



Nordic Baltic Sub-region

# News Letter

June 2015



News from **Denmark** :

## Census

In Denmark we are now 4427 guild members, divided into 21 districts and 180 guilds.

## Action Plan

On Jan. 24/25 we held our yearly Forum for District leaders. The main aim of the meeting was to prepare our Action Plan for 2015-2017 to be put forward at our upcoming National Assembly. The theme is still "Towards new Horizons" by discussion of

Developing and implementing the Scout Idea for Adults

Participating in local projects, which make us visible

Developing new forms and offers of personal development Working on how to get new members the problem being, how to differ from other organisations, so that it becomes attractive for new members to join the Guild movement.

We are still concerned about the declining number of members, but then

again, this topic has been discussed for the past 18 years - who knows what the future will bring?

## Bornholm

With the aim of gaining more visibility of our Guild movement we have in June 2015 participated in Folkemødet - Denmark's Political Festival on Bornholm. The idea: Folkemødet is a meeting of people and politicians. The event is inspired by Almedal Week ([www.almedalsveckan.se](http://www.almedalsveckan.se)) in the town of Visby, Gotland in Sweden.



Who to meet? Lots of people from associations, interest groups etc....and of course ordinary people!

The event is inspired by Almedal Week ( [www.almedalsveckan.se](http://www.almedalsveckan.se) ) in the town of Visby, Gotland in Sweden

It was an interesting experience and the reporting from the meeting was positive, although the benefit from it remains to be seen. Maybe we will also participate next year, but then with a dedicated contact to our partners and those organizations that we support.

## Donations

At the National Assembly of 2013 it was decided to place all donations from guilds around 23rd of April, Sct. Georg's Day in order to gain visibility hereof. In 2015 2 million Danish kroner have been donated by Sct. Georgs Gilderne i Danmark. Local groups of our movement have collected and donated the money during 2014, and a variety of scouting groups , other children's- and youth organizations as well as weak and handicapped in their - drop-in centres are among the recipients.

Assistance to developing countries like SOS Children's Villages as well as projects of Gambia and Zambia have also received economic support, and toys have been sent to Poland and the Romania project RP92.

## Gildernes Højskole

- a personal development programme has been taking place during the winter of 2014/2015 and is now being concluded in June at Rødning Højskole. The topic of the winter was highly topical, even more that we could foresee, with the titles of "Intellectual Liberty" or "Freedom of Speech", which has become quite an issue over the past years , especially seen in the light of the dreadful happenings in France and Denmark this year.

## Donations for Nepal

In Denmark, we have chosen to work with one of our partners, Unicef, as regards donations for Nepal. We know that they have a very strong network throughout the world and that they have divided each spot into risk zones and are prepared for disasters like the one experienced in Nepal. That means they very often they are already on the spot, and are able to start helping immediately, with their stock ready for whatever is needed. They tell us that what they need is not hands, but mostly money. From a special fund, set up for these purposes, we have donated 10,000 Danish kroner.

## Visit to Lithuania

In May, 2015 A delegation from our Flensborg Guild paid a visit to Vilnius, Lithuania. They had a good time and even had the good fortune of meeting with Dalia, IS and handed over a token of friendship.



She was pleased to meet them and send her greetings.

Anne Haastrup-Nielsen,  
International Secretary



**News from  Lithuania :**

Sorry, no news this time



**News from  Finland:**

Finland has at present 43 guilds, some quite new and several much older. Among the elder ones are Pakilan Partiokilta which celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. The guild's activities are very much culture-orientated, but include also cooperation with local scout support groups. They celebrated their anniversary in many ways during the year, but the main event was a celebration "camp", consisting of a trip to Saarenmaa in Estonia. Even if they slept at a hotel, the daily activities were outdoors in a true scouting spirit.

Another of guild of the same age is Sydän Suomen kilta (from Central Finland) which celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in april 2015. The guild is active, meeting once a month with various programs. The members have been (and is) participating in several different charity projects, both through scouting organizations and others. They are also working with the Stamp Bank.



Finland's NSGF - Fellowship of Scouts and Guides of Finland - held its annual

meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Four of the board members were up for election. Two of them, Liv Aure Olli and Doris Stockmann accepted re-election and Tuija-Maija Arvola and Heikki Pietilä were elected new members of the board. Finland has the same problem as the rest of the NBSR - diminishing number of members and difficulties in getting new and younger members. Finland is trying to get closer cooperation with the "guilds" already existing in direct connection to scout groups (former scout group members and parents), but which are not members of the NSGF.

In connection with the annual meeting we also had a Fellowship Day with cultural program. The theme was C.G. Mannerheim, Marshal of Finland and the first person to be named Honorary



Scout of the Finnish Scout movement in 1917. He was a friend of Robert Baden Powell and Vernereri Louhivuori, who is regarded as one of the founders of scouting in Finland. We visited the Mannerheim Museum and had a very interesting presentation.



Later this summer, in the beginning of august, approx. 300 former guides ( many of them Fellowship members) from all over the world will meet in Finland when Olave Baden-Powell Society (an support organization for

WAGGS) hold their international conference in Tampere. The theme of the conference is "Guides - Future Leaders".



## News from Island :

On May 9th the annual National Assembly was held in Keflavík, where a new board was elected.



Thorvaldur Sigmarsson replaced Hrefna Hjálmarsdóttir as NP and Kristjana Thordis Asgeirsdóttir replaced Kjartan Jarlsson as IS. There were around 50-60 Guild scouts present.



This young scout welcomed the guests with an Icelandic flag



The old constitution was reviewed at the assembly.

A new guild in Hafnafjörður called Skýjaborgir was confirmed as a new member.

There was a memorial for members who have passed away in the last two years. Fríður Finna Sigurðardóttir deputy scout chief was the guest of honor. Her young daughter has already visited numerous scouting events in her young life.

Most of the guilds have been very active with the exception of the Reykjavík guild. It's future is uncertain. The main projects facing the guilds are the following:

- Assistance with the upkeep and repairs on buildings that belong to the scouts.
- Growing forests.
- Facebook seminars.
- Assisting numerous events, f.ex. orientering, happenings, church visits, jamborees.
- A few guilds will receive the peace light and conduct ceremonies relating to those lights.
- Financial assistance for scouts who go to jamborees abroad.
- Meetings at least once a month.
- Walks and longer hikes.

After the assembly there was a sight seeing trip around the Reykjanes area. In „Hvalsnes“church St. Georg's messages from Lithuania was read aloud.





During the evening we upheld the scouting tradition of singing and dancing.

Nine Guild scouts who plan to go to Horsens are busy preparing.

Hrefna Hjálmarsdóttir

Outgoing NP



The contact info for the newly elected NP and IS are the following:

Thorvaldur Sigmarsson, NP:

laut81@simnet.is

Kristjana Thordis Asgeirsdóttir, IS:

[kristjana@hhus.is](mailto:kristjana@hhus.is)



The photo shows employees of the two scout federations and the Guilds after the scouts won the prestigious national Outdoor Life Award for 2015.

The guilds held a successful Biannual assembly (Landsgildeting) in Hamar 13.-14. June. A new national board was elected - with more candidates than usual. Karin Thompson handed over the chain of office to the newly-elected national president Inger Merli (right in photo)



News from  Norway :



Climbing trees has been a scouting activity ever since Baden-Powell hid in the woods during his schooldays. This year Norwegian scouts and guides (and guild members) are being encouraged to climb trees as an activity. The Norwegian Scout Federation's "My tree" project is part of the national "Outdoor year" (Friluftslivets år).



Knut Jorde is the new vice-president, Astrid Heen Lillebostad was re-elected as treasurer, Vivi Heine-Hansen was re-elected to the board, and new members are Dag Espolin Johnson (formerly representative for the KFUK/KUM-scouts) and Linda Amundsen. Newly-appointed representatives for the scout federations are Line Solvik (NSF) and Bjarne Lohmann Madsen (KFUK/KFUM).



"Together we support scouting"  
(This is our national slogan and logo)

The statutes were amended so that guilds no longer base their activities on "guild ideals", but on "scout ideals". The two concepts are synonymous, and the change emphasises the close ties between the Guilds and the rest of the scout movement in Norway. However, a proposal to adjust quotations in the statutes from the Scout Law had to be postponed, since the two federations have been unable to agree on a new formulation of the Scout Law for Norway.

Vision, aims and strategy for the next two years were adopted. An addition was made to the aims: "A national responsibility: (We will) take active responsibility for refugees in Norway, helping them to be included and integrated in local communities."



A hiking tour in the mountains is planned for 6.-9. August, and is open for participants from other Nordic/Baltic countries.



From last year tour

Contact Jan Petter Bergan  
janpetterb@gmail.com. as soon as possible, if you are interested,

Next year guild members can travel even further afield:



Too many members applied to go on this year's "Svalbard Expedition", so a new trip

to Svalbard is planned for next year. (contact post@sogn.no)

In addition guild members will follow in Baden-Powell's footsteps to Brownsea Island.



Tree-climbing will be optional.

Ivan Chetwynd  
Secretary



News from  Sweden :

Last autumn did we performed a "recruitment campaign" that we evaluated during spring. Despite a big effort, it did not result in any new fellowships. We had one new fellowship that started during this spring, but it was not due to the campaign. We will still be working with recruitment, but from another angel that we hope will give us a better output.



During the last year has the Peace Light Fund received a lot more applications than before. We have been able to help support many Scouts, mostly to attend the World Jamboree in Japan this summer. Funds have also been given to national and European events. Since the fund has received many gifts, there were a lot to give out.



Late this May it was time for our National meeting LGT - this time in Varberg. Everyone who was up for election was earlier members at the board, but one.



The elected board

Inger Carlsson.  
NP

Our new homepage [www.scouterna.se/qille/](http://www.scouterna.se/qille/) is in full work. We have a good cooperation with the Scouts regarding this and other items.



Try:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scouting\\_museums](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scouting_museums)



I do wish all readers a happy and sunny summer.

Trond Walstad  
Editor  
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