

MEMORANDUM
Internal Document

To: AIUSA Board of Directors

From: Stephanie McKinney, Chair, National Resolutions Committee

Date: January 28, 2014

Re: Outcome of the 2013 Regional Conferences

This memorandum contains the two (2) decisions of one or more 2013 Regional Conferences. Please review each resolution that is on the agenda for the 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Chicago, IL.

Two (2) properly-submitted and zero (0) late resolutions were considered at one or more regional conferences this cycle. No resolutions failed.

One (1) resolution, *Resolution 1: Late and Non-Binding Resolutions Rules Change*, passed all five (5) regional conferences in three (3) versions due to amendments from the West, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. Differences in language are denoted by brackets within Clauses [F] (d) (i). It will be placed on the 2014 AGM agenda and the voting plenary will decide which language to consider.

At the Western Regional Conference, *Resolution 2: Children's Healthcare* passed with amendments. It will be placed on the 2014 AGM voting plenary agenda.

The National Resolutions Committee will try to address any questions that result from your discussion.

Resolution 1: Late and Non-Binding Resolutions Rule Changes

Passed by the Southern Regional Conference, the Western Regional Conference, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, the Northeastern Regional Conference and the Midwestern Regional Conference

[A] WHEREAS the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) is responsible for the orderly administration of the AIUSA Membership Resolutions Process (MRP);

[B] WHEREAS the existing policy for considering Late and Non-Binding (also referred to as “emergency”) resolutions requires clarification;

[C] CONSIDERING that the NRC has the responsibility to make the initial determination as to whether such resolutions are in order, and should be properly brought before Regional Conferences and/or AGMs for discussion and voting;

[D] RECOGNIZING that the attendees at these conferences need democratic pathways to determine whether to discuss and vote upon such resolutions;

[E] **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the following amendments be made to the MRP Standing Rules to clarify the procedures for considering Late and Non-Binding resolutions:

The following replaces 3(B)(1)(b) and (c):

(b) Late resolutions may be presented at the Regional Conference, subject to a determination by the NRC Regional Representative that they are in order, and the following requirements are met:

- (i) the sponsor or presenter is eligible to vote at the Conference;
- (ii) the resolution does not propose an amendment to the Bylaws or these Standing Rules; and
- (iii) the resolution is submitted to the NRC Regional Representative on paper and electronically, and the sponsor/presenter bears responsibility for providing copies of the resolution text for members of the voting body.

(c) The NRC Regional Representative will determine that a Late resolution is in order if

- (i) the resolution or other resolutions substantially the same have not already been assigned or defeated at the same Conference;
- (ii) the resolution is timely, meaning that it either addresses a human rights issue arising after the resolution submission deadline, or AI policy or

procedural issues on which volunteer input is necessary and appropriate, arising from the floor of the Conference; and

- (iii) the resolution is urgent, meaning that it addresses an issue that cannot wait until the next resolutions cycle.

[F] **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this text replace 3(C)(1)(c), and be added as (d):

(c) Non-Binding resolutions may be presented at the AGM, subject to a determination by the NRC that they are in order, and the following requirements are met:

- (i) the sponsor or presenter is eligible to vote at the AGM;
- (ii) the resolution does not propose an amendment to the Bylaws or these Standing Rules; and
- (iii) the resolution is submitted to the NRC on paper and electronically, and the sponsor/presenter bears responsibility for providing copies of the resolution text for members of the voting body.

(d) The NRC will determine that a Non-Binding resolution is in order if

- (i) the resolution or other resolutions substantially the same were [not] considered at any Regional Conference(s) in the same resolutions cycle, [or failed to pass at any such Conference;] (*Passed by the Western Regional Conference*)

[it is not the case that] the resolution or other resolutions substantially the same were [(a) considered at one or more Regional Conference(s) and (b) were defeated in any such Conference,] in the same resolutions cycle; (*Passed by the Midwestern Regional Conference*)
- (ii) the resolution is timely, meaning that it either addresses a human rights issue arising after the Regional Conferences, or AI policy or procedural issues on which volunteer input is necessary and appropriate, arising from the floor of the AGM; and
- (iii) the resolution is urgent, meaning that it addresses an issue that cannot wait until the next resolutions cycle.

[G] **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this text be added as 3(E):

- (e) Late and Non-Binding resolutions determined to be out of order by the NRC may nevertheless be considered by the Regional Conferences or AGM if the voting body votes to add the resolution to the agenda by a 2/3 majority;

[H] **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NRC form a drafting committee of member activists and NRC members to develop criteria by the 2014 AGM to define what would be considered, urgent, emergency, or similar as mentioned in the sections:

(B), in the whereas section

(E)(c)(i)

(E)(c)(iii)

(F)(d)(i)

(F)(d)(iii) (*Passed by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference*)

Resolution 2: Children's Healthcare

Passed by the Western Regional Conference

[A] WHEREAS Amnesty International has expanded its focus in recent years to include the full spectrum of human rights, including the right to adequate health care;

[B] **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Amnesty International USA will investigate the human rights concerns and will consult with the membership regarding parental denial of lifesaving health care to children in order to formulate a cohesive consistent perspective that aligns with other human rights concerns;

[C] **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AIUSA, following approval at a forthcoming AGM, work to protect the rights of minors under the age of 18 whose parents or guardians withhold imminent lifesaving medical care from their children by engaging in educational and advocacy activities, wherever possible, work to raise awareness of the issue, and to lobby for and support legislation to correct, reduce or eliminate problems related to this issue.