

INTERNATIONAL SCOUT AND GUIDE FELLOWSHIP



Chairman's Talk

Mathius Lukwago

Dear Friends,

I bring to you greetings from the World Committee and the World Bureau. We appreciate very much your effort and support to make our Organization grow.

We would also like to assure you that our World Bureau is working pretty well with Nathalie Henrard, our new Secretary General, and we are confident that she is serving you to your expectations.

In the same spirit, we would like to appreciate all the work made by volunteer on different teams, both on global and locally with a special appreciation to the Legal, partnership, project and publicity teams for efforts they are making to add value to our organization.

As we mentioned in our last edition concerning the UNHCR and Our Global Refugee project, the support and contributions made towards the work have been incredible and we look forward to have the project completed before June 2019.

So far we are progressing well, we are remaining with only 11 huts out of 50 to complete our global Refugee project with UNHCR.

We would like once again to congratulate all sub-regions for successfully completing sub-regional gatherings, from the reporting and participation it was amazing! We look forward to participate in regional Conferences coming 2019 and I believe it will be another great time and opportunity as well. When you have a chance to participate in any please make every effort because it is always refreshing and rewarding.

We are also working very hard concerning the World Conference 2020 and we will inform you with the update as soon and we are ready.

As you maybe aware, we are working to build more partnerships both at the global and local levels, we rely very much on your contacts experience and exposure, we request that whenever you come over any opportunity share with our World Bureau we will do a follow up.

We are also working to improve our web-site so that it is more attractive. We will have very soon the volunteer registration on the website so that all our members can have easy access to them. We invite you to start Twinning and all information is available on the website.

Remember: "Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

I wish you the best in 2019 !

ISGF Info

December 2018

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Africa – Arab – AsPac – Europe – Western Hemisphere

The ISGF World Bureau will be closed 24th December – 1st January 2019

News from the World

PeaceLight from Bethlehem in the Nordic Countries

Elin Richards – Member of the World Committee

The Nordic countries first heard about the peacelight from our friends in Austria and it was brought to Denmark years ago where from it has been distributed to the other countries. The light this little flame is a token of peace on earth and what we as scouts, guild brothers and sisters can do to make peace on earth. It is about tolerance and understanding and as our founder said make this world a little better when we leave than when we arrived.

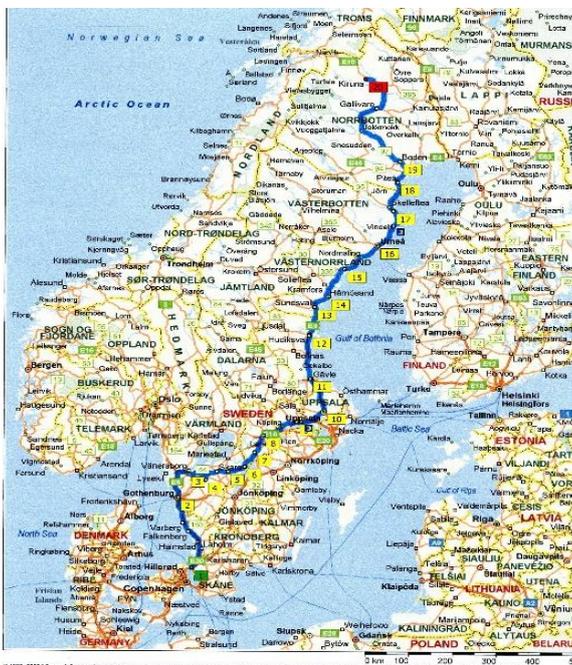
Sweden

Before 2017, the Peacelight from Bethlehem was collected in the Cathedral of Roskilde, Denmark and transported via car via the ferry Helsingör – Helsingborg or by car via the Öresund bridge. From 2017 and onwards, the Peacelight has been deposited in the Carmelite Nunnery in Rydebäck, just south of Helsingborg, Sweden, where it is being kept alive by the nuns.

Within Sweden, the Peacelight is distributed in a relay transport by private cars along two main routes:

Route 1 from Helsingborg via Gothenburg and Uppsala (where it is dropped off to Stockholm) to Kiruna in the very north of Sweden. Just outside of Kiruna, the Peacelight is usually deposited in the Ice Church of Jukkasjärvi.

Route 2 from Helsingborg via Växjö to Kalmar and Oskarshamn..



The numbers on the maps represent the points of exchange along the route. Along the routes, the Flame is being dropped off to recipients and keepers. The routes represent a travel distance of approximately 2 370 km. Considering that the drivers usually travel their parts forth and back, the total distribution distance is approximately 4 740 km, not counting the driving connected with the various drop-offs.

Sweden is also part of the transportation of the Peacelight to Norway. Norwegian ISGF members are collecting the Peacelight in Varberg, transporting it to Oslo for further distribution. The Peacelight is also transported by a cargo ship from Stockholm to Turku, Finland.

The administration committee is not always properly informed about the use of the Peacelight throughout the country. It is, however, being used by local scout and guide groups, in various church activities, lighting the Lucia Crown, given as gifts to neighbours, and in various other activities. By special request from H.M. The King of Sweden, the Peacelight is also presented at the Christmas service for the members of the staff of the Royal Court in the Palace Church of Stockholm. In this case, the Peacelight is carried by scouts and guides from the Stockholm area, and recruiting for this event has never been a problem, since the participating scouts and guides are personally greeted by the Royal Family.

Norway

The Peace Light has been distributed in Norway since 1999, when it was brought to the country by ferry from Denmark. Later, it has been brought by car from Denmark via Sweden to Oslo, and from there by car, train, and ship to the rest of the country. The National Fellowship has been responsible for transport, with cooperation from the National Scout and Guide Associations.

For safety reasons, transport by train had to be discontinued. Because of the great distances between the various parts of the country, this created a challenge for the distribution. An excellent solution was found earlier this year, when a convent in Bergen, Marias Minde, agreed to keep the Peace Light flame burning continuously.



Handing over the Peace Light flame to the captain of the coastal steamer.



Distributing the Peace Light flame at an annual service in the ruins of the medieval Hamar Cathedral

Thus, while Oslo and surrounding districts will still get the flame by car from Sweden, the western and northern parts of the country will get the flame brought by the coastal steamer (Hurtigruta) all the way from Bergen. Previously it was brought to Molde by car and from there by the steamer south to Bergen and north to Vadsø. For many years, the steamer has made distribution along the coast possible. When the ship arrives at a town, the town's scouts and/or Fellowship members meet on the quay to receive the flame. Later, the flame is brought to churches and scout centres for local Peace Light ceremonies. The flame often burns continuously in churches and outside members' homes throughout advent.

Finland

The Peace Light comes to Finland from Sweden. It is transported by car through Sweden to Stockholm and then by freighter to Turku. It is the Scouts of Finland, more precisely the South-Western district, which arranges the transport from Stockholm to Turku. When they know the exact day of arrival, they inform the NSGF (and of course also the scouts) that the Peace Light is burning at the Scout Office (more precisely in a lamp in the courtyard) where it may be picked up any time.

The scouts in Turku also bring the Peace Light to Finland's Lutheran Archbishop in the Cathedral.

The Scout and Guide Fellowship of Finland (NSGF) has promoted the Peace Light for several years among their members and tries every autumn to get as many Local Scout and Guide Fellowships as possible to join the chain of "Peace Light carriers" which transport the Light throughout Finland. There are usually 3 main transport lines from south to north, with "branches" to east and west. In the north the NSGFs also get the Peace Light from Sweden, across the Haparanda-Tornio border crossing.

LSGFs and scout groups take the Peace Light to their own arrangements around Christmas time, to the church, to schools, kindergardens, different social events etc. One of the main points at these arrangements, is that the people who attend may bring their own lamps or candles and take the Flame home and keep it burning at their own house or in their garden.

Denmark

We receive the flame from Germany, and we have a permanent flame in a churches in Roskilde and in Århus. The Flame is sent by ship to Greenland mid November every year.

End of November every year the flame is starting out from Roskilde and Århus. Guild members and scouts are bringing the light to all parts of Denmark via 6 different routes.

The Peace light is a part of the many ceremonies during the time of Advent in Churches, Kindergardens, Elderly homes, Schools and many more.

This year we will bring it to Her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte at Amalienborg Castle in Copenhagen in the middle of December. See more information on Facebook – Fredslyset I Danmark.

Iceland

The light came by ship from Denmark in 2001 and has been kept in a Carmelite Nunnery since then. Shortly before the first Sunday in Advent the guilds in Iceland gather in the Closter to get the light and then bring it out in their home arias for churches, schools etc.

More pictures on the event on our facebook page, click here: [ISGF Facebook](#)

New Secretary General at the World Bureau



It is with great pride that I can introduce myself to you as Secretary General of the ISGF World Bureau. I am very grateful to be able to work in a Scout association, as it is important for me to find values in my work. Respect, tolerance, openness, solidarity, responsibility, team spirit and commitment (ecological, citizen, social, etc.) are all aspects that resonate with me and motivate me.

It's been two months since I took over the World Bureau and I already see how much this post promises exciting challenges and enriching meetings to come. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the ISGF members for your welcome and wishes of success.

Furthermore, I would like to thank The World Committee and especially Leny Doelman for providing me a warm and supportive office environment.

It will be my pleasure to meet you soon at the next World Conference.

Yours in Fellowship,
Nathalie Henrard

READ MORE ABOUT ISGF REGIONS...

News from the Regions

AFRICA



THE 1ST WESTERN AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL GATHERING

The 1st Western Africa Sub-Regional Gathering was held in Cotonou, Benin and hosted by the Association des Scouts et Guides Adultes du Benin (ASGAB). This gathering has brought together countries that were out of the scene for a very long time and it was good they came to show they are still making project.

THE 3RD AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE IN ACCRA, GHANA, IN 2019

Please note that the registration deadline for the 3rd African Regional Conference originally scheduled until November 30 has been extended to February 28th. We invite all those who could not register for the Conference to do so now !! Thank you for supporting the ISGF Africa Region by registering as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you in Ghana. For more informations, click here : [Conference Ghana 2019](#).



ARAB

News of the Region

Mohamed Jarraya, Chair of the Region Committee

The committees of the Arab Union of Scout Pioneers and Guides, as well as the NSGFs of the region continued, during the semester, their various activities, which could include the following:

- The Hosting by each Committee of Programs and Activities and Financial Resources of its meeting in September 2018 in Bosnia, where an action of aid to the Community in a mosque;
- The meeting of the Committee of Information and Documentation in October in Kuwait;
- The meeting of the Community Assistance Project Group within the Program Committee in Kuwait in October; The celebration of the Arab Scouts and Guides Pioneers Day anniversary of the constitution of the Arab Union in 1984 on December 7th, with various festivities in each NSGF such as the visit and decoration of the first Pioneers, the organization of meetings, the inauguration of Scouts places, the encouragement of tree plantations ...



Do not miss **the 9th Regional Conference of the Arab Union of Scout and Guide Pioneers, 20 to 24 April, 2019** in Cairo followed by a tour from **24 to 27 April 2019** in other cities of Egypt

On the other hand, the following activities are planned in the Arab Region:

- Publication of documentation on the history of the Scout and Guide Pioneer movement in the countries of the Arab Region;
- The meeting of the Regional Executive Committee in January 2019 in Kuwait;
 - The organization of **the 13th Regional Meeting of Arab Pioneers** in February 2019 in the United Arab Emirates;

ASIA PACIFIC

News of the Region

Brian Jackson - Chair of the Regional Committee

All countries within the Asia Pacific region have been very active during the year with all countries holding Fellowship days events spreading the message of Scouting and Guiding.

News from THE MALDIVES

The Maldives NSGF have sent a second batch of books to the needy schools where they have scouting and guiding activities and in 2018 a total of 1700 hundred books have been donated. They continued to hold the regular seniors fun day in June and July with many seniors taking part in this event which they enjoy. A photo competition was held for Scouts and Guides who enjoyed the activities apart from viewing of the photo's displayed. On a second occasion the NSGF presented a photo exhibition of Scouts and Guides covering both national events of historical importance.

News from NEW- ZEALAND and AUSTRALIA

The New Zealand NSGF original «Tent Project» has changed to a more «Traditional Huts» project with 3600 Euro raised to purchase 7 new huts. The Guilds certainly rose to the challenge set at the beginning of 2018.

Both Baden Powell Guilds, Trefoil Guilds and St. George Guild in Australia have been very active with the Queensland Guild supporting the "Heart of Australia" campaign which delivers specialist heart cardiology services to the remote outback areas on a truck called the "Heart Bus". They also support the drought relief effort in that state.



The Trefoil Guild have run a program called the «*Southern Cross Challenge*» which challenges members to master a new skill. This involves undertaking a project which the member has not tried before and proceeding through the three stages of Bronze, Silver and gold.

They also supported Riding for the Disabled, Mercy ships, Anglicare and Blue Care. Twinning between Lower Hunter Trefoil Guild and Mombasa in Kenya as well as South Luton in Britain. The Trefoil Guild gave a remarkable donation of \$64,765.78 to Australian and International

Guiding and Australian and International Communities.

The "Good Turn" for 2019 will be Refugees with care packages being made for people in emergency accommodation with the packages for families. They will contain toiletries and simple clothing items along with books and pencils and toys for the children.

The St. George Guild members have been visiting nursing homes to entertain the residents with songs and Christmas carols in December.

News from SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka hosted **the 15th Asia Pacific Scout and Guide Fellowship Gathering** in Colombo from 05th to 08th September 2018. There were 90 participants from 9 countries who enjoyed the hospitality of the country. The Vice Chairman of ISGF, Zailillah Mohd Taib was also present. All members traveled by "TUK TUK" to the spacious grounds of "Temple Trees" the official residence of the Prime Minister for afternoon tea graciously hosted by Professor Maithree Wickramasinghe, the First Lady of Sri Lanka and a former Girl Guide.



Our projects for 2018 were supporting the Dayamina Centre where the Trefoil Guild donated T shirts to the guides in the dayamina School for the differently abled persons. Biscuits were also distributed to all the inmates at the centre. Money from the charity auction held at the gathering were donated to the Ceylon Deaf School and the total being SL.Rs. 50,000.

News from INDIA



India held Fellowship day events in all of their regions in September along with many activities within India. Some of the success stories are :

- E Waste Management & awareness campaign held in Adra & Katihar
- Indian SGf move towards establishing partnership to serve society
- New SGf Districts established in Adra/SE Rly & Kanchrapara/ E Rly
- Children day celebrated in many places
- West bengal State SGf held 3rd State Gathering

Andhra, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, kerala, rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, S.E. Railway, eastern railway, SGf's continued to strengthen SGf and serve communities.

Childrens day was marked on the 14th November 2018 in Raipur and the Chhattisgarth State SGf distributed gifts among BPL children. Also a free Health Checkup was organised on the 19th November where the SGf was joined by a group of doctors to conduct the checkups.

The bengaluru District SGf visited Karuna Vilaya old age home and attended to hairgrooming of all inmates in the old age home. It is a routine service one every three months for no cost to the inmates.

Upcoming event :
SANGAM visit to be held in India on February 21-25, 2019
With our best wishes of success



EUROPE

Recently, multiple regional gatherings were held in Europe Region. Follow all the details and key moments with the lively reports made by our members on the ISGF website. Link here : [Home ISGF](#)



WESTERN HEMISPHERE

News of the Region

Vanessa Hoogenbergen - Chair of the Regional Committee

In order to know each other better, the WHRCom continues inviting the President or a representative of one of the country members to participate in their monthly meetings.

Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Suriname, Uruguay, USA and Mario Bertagnolio, Representative for the WHRegion in the WCom has participated already in the meetings.

An Initial Questionnaire for a call of projects has been sent to the country members and three projects have been approved to receive a support from the Region and will be sent to the IP Team for approval.

New contacts were made with Nicaragua, Panama and Peru and we are trying to spread our Circular, so the members can be updated with news from the region.

The ISGF 5th SASR Gathering was held in Uruguay from November 1-4 with the participation of members from Argentina, Aruba, Brazil, Chile, Curaçao, Mexico, Spain and Uruguay. From the World Bureau Mario Bertagnolio and Leny Doelman were present.

It was a very fruitful gathering. In this Gathering the MOU for the SASR was approved and a new Executive Committee was set, incorporating all five SASR members. The Executive Committee had its first meeting via Skype by mid-November.



The next SASR Gathering will take place in Bio Bio Region, Chile in 2021.

In Brazil, FBAEB (Fraternidade Brasileira de Adultos Escoteiros e Bandeirantes) keep on growing its membership and very soon will become an NSGF

In Uruguay, FASGU (Fraternidad de Antiguos Scouts y Guías de Uruguay) had elections on end of November and a new Executive Board was set.

In Venezuela, FASGV (Fraternidad de Antiguos Scouts y Guías de Venezuela) keeps on issuing their monthly Boletín (Newsletter) that shows their strong activity and continuous growing pace.

The 2nd WH Regional Conference will be organized by CASEGHA in New York from September 16-20, 2019 and we hope that many members will participate.

The WHRCom wishes the whole ISGF family a Merry Christmas and may the year 2019 brings us happiness and strength to continue to make together a better world.

Do not miss **the 2nd WH Regional Conference, 16-20 September 2019** in **New York**

**THE ISGF WORLD COMMITTEE AND THE WORLD BUREAU
WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR ! MAY 2019 BRING YOU PEACE, FRIENDSHIP, AND
GOOD HEALTH.**



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