



Newsletter March 2018

Dear members

Lifecircle has started the new year with a happy event. We hope that you also had some very good days.

Around the end of last year, a group of four people got together. They are motivated members of our society and want to help us on a voluntary basis. They met a few times and are setting up a self-help group, in which members and their relatives can exchange thoughts with members, who already experienced an assisted suicide. This is a way to eliminate fear and anxiety before an assisted voluntary death (AVD) and reduce the pain after the AVD. There always are members and relatives who would like us to offer the possibility of a "mourning group" and I am happy to say that it will soon be possible in our society. Maybe not in all countries, but in the ones where most members come from.

In Winterthur, a friend of mine, a priest, created his «Cafe Goodbye». He organizes meetings there regularly, during which issues related to death and dying are debated. I see the possibility to do the same with the group of four, so that soon some of our members can get together on a regular base.

Another good news is that I could give a conference at the IVB (transport organization for handicapped in our state), which also agrees to transport our members when they come to die. This could up to now not be taken for granted, since the Ambulance 144 refused to transfer one of our members from the rehabilitation center Rheinfelden to Liestal, where we offer assisted dying. «144 saves lives and does not bring people towards death» was the reason they gave. The fact that a 96 year old woman was reanimated in that same ambulance, although she carried a will stating that she did not wish to be reanimated, illustrates the same situation.

One is not supposed to die in the medical branch, not even if one is 96 years old. All the more grateful we can be that the IVB respects the wishes of our members and brings them to the place where they are going to die.

I was also invited to give a conference at the cemetery of Basel. The people who work at the civil registry office and the administration of the graveyard have regular training sessions and wanted to be informed about our activities and the legal situation in Switzerland. I gave a conference to inform them and then those who were present could ask questions, which they did with a lot of interest. I was then taken to see the new crematorium, which rounded up the very successful evening.

We also had an international victory in our endeavor to stop the so-called tourism of death by fighting for legalization of assisted dying abroad. In Victoria, Australia, it was legalized and the parliament has yet to set the guidelines.

Even in our homeland, Switzerland, the very restrictive guidelines of the SAMW (Swiss Academy for Medical Science) are being amended and were in the consultation phase till February 24th 2018. The new proposal is more liberal than the 2004 one, but is still very restrictive on the issue



of freedom of choice at the end of life. The Foundation Eternal Spirit has sent its opinion about the matter.

We could also give a few interviews. I am surprised about the number of questions coming from the nursing staff, high school and university students, very young people, who want to write a thesis for their graduation about assisted dying. There will be a big change in a few years concerning the issue of «choice at end of life».

In October the Arte TV channel showed a film called «death by prescription, how do we want to die?» Since the director of Spiegel-TV filmed a lot during the three days we spent together, it was possible to show a longer version of the film on Monday February 19th at 8.15 p.m

We would like to remind you that we have wheelchairs and perambulators we can lend to our members. Should you need any of those, you can ask for them by mail or letter.

I can already tell you the date of the General Assembly so that you should save that evening. It will be on May 31st 2018 in the «Sprützehüsli» on the main street in Oberwil. Unfortunately, we cannot offer any translations. It will be in German only.

Now I can wish you all the very best

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