various branches and countries etc.</p> <p>Peteris commented on the potential difficulties of attempting to get 200 or 300 persons to agree on a leader considering how scattered the RC movement is.</p> <p>Liz reminded everyone of the importance of keeping things simple. And she thought it best to have trustees and a committee etc, and run the IRCA like a company.</p> <p>Nara suggested that if the July conference is well put together the right people will emerge and they can be elected by consensus.</p> <p>Peteris did not completely agree with Nara and recounted some of the initial election difficulties during the Turkey 2008 conference and made note that we must avoid such mistakes at our July conference when the IRCA board members are elected.</p> <p>Steven noted that if countries can begin making organisations now those who will be better equipped to handle board position responsibilities, will present themselves clearly at the summer conference as the representative head of their respective organization. And if they do not have the competency it will be seen by those in attendance at the conference.</p>		
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		<p>Peteris added that those who will organize local organisations and come together to choose the board and chairman etc, will most likely be the most competent ones. This way the people in each country choose their own candidates. This will make elections at the summer conference move along with more ease.</p> <p>Nara suggested that the committee reference the book <i>The Peter Principle</i> in regards to how we can best handle the matters of board member elections/competence etc.</p> <p>Nara presented the idea that we – the present committee could perhaps approve or reject the first candidates based on the review of their profile. Provided this idea is allowed under the conditions of our mandate as the organizing committee.</p> <p>Liz stated the need to consider that if we were to review candidates on our own then how do you do interviews in so many different languages. For this reason alone perhaps the best way is to let the different world-wide organisations choose their own representatives and matters can be discussed using the translators at the conference.</p> <p>It was suggested by Peteris that IRCA organization members nominate their own candidates from their respective countries. Then the candidates put forward their manifestos. Each approved candidate gets an individual vote.</p>		
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		<p>Those who come to the summer conference will be the ones considered for board positions. And amongst those candidates who attend the summer conference and are elected, the board positions will be filled.</p> <p>Nara suggested that whoever comes and joins the IRCA has the right to vote as well. If we are the nominees we continue the work, of course. Unless somebody decides to step out. Nara felt strongly the need to stick with consensus voting.</p> <p>Nara stated that people should not be excluded from the choosing of candidates. Everybody should be able to choose candidates and vote not just representatives; this is how systems sometimes become elitist. For this reason Nara suggested that decisions be decided by consensus. His belief was that it takes some time to get all the voices to the same side, but there are very efficient ways to facilitate it.</p> <p>Nara also suggested that another plausible option for reaching decisions at the summer conference could be to form work groups that debate on various topics and then their representatives come together to make the final decision. This can be a way to get natural leaders to present themselves and these leaders will then represent each group.</p> <p>Steven suggested proposing the idea of country representatives now and if there aren't any or not</p>		
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		<p>enough then everyone can reach decisions through consensus voting at the summer conference.</p> <p>Nara noted that this is the beginning. Later on when the separate branches grow stronger the way of voting can be changed. But for now we can't count on associations rushing to join us. Then the method of electing the board will organically change to what is the most suitable.</p> <p>Nara suggested that the IRCA partners will be organizations that can form agreements on cooperation in terms of many topics (discounts, mutual support, advertising, sales etc). This can be defined differently in individual cases. He went on to define that members are both companies and individuals. Individuals can't be partners, only companies can be partners. Individuals can vote, but companies cannot. Individuals can't share partnership benefits, but companies can. These would be two separate memberships. And consensus makes debate about counting votes and all other stuff that is usually taken in account with voting obsolete. But the lawyer has to have his say as well.</p> <p>Liz stated that the articles can be short, and this works well for many existing organisations, GEN for one example.</p> <p>Peteris suggested the following ideas, proposed by all the committee members during discussion, be presented to the</p>		
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		<p>lawyer for review.</p> <p>a) Country reps elect the board, country reps get elected locally. b) Board gets elected by all members (quorum) at the AGM.</p> <p>Re Membership: a) Organisations can become members, and all members of this organization are automatically. IRCA members b) Individuals become members, regardless of organizational belonging. Organisations and other legal entities can be partners. c) Both - organisations and individuals become members. Thus then the difference between them must be set down legally in a clear manner. d) Members are both companies and individuals. Individuals can't be partners, only companies can be partners. Individuals can vote, companies can't. Individuals can't share partnership benefits, companies can. Two separate memberships. Consensus makes any debate about counting votes and all other work that is usually taken in account with voting obsolete.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be best to present these above ideas to the lawyer for his consideration.</p>		
3.	Registration	No New Business		
4.	Membership	No New Business		
5.	Organizational structure of Association	No New Business		
6.	Funding	No New Business		
7.	Website	No New Business		

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8.	Volunteers / Help	No New Business		
9.	Ringling Cedars Spring Conference	It was concluded that the efforts of the organizing committee will be best focused on completing registration and properly organizing the Summer conference. It was for these reasons the committee decided that there will be no spring conference.		
10.	RC Summer Conference	It was agreed that translators for both Russian and English would be needed.		
11.	Any Other Business	An in-person meeting of the organizing committee was discussed. Possible locations for holding the meeting of at least two days were, Slovenia or London. No final decision was made.		
12.	Next meeting	The next meeting will be held on 03-15-09.		