



# NSR Constitution

Approved at the NSR Council Meeting in Helsinki 17. January 2021

## **NSR Constitution 17-01-2021**

This draft is the result from CCs' feed-back, and foremost from the CC Board discussions and decisions at their meetings:

05-05-2020

19-05-2020

25-06-2020

01-10-2020

21-11-2020

The intention is to propose a revised NSR Constitution in a version as short, and as precise as possible. All details have been moved into a Draft revision of the NSR By-Laws.

So, in the future, the Constitution is a static document forming the basis of NSR, and hence the NSR By-Laws should be the dynamic document with all the details necessary for NSR.

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# GLOSSARY of DEFINITIONS

## **NSR**

- The Nordic Cooperation Council:

- Swedish: Nordiska Samarbetsrådet
- Norwegian: Nordisk Samarbeidsråd
- Danish: Nordisk Samarbejdsråd
- Finnish: Pohjoismainen Yhteistyöneuvosto
- Icelandic: Norræna Samstarfsráðið

- NSR is the forum and the cooperation of all Lions subject areas in the Nordic Lions countries Sweden, Norway, Denmark incl. Faroe Islands and Greenland, Finland incl. Åland Islands, and Iceland, to cooperate for strengthening Lions matters in these countries.

## **NSR Meeting**

- The annual Nordic event for all Lions, normally over the weekend - preferably the 3rd weekend in January, comprising, as a minimum, seminars, workshops, key-note speaker, and meetings.

- The venue of the NSR Meeting rotates among the Nordic countries.
- The Host Country has the responsibility of arranging all practical matters.
- The NSR Operating Committee (OC) is responsible for coordination of the program with the arranging country.

## **NSR Council Meeting**

- The NSR Council meeting is the highest authority and decisive meeting, normally held during the annual NSR Meeting.

- NSR-OC is responsible for coordinating the Council Meeting Agenda, and related attachments and documents.
- The minutes of NSR Council Meeting shall be accepted by mentioned OC Chairperson and Secretary, and verified by Chairperson CC Board and next years' Chairperson CC Board.

## **CC Board**

- The group of the five Nordic Council Chairpersons (CC).
- The CC Board is central in decision making, however, both CC Board and OC need information on NSR operations.
- Decision making on particular/general issues not needed for voting at NSR council meeting. For continuity it is vital the five Vice Council Chairpersons (VCCs) are involved.

## **CC Board Meeting**

- The meetings of the five Nordic CCs.
- Secretary of CC Board is the chairperson of the Operating Committee (OC).
- CC Board Meeting in November is a closed working meeting. Others may after decision by CC Board attend the meeting.

## **OC**

- The NSR Operating Committee (OC) is the main focal point/resource centre in NSR matters to

be, and ensures continuity.

- OC consists of 5 Lions, one from each Nordic country. They shall be appointed or elected in each member Multiple District (MD), have served as MD Council Chairpersons, be Lions leaders with strong NSR experience, and be skilled in English speaking and writing.

### **NSR Accountant**

- Appointed to support NSR, and takes care of the NSR accounts, budget, and reimbursements.
- The accountant candidates have participated in at least three NSR Meetings, and can demonstrate a good knowledge of Nordic cooperation.

### **NSR Coordinator**

- Nominated every 2nd year, as a minimum Past District Governor, has attended at least two LCI Conventions, and has in addition experience in NSR work.
- He/she speaks and writes English.

### **Committee - Working Group - Other assignments**

- Lions subject areas are each represented in a committee or a working group.
- Other assignments comprise specific tasks on an ad hoc basis.

### **ID**

- International Director from Nordic countries as Executive Officer and member of Lions International Board of Directors.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 The co-operation**

- The highest authority of NSR is the Nordic co-operating council meeting. It is a coordinating body between the Lions Multiple Districts 101 Sweden, 104 Norway, 106 Denmark, 107 Finland and 109 Iceland. In the Council, each of the Multiple Districts is represented by the Council Chairperson (CC), District Governors (DGs) and representatives appointed by the Multiple District Council of Governors to fulfil the total number of delegates.

- If a Council representative is unable to attend a Council meeting, the Multiple District Council can appoint a substitute with the same rights and responsibilities.

Leos and other countries are invited to participate in NSR as observers without voting rights.

- Decisions to be voted on at the Council meeting have been prepared by OC and/or CC Board, and recommended by CC Board.

### **1.2 Objective and purpose**

- The purpose of the NSR is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas, knowledge, mutual understanding and fellowship, and to promote humanitarian service activities, further programs and goals of Lions in the Nordic countries.

- With the common Nordic culture and attitude the purpose also is to have a more consistent impact on international Lions decisions, e.g. at Lions Europa Forum, and Lions Clubs International convention.

- The objective of the NSR is to enforce relationship with and presence in the Lions Clubs International, with Lions Clubs in Europe and to organize joint service projects, as well as to strengthen the membership and leadership of the Lion members in the Nordic countries.

- The NSR is based on principles of solidarity and mutual understanding among Nordic Lions

countries as laid out in the NSR Constitution.

### **1.3 Strategy**

In order to work towards the objectives, the NSR shall:

- Represent the Nordic countries as a coherent entity in international Lions meetings (e.g. LCI Convention, and Europa Forum).
- Organize joint service projects.
- Strengthen the membership and leadership by training and guiding.
- Develop and strengthen all Lions subject areas.
- Support cultural cooperation.

### **1.4 Working Platform**

- The NSR is a forum that enables Lions to meet in annual gatherings, exchange ideas and support the Nordic membership and leadership programs, as well as all the Lions subject areas. All Lions club members in the five Multiple Districts have the right to attend and to participate in the NSR, and in Council meetings.
- The Council operates in accordance with the LCI Constitution and By-Laws.
- The NSR organizes every second year one or more joint service projects in the field of charity within the budgetary framework set by the council. The NSR can also organize co-operation and service projects outside its budgetary constraints provided the council members approve such projects and thus has the support of the participating countries.

### **1.5 Responsibilities**

As a joint Nordic forum, the NSR shall

- Debate and conclude in its council meetings on initiatives, projects and other activities concerning the Nordic co-operation.
- Agree a budget for the NSR and its operatives.

### **1.6 Joint representation**

- Wherever the NSR or its members take jointly part in International Conventions, Europa Forum etc., it shall be branded as: "Lions of Scandinavia".

## **2 STRUCTURE OF THE NSR**

### **2.1 The NSR's supreme authority is carried by the NSR Council meeting.**

### **2.2 Voting at the NSR council meeting:**

- Basically, each MD has each two delegates.
- In addition, forty (40) delegates are distributed according to the total number of members in the Multiple Districts.
- The number of delegates must not exceed 50 or 51 delegates (rounded figures), calculated mathematically each year based on total number of members as of latest 30th June, according to LCI membership register.
- Each delegate has a voting right of one vote.
- For a decision in matters concerning finance (impact on NSR budget or impact on member countries', or members' contribution) or changing the Constitution, each Multiple District has one vote and the decision must be taken unanimously as 5/0.
- For all other decisions a simple majority is needed.

- Voting by proxy (power of attorney) is not permitted.
- It must be transparent what is voted on, and all alternatives be presented.

**2.3 The NSR CC Board** is responsible for the NSR between the annual Council meetings.

**2.4 NSR OC** supports the CC Board, and prepares the council meetings.

**2.5 Committees, Working groups, and Other assignments.**

**2.6 NSR Coordinator.**

**2.7 NSR Accountant.**

**2.8 The Nordic International Director(s) (ID), support(s) the NSR.**

### **3 GUIDELINES**

Guidelines for a minimum of each of the functions below shall be detailed in the NSR By-Laws.

- Chairperson and Secretary of NSR Council Meeting
- Chairperson and Secretary of NSR CC Board
- Chairperson and Secretary of NSR OC including the NSR archivist role
- Committees, Working groups, and other assignments
- NSR Coordinator
- NSR Accountant
- Nordic International Director(s)
- Nordic co-operation with and in the Europa Forum

### **4 FINANCING OF THE NSR'S EXPENSES**

The NSR Council approves the annual financial plan to cover the costs for administration, activities during LCI convention and other activities decided by the NSR.

#### **4.1 The Administrative Budget**

The expenses covered by the administrative budget are listed in the By-laws.

The expenses of the administration budget shall be borne by the member countries in proportion to the number of members in each country (LCI figures) as of June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

#### **4.2 Budget for NSR IR project and possible other projects**

The budget for these projects is based on an agreed amount multiplied by the total number of members as of the latest June 30<sup>th</sup> (LCI figures).

The total amount is divided among the multiple districts according to an agreement, approved at the NSR Council meeting, and as reflected in the NSR By-Laws.

### **5 EXPENSES FOR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

Expenses for the official representatives and spouses in the multiple districts' conventions are covered according to CC Board agreements, and as reflected in the NSR By-Laws.

## **6 RESIGNATION**

- Each Multiple District can resign from the NSR.
- All economic responsibilities to NSR have to be settled before the resignation.
- The resignation is effective as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July in the year after decision on resignation is taken and notified.
- A Nordic Multiple District can apply for a new entry in NSR. The application must be approved by the MD convention in the country. A re-entry shall be approved unanimously as 5/0 by the member Multiple Districts in an NSR Council meeting.

## **7 DISSOLVING NSR**

- The recommendation of dissolving the NSR must come from the Council of Governors in each MD after consideration and approval in MD national conventions.
- The decision to dissolve NSR can only be approved unanimously as 5/0 by the member Multiple Districts in two consecutive NSR Council meetings to be valid.

## **8 AMENDING**

This Constitution may be amended only after recommendation of NSR OC and the NSR CC Board, and subsequently approved in an NSR Council meeting, where each Multiple District has one vote. Any amendment must be approved unanimously as 5/0.

Approved at the NSR Council Meeting 2021 in Helsinki, Finland