

Minutes of the Annual LifeRing Member Congress
The University of Utah Campus, Salt Lake City
May 31, 2015

Proceedings

Five proposals were discussed for ratification. Three options were considered for each:

1. No ratification as submitted
2. Ratification as submitted
3. Ratification as amended

Notes:

The disposition of each proposal is determined by a simple majority vote of the members present.

If ratified, each proposal is distributed to all absentee voters for adoption; adoption requires a two-thirds vote.

Proposal One

On November 17th, 2014, the LifeRing Board of Directors denied a new online Meeting Charter to one BobO. Section 6.4.2 of the Bylaws give the Board this power, subject to ratification at the next following Congress. Section 12 of the Bylaws (Absentee Elections) clarifies ratification to mean passing with a simple majority vote of assembled Delegates at Congress, and then passing with a 2/3 majority vote in a subsequent Absentee Election.

Shall the denial of a new Meeting Charter to BobO be upheld by the membership?

Proposal One was not ratified.

Proposal Two

On March 25th, 2015, the LifeRing Board of Directors revoked an existing online Meeting Charter to one JeffK. Section 6.4.2 of the Bylaws give the Board this power, subject to ratification at the next following Congress. Section 12 of the Bylaws (Absentee Elections) clarifies ratification to mean passing with a simple majority vote of assembled Delegates at Congress, and then passing with a 2/3 majority vote in a subsequent Absentee Election.

Shall the revocation of an existing Meeting Charter to JeffK be upheld by the membership?

Proposal Two was not ratified.

Proposal Three

In 2013, the LifeRing Board of Directors asserted the right to ban individuals from LifeRing Meetings by passing an organization-wide terms-of-use policy. Meetings include online forums such as Delphi and Ning, and email group lists per Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the Bylaws. This policy is not consistent with Section 4.4 of the Bylaws, which upholds the autonomy and independence of LifeRing Meetings. The policy also extends the powers given to the Board in Section 6 of the Bylaws without ratification by the membership. Section 6.4.2 gives the board the authority to revoke a Meeting Charter in cases of violation of the 3S's.

Accordingly, to clarify, we direct the Board as follows.

1) Any terms-of-use policies passed by the Board, now or in the future, are null and void unless overruled by future Directives or Bylaws amendments voted upon and passed by the membership.

2) The Board shall treat all Meetings as autonomous and independent per Section 4.4, and shall not interfere except in cases of 3S violations per Section 6.4.2.

3) In the absence of future Bylaws amendments, the only power given to the Board by the Bylaws with respect to Meetings is to revoke a Charter and de-list a Meeting, in cases where a Meeting "persistently and substantially violates a fundamental principle of LifeRing, Inc. as to abstinence, secularity or self help." Use of this power requires ratification by the membership at the next Congress, per Section 6.4.2.

Proposal Three was not ratified.

Proposal Four

An amendment to Bylaw 6.4.2 was proposed. After discussion, a modified version was considered:

6.4.2. In order to protect the good name of the LifeRing Organization, the Board shall have the power to suspend or revoke any charter, to refuse to issue a charter, or refuse to recognize a meeting as a legitimate LifeRing entity in cases where a group or its convenor persistently and substantially violates a fundamental principle of LifeRing Inc., as to abstinence, secularity, or self-help or persistently and substantially violates a policy statement currently published by LifeRing. Such actions may be appealed to the Annual Meeting Congress at the request of the meeting convenor involved.

The modified version of Proposal Four was ratified.

Proposal Five

An amendment to Bylaw 6.17 was proposed. After discussion, a modified version was considered:

6.17. The Board, at the first meeting after the conclusion of the Annual LifeRing election, shall elect a Chair of the Board of Directors for the following year. The Chair shall serve at the pleasure of the Board as a whole. Actions to elect or remove the Chair shall require an absolute majority of the Board (five votes). The Chair shall be empowered to represent the Board to outside entities and shall take on other responsibilities as the Board shall assign.

The modified version of Proposal Five was ratified.

Adjournment

The Member Congress concluded at 11:30 AM.

Submitted by Tim Reith
LifeRing Board Secretary
August 22, 2015