

LifeRing Secular Recovery 2003 Congress

MINUTES OF DELEGATES' ASSEMBLY MARCH 1 AND MARCH 2 2003

1:25pm March 1st: Meeting Convened at UU in the Pines, Brooksville FL

Present:

Board of Directors:

Robert B, Paula B, Jacquie J, Marjorie J, Marty N, Tom S, Bill S.

Delegates:

Nancy A – Monday 4pm Digi-Chat
Rick B – Sunday 10pm Digi-Chat
Robert B – Morgantown W Va, F to F
CA – LSR Body list
Richard C – LSR mail list
Gillian E – San Francisco CA, Thursday evening F to F
Chet G – Oakland CA, Wednesday evening F to F
Helena G – Tuesday 10 pm Digichat
Mona H – Thursday 8 pm Digi-Chat
Diane J – Women's List
Marjorie J – Berkeley CA, Friday evening F to F.
Laura L – St Petersburg FLA, F to F
Marty N – Oakland Wed 8 pm F to F
Jack P – Thursday 4 pm Digi-Chat
Kathy P – Friday 10pm Friday Digi-Chat
John P – Saturday 10 pm Digi-Chat
John R – Saturday noon Digi-Chat
Denise S – Bucks-Mont PA, F to F
Jay S – Cincinnati OH, F to F
Syl S – Emeryville CA, F to F

Members (not delegates):

Bill L, Randy M, Mark P, Frank T, Craig W.

Board of Directors Seat - Special Election to Fill Remainder of Term (one year)

Nomination:

Paula Bryder

Proposed by Laura L, seconded by Mona H.

Carried unanimously.

Resignation of Tom Shelley from Board of Directors

Tom announced, to the complete surprise of the meeting, that, due to the pressure of family issues, he was resigning from the Board, effective immediately. This opened up a seat on the Board for the remaining two years of his tenure.

Nominations of New Board Members

Two three-year seats are available on the Board following the expiration of the terms of Marjorie Jones and Bill Somers. One two-year seat is available to fill the remaining term of Tom Shelley who has resigned.

By general acclaim it was agreed to hold one election, with the top two vote getters filling the three-year terms, and the third vote-getter filling the two-year term. Each delegate will have three votes, and may not vote for the same nominee twice.

Nominations:

Richard Campbell, Gillian Ellenby, Chet Gardiner, Diane Jeanette.

Slate proposed by Bill S, seconded by Laura L.

Vote held over until the next day.

2:30pm March 1st : Meeting Adjourned.

3:10pm March 1st : Meeting reconvened : Chair – Craig W.

Newsletter Proposal

Motion : Approval is requested from the 2003 Congress to continue the Newsletter Project to create and publish an LSR Newsletter, to report on the people and events of LifeRing Secular Recovery within the 3S philosophy.

Proposed by Kathy P, seconded by Bill S.

Kathy handed round an attractive prototype of what the Newsletter might look like. There was general agreement that a newsletter was an excellent idea for the organization at this time. The inclusion of 'Official' in the title was deemed unnecessary. It was agreed that the purpose of the Newsletter was informational not political. There are already volunteers working on the format and stories, but more are needed. The need for some more formal structure of the Newsletter with a budget, specific roles etc. at some time in the future was noted. Kathy P volunteered to head the Newsletter committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

Steve's Resolution

The Motion: to appoint a committee to look into alternative locations and dates for the Annual Congress.

Proposed by Helena G, seconded by Laura L.

After some discussion the motion was defeated unanimously.

Ben's Proposal

The Motion : to appoint a committee to consider the acquisition of Unhooked.com by LSR or create a new Web Site owned by LSR.

Proposed by Chet G, seconded by Gillian E.

Marty N pointed out that this had already been accomplished, and that he had donated the Domain Name to the organization. Motion unanimously defeated.

Richard's Amendment

Motion : Section 5.2.2 of The Bylaws shall be changed to : For purposes of delegate selection each e-mail list shall be entitled to elect one delegate for every fifty current members of said list.

There was vigorous discussion over how to count the number of members on a list, or in an on-line meeting format. How to include people who do not post but only read posts was discussed. Proportional representation was equally an issue for the on-line and face-to-face meetings. It was felt that a definition of 'current members' was needed. The consensus was that not enough information was available.

Richard withdrew the motion.

4.40pm, March 1st : Meeting adjourned.

9.10 am March 2nd : Meeting reconvened : Chair - Craig W.

Financial Report – See Attachment

CFO Marjorie Jones presented the Financial Report for the last year.

She pointed out that most of the LSR income for this period had been from the sale of books by LifeRing Press.

The Financial Report was accepted by general acclaim.

Tom Shelley's Retirement

Craig W offered, on behalf of the organization, our heartfelt thanks to Tom for all his years of devotion and leadership. The Congress stood for a standing ovation.

John Ps Amendment

Motion : That the following changes be made to the Bylaws:

Article 6.7 shall read – The Board shall meet face-to-face each year at the conclusion of each annual Congress, if feasible, and newly-elected directors will begin their service at the beginning of that meeting.

Article 6.10 shall read – Four directors shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Board.

Proposed by Paula B, seconded by Syl S.

Motion carried unanimously.

Richard's Amendment

Motion : That a committee be formed by Richard C to evaluate the way delegates for the Congress are elected, with particular reference to the issue of how to assess the actual memberships of individual meetings and how to establish a fair representation for all members at the Congress.

Proposed by Craig W, seconded by Bill S.

Some members suggested that Congress approval was not needed to do research into membership numbers etc. But the approval of Congress would give more 'teeth' to the proposal.

Motion passed with a split vote.

Mona's Proposal

Motion : Whereas the LifeRing Congress is the supreme deliberative and legislative body of the organisation; whereas there may be a need for this supreme body to convene more often than annually in order to deliberate and legislate regarding matters of concern to the membership, or in order to finish business which the Annual Congress has not yet addressed. Therefore be it resolved that a committee, chaired by Mona Holland, be formed in order to study the issues involved in holding delegate meetings at times and a manner other than face to face annual meeting. The committee shall be known as the Interim Congress Committee, and shall be composed of any interested delegates and other LifeRing members. The committee shall complete its work in time for consideration prior to the 2004 annual meeting of the LifeRing congress.

Proposed by Mona H, seconded by Diane J.

After a short discussion the motion was carried by a split vote.

Scott's Proposal

Motion : That Scott's proposal to set up a committee to create bylaws and rules of operation for online Congresses be rejected.

Proposed by John P, seconded by Marty N.

Motion carried with a split vote.

9.40am March 2nd : Proceedings suspended for delegates to vote in Board of Directors election.

10.00am March 2nd : Meeting Continued

Marty's Proposal Number 1

Motion : That the Congress approve the formation of a committee, chaired by Marty N, to conduct a membership survey.

Proposed by Marty N, seconded by Gillian E.

Marty N said that the time is ripe to find out from the LSR members how the organization is meeting their needs. It would also be a good outreach tool. There is no need for a budget to cover the survey. If possible, some professional help will be available.

Motion carried unanimously.

Marty's Proposal Number 2

Motion : That the Congress establish a committee to develop guidelines for media outreach for LSR. The committee, chaired by Marty N, will make its report to the Board of Directors and to the Congress.

Proposed by Marty N, seconded by Nancy A.

Several members wanted to be sure that the committee was only going to prepare guidelines. It was pointed out that individual members could be doing their own outreach and publicity. It was felt that a common 'bank' of information about the organization would be good, especially to prepare members for the day when media people start becoming interested in LSR.

Motion carried unanimously.

Election Results

The election was conducted by secret ballot.

The results of the vote:

Chet Gardiner and Diane Jeanette were elected for three-year terms on the Board.

Gillian Ellenby was elected to fill the two-year term on the Board.

11:10 am March 2nd : Meeting adjourned.

Board of Directors meeting began immediately afterward. (See separate Minutes).

Respectfully submitted, Gillian Ellenby