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## 1. News from individuals/groups

### AFRICA

#### South Africa

On 20 January 2014 the 4th ISGF Africa Regional Gathering was opened with the attendance of officials from Scouting and Guiding South Africa. The event took place at the Scout Centre “Gilwell Florida” in Johannesburg, South Africa and lasted until January 25th. Participants from five African countries (Benin, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia) were together in order to create an African region within ISGF. Also a delegation from Libya was present. The Africa Region constitution was approved and a committee elected.



At the moment the adult Scouts and Guides in South Africa are very busy to organize themselves to increase their membership and to form a National Scout and Guide Fellowship.

### ASIA PACIFIC

#### Maldives



The Maldives Scout and Guide Fellowship (MSGF) worked very hard to complete the paperwork in order to be affiliated with ISGF as a full member at coming World Conference in Sydney, Australia

this year. They are expecting to have about 135 members.

### EUROPE

#### Netherlands

The Dutch Committee of the Central Branch group has decided that they will not be ready to fulfil the requirements in order to become a National Scout and Guide Fellowship. They keep on working to become affiliated but not before the World Conference in Sydney, Australia.

On 18 May the Dutch Board will have their 40<sup>th</sup> Twinning exchange with the Board members of VOSOG, the Flemish Fellowship in Belgium.

### WESTERN HEMISPHERE

#### Argentina



Scouts y Guías Adultos de Argentina (SGAA) has applied to become an Associated Member Organization. They have worked very hard to fulfil the requirements. They celebrated their 11<sup>th</sup> year of

existence on 4 April 2014.

#### Brasil

A meeting on 22 May with the Central Branch Coordinator has been arranged at ISGF World Bureau with a representative of an existing group in Brasil who happened to be in Belgium for other purposes. They wanted to discuss the formation of a Central Branch group in order to work towards ISGF affiliation as a National Scout and Guide Fellowship in the future.

#### Chile

In 1909, the second Scout Association in the world was founded in Chile. It was inspired by the direct influence of Robert Baden-Powell who visited the country that same year. The founder of the Chilean Scouting movement is Dr. Alcibíades Vicencio and recently his great grandson was the guest speaker at a meeting and he referred to B-P who had crossed the Andes.



On the photo members from San Gorge Guild together with Prof. Vicencio: from left to right Bernardita Lara, Prof. Vicencio and Juan Salazar

Chile has recently suffered from a severe fire in the hills of the city of Valparaiso. The Central Branch group has assisted the local authorities to ease and focused to support the victims of this fire who needed affection and attention.

This group is very positive that the number of individual members will be growing and that they will soon form a Fellowship as it has been in the past.

### **El Salvador**

Alba Aguilar, President of the Association of Girl Guides El Salvador visited ISGF World Bureau on 25 February. She is a member of Central Branch. We hope to hear from her in the future.

### **Nicaragua**

This group of eight members has been suspended as from 27 February 2014 as we did not hear from them since 2010 and no reaction at all to numerous emails sent to them. Moreover they did not pay their dues since the start of this group in 2009.

### **Surinam**

Surinam handed over piles of used stamps to the Stamp Bank in the Netherlands.

### **USA (CASEGHA-USA)**

CASEGHA-USA celebrated their 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 22 February 2014.



They also supported the Fellowship Toy project and they sent four boxes with toys to the UNHCR agency in Washington DC for onward delivery to refugee children.

CASEGHA-USA will be represented by 25 members at this year's ISGF World Conference.

### **USA (State of Maine Scout Fellowship)**

This Scout Fellowship is the official receiver of the ISGF dues within the USA and they have opened a special PayPal account. The system is working and individual members in the USA are requested to pay the ISGF fee via PayPal or via a check when they receive from them a message to do so. There is also a possibility to become a life time

member for US\$70 and already three members are now registered as life time member. Contact Jeremy Bernier [jbernier93@gmail.com](mailto:jbernier93@gmail.com) when you want to transfer a fee payment and he will be glad to be in touch with you.

For the Fellowship Toy project they worked together with Troop 160 Memorial Scout Camp and donated 66 new toys that were sent to the UNHCR agency in Washington DC.

## **2. Deadline 27<sup>th</sup> ISGF World Conference extended**



The deadline of the upcoming ISGF World Conference in Sydney, Australia, has been extended until **Saturday 31 May 2014** provided they are accompanied by payment of the full Conference fee. This Conference will be held from **10-15 October 2014** (16 October departure date). We invite you to go to this [link](#) on the ISGF website to find all information and the registration form. Central Branch will have in total four votes and a delegation of four will be elected on **Friday 10th October at 14:30 hour** between the Central Branch participants present and who want to be in this delegation. This delegation will receive all paperwork on the spot from the Central Branch Coordinator and the delegation has to be present at all plenary sessions. Voting cards will be distributed at the first plenary meeting.

## **3. Annual reports 2013**

All 25 Central Branch groups have received the annual report forms and a contact details form to be filled in and deadline was 1 April 2014. However up till now only Chile, Surinam, USA (Maine Scout Fellowship) and USA (CASEGHA-USA) have sent in their forms. Those groups who have not sent in their reports over 2013 yet, are kindly requested to fill them in and send them to the Central Branch Coordinator as soon as possible.

## **4. Reducing costs on paper and postage**

The ISGF World Committee and the ISGF World Bureau are committed to reduce as most as possible the running costs of the ISGF. The International Scout and Guide Fellowship aspire to be recognised as a modern worldwide organisation which knows how to adapt to the evolution of the world and its environment, whatsoever environmental or economic, by

running new ways of working. As a result, the ISGF World Committee and the World Bureau have decided that all World Conference statutory circulars, ISGF account leaflets, World Committee minutes and all other official ISGF documents will be delivered exclusively by email to the National Scout and Guide Fellowships and the contact persons of the Central Branch groups and can be found as well on the ISGF website. However, those contact persons who are not e-connected will still receive the documents by post; also any hardcopy will be sent upon request through the Central Branch Coordinator.

#### **5. Update Central Branch members**

As per 11 May 2014 we have now 1164 Central Branch members in 40 countries. (Click [here](#) for a complete overview).

*You are welcome to join our discussion group on:*  
<http://www.facebook.com>. Please register first (+confirmation by e-mail), then type ISGF in "Search" field and then click "Join the group". You may also find ISGF Twitter on [http://twitter.com/isgf\\_aisg](http://twitter.com/isgf_aisg)

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