

Statutes for the Nordic Ophthalmological Committee (N.O.K)

§ 1

The Nordic Ophthalmological Committee (N.O.K.) was founded by the National Ophthalmological Societies of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. N.O.K. has its own logotype.

§ 2

Purpose: To support and promote the cooperation between the Nordic Ophthalmological Societies, to inform of and deal with matters of common interest. The Committee shall also stimulate scientific education by planning and arranging Meetings for Nordic Ophthalmologists and in that connection preside over a Nordic Plenary Session.

§ 3

Composition: N.O.K. consists of 10 members. The Ophthalmological Society of each country appoints two members, at least one of which must be a board member of his/her Ophthalmological Society. Deputy members may be appointed. The Committee forms itself with one president and one secretary.

§ 4

Procedures: The Committee meets 1 – 3 times annually. Records shall be kept in the office of the present President of N.O.K. Members of N.O.K. report to the Board of the corresponding National Society. The Committee gives a report during the Nordic Plenary Meeting.

The President's Chain is made of silver and is designed and manufactured by Messrs. Högberg, silversmiths in Gothenburg. It was donated in 1983 by 3M Ltd. to Nordic Ophthalmologists in connection with the XXVI N.O.K. Meeting in Stockholm. The Chain was worn for the first time by the President of this Meeting. The following Practice was decided upon:

- The Chain is to be kept in its casket in the office of the President of N.O.K. between N.O.K. Meetings.
- The President of N.O.K. has the right to wear the Chain at other festive occasions when acting as the representative of N.O.K.
- During the Opening Ceremony of a N.O.K. Meeting, after the welcome speech of the President of the Meeting, the Chain is handed over by the President of N.O.K. to the President of the Meeting who will wear the Chain during the Meeting. Thereafter, the Meeting is opened by the President of N.O.K. who, as an alternative, may ask another prominent person (representing the state, city or having a similar position) to open the Meeting.
- At a banquet or a similar festive occasion near the end of the Meeting short greetings are given by representatives from each of the Nordic Societies. The President of the Meeting then thanks his assistants, whereupon the President of N.O.K. thanks the organizers of the Meeting on behalf of N.O.K. and all participants. The President of N.O.K. then receives the Chain from the President of the Meeting and extends an invitation to the next N.O.K. Meeting.

§ 5

Economy: The expenses of N.O.K. members in connection with committee work are paid by his/her National Ophthalmological Society.

The economic surpluses from Nordic Ophthalmological Meetings are distributed as follows:

- 1/3 of a surplus that may occur goes to the Ophthalmological Society of the arranging country.
- 1/3 of the surplus goes to the Nordic Ophthalmological Societies in proportion to the number of its participants at the Meeting (Meeting 1) that generated the surplus.
- 1/3 of the surplus remains as security money with the Ophthalmological Society of the arranging country until after the closest following Nordic Meeting (Meeting 2).
- If Meeting 2 also generates a surplus, the security money goes to the Nordic Ophthalmological Societies in proportion to its number of participants at Meeting 1. If Iceland had been the arranging country for Meeting 1, Iceland will receive half of the security money and the rest distributed in proportion to the number of participants.
- If Meeting 2 generates a loss, the security money shall be used to cover the loss. If this is not enough the ophthalmological society of each country shall pay the remaining negative economical result in proportion to the number of participants at Meeting 2.
- Seed money shall always be sent on to the following Meeting, regardless of the economical result.
- Money that has been reserved for possible taxes after Meeting 1 shall be distributed at Meeting 2 in proportion to the number of participants at Meeting 1.

The Practice for the President's Chain was translated from an original N.O.K. document, kept by Nils Rehn, Festivities Secretary of the Swedish Ophthalmological Society 1975 – 2000. These Statutes replace the 1992 Statutes and were accepted by N.O.K. at its Meeting in June, 2008. The National Ophthalmological Societies then agreed to the statutes at their subsequent board Meetings.