

Servas International Executive Committee (EXCO) December 2010 Status Report

Dear National Secretaries,
cc: Area Coordinators, SI Committees

Greetings from EXCO!

This is an update about EXCO activities since the June 2010 status report. Please distribute it widely!

You can find this report and other information about EXCO and Servas International in the “Secretary” section of the Servas International Administrative web site www.siexco.org (see http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Annual_Report_materials).

We continue to add information to this area all the time. Please send an email to generalsecretary@servas.org if you see any errors, or have other information that you think would be useful to display on this site.

Highlights of Accomplishments from July to December 2010:

ServasOnLine:

- ServasOnLine progress has been slower than expected, because of a lack of experienced volunteers
- A separate report about ServasOnLine and final report on the 2010 ServasOnLine levy will be sent soon
- Attached is the interim report on the 2010 ServasOnLine levy from the Treasurer
(ServasOnLine project funds in 2010 - interim report nr 1/2011)

SI Areas:

- Central America Area Coordinator chosen - Adela Segura Montes
- South, Central West Asia Area Coordinator election will begin shortly
- Area review of Europe and Near East will occur in 2011

Distant Vote

- Nov 2010 Distant Vote successfully completed
 - 2008 and 2009 Audited Accounts approved
 - 2011 and 2012 Servas International Budgets approved
 - New stamp fees approved
 - Sierra Leone and Ecuador approved as member groups
- May 2011 Distant Vote cancelled because there were no motions
- Next scheduled Distant Vote is November 2011

Host Lists

- Host List Reliability Team completed the 2010 project work, and the report has been published. Plans have been defined for 2011 work (see http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Host_List_coordinator_materials#Host_List_Reliability_Project)
- An indicator has been added to Dolphin to say if a country's host list may be sent to travellers in electronic form
- There are now only 5 countries that do not have their host list in the Host List Storage Area
- The 2011 Host List Request Form in Dolphin, and instructions for using it, have been sent to all National Secretaries

Peace Activities

- Luisa Corbetta, Italy was appointed SI Peace Secretary to replace Kim Jong Soo, due to Kim's illness
- 2011 UN Observers assigned: Angelika Hoffman and Elke Schlitz in Vienna / Catherine and Hilda Burer in Geneva/, Jaime Romero, Noema Chaplin and Rolande Hodel in New York City
- Peace course given at South America Area meeting in October 2010

Financial

- 2009 financial year closed and approved
- Stamps for 2011 have been printed, and are being sent to countries as requested

SI Committees

- Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Team: The ICT contract for Dolphin has been completed. The programmer is now working to maintain Dolphin as a volunteer.
- SI News was published in July 2010 in English and Italian. Work is underway to build up the SI News Team

Youth

- South America Youth conference held in Bahia, Brazil in October 2010
- Planning has begun for the 2011 Youth conference in Africa 30 July – 6 August in Uganda
- Many successful Servas Youth Language Experiences (SYLEs)

Administration

- SI registration – analysis indicates that registration in Switzerland is problematic; report to be distributed in 2011.
- The Action Chart for 2009 GA decisions has been updated and published (see http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Annual_Report_materials#2009_Servas_International_General_Assembly_Decisions)
- Annual Reports for 18 member countries are still outstanding. The reports that have been received have been posted (see http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Annual_Reports)
- EXCO held a face-to-face planning meeting; the minutes have been published with the other EXCO meeting minutes (See http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Exco_Materials)
- Preparations have begun for 2012 GA

Evaluation of the 'Plans for July to December 2010' published in June 2010 Status Report

- ServasOnLine prototype testing – prototype not developed due to lack of volunteers
- 2010 SI Newsletter distribution - done
- Create Policy and Procedures Working Group – not done
- Create Proxy Voting Working Group – not done
- Create Working Group to document how to handle feedback and complaints concerning hosts and travelers – delayed by convenor
- Begin process of organizing the 2012 General Assembly - done
- Central America Area Coordinator election - done
- Finalize Area Coordinator election guidelines and Job Description – not done
- First Host List Reliability survey completed - done
- Many Youth SYLE participants - done
- Progress on SI Registration – some progress and challenges
- Nov 2010 Distant Vote - done
- Begin process for May 2011 Distant Vote - done
- 2009 Audit report – done
- **Biggest Challenge – more people – Still a challenge**

Plans for January to June 2011

The GA Action Chart (see

http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Annual_Report_materials#2009_Servas_International_General_Assembly_Decisions), describes the action plans for the 2009 GA decisions. Work is also continuing in EXCO and the SI Committees on their normal activities.

Highlights:

- ServasOnLine progress
- Redesign www.servas.org web site
- Regular SI Newsletters
- SI Registration – Analysis of options to move forward
- South, Central West Asia Area Coordinator election
- Europe and Near East Area review
- Finalize motions for November 2011 Distant Vote
- Host List Reliability Team support to countries with low reliability
- Investigation of Host List electronic access options for increased security
- Set up working group to move forward into the digital age in creative and active ways (GA2009-9-11 14)
- Complete 2010 financial statements
- Budget and Audit Committees review 2012 budget and Financial Operating Procedures
- Development committee – support countries, grants, focal meetings, etc...
- The ICT Team has been appointed
- ICT review of server needs and contract
- Final preparations for 2011 Youth meeting in Uganda
- Create Youth Travel Award committee
- Add Youth resource section to www.servas.org and Servas youth web sites
- Add Family page and discussion forum to www.servas.org web site
- Create Policy and Procedures Working Group and draft Policy and Procedures manual
- Create Proxy Voting Working Group and draft proxy voting definition
- Updated Servas International Job Descriptions
- SI Committee list updated and published

Biggest Challenge – still!

The biggest challenge is that we need more people to get involved. The volunteers currently working for SI are overworked and getting tired. We need new ideas and energy to keep the momentum going between General Assemblies.

Respectfully submitted by

Servas International EXCO

Gary Sealey, President
Pramod Kumar, Vice President
Mirek Wasilewski, Treasurer

Penny Pattison, General Secretary
Pablo Colangelo, Host List Coordinator
Luisa Corbetta, Peace Secretary

ServasOnLine project funds in 2010 - interim report nr 1/2011

February 8, 2011

The information available as of February 8, 2011 on the finance of the ServasOnLine project is insufficient for presenting a final review of the collection of the ServasOnLine contributions in 2010. This is mainly because the entries on our bank statements mix stamp payments and ServasOnLine contributions. In the analytical information prepared by our bookkeeper in September 2010 I find omissions and misrepresentations which need to be corrected and explained during our work on closing SI books for 2010.

In view of the September report of our bookkeeper we have collected CHF 4369.80 and EUR 432.95 on our SOL account; this translates roughly into the total of EUR 3845.26 or CHF 4924.25. 13 countries (out of 30 obliged to do it) made the contributions that meant to bring us CHF 14301. We cannot consider this numbers as complete for 2010 and the reasons for this are explained below.

Between September 2010 and February 2011 a number of countries made their ServasOnLine 2010 contributions sometimes paying them together with their stamp 2010 payments and sometime paying the two ServasOnLine contributions (for 2010 and 2011) in one total amount. There were also delayed payments for stamps 2009 made together with the ServasOnLine 2010 contributions.

The countries obliged to make the ServasOnLine 2010 contributions can be divided into the following groups:

- a) countries that made their ServasOnLine 2010 contributions practically on time; there were 13 such countries;
- b) several countries that made their ServasOnLine 2010 contributions later on during 2010 or early 2011 because of various reasons: a need to clarify some other financial issues with SI, a change in their managing bodies resulting in extended transition time or a need to understand financial obligations of their national Servas organizations, a will to make one bigger bank transfer in order to save on bank costs, delayed payments because of local information flow problems and so on;
- c) a few countries that asked for a postponements of their 2010 contributions;
- d) a few countries not paying the ServasOnLine 2010 dues and not making any explicit comments about their reasons.

The only ServasOnLine expense incurred in 2010 was the cost of the crucial meeting in Spinea (Italy) in May 2010. The total cost of this meeting was almost EUR 4570. No other costs in 2010 were related to the ServasOnLine project in 2010.

Please contact me at treasurer@servas.org, if you have questions about this interim report.

Mirek Wasilewski,
SI Treasurer