

Draft Motion(s) for Discussion and Decision

(None proposed)

Elections for the Board of Directors

Candidates for the Board of Directors must be in recovery from a substance addiction, at least 21 years old, and have at least two years clean and sober. (§ 6.5) Board terms run for three years. (§ 6.2) There is no limit on the number of terms a Board member may serve. The Board meets face-to-face once a year directly after the Delegates' Assembly. Thereafter, the Board meets monthly on the second Sunday, except August and December, using an online chat room at www.unhooked.com. Online meetings usually begin at 6 pm Pacific Time.

This year the terms of three members of the Board of Directors are expiring: Robert Bradley, Mona Hirson, and Mark Leone.

The Bylaws currently do not spell out a procedure for nominating Board members, and are silent on the matter of election campaigns, speeches, etc. The manner of balloting is left open. At past Congresses, nominations were made orally at the Delegates' Assembly. There was no campaigning or speechmaking. Voting was by secret paper ballot.

The new Board will meet directly after the conclusion of the Delegates' Assembly. Board meetings are open except if personnel matters are being discussed.

Rules of Procedure

The Bylaws provide generally that "Robert's Rules of Order shall apply to the procedures of the Congress to the extent they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws or

with procedural rules the Congress may adopt." §5.10. In practice, past Congresses have run on a consensus-building model, and parliamentary maneuvering (point of order, point of personal privilege, etc.) has been absent.



After the 2002 Congress
(Bill Carpenter photos)



2008 LifeRing Congress

Delegate's Briefing

Contents:

- Provisional Agenda for the Delegates' Assembly
- Ideas for giving a report on your meeting
- Meeting reports from non-delegates
- Draft motion(s) for discussion and decision
- Board of Directors elections
- Rules of procedure

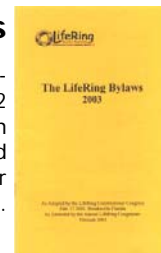
This document is for delegates to the 2008 LifeRing Congress

The LifeRing Congress proper, or Delegates' Assembly, meets on Sunday morning, June 1 2008, in the Mafly Conference Center, Herrick Hospital, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This is the same location as the Saturday workshops. Coffee and pastry will be provided.

Useful Reading Before the Session:

The LifeRing Bylaws

The Bylaws are the ground rules of our democratic internal process. They're only 12 pages and they're written in big type and in plain English. You'll be a more informed and more effective participant if you know your Bylaws. Available free to delegates.



Provisional Agenda for the Delegates' Assembly

- **9:00 a.m. Report from the Board of Directors, including Financial Report**
- **9:30 a.m. Reports from the Meetings**
See "Ideas for giving a report on your meeting" on the next page
See also "Meeting reports from non-delegates" on the next page
- **Approx 11:00 a.m. Discussion and Decision of Motions**
No motions have been submitted
- **Approx 11:30 a.m. Elections to Board of Directors**
- **Noon at the latest: Adjournment**
- **Directly following Adjournment: Board of Directors' Meeting**

Normally the Delegates' Assembly is open to all LifeRing participants and guests, but the Assembly has the power to restrict participation and/or attendance at the gathering to delegates only.

All LifeRing participants are invited to audit the Board of Directors' meeting and to speak during the open comment period, except if the Board is discussing personnel matters, at which time the meeting may be closed.

Meeting Reports From Non-Delegates

To ensure the widest possible sharing of information and experience, the Delegates' Assembly also encourages participation by **non-delegate reporters**. For example:

- The convenor of a meeting in a special setting where no delegate election is possible is also an officer or a member of the LifeRing Board of Directors, and therefore automatically a delegate already. This convenor can give a report on the meeting as a non-delegate reporter.
- A convenor convenes two meetings. One of the meetings does not have a delegate present. The convenor reports on one meeting as its delegate, and on the other meeting as a non-delegate reporter.
- A meeting was formed too recently to qualify to send a delegate. Anyone present who participates in that meeting or has other knowledge about it may present a report on the meeting as a non-delegate reporter.
- A meeting is represented at the Congress by its delegate, but a non-delegate participant in the meeting wants to present additional information about it, or has a different viewpoint than the delegate. That person may present a report as a non-delegate reporter.

(Continued from page 3)

- What is the usual meeting format? Do you use the "How Was Your Week" format? Do you use a topic, and if so, how do you select it? How do you handle crosstalk? Do you ask people to say how long they've been clean and sober? Do you usually applaud them when they state their sober time? What do you do to mark the close of the meeting?
- Has the meeting experienced any particular problems, issues, challenges, events, or victories? For example, has it been flooded with Salvation Army folks, has there been a problem with disruptive individuals, have counselors or students monitored the meeting, has it had good word of mouth from referral sources, have any of its members distinguished themselves in the world, have people met and got married in the meeting, etc. etc.
- What if anything does the meeting do to get out the word about its existence? Do members speak to audiences, do you post flyers or signs around your meeting place, etc. What kind of relations does the meeting have with referral sources such as treatment professionals, counselors, etc.? Does the meeting have any contacts with media?
- Does the meeting normally pass the basket? How does the meeting handle the money it collects and what expenditures, if any, has the meeting encountered? Does the meeting contribute to the Service Center?
- Does the meeting hold any social events such as going out to a restaurant after the meeting, or going to movies or on outings together?
- Does the meeting maintain contacts with other LifeRing meetings? Does the convenor attend convenor workshops? Do participants in this meeting also attend other LifeRing meetings?

At the Delegates' Assembly:

Ideas for Giving a Report on Your Meeting

The major agenda item is hearing reports from the meetings. There is no required format for a meeting report. Here are some ideas of topics that might go into a meeting report:

- The day, time, and geographical location (or url) of the meeting.
- History of the meeting: who was the founding convenor, how long has it been in existence, what other locations did it use to meet at before its current location, if any. How many different members have been convenors of this meeting?
- What kind of place or facility or webserver hosts the meeting? Is this a good location or are there problems with it? Are there other recovery meetings in the same time slot at the same location?
- Does the meeting have a special public that it serves? For example, women only, LGBT, prisoners, dual diagnosis, etc.
- About how many people have attended the meeting on the average during the past year? Is attendance growing, holding, or shrinking; how many men, how many women, the approximate age spread. In an online group: how many different countries and states of the US are represented?
- About how many people who attend the meeting are regulars? About how many people tend to show up only once or a few times?
- What range of sobriety times are represented? About how many people have more than six months clean and sober? About how many people have more than one year, more than two years? Do you have a lot of people who need attendance sheets signed (f2f)? Do you have a lot of people who are court-ordered? Do you have a lot of people who also attend 12-step meetings?
- Do you use sign-up sheets (f2f)? Do you circulate member phone lists and email lists? About what percentage of the participants in a face meeting also participate in LifeRing online? About what percentage of the participants in an online meeting also participate in an f2f LifeRing meeting?
- What range of "drugs of choice" are represented?
- What opening statement does the meeting use, if any? Who usually reads it?
- Is LifeRing literature normally displayed at the meeting? Does the meeting have a supply of pamphlets and books to give out, lend, and sell? If online, is there a regular reminder or referral to LifeRing literature? How does the meeting treat newcomers?

(Continued on page 2)

Delegates' Assembly at the 2002 Congress

