

MINUTES

OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

OF THE LIFECIRCLE ASSOCIATION

HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2022 AT 5 PM

AT THE BEZ, BIEL-BENKEN

According to the byelaws, resolutions are carried with a simple majority and changes to the byelaws require a 2/3 majority.

The byelaws are on the website:

<http://www.lifecircle.ch/>

Present: President	Erika Preisig
Assessor	Moritz Gall
Accountant/Treasurer	Markus Lüthi
Materials Manager	Christian Wessendorf
Actuary	Yvonne Mischler
44 voting members	
2 non-voting members	

Apologies: Vice-President Rosmarie Zipfel, Assessor Annelies Herzog,
numerous members

A G E N D A

1. Welcome by the President
 - 1.1. Election of tellers
 - 1.2. Approval of the agenda

2. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 AGM (see website)

3. Resolution by the Board of Directors for an amendment to the Articles of Association/byelaws
 - 3.1. Cashier's Report, Amendment Statement
 - 3.2. Report by the President
 - 3.3. Vote on the amendment

4. Proposals from members

5. Any Other Business

1. Welcome by the President

President E. Preisig opened the extraordinary general meeting punctually and welcomed those present.

1.1. Ms J. Keel was elected vote teller.

1.2. The agenda was approved by all those present.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 AGM

The minutes of the 10th AGM were approved unanimously.

3. Resolution by the Board of Directors for an amendment to the Articles of Association/byelaws

3.1. The cashier explained the red-marked section of Article 2 of the byelaws. The sections proposed by the Board of Directors for amendment were printed and sent to all members by email or post. The proposal offered current members funds amounting to CHF 700 for each year of active membership, up to max. CHF 4.900, towards the expenses of a voluntary assisted death should they require one. Active membership means that the membership fee for the current year has been paid by the end of September. Payments after this date are considered payment for the following year and this means that membership will have been suspended for one year. Costs for a VAD are currently CHF 4.900 for Swiss citizens and CHF 10.500 for foreigners with any additional costs incurred paid by the members themselves. What is new is that VADs will be carried out by the Life-End association rather than the Eternal Spirit Foundation. Life-End is a newly founded association that will take over the services of the foundation. The Eternal Spirit foundation is being dissolved because it is a huge effort to meet the many requirements imposed on foundations by bureaucracy without gaining any benefit. Eternal Spirit's financial assets will be donated to the new association. The proposed change to clause 4 would be the deletion of the names of organizations which have been supported annually with donations to remove these specific obligations. The proposed amendments to clauses 14, 15 and 16 of the byelaws should be clear.

The following questions came from the members present:

- Whether Life-End is already active: this was confirmed. It is based in Biel-Benken and the board consists of the current board of trustees of Eternal Spirit and another person.
- Are there now 3 organizations (Life-End, lifecircle and Eternal Spirit)? Eternal Spirit will be dissolved within 1-2 years. As many people have already made deposits for their VAD, does this have to be reorganized first in order to be able to dissolve the foundation?
- Why does payment of the membership fee only count as active membership if paid by 30 September? On the one hand, the invoices are sent by email or post at the beginning of the

year, which provides enough time for payment. On the other, since currently no new members are being admitted, it also serves as an overview of the number of members and is also ideal for the annual financial statements. To save costs, the paying-in slips will be sent by email when possible. If people have problems receiving the invoice, they should contact the lifecircle secretariat immediately. Foreigners cannot use the QR code and must either pay via e-banking or send the money to lifecircle by registered post.

- From when would this contribution to costs be credited? It applies from the first year membership was registered and the associated payment made; the same applies to Lifetime members.
- The difference between Lifetime and lifecircle? lifecircle is the association, it offers two membership options: *ordinary* is CHF 50 annually, the fee is paid every year and you can choose every year whether to continue being a member. *Lifetime* membership requires a single payment of CHF 1.000 and is for life (further details on the website).
- If funeral insurance has been taken out abroad, will those VAD costs be covered under the insurance? Yes was the answer to this. The Life-End association will send the list of funeral costs to the descendants; so far there have never been any problems, the insurers have paid.
- A member present pointed out that, according to the current association byelaws, changes to the byelaws can only be proposed and adopted at an ordinary general meeting. So is it even possible to put this to the vote today and now? The association wanted to deal with the change at an extraordinary general meeting because it hopes to be able to apply these new regulations from 1.1.23 and as the AGM usually takes place in May/June, they could only be implemented the following year. The Board hopes that the members will nevertheless agree to putting this to the vote tonight. M. Gall is of the opinion that all members received these proposed amendments to the Articles of Association and that members who were not present could also have expressed their views in writing. E. Preisig added that she had received many written opinions. There was not a single objection, all the members who wrote were in agreement. As there have been no objections to the proposal, it is possible to put this to the vote today. A member proposed that the board should include this item on the agenda of the next AGM in order to be able to explain everything there again. This proposal was welcomed and accepted.
- Article 4 states that lifecircle supports individuals with increased care and support needs. Can anyone apply for this, even non-members? Applications are for members only; only material aids such as walkers, walking aids, etc. can be passed on to non-members. There were several suggestions from those present to rewrite this clause but only the chang-

es on the agenda are to be discussed today. Every member has the opportunity to submit a relevant proposal to the next AGM at any time.

- Were there any ideas for the continuation of lifecircle? E. Preisig stated that she was looking for a successor but she wants to continue running lifecircle for as long as she can.

3.2. See Any Other Business.

3.3. The President asked the members present to vote on the amendment to the byelaws as proposed at this extraordinary general meeting. With one abstention, everyone was in favour. Dr E. Preisig expressed pleasure at now being able to support affected members financially in the future.

4. Proposals from Members

The board did not receive any proposals from members.

5. Any Other Business

Dr Preisig reported that she had been in Berlin and was awarded the Arthur Koestler Prize 2022 by the German Society for Humane Dying (DGHS). She received it for her extraordinary commitment to the legalization of VAD in Germany. Together with Professor R. Rossbruch she went before the German Federal Constitutional Court in 2020, achieving the lifting of the ban on VAD in Germany. Following her retirement, E. Preisig wants to work even more towards the legalization of VAD around the world, so she has decided not to add any more new members to the association. Dealing with foreigners' VADs is particularly time-consuming. However, she will not give up the association. She also asked the members to speak of their need for self-determined dying to their family doctors because general practitioners are legally allowed to carry out VADs independently. They only lack the "know how" and Dr Preisig would like to make herself available to interested doctors to provide them with this knowledge.

Dr Preisig closed the meeting at 6 pm, thanked the members for coming and invited them to an aperitif.

The President Erika Preisig

Minute taker: Yvonne Mischler

Date: _____