



World Organization
of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale
du Mouvement Scout

**World Scout
Bureau
Bureau Mondial
du Scoutisme**

Box 241, CH-1211 Geneva 4
Switzerland
Rue du Pré-Jérôme 5
CH-1205 Genève, Suisse

Tel: (+41 22) 705 10 10
Fax: (+41 22) 705 10 20
www.scout.org
worldbureau@world.scout.org

CIRCULAR

November 2000

Circular N° 29/2000

To: International Commissioners

Dear colleagues,

In accordance with the World Scout Committee's decision in 1997 to issue a circular following each of its meetings to give National Scout Organizations an overview of the most important items discussed and decisions made, we are pleased to attach the information circular concerning the meeting of 7-8 October 2000.

Please share the attached information with key officials of your Association as well as members of your National Board who may be interested in it.

Yours sincerely,

Garnet de la Hunt
Chairman, World Scout Committee

Jacques Moreillon
Secretary General

November 2000

To: International Commissioners

Dear colleagues,

**MEETING OF THE WORLD SCOUT COMMITTEE,
WORLD SCOUT BUREAU, GENEVA, 7-8 OCTOBER 2000**

The World Scout Committee held its second meeting in 2000 in the World Scout Bureau on 7-8 October. This meeting was attended by all but two members and by three Regional Chairmen, in addition to the World Scout Bureau staff concerned. Representatives of the Scout Associations of Greece (in relation to the 36th World Scout Conference in Thessaloniki in 2002), Thailand (in relation to the 20th World Scout Jamboree in Thailand in 2002/3) and the United Kingdom (in relation to the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in 2007) also attended as guests for the sessions concerned.

A summary of some of the main items considered and decisions made is given below:

FINANCES

- The Committee considered the **accounts for year ended 30 September 2000** which had terminated a few days before the meeting. The Committee was disappointed to note that income from registration fees, which constitutes the largest part of the World Scout Bureau operational income, was under budget by some CHF 200,000 mainly due to non-payment of fees by a few large contributors. Fortunately, an exceptional additional grant of CHF 200,000 received from the World Scout Foundation – to cover unexpected additional costs of allocations paid to Regional Offices due to the high value of the US dollar – balanced that shortage of income.

On the expenditure side, operational allocations paid to the Regions had cost an extra CHF 205,000, whilst expenses on Direction & Support and Educational Methods were below or at budget. Altogether and although the exact figures were far from being final, since the process of closing the accounts had just started, the Committee was pleased to note that the Geneva Office should end up balancing its accounts once the process is completed.

The Committee was reminded that once the Geneva Office accounts are closed, they will be audited by Auditors Arthur Andersen S.A. . They will then be consolidated with the Regional Offices' accounts which will be audited by Arthur Andersen's local representatives. The consolidated financial statements will be the subject of a final audit before being released.

- The Committee considered and approved the **World Scout Bureau budget for fiscal year 2000-2001**. Despite the substantial increase of CHF 400,000 or +25% in the annual grant to be received from the World Scout Foundation – from CHF 1.6 million in 1999-2000 to CHF 2 million for 2000-2001 – the Committee sadly noted that, due to a more expensive US dollar than in the previous budget year, 80% of that increase was going to be used to maintain the allocations paid to Regional Offices at their previous year level in US\$, but at a higher cost in Swiss Francs. Indeed whereas the 1999-2000 budget used a rate of US\$ 1= CHF 1.50, the 2000-2001 budget was developed on the basis of an exchange rate of US\$ 1= CHF 1.70, i.e. 20 points more. Since any increase of one point in the exchange rate “costs” an additional CHF 16,000 to pay the same amount of dollars, this meant that CHF 320,000 which had to be allocated from the budget just for that purpose.

Altogether, the approved budget amounted to CHF 7,500,348 which, when income for special projects (in and out money) and the additional cost of Regional allocations paid in US dollars were factored out, resulted in a net increase in the total budget of only CHF 60,000 (1.6%).

The allocations to Regions now represented about 40% of the total budget, compared to 30% a few years ago, and the Committee was pleased to note that adaptation to the higher US\$ was made possible, thanks to the WSF, without penalizing Regional Offices.

While the budget figures appeared to be positive, this was based upon the assumption that all registration fees would be collected to reach the budgeted figure, which remains uncertain; moreover the future trend of exchange rate between dollar and Swiss franc remains hard to predict. Finally the World Committee acknowledged that the World Scout Bureau was still understaffed and underfunded especially if it was to fulfil longer term needs related to the Movement's mission.

- The Committee then considered the updated information on the **payment of registration fees arrears and registration fees for fiscal year 1999-2000**.

Concerning fees for the year 1 October 1999 to 30 September 2000, 118 NSOs (out of 149 invoiced) had paid their current fees, either totally (106) or partially (12) for a total amount of CHF 4,376,554, i.e. a collection rate of 88% of fees due. Current fees due had been reduced from CHF 4,888,567 to the balance of CHF 485,287. By the date of the meeting, 40 NSOs still had not paid their 1999-2000 annual fee which had become arrears on 1st October 2000.

The Committee was pleased to note that for the fourth consecutive year following the Oslo Conference when the “new” fee system was adopted, the system was working well as evidenced by the high collection rate, which nevertheless recorded a slight decrease due to the non-payment of their fee by three major contributors.

The Committee also expressed concern that 40 Associations, representing 25% of our membership, had still not paid their 1999-2000 fee and therefore risked being provisionally suspended (in application of the policy on payment of registration fees adopted in November 1996, which had been circulated nine times in addition to personalized letters sent to each NSO concerned).

After having duly weighted the pros and cons of such a decision, the World Scout Committee decided to pronounce provisional suspension of membership of these 40 NSOs with *limited* application of the sanctions. More information on this point is provided in the WSB Circular N° 28/2000 mailed in November 2000.

- Concerning **SCORE International**, which had held a Board of Directors meeting two days earlier, the Committee was pleased to receive an encouraging but cautious report presented by Neil Westaway, Chairman of the Board. Sales were progressing (well with individuals, less well with National Scout Shops) but remain very volatile. The newly created sub-site on the WOSM Web page was beginning to generate good sales. The Committee was also pleased to record that SCORE Intl would contribute some CHF 30,000 to the World Scout Bureau's 2000-2001 budget and that, for the first time, a contract had been signed with the organizers of a World Scout Jamboree for the distribution of souvenir items by the Scout Shop of the World Scout Bureau before the World Scout event.
- The Committee then heard a report presented on behalf John R. Donnell, Jr, Chairman of the **Audit Committee** on its meeting in Greece on 14 September 2000. The report noted the satisfaction of the Audit Committee with the measures taken by the World Scout Bureau to strengthen the accounting and financial management of the Offices of the World Scout Bureau at all levels.

WORLD EVENTS

The World Committee reviewed two recent world events that had taken place since the last meeting:

- The **11th World Scout Moot, Mexico**, on 11-24 July 2000. A total of 4,700 participants (larger than in previous World Moots) from 71 countries took part, including 3,000 youth members.

The Moot programme was generally very good, based on quality educational objectives. Two-thirds of the event were spent in international patrols (a key success factor), the remaining one third at the central location, Villa Moot. The Global Development Village (with the support of a number of UN agencies, notably UNESCO) and the Fair of Nations were also highly successful.

There were, however, a number of organizational problems, including logistical, health and security controls, some of which were due to the dispersed nature of the event. The event also ended with a considerable financial deficit for the organizers which caused the World Committee great concern and led it to agree to seriously address, at its next meeting, the problem of deficits arising from hosting world events, analyze their cause and propose remedies.

- The **3^d World Scout Parliamentary Union General Assembly, Poland**, 23-28 August 2000. This Assembly had been extremely well organized by the Polish Scout Organization (ZHP) which managed to involve high level representatives at all times. These included, at the Opening Ceremony (in the Parliament itself and chaired by the Speaker), Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, who gave a very positive speech for Scouting and, in the debates, the Minister of Education and important academic and/or political figures who chaired working groups.

The Assembly had been reasonably well attended (larger than at previous meetings) although there was still room for improvement. The agenda had covered matters of significant importance, and used two excellent basic documents for discussion. "Education 2000" and "National Youth Policies", from the CEOs of the Big Six, which filled two of the three themes debated, the other one being "Civil Society".

In summary, this was a successful event which should bear positive long-term effects. However, preparation at national level and participation (though not for ZHP, which was excellent throughout) could certainly be improved and has enabled us to draw lessons for the future.

The Committee also discussed preparations for two forthcoming world events:

- The **20th World Scout Jamboree, Thailand**, 28 December 2002 – 8 January 2003, was discussed in the presence of Dr. Sasithara Pichaichannarong, the Jamboree Director, who presented a video on preparations for the event which showed the excellent progress being made. The Committee thanked Dr. Sasithara and it was agreed that the Jamboree Office would send a copy of the video to all National Scout Organizations and Regional Offices.
- The **36th World Scout Conference**, 15-19 July 2002, was the subject of a detailed report by Christos Lygeros, the Conference Director. Preparations are continuing smoothly and the Host Committee is now fully staffed and working on all areas.

The Committee approved the Conference fee, which it was pleased to note represents a reduction of between 5% and 15% compared to the fee for the 35th World Scout Conference in Durban. The Committee also approved the design of the Conference logo. The Committee was also informed that the site chosen for the **8th World Scout Youth Forum** on 8-11 July was still unconfirmed and that an alternative site was being sought.

EDUCATIONAL METHODS AND STRATEGY

- The Committee received a detailed report of the **Educational Methods Group**. The Group and its two constituent Committees, the *World Programme Committee* and the *World Adult Resources Committee* had met in Geneva in June 2000. Both Committees comprised new members, including several younger adults.

In addition to the many subjects considered by each Committee separately, the Group and its two Committees reviewed a research project on *gender education*, to be undertaken in cooperation with the European Region. The Group also agreed on the creation of *WONDER – the World On-line Network*

for Developing Educational Resources. The aim of this network, which is now made possible thanks to the development of Internet, is to link all those working in the fields of youth programme and adult resources at all levels within WOSM (national, regional and world) in one large world network which would support the exchange of ideas and educational resources: handbooks for leaders and young people, training modules, etc. The network will make it possible to identify and evaluate existing educational material and make them available in a World Scout Resource Center; it will also encourage research on youth programme and adult resources issues and share ideas and experiences. WONDER will be fully launched in 2001.

- At the Committee's request, the Educational Methods Group and its two constituent Committees also analyzed in depth the question of **youth involvement in decision-making** and the related question of the future of the World Scout Youth Forum, on the basis of the resolution adopted by the last World Conference in Durban. The Group developed a recommendation on the subject which it shared with the World Committee. However, the recommendation will be formally submitted for the World Committee's consideration and approval only after it has been tested more widely on young people. This will be done mainly through the Planning Committee for the 8th World Scout Youth Forum in Greece to which has been invited, for that purpose, a representative of the youth network of the U.K. Scout Association, which is doing extensive work on the question of youth participation.

The Group also made a proposal to the World Committee for immediate action, which the Committee accepted: this consists of taking the opportunity of Regional Conferences to be held in 2001 to encourage member organizations to present young male and female candidates who have the required profile and competence for election to the World Committee.

- The Committee received the report of the **Strategy Task Force**, that had met the day before and whose work is carried out in close cooperation with the Educational Methods Group. A draft of the second strategy document, developed after the World Conference in Durban, on "*Achieving the Mission of Scouting*" had been circulated by e-mail to a selected group of individuals, including members of committees, and had been placed on the WOSM Web pages for comments. The replies received had been of good quality and the final text of the document will be published soon.

The Task Force had also been working on a tool for use at the six Regional Conferences in 2001, and had begun to discuss the handling of the Strategy at the next World Conference in Thessaloniki.

OTHER ITEMS

Among the other items considered by the Committee, the following are noteworthy:

- The Committee discussed at length the **Fact-Finding Study on WAGGS/WOSM** (Durban Conference Resolution 14/99) on the basis of John Beresford's final report, which was completed and circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting. As a result, a circular was sent to all national associations in October (Circular 27/2000). The circular summarizes the

Committee's discussion, attaches a copy of the "Beresford Report" and asks associations to answer a number of questions to enable the Committee to take into account the views of its member associations when reaching a decision on how to further proceed on this important subject.

In order to give the Committee a complete picture of the opinions of its members, it is important that all associations respond to the questionnaire by the stated deadline of 1 March 2001, so that the replies can be analyzed in time for the next World Committee meeting in April 2001.

In the meantime, the Committee agreed to propose to the WAGGGS World Board to reinstate the WAGGGS/WOSM Consultative Committee. The Committee also agreed to make available Heather Brandon's "Mirror Study" after clearance with the WAGGGS World Board.

- The Committee received a report on relationships with the ***International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF)***, following a recent meeting held at the World Scout Bureau between ISGF and WOSM. As a result of the meeting, which had helped strengthen the communication links between the two organizations, a document had been drawn up describing the concrete areas of cooperation, which was circulated to the Committee. Chairman Garnet signed the document, which will also be signed by the Chairman of ISGF.
- The Committee again discussed the subject of developing a ***"World Scout Portal"***. This would be a large Internet site providing information and services for all members of the Movement, and be a portal to national Scout organizations and local resources. A presentation was made to the Committee by a professional expert in such matters. It outlined several steps, and related costs, needed to establish a self-funding portal. The Committee decided to take the first step of developing a more comprehensive business document for use with potential partners/sponsors.
- The Committee received an update from the ***2007 Task Force*** for the 100th Anniversary of Scouting which was presented by Mr. Derek Pollard, Chairman of the U.K. "Scouting 2007 Limited". In August, national associations received copies of the 2007 booklet, and a letter from Chairman Garnet de la Hunt, in English, French, Arabic, Russian, and Spanish. The Committee was presented with the proposed badges for the 2007 celebrations, and for the 2007 Jamboree; both will be developed further. .
- The Committee noted with satisfaction ***the recognition of Russia (ARNSO)***, as a result of a postal vote that had been conclusively completed immediately before its meeting.
- Concerning the ***World Scout Foundation***, the Committee was pleased to note that, once again, the excellent results of the Foundation have enabled it to make a substantial increase in its grant to the World Scout Bureau.