



Nordic Baltic Sub-region News Letter

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NBSR News

The Mission of NBSR:

To strengthen networking and friendship between the guild members of the national Fellowships.

The Vision of NBSR:

Through networking and friendship the guild members of the National Fellowships take an active part in spreading the understanding that the guild movement is an international movement working for peace and understanding across borders all over the world.

The Strategy of NBSR:

To let the NBSR Committee meet twice in every three year period, i.e.

- " In due time before the ISGF Conference in order to discuss the Conference agenda and papers with a special view on the NBSR activities and
- " To let the NBSR Committee meet in connection with the NBSR Gathering to discuss the progress of the NBSR Vision and any other matters of mutual interest

Prepared at the NBSR seminar in Vilnius 2007 and is to be proposed for adoption by the NBSR Committee in Västerås, 31.5.2008.

The Editor

News from the National Fellowships

News from Norway

The National Guild Assembly 2009 will take place in Molde, a beautiful town in the north-western part of Norway, June 15-17. Unfortunately this seems to be at the same time as the Nordic and Baltic Sub-region has planned the gathering at Åland. If we can't change any of these decisions, we will have disappointed members, who have to choose between two arrangements that they very much want to take part in. At the time-being we don't know if we are able to solve this problem.

2009 is also the year of next National Jamboree in Åndalsnes, and many guild members will be staff there. Our main project will be "Hoteltet" - a camp-hotel, for guests, families and all kinds of visitors. We will offer accommodation in tents (lavos), meals and fellowship.

Expansion

Our greatest challenge is still the long-term plan for growth. In the year 2013 we want to have 100 guilds and

At the NBSR seminar in Oslo 25th to 26th Jan. '06 the NBSR Committee decided to publish a NBSR Newsletter twice a year in May and November. The Committee comprises the National Scout and Guide Presidents and corresponding International Secretaries. The language used will be English the official language of communication adopted for the NBSR.

1900 members, and we want a minimum of 6 new guilds with young members.

To achieve that, we have to invest much hard work and money and find better ways to present ourselves and the possibilities in being a guild member. The first weekend in April, district leaders, committee members and board members met to decide how we can move towards this goal. We were encouraged to hear that several district leaders reported about upcoming new activity in their areas.

Karin Randsborg Thompson, IS

News from Iceland

In Iceland the St. George's guilds are very concerned about the fact that rejuvenation of the membership is at very low ebb. Much effort has been devoted to discussing ways and means to reverse this trend both at the local and national level. Many ideas have come up, but as yet the turning of these into action has been severely lagging behind.

We, on the National Committee, have come to the conclusion that this is an issue requiring a concerted action first at the sub-regional level and then at higher levels, such as a regional and international one.

In an effort to get this issue off the ground and into flight, the Icelandic NSGF has submitted a motion for this year's Västerås Meeting for a joint NBSR Rejuvenation Project.

This Project, which is to be financed by NBSR funds, is envisaged to start with each NSGF presenting a list of ideas that it considers of merit in their local environment. These will then be pooled by a specially selected NBSR working group and from it 2 - 3 project ideas selected. These will be defined, planned, cost-estimated, and given a timeframe. The results will then be measured and analysed with a view to adjudging their wider applicability.

The general activities within the LSGFs and the NSGF are otherwise quite lively and diverse. Most of the decline in membership is due to natural causes (sickness and death), we are fortunately, the great majority of us, growing old in a good and a dignified way as behoves good Scouts.

Jón Bergsson, IS

News from Sweden

During the SGSS National Assembly held in Aarhus the last year the following three year Organisation/Activity Plan for 2007 to 2010 was adopted.



It is hoped that this plan depicted above will help the LSGFs plan their future activities and recruitment drive, and clarify the overall organisation of the Guild Movement in Sweden.

Collected from Gillescouten by the Editor

News from Lithuania

The Lithuanian NSGF organised traditional annual Scout Song Contest on the 26th of Jan. This year the main topic of the contest was songs about the lake. Participants were almost 300.

All our participants were lucky with the prizes enjoying their time with fellow Scouts from all over the country.

The second very important event for the NSGF was the meeting of two groups, which are looking for common means of working together. We managed to make some short time agreements which ought to be implemented until the National Jamboree in July.



Dalia Urjaite, IS

News from Estonia

In February 2007, the Estonian Guilds along with the Scouts participated in the celebration of the Peace Treaty with Russia and the 89th birthday of the Estonian Republic. The Estonian Scout Association held a Conference to celebrate the centennial of the Scout movement on the 16th of March 2007, to which the Estonian NSGF was invited.

Beside the Theater "Estonia", stands the Memorial to the Estonian Scholars that lost their lives in World War one. Amongst those is the name of Anton Õunapuu after whom our LSGF is named and who was the founder of the Estonian Scouts. A small celebration was held there on April the 2nd attended by Guild, Scout and Municipal representatives, where candles were lit in his memory.

The Government of Estonia has made the 14th day of June an official "Day of Sorrow", commemorating the 10.882 Estonians, who were forcibly transported to Siberia on that day in 1941, and also the 32.594 Estonians taken there in March 1949. Our representatives attended the ISGF European Conference in Cracow 20th to 24th June.

The so called "Sunrise-Day" on the 1st of August was celebrated by our Guild and the Scout Association, and we travelled to Luige where we had a lovely get-together around the bonfire, and visited our friendship Guild "Hanse" at the end of September.

The International Fellowship Day was celebrated on the 19th of October. On 7th November flowers were laid and candles lit at the War Memorial beside the "Estonia" Theater in memory of the founder of the Estonian Scouts, whose 90th anniversary was celebrated on the 24th November 2007.

The NSGF celebrated the St. Nicklaus Day as is traditional on the 6th of December and attended the "White Christmas" Concert held in the Kaarli Church on 20th December.

Our monthly meetings are held the last Thursday of the month in the Social House in the Kristinen quarter of Tallin.

Loosely translated by the Editor from a report in German sent by Ingrid Junisov, NP

News from Denmark

The first 75 years

Sct. Georgs Gilderne in Denmark was founded 24th April 1933. We celebrated the 75 years with a big reception in the Town Hall of Copenhagen with 500 members and a few national guests. Our birthday gift is a cheque of more than DKK 200,000 to "Julemærkefonden" (The Danish Christmas Seal Foundation), a foundation in support of Danish children with social problems. As this event happened after dead-line, the story will be told in the second issue of the NBSR NewsLetter 2008.

On 7th June, a picnic day is arranged at one of our biggest scout centres, Houens Odde. There will of course be some games and competitions (both from the past and also looking into the future).

During the first 75 years, local guilds as well as the national organization have been quite active. Many good deeds have been launched. Indeed our members have proved that they were prepared. As an example one guild decided to support Hungary after the rising in 1956. In fact they decided to do something late Saturday evening. During the night they prepared a collection - and Sunday it was launched. A lot of first aid stuff and other critical items were gathered - and also 10.000 DKK (value of today approx. 100.000). Finally the guild brought all of it directly to Vienna.

The next 75 years

The 75 years jubilee provides a good opportunity to look back - but it's even better to look forward. Thus, the national board has initiated a process to update and rejuvenate our movement. As a start we have had three meetings with the district leaders (district guild masters). This year all members are invited to form debate groups (locally or crossing districts). We have only set a time frame, so all topics can be discussed. Are we going to change the organization? Do we need a formal organization? What about our aims and principles? Even the famous Danish Guildhall (at least famous in Denmark) can be discussed. In September, we have the biennial guildmaster meeting. Participants are exactly the same as in the National Assembly, but we are free to discuss in open space without any binding ballots. Next step will be formulating proposals for the Assembly in 2009.

This way we intend to insure that some old members in 2058 will take part in the 125 years jubilee and tell their younger fellows about the good old days in 2008 when they left scouting and joined the Fellowship.

Scouting's Peace Gift

In issue 2 2007, it was reported that all Danish Scout Associations had had a joint collection with the aim of raising funds for schools in Angola. Now, the collection is finished, and the result was 1.788.864 DKK - or 26 schools. The money was given to UNICEF, Denmark 5th April, and UNICEF will now take responsibility for the schools.

Niels Rosenbom, IS

News from Finland

The Finland NSGF held the annual meeting of their Local Guild Presidents at Mataskär on the beautiful island of Åland.

Both the National President, Ilmo Pulkamo, and the International Secretary, Ms. Lena Kainulainen, who was the primus motor for holding the meeting on Aaland, expressed great concerns over the steady decline in attendance at this annual event. They also expressed concern over the continued lack of success in recruiting new members to the Finnish guilds.

The meeting came to the conclusion that we now live in times of change, people are busy with other things and look mostly for new friends among their colleagues at work. Perhaps more should be done to invite old Scouts to guild meetings and take it from there.

Loosely translated from St. Göran by Editor

News from the European Region

At the European Committee Meeting held in Nov. '07 it was decided to hold a workshop for International Presidents and International Secretaries in 2008.

The workshops' main theme will be "The Future and The Foundation for Growth", and the discussion focus on recruitment and retention of members.

Each country may send two additional members to the workshop. Everyone attending the workshop must be responsible for his/her own travel and accommodation cost.

The intention is to hold the workshops at two different venues, one in the South Sub Region and the other in the Central Sub Region. The first workshop will thus be held in Cyprus at Agia Napa near to Larnaca from 18th to 21st April 2008. The working language will be English, but translation into French will be available.

An application form will be sent to all NSGFs by the workshop hosts and the cost for attending the workshop will be 180 Euro per person if sharing a twin room and 220 Euro per person if in a single room.

The second workshop will be held in the autumn of 2008 in the Central Sub-Region. German will also be available as a third language, the date and venue have yet to be confirmed.

From the ISGF

The World's NSGFs and LSGFs are reminded of the ISGF World Congress being held in Wien the 21th to 26th August 2008. Please send in your registration soonest.

New ISGF Homepage - World Gazette Mondiale

ISGF is working on a new and improved internet site, which will replace this one. It will be introduced in the spring of 2008. We are doing our best to improve your possibilities for further communication.

Until the new site is completed, **the new blog** will give you more possibilities to interact with fellow ISGF members. Please go to: <http://isgf.wordpress.com>

The World Gazette Mondiale will now be discontinued and in the future published only as a digital News Letter on the new ISGF Home page to save expense.

News from other and Sub-Regions

Slovenia News

The Slovenia NSGF, ZBOKSS, is a very active Scout and Guide Fellowship. They have 19 local guilds called "bratovščina" with about 240 members, spread all over the country.

Every guild is registered officially and is an independent entity. One guild can have more than one group.

The Guilds are joined in Slovenian Adult Catholic Scout and Guide Association, which is the Slovenian National Scout and Guide Fellowship. It became full member of International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF) in 2001

They have now established a new Web site, which you are all invited to browse.

The path is: <http://zbokss.skavt.net/i/128> for English speakers.

Taken from their website by the Editor



The St. George's Day Message 2008

In 2007 Guides and Scouts all over the world in various ways celebrated the first centenary of Guiding and Scouting.

Kids and young people have proved during these 100 years, that through fellowship, solidarity and determined effort they can make a difference in the local community at the same time as they perfect their knowledge and as adults become useful citizens, conscious of their community. They are still proving that – during the year of jubilee Guides and Scouts in Denmark in cooperation with the Danish Guild Movement have collected a peace donation enough for no less than 25 schools, which UNICEF has promised to build and run in Angola.

75 years ago three Scoutleaders in Denmark had the idea to form a Fellowship, where adult could maintain contact to the guide and scout movement and at the same time continue their personal development, which life as a guide or scout has started.

This Danish idea has since 1933 spread, since then the Guild Movement has become an International Movement, and has via ISGF (International Scout and Guide Fellowship) spread to approximately 60 countries, where guild members support the local Guide and Scout activities and the local community in an exemplary way.

And still there is no reason to rest on the laurels - it is still important to stay focused on the future, like the three originators were in 1933.

Through all the years one of the characteristics of developing the Guild Movement, is **Fellowship**. At first exclusively in the near-by, in cooperation with the

local Guides and Scouts and local community, solving social tasks important to the society; as through many years after 1933 the social safety pin, characteristic of the modern society of today, did not exist. Gradually as the social development took speed, and density of the social safety pin increased, making space and place enough to expand the fellowship in the Danish Guild Movement to Guilds internationally. In the near by together with the Guild Movements in the Nordic countries - and now lately also in the Baltic Countries - to support each other in the development of relations to Guides and Scouts. Innumerable country camps, jamborees and conferences have benefited from Guild members' economic and practical contributions, enabling Guides and Scouts to obtain the optimal experience and devote themselves to good fellowship at these occasions. When one adds all that activity to this effort, which the Guilds bring to the light in order to provide essential resources, for Guides and Scouts as well as humanitarian purposes, there is every reason to express the wish, that fellowship in the Guild Movement – wherever it's found – may have fantasy, energy and success in continuing and developing further the thoughts, initiated by the three scoutleaders' far sighted idea in 1933.

May your effort also in many years to come be of benefit to and joy for Guides and Scouts, as well as yourselves.

I wish all Guild Members a happy St. George's Day.
HRH Princess Benedikte

From the Editor

The initial purpose of the NBSR Newsletter was that it provide a venue for the mutual interchange of information and items of interest, in particular to those NBSR Guild members, who are not terribly well versed in the use of computers and browsing the Internet. I can of course not be an unbiased judge of whether it has been successful or not myself, all I can say is that it cannot be considered a resounding success, if it is judged by the ease of obtaining information from you, the readers.

It gets more and more difficult for me to arouse the interest of the various International Secretaries of the NSGFs and get them to send in news from their respective countries. If this situation does not improve the NBSR News Letter may suffer the same ill fate as the World Gazette Mondial, namely to be relegated and end up as a small ISGF web-publication.

Such an ill fate does, however, certainly not address the core problem, namely the unwillingness of the membership at large to send in newsworthy articles, pictures, etc. for the entertainment and edification of their fellow guild members.

Remember the adage "Always prepared" and act accordingly.