

# **Statutes Kneipp Worldwide**

**Passed at the General Assembly  
on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**amended at the General Assembly  
on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008**

**amended at the General Assembly  
on October 16th, 2010**

## **Preamble**

In memory of the great philanthropist and health-advisor Sebastian Kneipp and in accordance with his instruction to make his teachings accessible to all people, Kneipp Worldwide is dedicated to propagating health-education in the broadest sense and to promoting active health-care on an international level.

The motto of all activities is:

“Healthy people with Kneipp”

## **§1 Name, legal form, seat, financial year**

- (1) The name of the association is “Kneipp Worldwide”.
- (2) The seat of the association is Bad Wörishofen, Germany. The association is listed in the Register of Associations (Vereinsregister) at the District Court (Amtsgericht) of Memmingen under VR1288.
- (3) The association’s activities take place on a worldwide scale; these activities are exclusively and directly charitable. The activities do not serve any specific political purpose and are non-denominational.
- (4) The financial year of the association is identical with the calendar year.

## **§2 Purpose of the association**

- (1) The purpose of the association is to expand the teachings of Sebastian Kneipp about healthy life-style and natural healing according to his guidelines, to work out his teachings in further detail, to contribute further scientific evidence to his teachings and to present them in up-to-date ways, so that they may become more accessible to all people in order to ...
  - a. represent the Kneipp concept in international organizations, such as the WHO and relevant committees of the European Union;
  - b. promote, organize and coordinate international cooperation and exchange of ideas among national Kneipp-head-organizations in cooperation with physicians, chemists and other health-professions, health-resorts, sanatoriums, representatives of the public healthcare-system, the media, and business;
  - c. promote activities that aim at establishing and developing national Kneipp-organizations in countries where there are as yet no functioning structures of a national Kneipp-head-organization.
- (2) The activities of Kneipp Worldwide are selfless. The association does not pursue any economic aims in its own interests. The association’s assets may only be used for statutory purposes. Membership does not entitle any member to any payments from the resources of the association and members may not participate financially in the success and capital of the association. Members nonetheless have the right to sign contracts with the association and be subjects of incentive measures within the framework of its statutory activities.
- (3) No person may ever benefit from expenses which are not justified by the purpose of the association or from excessive fees.
- (4) The association will pursue these purposes exclusively and directly through its own activities on a charitable basis in accordance with the paragraph

“Activities Eligible for Tax-Relief” (“Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke”) of the German Tax Code (Abgabenordnung) dated the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1976 with later changes (§§ 51 ff. AO) and in particular by the activities listed below in §3.

### **§3 Activities that fulfill the purpose of the association**

The purpose of the association is fulfilled in particular by

- a. the organization of international events and conferences aiming at exchanging ideas and experiences, by developing common guidelines and by coordinating Kneipp ideas, using all media;
- b. the coordination of the principles of Kneipp therapies and agreement on conditions for awarding the Kneipp insignia; also the coordination of measures to implement a quality-control-system and coordination of Kneipp-therapies, inasmuch as these do not contravene national regulations;
- c. the publication of relevant information-material;
- d. the mutual interchange of information and of publications between organizations of the association;
- e. the mutual recommendation of especially qualified consultants and their exchange;
- f. the assessment of therapies and methods that are compatible with Kneipp-physiotherapy or may be integrated into Kneipp-therapy-concepts in compliance with the opinions of experts;
- g. the initiation and promotion of international scientific research in the field of Kneipp-therapy-procedures.

### **§4 Membership**

Membership is divided into full members, extraordinary members and promoting members, as well as honorary members and honorary presidents.

#### **1. Full members**

Full members are the respective national head-organizations of Kneipp-associations, professional-organizations and trade-organizations of Kneipp-therapists insofar as they exist as legal entities, and also the Main Kneipp Association Bad Wörishofen (Stamm Kneipp Verein Bad Wörishofen) and the Town Bad Wörishofen.

#### **2. Promoting members**

Promoting members can be either natural persons or legal entities who/which identify with Kneipp ideas and are willing to support the work of Kneipp Worldwide by ideas and through donations.

### 3. Extraordinary members

Extraordinary members are Kneipp-associations and single members in countries where there is no national head-organization for collective representation of all national Kneipp-associations. Single members can be either legal entities or natural persons.

### 4. Honorary presidents and honorary members

Natural persons who have made special contributions to the work of Kneipp Worldwide can become honorary presidents and honorary members.

## **§5 Membership: Subscription and fees**

- (1) Membership must be applied for in writing to the Presiding Council (Präsidialrat); new full members must submit legally endorsed statutes (both in their national language and in an endorsed German translation), lists of members, and proof of national legal registration, election of the board and other relevant information, at their own expense. If applying for recognition and admittance as a national Kneipp-head-organization, the applying association must prove that it has at least three Kneipp-associations as members.
- (2) The Presiding Council (Präsidialrat) decides whether an application may be accepted. The decision must be confirmed by the next General Assembly. Admittance can be denied without giving reasons. The President decides on membership-applications of single persons.
- (3) Honorary presidents and honorary members are nominated by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Presiding Council (Präsidialrat).
- (4) Necessary financial resources are raised by membership-fees, joining-fees, revenues from events, enterprises owned by the association, donations, collections, endowments, and other contributions.
- (5) All members pay an annual membership-fee, which is defined by the General Assembly. They are obliged to pay the dues as laid down by the General Assembly punctually and within the prescribed period of time. Honorary members and honorary presidents are exempted from the duty of payment. Further regulations are laid down in the statutes of fees.

## **§6 Termination of membership**

Membership is terminated by the loss of the title of a legal entity, by voluntary termination, by termination by Kneipp Worldwide, or by exclusion.

1. Voluntary termination is only possible at the end of a calendar-year. It must be declared in writing three months in advance.

2. Membership terminates at the death of a member; in the case of legal entities it terminates with their expiration.
3. The Presiding Council (Präsidiaralrat) can terminate a membership if the member is, in spite of reminders, more than a year behind in payment of the membership fee. The duty of payment of the pending fees remains unaffected.
4. Exclusion from the association can be declared by the Presiding Council (Präsidiaralrat) in cases of crude violation of membership-duties. It is permissible to appeal to the General Assembly against the exclusion. The rights associated with membership are suspended until the case is decided by the General Assembly. The General Assembly can terminate the status of honorary member or honorary president at the request of the Presiding Council (Präsidiaralrat) on the grounds of the reasons listed under figure 3.
5. Excluded members are not legally entitled to any share in the assets of the association.
6. The membership of an extraordinary member ends automatically when a national Kneipp-head-organization is founded in the member's state of residence.

## **§7 Members' duties**

- (1) Members are obliged to promote the interests of the association as well as possible and refrain from any action that could harm the reputation and the purpose of the association. They have to comply with the statutes and decisions of the executive bodies of the association.
- (2) The central office of Kneipp Worldwide must be informed annually by the 1st of March of the current year about the membership-figures of the 1st of January. The figures have to be confirmed by declarations of membership, or by evidence of membership-lists, or by official statistics of association members. These annual membership-figures are the basis for calculating membership-fees for full members.
- (3) Moreover, the Presiding Council (Präsidiaralrat) must be informed in advance if a national head-organization is breaking up, so that measures can be taken to prevent the dissolution or to promote the continuation of a national head-organization.

## **§8 Members' rights**

The members are entitled to participate in General Assemblies and in any events of the association, and to use the association's facilities. At the General Assembly they have the right to speak and to propose motions and can request information from the Presiding Council (Präsidiaralrat) about the activities of the association and its financial conduct.

## **§9 Executive bodies**

Executive bodies of Kneipp Worldwide are:

1. The General Assembly
2. The Presiding Council (Präsidualrat)
3. The financial auditors

## **§10 General Assembly**

- (1) The Regular General Assembly is held every two years.
- (2) An Extraordinary General Assembly must be held at the request of the Presiding Council (Präsidualrat), or at the request of the Regular General Assembly, or at the written request of at least 1/3 of the full members, or at a joint request of the financial auditors. In these cases the Extraordinary General Assembly must be held within a maximum of three months after the Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) receives the request of convocation.
- (3) Concerning both Regular General Assemblies and Extraordinary General Assemblies, all members must be invited in writing at least eight weeks before the date of the assembly. The invitation must include the agenda. The Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) summons the assembly.
- (4) Proposals for the agenda must be submitted in writing to the General Secretary (Generalsekretariat) at least 4 weeks before the date of the assembly.
- (5) Valid resolutions can only be passed on topics on the agenda – except for resolutions requesting an Extraordinary General Assembly.
- (6) General Assemblies are only open to members of the association on principle; the General Assembly must approve participation of any other persons.
- (7) Only full members of the association and members of the Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) are entitled to participate in ballots. Members of the Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) have one vote each; they must be personally present to cast their vote. The Main Kneipp Association Bad Wörishofen (Stamm Kneipp Verein Bad Wörishofen) and the Town Bad Wörishofen have one basic vote each. The other full members have one basic vote each for up to 5000 members, one more basic vote if they have between 5001 and 10000 members, and a further vote whenever another unit of 10000 members is started. They submit their votes unanimously by a delegate of their organization.
- (8) The General Assembly constitutes a quorum if the majority of members entitled to vote are present. If the assembly does not constitute a quorum at the time of the meeting, then the assembly will be held 30 minutes later at the

same place. In this case the assembly constitutes a quorum irrespective of the number of participants. This must be stated in the invitation to the assembly.

- (9) Elections and resolutions in the General Assembly are generally passed by a simple majority. However, resolutions leading to a modification of the statutes or to the dissolution of the association require a qualified majority of two thirds of the submitted valid votes unless the Kneipp Associations of Germany, Austria, or Switzerland have vetoed against this. In case of equal votes the chairman's vote is decisive.
- (10) The chairman of the General Assembly is the president; if he or she is unable to attend he or she will be replaced by the vice-president who is oldest in age; then by the next vice president; and then by the next present member of the Presiding Council (Präsidialrat) who is oldest in age.
- (11) The procedure of the General Assembly must be recorded in writing and the minutes must record the decisions of the assembly; this record must be signed by the chairman and by the recorder and sent as a copy to all full members.
- (12) Further regulations are laid down in the rules of procedure.

### **§11 Duties of the General Assembly**

The following duties are reserved for the General Assembly:

- a. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly
- b. Approval of the financial report and of the auditors' report
- c. Exoneration of the Presiding Council (Präsidialrat)
- d. Decision on the budget draft
- e. Election of the members of the Presiding Council (Präsidialrat)
- f. Election of two financial auditors and two vice-auditors
- g. Conferment and disenfranchisement of honorary membership and of the title "honorary president"
- h. Decision on amendments to the statute
- i. Decision on the dissolution of the association
- j. Changes of regulations of membership fees

### **§12 Presiding Council (Präsidialrat)**

- (1) The Presiding Council (Präsidialrat) consists of

- a. The President
  - b. Two vice-presidents
  - c. The treasurer
  - d. Three further members
- (2) The term of office for members of the Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) is four years. Only active voluntary executives of a Kneipp-organization can become members of the Presiding Council (Präsidualrat).
- (3) If an elected member retires or withdraws, then The Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) is entitled to nominate another eligible member in his place; in this case the next General Assembly must approve the decision.
- (4) The meetings of the Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) must be summoned by the president in writing whenever necessary, but at least once a year. The meeting of the Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) constitutes a quorum if all members have been summoned four weeks in advance in regular form and at least half of them are present. The chair is taken by the president; if he or she is unable to attend, the meeting is chaired by one of the vice-presidents, according to age. If these are also unable to attend, the chairmanship is held by the present member who is oldest in age. The Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) passes resolutions with a simple majority. In case of equal votes, the vote of the chairman is decisive. In urgent cases a meeting can be dispensed with, and consultations and decisions can be conducted in written form, or by telex or telefax, provided that all members of the Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) agree to this procedure.

### **§13 Duties of the Presiding Council (Präsidualrat)**

- (1) The Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) is responsible for the administration of the association under the chairmanship of the president. The association is represented according to §26 BGB (German Law) by the president alone or jointly by the two vice-presidents or jointly by one of the vice-presidents and another member of the Presiding Council. In internal matters a replacement of the president is only possible in case he or she is hindered.
- (2) The Presiding Council (Präsidualrat) is responsible for all duties that have not been delegated by the statutes to another executive body of the association. Its duties include in particular:
- a. Drafting an annual estimate and writing the annual balance and statement of accounts,
  - b. Preparation and calling of the General Assembly and Extraordinary General Assembly,
  - c. Administration of the association's assets
  - d. Admission and exclusion of members; annulment of memberships



- e. Employment and dismissal of employees of the association
  - f. Definition of guidelines for the activities of the association.
- (3) The Presiding Council (Präsidiaralrat) can define regulations for its own procedures.

#### **§14 Financial auditors**

Both financial auditors and their vice-auditors are elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years. A re-election is possible. The financial auditors inspect the bookkeeping and the administration of business affairs. They report the results of the audit to the General Assembly.

#### **§15 Management**

- (1) The Presiding Council (Präsidiaralrat) can enlist a chief executive for the period of its office at the suggestion of the president.
- (2) The chief executive handles all upcoming administrative work autonomously and takes all organizational measures. He handles current payments in agreement with the treasurer. Expenses within the scope of the agreed budget that exceed EUR 3000,00 must be approved of by the president.
- (3) The chief executive has the title "General Secretary" (Generalsekretär) and can be an employee of the association.

#### **§16 Dissolution of the association**

- (1) The voluntary dissolution of the association can only be decided in a General Assembly explicitly called up for this purpose and requires the majority of votes as defined in §10, article 9, of the statute.
- (2) The liquidator is the last Presiding Council (Präsidiaralrat) in duty.
- (3) In the case of dissolution or annulment of the association or omission of tax-privileged purposes, the remaining assets fall to the German Kneipp Association (Kneipp-Bundesverband) in Bad Wörishofen and will be used directly and exclusively for charitable (or health promoting) purposes.

#### **§17 Commencement and final provisions**

- (1) These statutes become valid on the day of its registration in the Register of Associations (Vereinsregister). The elected Presiding Council (Präsidiaralrat) remains in office until the next regular General Assembly in the year 2008, unless a new Presiding Council (Präsidiaralrat) is elected in the meantime at an Extraordinary General Assembly.

- (2) For all offices named in these statutes the female gender is equally valid.
- (3) Within the framework of the registration of these statutes in the Register of Associations (Vereinsregister) the president is entitled to make amendments to these statutes if such amendments are required by the court of registration. If this is the case, a new resolution by the General Assembly is not required unless the amendments are substantial.