

## News from Norway

Since last newsletter we have had a busy year. The year has also been marked by a lot of weather; storms, heavy rains, floods and cold long, periods with severe snowfall, have affected some of our planned activities.

The guilds have been active as usual, and members are steadily growing better at showing pictures from different activities on Facebook and websites. This is a good way of sharing ideas and getting to know about each other. Several guilds continue to organize day hikes that are open to members for exercise and learning, in addition to meeting scout-friends to socialize. Some once a week, others once a month. Quite often they pass by points of interest to learn and experience. The greatest thing about these hikes is that they meet and walk no matter what the weather is like. The hikes are usually in addition to their normal meetings.

Again, "the blue jackets" pitched in to promote scouting on the Camp Wilderness exhibition, helping the scout associations in giving the visitors "a taste of scouting" with their activities. We are now getting ready for the 2024 version.



During the spring and autumn last year, the new sanitary building Kvernmoen near the Swedish border in South Norway has been finished. What remains is the plumber to connect all the pipes, but this winter's heavy snow has made it impossible for the plumber to drive his car down the hill. Several

members have done great volunteer work to achieve this. Now this campsite is an even better place to have camps and meetings for scouts and others. In September we arranged our traditional "open day" with visitors from guilds in southern Norway. The next work weekend will be in April, we cross our fingers for some mild days before that.



The summer of 2023 mountain hike for guild members and scout leaders had the unfortunate luck to meet the storm "Hans" which made it impossible to reach the meeting place due to severe flooding of roads and railway tracks.

In October we had our General Assembly in Asker outside Oslo, and a new board was elected. Gry Walderhaug Grimsrud was re-elected as National Chairwoman for her last period. (a person can only have 3 periods of 2 years) Kristin Øilo is wise chairman and IS.





The light for Peace was included in many ceremonies this year as well. Our lights come from Denmark or the permanent flame in Bergen and is spread with scout leaders who pick it up when they meet in November. It is used in church ceremonies. But by local scout groups as well when they have their Christmas arrangements and invest new scouts. (photo: Sissel Gotaas)

In January our new secretary Wenche Irene Aasland started in her job. We give thanks to the former secretary Hilde for her good work, especially with our new digital member-system in the last two years and wish her luck in her new engagement.

Gry and Kristin have worked with 4 members of the MASCI in Italy to make a proposal for the World Conference. As usual international cooperation is interesting and enriching. Our common scouting experiences are similar and makes communication easier.



August 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> we will again arrange a 3-4 days hike in the Norwegian mountains. Open to Guild members and scout leaders, guests from other countries will be welcomed. We will walk in the tracs of Robert Baden-Powells many trips in Norway. More info on this page <https://www.sqgn.no/i-bps-fotspor/>

OBS OBS! The next NSBSR gathering will be arranged right outside Tønsberg in Norway 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June 2025. We will stay at the small hotel Borge on Husøy island. Our district Vestfold is an important historical area in Norway with lots of history and interesting places to visit. Maybe we will meet some Vikings as well. We hope to see many of you there!

<https://www.sqgn.no/nsbr-treff-i-tonsberg-6-9-juni-2025/>



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Kristin Øilo

International secretary.