

# Preparing Resolutions for the LYO Convention

The Lutheran Youth Organization is founded on some basic rules (Robert's Rules of Order) that give all members the power to make change within the organization. Because of these rules, these changes must be made through what's called a resolution.

## **What is a resolution?**

A resolution is the way that youth make a difference in the LYO! *It is a main motion that youth voting delegates discuss and take action on during plenary sessions at the LYO Convention.* Resolutions are written documents that advocate for specific change in order to meet the purpose of the organization. They provide guidance for the actions of the Board of the LYO, make statements on behalf of youth across the ELCA, and commit convention voting members to take action, such as sharing particular information in their home synods.

## **Who can write a resolution?**

Any member of the LYO, that is, any youth age 14-18 and/or in grade 9-12 and who is involved in a congregation of the ELCA. However, in order for the resolution to be submitted to the LYO Convention where it must be voted on, it must be endorsed by *at least two* youth voting delegates of the LYO Convention. If you are not going to be a voting delegate, you can contact your synod office or youth coordinator to find out who these people will be for your synod.

## **Why should I write a resolution?**

If you feel that the LYO is not currently addressing an issue you are passionate about, or you feel a position of the LYO needs to be modified; writing and submitting a resolution will initiate such changes in the LYO.

## **When and where should I submit a resolution?**

There are two different ways to submit resolutions to the LYO convention:

1. **Before the LYO Convention** – To be included in the delegate handbook, all resolutions before the Convention are due **April 1, 2009**, for review by the Resolutions Committee.
2. **During the LYO Convention** – LYO Convention youth voting delegates will have the opportunity to submit resolutions from the floor during the LYO Convention. LYO Convention youth voting delegates will participate in topic sessions focusing on issues about which youth are passionate. In these topic sessions you will discuss and have the opportunity to form resolutions around a specific issue.

**ALL RESOLUTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITING no later than 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 28, 2009, to the LYO Convention office. Each resolution must be endorsed by at least two youth delegates and must include:**

- The delegates' names
- The delegates' synods and regions
- The delegates' cell phone numbers to contact during Convention (so Resolutions Committee members can contact them to approve any recommended edits or other changes to the proposed resolution)

## What will happen to my resolution once I submit it?

Each proposed resolution will be reviewed by the LYO Resolutions Committee. They will prepare it for presentation to the LYO Convention. Youth voting delegates there will have time to discuss and vote on each resolution during the plenary business sessions of Convention.

## Resolution Writing Tips

1. A resolution should be stated clearly and concisely.
2. The **WHEREAS** of the resolution should state the reason for the resolution. Each reason should be given as a separate **WHEREAS**. *These reasons must be factual and non-argumentative (are not opinion and can be proven).*
3. The **RESOLVED** section of the resolution should clearly state the action desired, who is to implement the action, and who is to bear any cost. Each action should be given as a separate **RESOLVED**. *For the resolution to have the best chance of success in voting and in implementation, these actions should be narrow, specific, and achievable.*
4. If the resolution requires a change to the bylaws of the Lutheran Youth Organization, the proposed wording should be included in the resolution. (\*For easy identification, bylaws are *italicized* in the LYO Constitution.)
5. Resolutions *should be tested* against questions such as:
  - a. Is the information complete and accurate?
  - b. Is this a matter that pertains to the purpose of the LYO? (as stated in the LYO Constitution, 2.01)
  - c. Is this a matter of significance requiring consideration by the LYO Convention?
  - d. Can the action requested be appropriately and effectively implemented by the LYO?
6. Upon meeting all of these criteria, the Resolutions Committee will recommend one of the following actions to the voting body:
  - a. Recommend pass
  - b. Recommend not pass
  - c. No recommendation
  - d. Offer a substitute resolution
  - e. Recommend referral to another body/organization
7. If the Convention votes to pass a resolution, it will become the responsibility of the newly-elected Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization to communicate it to the appropriate body or to implement the action.

## Resolution Format

1. If a resolution requires one action, use the following format:

RESOLVED, that \_\_\_\_\_

2. If a resolution requires more than one action, the following format should be used:

RESOLVED, that \_\_\_\_\_; and be it further  
RESOLVED, that \_\_\_\_\_

3. If a resolution is preceded by one reason for submitting the resolution, the following format should be used:

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_; therefore be it  
RESOLVED, that \_\_\_\_\_

4. If a resolution is preceded by two or more reasons, use the following format:

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_; and

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: [list name of delegate(s) and synod(s)]

**Example of resolution:** [from minutes of the 2006 LYO Convention in San Antonio, TX]

**Resolution 9: Liaison to the ELCA Advocacy Offices**

WHEREAS, the BLYO should have a strong connection to the ELCA and programs carried out by the ELCA, and

WHEREAS, the LYO Constitution in its chapter 2.01.h calls for “opportunities for study and action on global issues.” And

WHEREAS, the LYO can provide positive assistance to ELCA Advocacy; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, that the BLYO work to establish a liaison position with all the advocacy offices of the ELCA churchwide organization, and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the liaison would work with the ELCA Advocacy offices to engage youth in education and advocacy on issues that affect our communities, nation, and the world, which the ELCA has taken a position.**

*Submitted by:*

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