

LifeRing History

1997 A Movement Finds Its Voice

LifeRing's foundation was laid in April 1997 with the creation of LifeRing Press, a publishing house for the secular recovery movement. This step toward self-sufficiency was quickly followed by formal recognition: the organization was certified as a California **Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation** on April 24, 1997, and granted **501(c)(3) status** on August 11, 1997.

1999 Forging Our Own Path

Following a split within the secular recovery community, a pivotal moment occurred May 1999, when representatives voted to **adopt the name LifeRing Secular Recovery**. This decision created a distinct identity and freed LifeRing from the past governance issues of its predecessor, Secular Organizations for Sobriety (SOS).

2001 Empowering Sobriety

In February 2001, at a constitutional congress in Brooksville Florida, LifeRing officially became a national organization. This move established a **democratic governance structure that empowered LifeRing Members** and marked a clear break from top-down control.

2020 Meeting the Moment

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, LifeRing responded with a **robust online meeting platform** alongside in-person meetings that found ways to gather safely. This swift action ensured members could **maintain support and community** while isolated, and it brought in **thousands of new participants** from around the world.

TODAY Empowering You!

LifeRing stands today as a leading voice in addiction recovery. Driven by our core vision of **Sobriety, Secularity, and Self-Empowerment**, LifeRing remains a **thriving, member-led recovery community** focused on evidence-based principles and mutual support for a diverse, global membership.

