

**Resolution 2020-001**  
**Cancellation of the**  
**2020 OWLS Annual Meeting and Convention for Seniors**

**WHEREAS** the pandemic caused by the spread of the COVID-19 viral infection has created a world-wide health emergency. As of this date it has resulted in more than 3,524,000 confirmed cases, with over 248,000 deaths. The spread of the disease continues unchecked, and

**WHEREAS** the COVID-19 viral infection is particularly devastating for people over the age of 60, and

**WHEREAS** the leadership of the Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) has been advised by public health officials that a gathering of seniors would be ill-advised until such time as a viable immunity vaccine for the SARS CoVi2-19 virus is widely and readily available, and

**WHEREAS** the development of such an immunity vaccine is currently only in the preliminary research and clinical stages, and is several months away from actual testing and approval, and

**WHEREAS** the manufacture and deployment of any such immunity vaccine would take several months after approval, and

**WHEREAS** the most optimistic projection of the wide-spread availability of a viable immunity vaccine is Spring of 2021, and

**WHEREAS** it is statistically impossible for an immunity vaccine to be available in time to protect attendees at the OWLS 2020 Annual Meeting and Convention for Seniors, and

**WHEREAS** delaying a decision would impact contract cancellation negotiations and the election procedure, and

**WHEREAS** it would be irresponsible of OWLS to hold a gathering of people who are in a high-risk demographic until a viable vaccine is widely and readily available to provide immunity to the SARS CoVi2-19 virus, therefore be it


**RESOLVED** that the OWLS Annual Meeting and Convention for Seniors, currently scheduled for October 14-16, 2020, in New Ulm, Minnesota, be canceled, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that official, written cancellation confirmation be received from all 2020 contract holders, releasing OWLS from any and all contracts, liabilities and commitments, including -- but not limited to -- hospitality, tours, transportation, catering, media services, all venues, vendors, and speakers/presenters, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the entire membership of OWLS be formally and officially notified in writing of the cancellation no later than August 14, 2020, sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled start of the event. Such notification shall include the procedure to be followed in conducting the 2020 election, as determined by the Board of Directors in accord with Bylaws 7.6, and be it finally

**RESOLVED** that the venues, theme, and program(s) planned for the 2020 OWLS Annual Meeting and Convention for Seniors be given high-priority consideration in planning the 2021 event.

Adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> Day of May, 2020  
The OWLS Board of Directors



Norman A. Schell, President