



# NEWS

## English version

1-2023



Welcome to the new NBSR Newsletter.

It is 18 months since the last Newsletter should have been issued, so there is a lot of news from all the countries.

Since then, we have had Corona and learned how to meet virtually—even the 29th ISGF World Conference took place in front of the screen. But we managed to get the business done although for some it was evening, and for others night, morning or afternoon!

Unfortunately, we are all seeing a decline in membership (except for a small increase in Iceland), and with very few new members, our membership is ageing. On the initiative of Norway, an inspiration forum was formed, and 9 young scouts and guides joined us in Selfoss to tell us, what they thought we should do if we should dream of making our organisations attractive to them. It was very interesting, indeed—and an eye-opener. As a result most

of us are working in different ways to get closer to the scouts and guides and to try to identify how and whom we should hope to build on in the future.

Our NBSR gathering was postponed, but was taken place successfully in Selfoss, Iceland, in May 22 with participants from countries outside of our sub-region. And now the 11th Europe Region Conference is waiting.

With the Europe Conference comes election of new members to the Europe Committee. By sheer coincidence, all 4 members will have to be replaced this year.

Let us thank the outgoing ECom for their work in the past and wish the incoming committee good luck. This goes particularly to our outgoing and incoming representatives.

*Yours in Fellowship*

*Birthe Ømark / IS Denmark / NBC Secretary*

### Lena Claesson, Sweden

After 4 years in the Europe Committee I'm leaving my assignment and chair. It's been 4 eventful years, both in the world with the



pandemic and war in Ukraine, as well as in my personal life. Despite that, there have been a lot of meetings in

the Fellowships, both in physical and digital form. Only our imagination will put boundaries in order to find new solutions.

I wish our new representative Sören and the coming members of the committee all the best and I'm looking forward to follow their journey.

### Søren Silving, Denmark

I would like to thank NBSR for backing my candidature and electing me as your member of the Europe Committee. I expect to spend the next three years on making the International Fellowship and the adult scouting more visible throughout Europe as well as within NBSR in cooperation with the national fellowships. We all wish more members

of our national organisations, and I hope that the new Europe Region Committee can contribute. How to shape this work is to be seen when we four 'newbies' get together in a virtual meeting the before the conference with the aim of making a plan ready for presentation for the conference in Ranum.





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## English version

1-2023

### FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

2023 is an exciting and busy year for the Sct. George's Guilds in Denmark, partly as we celebrate our 90th anniversary, and as you all know - we are hosting the European Conference at Ranum efterskole!

#### 90 year's anniversary

To mark the anniversary, development committee has encouraged guilds around the country to invite people to "Eat Out Events". Many of the country's guilds have taken up the challenge with great success, along with the scouts and guides and others wanting to join the outdoor life, lighting a fire and cooking according to the cookbook for the occasion.

The event was well covered in the local media and all participants received a woven badge.

We have started a baton that has visited all the guilds in the country. Each guild has tied a greeting from the guild to the baton to be sent to Ranum, where it, along with photos of all the guild members, can be seen as a greeting from all our members to the participants in the European Conference. In addition, the guilds have been invited to write their history for the past 50 years later to be compiled in a book.

The PR-committee has developed a car-sticker with the jubilee logo in the hope that it will be used

extensively showing just how many adhere to the Sct. George's Guilds. maybe we'll meet friends at the next rest stop! This sticker will also give us visibility in the community.

The Development Committee periodically publishes Inspiration booklets to help guilds and groups offer interesting events to our members - and hopefully help attract younger members!

#### Guild Law and Promise

A group has studied a renewal of our Guild Law and Promise. The proposed changes will be presented at our upcoming AGM in September, where we hope they will be adopted by the assembly, which will be attended by approx. 150 eligible voters. The latest amendments to the Law and Promise are from 1979!

At our AGM, we will encourage all our guilds to help show how much money the guilds have donated to humanitarian and scouting purposes in the period 2021-2023. We believe it is a considerable amount, for example, the tent donation at the Scout camp in 2022 amounted to ca. 10,000 €.

The Jubilee year also gave us the opportunity to establish a closer cooperation with the scout- and guide movements. We hope to benefit from it so that more youngish, former scouts will find their way to the Guilds.

*Lone Erkmann, National President*



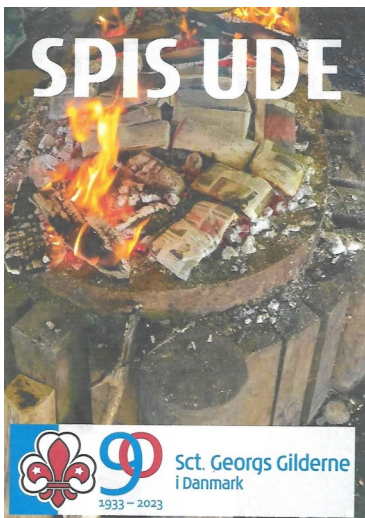


We also have our magazine—Sct. Georg published 4 times a year. It treats all and sundries of what happens in the local guild. About a Guild master of 95, about ReachOut having received 10.000 kr from the Scout's Nearly New. We can also read about "Danmarks-Samfundet" on the occasion of our 800 year old national flag– Dannebrog – and the fantastic parade in Copenhagen, with participation of Sct. Georgs Gilderne with the flags.

### Development in the guilds

Should we develop in Sct. Georg's Guilds?

Yes, that's what we believe in the development committee, and it has turned out that many guild members and guild leaders want to do so. If we don't, we can see from the membership numbers that it only goes one way.



So how do we do it?

We do it through close co-operation with the guild members. That's why the development committee appointed after the last AGM in 2023 has worked with 3 network groups covering the entire country. We organize 1 physical

and 2 virtual network meetings per year. In addition, we organize an annual convention together with the international district secretaries.

In addition to the network meetings, we naturally also involve all guild masters and district guild masters.

### What have we focused on?

In 2022 "Sct. Georgs Guilds between tradition and renewal", where we had scouts and guides talk about their view of us. An eye-opener for

many. We have had a consultant talk about change processes and what we need to be aware of here.

In 2023, we have focused on "Collaboration" in connection with development.

Finally, we focused on our goth anniversary on 23 April 2023, where we had an "Eat Out Day". For this, the development committee created



a script, inspiration pages with activities and an "Eat Out" cookbook. The day was successfully organized all over the country. We became visible and we were out in the open doing scouting work.

The network meetings, District Guild Master and Guild Master convention have all asked for renewal in several areas, including the Guild Law and Promise. Six guild members from different parts of the country volunteered to work at it. The proposals have been discussed at meetings at all levels and have now been submitted to the upcoming AGM.

What is important?

*Involving as many people as possible in the process.*

*That everyone is active and gets to try the activities on their own body, so it's easier to communicate it when you get "home to your guild or district".*

*That we work together /IBy Inga Gustafsen*



### ISGFs 11th European Conference

From 30 July to 3 August 2023, around 135 Guild members from more than 20 European countries will meet at Ranum Efterskole College, near Aalborg in Denmark.



We meet for a European conference with the headlines Togetherness, Inspiration and Sustainability, and the participants will experience a beautiful and unknown part of Denmark, where they will get an insight into the folk high school - an almost 200-year-old Danish tradition where togetherness, singing and reflection are keywords that will also characterize the togetherness in Ranum.

The programme includes debates and various activities, as well as an excursion day with 3 full-day and 2 half-day trips that present the area's characteristic visitor destinations in different ways.

The conference day takes place on 2 August and ends with a closing dinner, before we on 3 August say goodbye - and maybe see you again.

*By Hanne Borgstrøm*

### ReachOut – an international project that unites

#### Sct. Georgs Gilderne i Danmark

In 2020, a small group of internationally dedicated fellowship members started a new project focused on the SDGs: 1, 3, 4 and 5.

Objective: To unite fellowship members in Denmark around a common task and create international aid work: Help young girls out of poverty.

We want to help young girls stay in school even on their period days. In many parts of the world, the subject is taboo and the economic and social costs of obtaining good pads are high.

The company we work with, Real Relief, has developed a fabric that is antibacterial. Simply rinse and dry it. Among other things, the fabric is used to make SafePad, a sanitary pad that can be reused for about two years.

Initially, we focused on Sri Lanka, where we have personal scouting contacts. This year, the collaboration has expanded to WAGGGS' Scout Centre, Sangam in India.

Currently, we have reached 500 girls in India and Sri Lanka. Our goal is to double that number and eventually support local production of SafePad in the neighbourhood.

Many fellowships are active in raising funds in a variety of ways.

The funds raised are used to purchase SafePad as well as information and educational material. Volunteers in the local community teach the young girls and their families.

Lift the Girls out of Poverty





## National Hike in Mattila 12–16 June 22

The Finnish Woods (A national guild hike in the Finnskogen, with nature and cultural experiences and its own history with woodland Finns, who mastered the art of putting woodland to good use using slash and burn activities, yielding rich harvests.

Finnskogen area is located in the north-western parts of the Värmland area of Sweden, close to the Norwegian border. The woodland Finns immigrated to this area in the 17th century from Finland, when Sweden and Finland were unified under king Gustaf Wasa.

Sunday, June 12th, 73 guild members from all of Sweden checked in for the hike. The local guild Duvkullan hosted the hike. The arriving hikers were treated to home baked bread, and the good moods soon soared when the guild members met.

After checking in, it was time to settle in in the assigned cottages before rejoining for dinner.

After the dinner, we were given general information about the contents of the hiking days, and each day information about the next day. The dinners were always followed by sing-a-longs with accompanying music, and information given by local culture persons. Sunday night was finished off by "kulning", a local form of calling in the critters for the night.

We could choose different hiking difficulties. We passed old finncrofts and finnfarms with a Finnish history. One of them was the "Jussicroft", where a Finnskogen tradition carrier woman once lived. She had good knowledge of herbs and healing. She was very sought after for help with ailments.

We enjoyed our packed lunch in the nature, and the weather was perfect for a hike.

Tuesday took us on a bus ride to the Swedish and Norwegian parts of the Finnskogen area, to cultural sites difficult to reach during the hikes. We had lunch at the finnfarm Karmenkynna, a special Finnish dish with pork. The afternoon hike took us to the finnfarm Ritamäki, where people had been living until the 1960-ies. This little "gem" was located on the very top of a hill, well illuminated by the sunshine. The coffee and the bun suited us well in the sun!

Wednesday night ended with a traditional campfire and a light trail.

Thursday, the "going home" day, ended with a gathering on a fantastic site with Finnskogen as a backdrop. The Swedish Scout Song echoed over the woodlands. A fantastic guild hike thanks to our nature and culture guides!

*Mona-Lenah Nordberg V-National President*

## The Day of Volontaries

In Karlstad the national Board set up an 'emergency' week end of September. The local authorities showed the general public available resources. Duvkullan Scoutgille joined NSF-scouts presented themselves. Young and old took part in the popular activities, for instance making popcorn over a 'fire barrel', making fire with 'fire steel' or throwing a life rope. This was a



great attraction,, and Duvkullan seized the opportunity to hand out information about the Fellowship and adult scouting – altogether a successful and fun day.

## Kristianstad's Scoutgille

In April the local fellowship in Kristianstad invited Ukrainian refugees to a 'trivselsdag'. About 70 people, mostly children and youths attended. They were treated to sausages and drinks, and took part in typical scouting competitions complete with prizes. The day finished with a traditional 'fika'. The participants also received giftcards valid in the shops in the city. This was a great afternoon giving them something else to think about than this awful thing happening in their homeland.



*Text & Photo Regitze*



## AGM 2023

On a lovely spring weekend in mid-May, 36 Guild Scouts from ten Guilds and the international secretary from Denmark, Birthe Ömark, gathered for the National Guild Meeting in Skövde. During the evening, the Chairman of the Scouts, Viktor Lundquist, also joined us.

The weekend was a nice mix of happy reunions, negotiations, lively discussions, cultural experiences and new acquaintances.

The first day's negotiations were completed quickly, but with discussions about the membership fee and whether the income from stamp sales should be included in the budget or not. The decision was an increase of the membership fee to 300 SEK/year from 2025, and that half of the income from sold stamps would be included in the budget.

After coffee, a bus was ready to take us to Kata Gård and Varnhem Klosterkyrka, about 15 km from Skövde.

Kata Gård is the remains of a large farm from the late Viking Age, as well as the remains of a private Christian farm church, dating back to the 9th century. Archaeologists made many sensational finds, which tell us about the site from the time before the monks arrived in the 12th century.

Kata Gård was named after the woman, Kata, who ruled over Storgården. Her skeleton was one of the biggest finds of the excavations - the fine coffin, the location next to the church and a lavish rune stone showed Kata's high social status.



The Varnhem estate was donated by Mrs Sigrid to the monks in the 12th century, when the Varnhem monastery and church were built. All buildings burned in 1234, after which both the monastery and the monastery church were rebuilt. Several kings from the Middle Ages are buried in the large, impressive monastery church including Knut Eriksson, Erik Knutsson and Erik Eriksson.

In the evening we had a good two-course dinner, organisational competition and time to socialise.

Sunday morning came the scout leader and guild scout Ingrid Kåwe, who together with Vice Lgm Mona-Lenah Nordberg would inform about LGR's new 5 year project "Scouting for adults". Negotiations continued quickly - the entire board was unchanged - the only difference, that Eva Haagen was elected new National Secretary, and Inger Carlsson member.



We got two honorary members, Gjermund Austvik and Leif Graneli, who were both honoured for long and good service in Guild Scouting and the Guild Council.

*Text och bilder: Regitze Waida Krenchel, IS Sverige*



## Work with Inspiration Forum continues

After the NBSR meeting in Iceland, where Sweden was represented by 6 members, we have continued to discuss how we can get new, younger participants - How to make the Guilds relevant to the scouts? What could the link between the Guild and the scouts look like? How do we proceed and who is responsible for the continuation?

In October, we invited all Scout associations in Sweden to a dialogue meeting in Stockholm to discuss future cooperation and the development of scouting for adults. The only ones who accepted the invitation were Elisabeth Danefjäll, membership developer at Scouterna and from Scouterna in Karlstad Ingrid Kåwe, who also participated in the Inspiration Forum in Iceland. This still felt like a win, because shortly afterwards LGR (National Board) was invited to the Västmanland Scouts' District Assembly. We were represented by V\_NP Mona-Lenah Nordberg, who gave a 45 min lecture on Guild Scouting, which made a strong impression on those present. Last October we were also invited to the Scouts' Democracy Jamboree (annual meeting). Here we were represented by Inger Carlsson and her husband Håkan. During the autumn, the Provincial Council decided to start a project - Scouting for adults.

## Scouting for Adults—a 5-year project.

The project started from the fact that the Guild Scouts as an organisation has declined and needs both new members and change. The start was when two representatives participated in the inspiration forum for Guild Scouts in Iceland in May 2022. There they worked together with the Nordic countries on the future of Guild Scouting and led to project ideas about adult scouting in the Nordic countries.

The National Guild Council in Sweden has decided to

start the project Scouting for adults and a project group has been set up with a representative, Ingrid Kåwe, who participated in the inspiration forum and Mona-Lenah Nordberg, V\_National President.

The Board of the National Fellowship is responsible for the project and the project group keeps the threads throughout the project period with support and information and follow up the development of the project in the guilds in cooperation with the Board. (LGR)

The practical work must be done by the guilds just as the LGR must work with the task of developing and starting new scout guilds or local fellowships.

The project was presented at the AGM in Skövde 13-14 May 2023.

### Why a project?

Purpose and objectives of the project

#### Purpose

\* Renew guild scouting and become more guild scouts where meetings create experiences, togetherness and friendship

#### Objectives

Project duration 5 years starting 14 May 2023 - May 2028 with final evaluation.

The project period includes targets for the entire project period and sub-targets to be achieved during the project period as well as sub-evaluations.

\* 10 new guilds

100 new members

**develop** the activities with relevant events

**create** new contacts between local guilds and scouting organisations.

### Project group

Mona-Lenah Nordberg Ingrid Kåwe

## **BITS & BOBS**

- Marianna Ceder from the guild Fällfåran, living in trollhättan has taken over the important job as editor for Gillescouten, our magazine. Marianna has previously been our International Secretary for many years.
- Over the past 6 months, we have updated our folder about 'Gillescouting'. Thanks to input from scouters and older scouts the folder has a more modern look.
- A new bill for the fee even contains a tickbox to accept the GDPR and photos in magazines and newsletters.
- The Peace Light was transported by Guildscouts and scout parents all the way through Sweden leaving Helsingborg the 12<sup>th</sup> November to reach Kiruna the 7<sup>th</sup> December – altogether 1788 km.
- Our northernmost Guild with 9 members, Guldgrävorna of Slettefteå, unfortunately decided at their ting in March to close it down due to high age and ill health.
- Today Sweden only counts 12 Guilds and 387 members with an average age of 78 years 8 months (April 2023).



In Iceland the guilds are getting back on track and have put the past behind.

### After the NBSR-gathering

In 2022 we had the NBSR gathering in Selfoss, Friendship day was celebrated and the peace light was distributed.

All the local guilds are back to normal meetings and many continue to do what we learned so well during the pandemic period to use the nature for coming together have a walk and enjoy the company of friends.

### General Assembly

In May 2023 there was a General Assembly where a new board was elected and Thorvald Sigmarsson who has been the NP of Iceland for 8 years stepped down and new NP Ólafur Proppé took the lead.

This GA was held in Akureyri and although the weather and Mother Nature were not showing the best sides members attending had marvelous time. All necessary sessions were on time and in the afternoon participants enjoyed a sailing with an old oak ship seeing the beauty of Akureyri and surrounding from another perspective than usual.

After a little rest there was a bonfire in the evening with good food, homemade entertainment and lot of singing.

Next morning everyone were invited to a brunch where we gathered some energy to go back home through the mountains now covered with snow and icing. Not the best condition to drive safely. Everybody got safe home and now we are hoping for a better season and looking forward to meet friends in the coming future.







## Guild Trim



Gildene in Bergen joined forces to start a tour group a few years ago. The image above is from the first trip in 2023. There is a trip every Wednesday, so if you are in Bergen at that time you are welcome to join the tour.

The idea has spread and today there are several guilds that go hiking together – "gildetrim". Many people choose to visit new places at the same time, preferably with a guide. 1. Våler St. Georg's Guild invited the other guilds around Moss to Sponvika skanse. The entrenchment is located at the entrance to the Iddefjord and old Fredriksten fortress in Halden. It was built already in the 1660s and expanded into a fortress in the 1700s. .

## Camp Villmark



Photo: Ivan Chetwynd

It was again possible to arrange Camp Wilderness. There is an exhibition in the 32000 sqm Nova Spektrum at Lillestrøm for hunting and outdoor activities. The Scouts get to use about 1,000 sqm as a "scout camp" and create activities for children who might want to become Scouts. St. George's Gildene in Norway cooks for the scouts – as well as coffee for the parents of the children who visit the camp.

"There are a lot more people here this year than before," Thomas said during a break between checking in children for activities and registering those who have received badges showing they've tried at least five of the activities.

Guild members also take care of the "Parent Parking." Here there are benches, coffee and information about the guild work. Not everyone can relax while the pod whittles with a sharp knife or clover wood with an axe...



Foto: V. Østbye



## Fjelltur



Et arrangement åpent for alle er fjelltur 9.-13. august. Til forskjell fra tidligere blir det opphold på den samme hytten, DNT Fondsbu, hele tiden med lette turer ut fra den. Hytten ligger sørvest i Jotunheimen på vakre Eidsbugarden hele 1060 meter over havet. Mer informasjon på vår nettside: [sggn.no](http://sggn.no).

## Leirstedet Kvernmoen



*Foto: Geir Fredhjem*

På leirstedet vårt har det vært dugnad. Denne gang med hovedvekt på kapping og kløyving av ved. Arbeidet var meget vellykket, og det ble så mye ved at noe av de er tilbudt for salg.

Arbeidet med opprustning av plassen går sin gang. Det skal legges inn vann på kjøkkenet og det kommer servicehus med dusj og toalett.

Den tradisjonelle Kvernmodagen er flyttet fra vår til høst. Nærmere bestemt til søndag 3. september. Ingen påmelding. Det blir satt opp buss fra Oslo.

Leirstedet ligger mellom Halden i Norge og Nössemark i Sverige.

## Landgildeting



Det blir Landgildeting 15.-17. september. Tinget avholdes på Fornebu, Oslo.

Et utvalg, Vekst og profilering, har arbeidet med forslag til program for Gilde. Utgangspunktet er ideen om at det skal være lettere å starte et gilde med et program som kan kjennes igjen fra speiderarbeidet.



## Finnjamboree Kajo

A little more than 20 guild members participated in the Finnjamboree Kajo in Finland, July 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Most of them in the leadership care where leaders could come and relax when they were off duty. In our tent the leaders could just relax on the cushions, make strings with a "kumihimo", or sew a small bag to put ashes from the campfire.



Outside the tent, we had a campfire where they could make pancakes, listen to stories or sing scout songs. At the same time, we informed about the guild movement and had our shop open. The hit of the camp was our T-shirt with the text "Once a Scout – Always a Scout".

A Guild Day was organized during the jamboree with more than 20 additional guild members visiting the camp. A young former freestyle skier was invited to tell about his experiences and how his life changed after a serious accident some years ago.



## Trecking in Lapland

The Finnish fellowship organized a trekking week in Lapland in September. The tour went to the "head" of Finland, that is the region of Utsjoki (three nights) and Muotka (three nights). A one day trip to Bugøynes in Norway was included. There we got to know the village and its Finnish heritage. Unfortunately, the wind was so strong that we could not go out on the Arctic Ocean in a boat. However, those who wanted could go to a sauna and swim in the ocean. The weather was nice the whole week and the trekkings were of suitable length for everyone. There was an opportunity to see the Northern Light for those who were awake late in some of the evenings. Only four members took part in the tour together with some other former scouts.



## St. Nicholas gillet i Ingå

St Nicholas gillet i Ingå firade sitt 20-års jubileum i september med en liten tillställning till vilken de inbjudit medlemmar från andra gillen. Programmet bestod av historier från gilletts verksamhetsår och sång, gåvor överräcktes också. I samband med jubileet utgavs också en historik närmast i form av bilder.

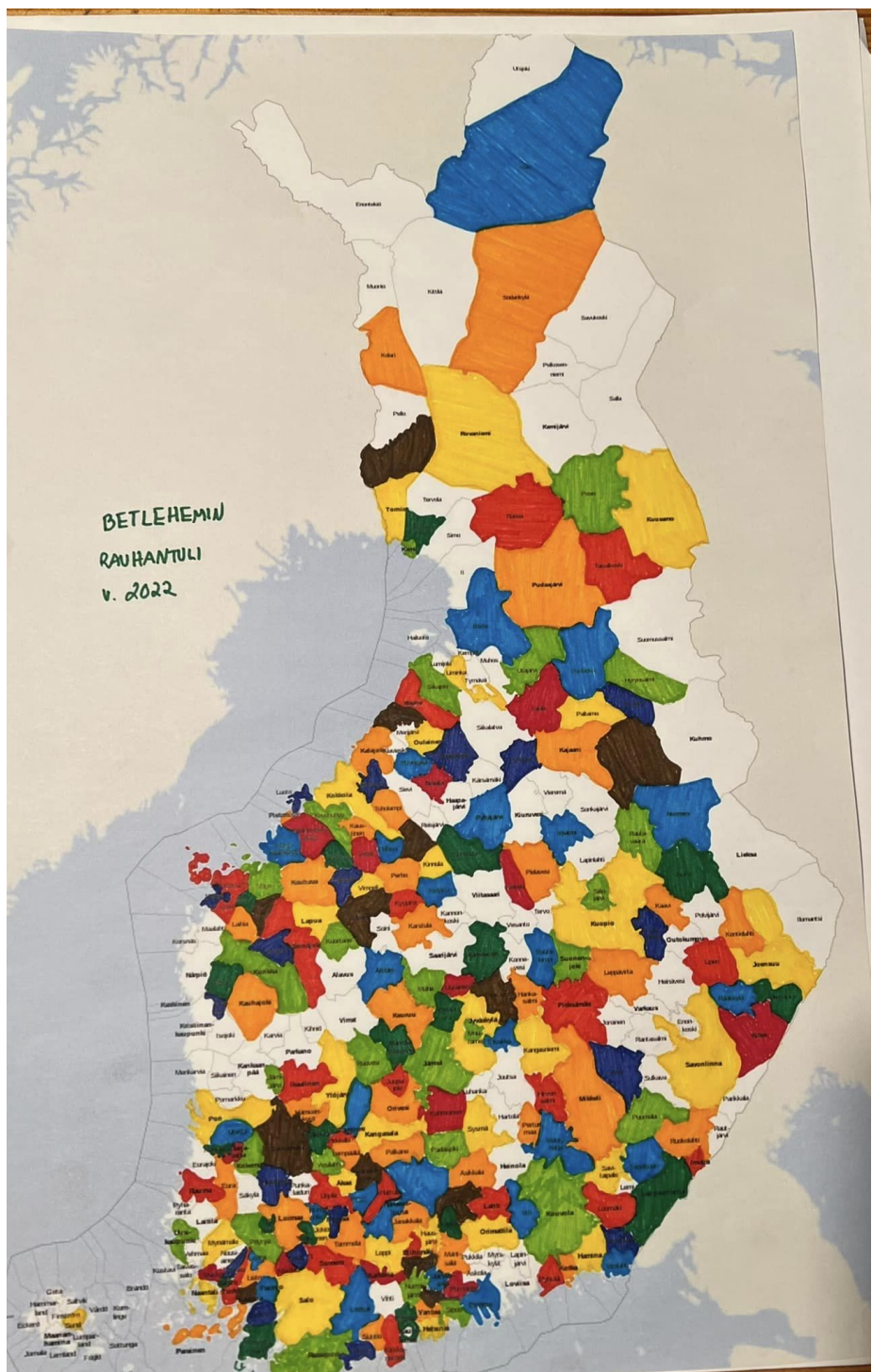


### Autumn meeting

The autumn meeting was held as a hybrid meeting, i.e. both face to face and online, on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Half of the members were online and altogether 46 votes were represented. A new National President, Pipsa Wilhelms, was elected and three members were re-elected to the board. The board has now been reduced to its minimum size.

### Peace Light

The Peace light has a strong position in the Finnish fellowship activities and we managed to distribute it to more than two third of the municipalities in Finland and to all bishops. The Peace Light message was written by the Finnish Archbishop. The Peace light has an own Facebook group which follows the spreading of the light from south to north and west to east. On the page one can also see where the nearest light is available so that one can fetch it from there. Photos of the light, with one's local scarf, are welcomed to be posted here. The distribution of the Peace light is done in co-operation with the scouts.



### Spring meeting

The spring meeting was held online, unfortunately, with quite few participants, on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The annual report and balance book for 2022 were presented and approved. After the official part of the meeting, the board presented a strategy it has been working on, which shall be sent out to the local guilds for commenting and discussion.

### Turun Pyhän Yrjänän Partiokilta (TPYK)

On S:t Georg's Day, the TPKY celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As welcome a brass band played some scout songs. Then the history of the guild was told together with pictures from the most recent years. Together the guest sang some scout songs before they got food.