

Servas International: DV Nov 2010 - Distant Vote November 2010

Background Information #1

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Background Information (provided by EXCO sponsors and also posted as separate documents on web-site)

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Servas Distant Vote Web pages

The SIEXCO website has several pages devoted to the Distant Vote process and to DV Nov 2010 in particular.

The information available for DV Nov 2010 is:

Lead up information and announcements

DV November 2010 Reminder, DV November 2010 Motions Closed

DV Nov 2010 General announcement – *also sent by e-mail*

DV Nov 2010 Background Information – *also sent by e-mail*

DV Nov 2010 Supporting Information – *this will not be sent out by e-mail*

Additional supporting information relating to the DV Nov 2010 motions will be added as it is available, eg. copies of committee reports

The direct address is:

http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Distant_Vote

OR start with the Servas EXCO website: **www.siexco.org**

(this can also be reached from **www.servas.org** via the “Executive Committee SIEXCO” link)

then click the “General Secretary Materials” link (to the right of the EXCO photo)

then click the “Distant Vote” link (the 3rd heading/link in the list)

DV Nov 2010 Discussion Forum

A Google group “Servas DV Nov 2010” has been set up to facilitate comments and discussion relating to the DV Nov 2010 motions. At this time this is a public group – anyone can view comments and anyone may join to post messages.

The Distant Vote Administrator is the “manager” for the group and will moderate messages from new members. The DV Nov 2010 group will be closed at the end of voting, 30/11/10!

Web access: <http://groups.google.com/group/servas-dv-nov-2010>

E-mail address: servas-dv-nov-2010@googlegroups.com

Motions 1 , 2 & 3 - Financial Accounts and Budgets

Servas International - Accounts and Budgets for the period 2008 - 2012 Summary Information for the purpose of Distant Vote procedure in 2010

1. Executive Committee of Servas International presents audited Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account of Servas International for 2008 together with the report external auditor, Vasudev Pai & Co, and the report of SI Internal Audit Committee for approval through the procedure of Distant Vote. A separate motion to this effect is presented for Distant Vote.
2. Executive Committee of Servas International informs that, as of August 2010, financial accounts for the year ending December 31, 2009 were closed by the Treasurer and now the accounts are in the final stages of processing: the internal audit report for 2009 has been prepared by Internal Audit Committee and the external auditor's report has been prepared in its draft form. The work has not been accomplished in time for presenting the 2009 financial accounts for approval during the Distant Vote procedure in 2010. The above described documents will be presented for approval by the next Distant Vote scheduled for 2011.
3. Executive Committee of Servas International informs that the budget for 2010 was approved by the General Assembly of Servas International in September 2009. SI Executive Committee and the Treasurer run the finances of Servas International very prudently and carefully so that the deficit accepted in the budget for 2010 would not damage the activities and the finances of our organization this year and in the longer term.
4. A motion seeking the approval of budgets for 2011 and 2012 is presented for approval by this current Distant Vote procedure. The presented budgets for 2011 and 2012 are the same as adopted by The General Assembly of Servas International in Mar del Plata in September 2009. In the presented motion it is stated that now "Executive Committee of Servas International does not see a need to propose any change in the budget as adopted by the General Assembly. The main reasons for such an approach are the following facts:
 - a) Executive Committee of Servas International and the Treasurer follow a policy of strict control over the budgeted expenses in the form of operational limits intended as a way of effectively diminishing the deficit in 2010 and thus allowing for funding activities in 2011 and 2012 as initially budgeted;
 - b) Servas On-line project has been started and this project is going to influence all operations of Servas International in a way not possible to be fully reflected in the budget at this time."

At the same time it should be noted that in June 2010 a Budget Committee has been established. It is expected that the Treasurer and the Budget Committee will review the financial situation of Servas International and financial operations in 2010 and 2011 so that a reviewed and updated proposal for a budget for 2012 could be presented for acceptance by the Distant Vote procedure in 2011.

***Motions 1 & 2 – SI Accounts for 2008 and 2009,
Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure (part only)***

Scanned copies of the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure pages of the Servas International Accounts for 2008 and for 2009 have been placed in a separate document. The copies are “reduced resolution/lower quality” scans to reduce the size of the document.

Scanned copies of the SI Accounts for 2008 and 2009 and the reports of the Internal Audit Committee and of the External Auditor have been posted to the DV Nov 2010 web page. These are the original higher resolution/better quality copies.

Motion 3 - Proposed Budget for 2011 & 2012

30 May 2010

Executive Committee of Servas International proposes the following budget for 2011 and 2012:

Budget 2011 – 2012		
ALL in CHF		
	2011	2012
Stamp fees	97 850,00	100 786,00
GA Regularization fees		60 000,00
Host Contribution (SOL)	13 500,00	13 500,00
Bank interest	979,00	1 008,00
total income	112 329,00	175 294,00
Expense heads		
Printing cost SI Newsletter	2 000,00	2 000,00
Printing cost SI Stamps	1 000,00	1 000,00
Expenses of EXCO meeting	19 700,00	20 800,00
Expenses of AC Conferences (6 AC)	18 000,00	18 000,00
Expenses of SI committees	3 300,00	3 300,00
Expenses Youth Meeting	8 000,00	8 000,00
UN	1 200,00	1 200,00
Servas On-line	15 000,00	10 500,00
ICT	8 000,00	8 000,00
External Auditor	1 545,00	1 591,00
Accounting expenses	1 236,00	1 273,00
Bank expenses	1 000,00	1 000,00
Training expenses	2 000,00	2 000,00
Country office grants	3 000,00	3 000,00
Grants to DFC	9 700,00	10 200,00
GA Expenses	37 500,00	37 500,00
Archivist project	1 500,00	1 500,00
Distant voting	2 500,00	3 000,00
Total expenses	136 181,00	133 864,00
surplus(+)/deficit(-)	-23 852,00	41 430,00
aggregate surplus(+)/deficit(-)	-23 852,00	17 578,00

Background:

1. The presented budget for 2011 and 2012 is the same as adopted by The General Assembly of Servas International in Mar del Plata in September 2009.
2. At this moment of time Executive Committee of Servas International does not see a need to propose any change in the budget as adopted by the General Assembly. The main reasons for such an approach are the following facts:
 - c) Executive Committee of Servas International and the Treasurer follow a policy of strict control over the budgeted expenses in the form of operational limits intended as a way of effectively diminishing the deficit in 2010 and thus allowing for funding activities in 2011 and 2012 as initially budgeted;
 - d) Servas On-line project has been started and this project is going to influence all operations of Servas International in a way not possible to be fully reflected in the budget at this time.

Motion 4 - Revised Stamp Fees

Background Information on Motion on Revised Stamp Fee Structure

(The full Stamp Fee Review Committee Report is available on the DV Nov 2010 web page.)

As per the SI Statutes, Clause IV, 3, f, it is the responsibility of the General Assembly to **'decide upon fees, regulations and procedures of Servas International'**.

Accordingly, the stamp fees are also decided upon by the General Assembly. During the last General Assembly held in September 2009, discussions on revising the existing stamp fee structure were held in a working group. Based on the recommendation of this working group, the GA passed the following resolution:

'A group to be set up to recommend revised stamp fees by December 31, 2009.

Five persons including treasurers and people from small and large Servas countries will serve on the committee and US\$ 100 to be provided for communication expenses for the group'.

As decided by the GA, EXCO set up a Stamp Fee Review Committee with a mandate to recommend a revised stamp fee structure. The Stamp Fee Review Committee has submitted its report to EXCO and recommended a revised stamp fee structure. However, this revised stamp fee structure can be adopted by SI only after it is approved by the General Assembly. The purpose of this motion is to seek the GA's approval for the revised stamp fee structure as recommended by the Stamp Fee Committee.

The following points may please be noted:

- The revised stamp fees will become applicable only if the motion is passed by the GA.
- If the motion is not passed by the GA, then the existing stamp fees will remain applicable.
- The Distant Vote Procedure does not allow any amendments to the motion. Hence, in this Distant Vote, the voters can either vote for the proposed stamp fee structure without any amendments, or they can vote against it. They can also abstain from voting.

Motions 5 & 6 - Membership Committee Recommendation

REPORT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE 29 August 2010

(Also available on DV Nov 2010 web page)

1. Membership Committee

The "Membership Committee" was appointed by EXCO in November 2009, after the GA 2009 Members:

Rita Dessauvage (Belgium) convenor, Cintia Amor (Argentina) member, Harald Seiffert (Germany) member

Contact address membership@servas.org

2. Task

The Membership Committee has to find out through investigation which National Servas Groups are eligible to be granted **Membership status**.

The Statutes of Servas International provide the basis for evaluating membership

The Membership Committee wants to stress the fact that through investigations it's only presenting **recommendations** and does **not** grant membership

3. Motions

Penny Pattison, General Secretary of SI (EXCO) moved a motion by 30th of May 2010 to give membership status to two national groups: **Sierra Leone** (Africa) and **Ecuador** (South America)

4. Investigation, Feedback and Recommendations of the Membership Committee

SIERRA LEONE

Members: Servas Sierra Leone has been established in 2007, the start has been successful as they could recruit 10 hosts. Many of them are working in community-based and volunteer programs and this will give travellers an excellent opportunity to learn about the country.

The group is growing and has now 14 hosts; 10 of them are Day Hosts.

A number of candidates are waiting for approval

Contact: Contact with the members is maintained by phone, by email or by meeting.

Activity: This year they had a multiple of activities and meetings They discussed the current development plans and the ongoing collaboration with other groups in the country.

There have been some positive accomplishments and they hope this will continue

Grant: EXCO has granted the sum of US\$ 200 to Sierra Leone for supporting their activities. The money has been used to promote Servas in the country and for group activities.

Host List: There is an updated host list of 2010. All members are inserted in the Dolphin program. The Host List can be downloaded from the HLSA in Dolphin

Remark: the host list has to be improved in the sense that more details of the hosts have to be provided. A difficulty is that not all members have phone and access to internet. They will do an effort to include more information about the hosts. Travellers can relay on the national secretary and are recommended to contact him first.

Contact persons: Servas Sierra Leone held democratic elections, 3 contact persons have been elected. However due to circumstances there are only two now; Servas Sierra Leone will look for a third person.

Recommendation of the Membership Committee: Servas Sierra Leone is moving in a positive direction and fulfils the criteria to get full membership.

The membership Committee unanimously recommends granting Servas Sierra Leone Membership Status by Distant Vote.

ECUADOR

Establishment: In 2005 the initiative and interest of some volunteers has brought Servas Ecuador back to life; in the 90's there were 4 hosts, after 2001 there was almost no contact.

At the re-establishment in 2005 Servas Ecuador had no local coordinator.

Now Servas Ecuador has a Board of 4 members.

Contact: Contact with the members is maintained by a national Yahoo group.

Official communication with SI has sometimes be problematic due to the language barrier, the same problem occurs with travellers. Promised assistance of key people who speak English must solve this problem in the future.

Activity: The most important activity is hosting and meeting travellers.

Most hosts are satisfied with the visits although some are disappointed because some Servas travellers consider Servas as a hotel.

Servas Ecuador doesn't agree that they couldn't take part in the election of the Area Coordinator for South America. Ecuador had no vote due to the fact that they didn't have the Member status.

Note: In spite of their disappointment Servas Ecuador has to collaborate and to communicate in a positive way with the elected AC, this for the benefit and the progress of Servas in South America.

Host List: Servas Ecuador has a yearly updated host list.

The Host List of 2010 can be downloaded from the HLSA in Dolphin

Number of hosts: the group is growing: in 2006 there were 27 hosts, in 2009 the list had 47 hosts and in the list of 2010 there are 49 hosts (5 new hosts, 3 hosts left Servas); 19 of the 49 hosts are Day Hosts.

Spreading of the hosts: the majority of the hosts is living in the capital. In 2006 there were hosts in 4 different cities, in 2010 travellers can find hosts in 6 different cities.

Contact persons: Servas Ecuador has a Board of 4 members: National Secretary, Deputy, Peace secretary and HL Coordinator; 3 of them belong to the National group of Servas Ecuador.

Note: It is recommendable to have a board with people of the country; people from abroad could have the role of 'Country helper' or 'Mentor'

Recommendation of the Membership Committee: Servas Ecuador is moving in a positive direction and fulfils the criteria to get full membership.

The membership Committee recommends granting Servas Ecuador Membership Status by Distant Vote.

Kind Servas regards,

Rita Dessauvage, on behalf of the Membership Committee
August 2010