

MINUTES

12TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE "LIFECIRCLE" ASSOCIATION.

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023

20 JUNE 2024/ 6:30 PM

IN 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/pdf/lifecircle_Vereinsstatuten.pdf

Present:	President	Erika Preisig
	Assessor	Annelies Herzog
	Accountant / Treasurer	Markus Lüthi
	Material Manager	Christian Wessendorf
	Actuary	Yvonne Mischler
	Members	23 members / votes
	Non-members	0 Non-voting members

Apologies: Vice-President Rosmarie Zipfel
Assessor Moritz Gall
several members (given the large number, not mentioned by name)

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
 - 1.1. Election of tellers
 - 1.2. Election of the meeting's chairperson
 - 1.3. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes AGM 2023 (see website)
3. President's Annual Report 2023
4. 2023 Annual financial statement
 - 4.1. Treasurer's Report
 - 4.2. Auditors' Report
 - 4.3. Approval of the annual accounts and the auditors' report
5. Discharge of the Board
6. Membership fees
7. Budget 2024 and its approval
8. Proposals from members
9. Any other business, President's account of her experiences.

1. Welcome by the President

President E. Preisig opened the 12th AGM at 6.35 pm and welcomed those present.

1.1. Ms Joke Loosli was unanimously elected vote teller.

1.2. Ms Joke Loosli also took over the function of president of the day.

1.3. The agenda was approved by all those present.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes of the 11th AGM were approved unanimously.

3. President's Annual Report 2023

The annual report was sent to all members. The President added that the new SAMS/FMH guidelines are clearly restrictive, but that they have no influence on the internal guidelines of our association. Prof Gächter threatened the doctors in an article in the Schweizer Ärztzeitung that they would be sanctioned if they did not adhere to the new SAMS guidelines. Mrs Preisig wrote a letter to the editor in response. This was neither published nor did she ever receive a reply! The Swiss constitution allows assisted suicide, regardless of the method used, and this also applies to NAPs. The law also allows a healthy person to be given a loaded gun and then take their own life. The person helping goes unpunished.

As mentioned in the 2023 Annual Report, the President has trained seven doctors in assisted suicide. The question arose as to how one can find out which GPs would carry out an AS if one's own GP does not want to/is unable to do so. Mrs E. Preisig explained that a corresponding list exists in Canada and that she would like to introduce this in Switzerland. Until then, the President may be asked for information. The question of who is authorised to assess capacity was answered by saying that the general practitioners themselves can do this, as they know their patients best. However, Mrs E. Preisig advised everyone that it would be safer if a second doctor was involved in the assessment. Mrs A. Herzog pointed out that the incapacity to judge would actually have to be proven in the case of an indictment. Another question was where GPs carry out such accompaniments, possibly in their practice? The President explained that they could either be at the person's home or in a care home, but that the room at Life-End in Liestal could also be rented by the GP. There were no further questions, and the annual report was approved by all those present.

4. 2023 Annual financial statement

4.1. 4.1 The Treasurer presented the 2023 annual accounts. He explained that the association has SFr. 840,026.26 in cash and cash equivalents. The loan of SFr. 205,000 is to Chremer Kari and the Eternal Spirit Foundation. As the money at Eternal Spirit was

blocked at short notice, lifecircle helped out briefly. 270,800.86 are funds that members have already paid in advance for their suicide at Eternal Spirit. The members concerned were asked whether they would agree to lifecircle managing this money in future. They all agreed to this transfer and the Foundation will therefore transfer the money to lifecircle as soon as it is available, as the funds still have to be cancelled. With the UBS financial investments, the association was able to realise an interest gain of SFr. 20,000 thanks to the funds and interest rate increases. The books in stock were written off as they have not been sold for some time. They are distributed free of charge, interested parties should contact lifecircle. There is an equity capital of SFr. 937,903 and a profit of SFr. 28,713 was realised. Membership income fell by SFr. 16,000 due to the freeze on admissions and withdrawals. Eternal Spirit donated SFr. 20,000 and the other donations were SFr. 27,500 higher than budgeted, partly because some people did not make use of this new option "Donation to AVD for members". Donations to institutions were discontinued under expenses, as the money is to be used for the new provision of financial support for members in the event of suicide. Should it transpire that there is money left over in the long term, lifecircle would consider donations to third parties again. In other expenses, a minus of SFr. 11,000 was achieved in financial expenses and interest income, which means a 'plus' in expenses due to the aforementioned fund income and higher interest income. CHF 111,300 was paid out in 2023 for the new provision on the participation of members in the event of their AVD; this will be lower in 2024 as the number of AVD decreases each year. There were no questions about the annual financial statements.

- 4.2. The auditors' report was read out by Mr M. Lüthi. The Board of Directors is responsible for the annual financial statements dated 31 December 2023. As always, they were audited by Straumann Treuhand AG. Straumann did not come across any matters that would lead to the conclusion that the annual financial statements do not comply with the law and the Articles of Association.
- 4.3. The annual accounts and the auditors' report were adopted unanimously.

5. Discharge of the Board

The Board was unanimously discharged.

Elections (not on the agenda)

The President announced the resignation of Vice President Mrs R. Zipfel. Since her retirement, she is very often on holiday and can therefore hardly take part in meetings or in the life of the Association. Mrs E. Preisig has received a lot of support from Annelies Herzog, so a replacement is not urgently needed. If anyone is interested in this position, they should contact lifecircle. It was suggested that all members should be contacted by e-mail. This idea was approved.

6. Membership fees

The membership fees will stay as they are. The members present agreed unanimously.

7. Budget 2024 and its approval

The treasurer presented the 2024 budget, lifecircle is expecting a profit of around CHF 162,000. Membership fees are continuing to fall and there are no more new lifetime members. The Eternal Spirit Foundation will be dissolved and would like to support lifecircle with the remaining money, so a donation of SFr. 150,000 is expected. Other income was budgeted at SFr. 10,000, as it is likely that not all donations for AVD will be claimed this year either. In terms of expenditure, costs have fallen sharply, e.g. ID cards are no longer sent out, no contributions and donations to third parties. A budget of CHF 7,000 is expected for events, as a panel discussion will take place in October. The workload for the homepage has also decreased considerably. Participation in the free death for members is expected to cost SFr. 55,000. The budget was unanimously approved.

8. Proposals from Members

The board did not receive any proposals from members.

9. Any other business, President's account of her experiences.

The President recounted a touching experience: she had built up a great friendship with a neighbour over 35 years ago. She developed hip problems in old age and did not want to have an operation, but Mrs E. Preisig, together with her family doctor, was able to persuade her to agree to an operation. She was able to live happily for another two years until she suffered a stroke. She realised that she now wanted to leave this world. It was not easy for the President to accompany someone so close to her. It was impressive that she happily wrote to all her colleagues and gave away all her furniture. The most important thing is always that everyone should have the choice to leave the world the way they want to have it.

Ms E. Preisig is receiving more and more invitations to speak and take part in discussions, including from Catholic organisations such as the Catholic Archdiocese in Regensburg. The hall was packed to the brim and the subsequent discussion was very interesting. She also received an enquiry from the Swiss Catholic Women's Association; this event is open to the public and the President will send out an invitation to all members in good time.

Dr Preisig closed the meeting at 7:35 pm, thanked the members for coming and invited them to an aperitif.