

Minutes of the 2012 Annual LifeRing Congress: May 13, 2012

In addition to the Board of Directors, current Regional Representatives and Official Delegates, elected Representatives of each open LifeRing meeting, either face-to-face or online, were also invited to participate.

The venue was in San Francisco at the LGBT Center.

The Congress has the following responsibilities:

- Receive input from each of the Delegates
- Amend the Bylaws as appropriate
- Elect new Members of the Board
- Adopt Motions and Resolutions for other matters

Amendments to the Bylaws

1) Financial Compensation for the Executive Director

It has become increasingly clear that a person is needed with the training and experience to move our efforts forward most productively, and that such a person might be financially compensated. Although present financial resources preclude this action, the Board wanted this flexibility in the future. Accordingly the Congress, by unanimous vote, adopted the following amendment to the Bylaws to permit, but not require, the Board to employ a paid Executive Director at some time in the future. The wording of this amendment to Article 7.5 of the LifeRing Bylaws is shown here:

Motion on Behalf of the Board of Directors to Allow for the Hiring of a Paid Professional Executive Director:

*Officers shall serve without compensation, except that the Board of Directors may, by a majority of all its Members, elect to hire a Professional Executive Director, in which case Articles 7.3 and 7.4 shall not apply to the Executive Director. This article shall not prohibit one or more Officers from simultaneously serving in a **separate** administrative capacity in the LifeRing Service Center, or from being compensated for such work at an annual salary predetermined in the regular course of business by the Board of Directors.*

2) Absentee Voting

The Congress also considered a resolution calling for the preparation of an amendment to the Bylaws that could be adopted as the first act of the 2013 Congress and then placed into immediate effect. This resolution would establish a committee on Absentee Voting. It was presented and adopted unanimously. It reads, in full:

Motion on Behalf of the Board of Directors to Study and Prepare to Implement Absentee Voting:

It was moved that the Board establish a Committee on Absentee Voting, in order to:

(1) create a system by which to define, identify and register Delegates who are eligible to vote at next year's LifeRing Congress;

(2) register all eligible Delegates in advance of next year's Congress and put a system in place to receive absentee ballots from each Delegate;

(3) establish a mechanism by which the Congress may ratify business for submission to an absentee vote;

(4) consider establishing a protocol by which members in absentia may submit proposals for consideration by the Congress;

(5) establish one or more mechanisms by which delegates may cast absentee ballots, and for tallying and verifying absentee votes; and

(6) offer final wording on all necessary Bylaws amendments, and present those amendments AS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS at the 2013 LifeRing Congress so that the Congress has the option of immediately implementing the proposed absentee voting system.

3) Other Amendments

Several other amendments to the Bylaws were also considered prior to the Congress Meeting. After discussion, all three of these proposals were voted down unanimously:

- The possibility of expanding the size of the Board
- The possibility of compensation for Officers and Board Members
- The possibility of persons not in recovery to serve as Board Members or Convenors

Election of Board Members

The Congress then proceeded to the election of Board Members. Four of the nine seats were up for vote. Three current members of the Board opted to run for re-election and drew no opposition. One vacancy was created by the retirement from the Board of Laretta Molitor, who stepped down due to lack of available time. Troy Spears' name was placed in nomination for that seat. The four candidates for the four seats were elected without opposition. (Each year, three seats on the Board become available and are voted on at the Congress).

After the conclusion of the Congress, the Board held a brief meeting to see to the election of Officers, to welcome Troy Spears to the Board, and to bid a fond goodbye to Laretta. Robert Stump, who also serves as LifeRing's Office Manager, was elected to be the new Executive Director. Robert brings great organizational skills to the job and has long been associated with LifeRing, serving as a Convenor for several years and more recently as Treasurer. He brings well-developed computer skills to the job as well. Carola Ziermann, who replaced Robert as Treasurer a few months ago, was elected to continue in that position and Tim Reith will continue as Board Secretary. Craig Whalley will continue as Board Chair.

There being no other business at this time, the Congress was concluded at about 12 noon, PDT, on May 13.

Tim Reith, Board Secretary

Submitted June 5, 2012