

# EXCO REPORTS

*Our elected leaders (see p3) come to you.*

## **Host Secretary - Claudio Pacchiega**

My primary task has been to phase into the tasks of new EXCO, the specific role of Host List Coordinator.

### **1. Ordinary Administration (Key list and Host list)**

The Key List group is keeping note of all references and exact addresses of each Country. This important task needs a lot of resources but is vital to keep contact with every country in the Servas International Network. The Host List Quality group is trying to promote a good level of accuracy and reliability of the host list in each country. I started the annual Host list Request Form for helping the production and distribution of Host lists among each country. We helped some countries to have proper host lists and are studying a way for helping African and South American countries in producing and distributing their lists with a buddy project. Projects are in their initial phases, and we will report in the next year.

### **2. Paris Action Plan, information and "education".**

From the consultations taken in Paris at beginning of November an interesting activity plan has been devised for improving Servas and helping find a good way for dealing with current problems without open confrontation but instead using sensitive cooperation and team work. My personal contribution is setting up the [www.siexco.org/wiki](http://www.siexco.org/wiki) website which will use cooperative tools like wikipedia for spreading information (like Statutes, assembly operations, documentation) and promote cooperation.

Neither of these tasks can be accomplished by the limited number of people currently working on it. I'll be glad if anybody with time, interest and capacities, can volunteer to help specifying which area he/she is willing to promote. Things can be done in Servas only when decided and worked collectively and not just bottlenecked by one person.

## **Treasurer - Ömer Özkan**

Ömer's job as treasurer involves ensuring that the stamp fees are collected from every country, keeping the bank accounts in order, ensuring that payments are made when needed. To do this he needs to anticipate the income for the oncoming year and prepare a budget for that year along with potential budgets for future years. As part of his job he works with the Audit Committee to ensure that everyone is satisfied as to the way the Finance is run.

And for the future Ömer says 'I hope to see Peace and "young" (All those who are reading this, you are all young) activities in the Center of Servas. We are trying to create a strong organization with its principles, a well organized and educated organization. the Spanish conference shows us we need an education plan.'

Peace in Servas Peace in the World,

## **Peace Secretary - Gary Sealey**

Many in Servas distinguish us from the friendship and travel clubs by our commitment to Peace. Are you surprised that only one in four Servas groups have appointed Peace Secretaries? Servas has UN observers in only three countries, although there are UN programmes/agencies in most Servas countries. Would you volunteer as Peace Secretary or Servas UN ambassador? This builds a team for a welcoming face on Servas. I can send you a suggested job description. It is flexible, every country and every region is different, I respect those differences.

I discovered 5 different Peace approaches in Servas:

~*First*, are peaceful Servas individuals, working toward a kind of interior Peace.

~*Second* come individual travellers and hosts, whose friendship produces mutual understanding.

~*Third*, Servas community activists promote sustainable pathways to peace, such as at the UN, in Human Rights, and Disarmament.

~*Fourth*, very few focus on Peace-Building, changing human relations, a founding concept for Servas.

~*Fifth*, many opposed to peace activism in Servas, several do not even want an SI Peace Secretary!

Servas could grow by attracting as Servas travellers and hosts individual members of peace and justice-seeking organizations. About 3,000 volunteer groups watch the UN, like Servas (Roster Status). Servas should welcome the interns, co-op students, travel staff who work for these groups, many of whom have never heard of Servas. As SI Peace Sec, I encourage this outreach. To support it, we need help and teamwork. Your suggestions for a global campaign to focus these invitations are welcome.

To all: thank you, for your encouragement -- your help is welcome and valued.

## **The Communication part of ICT**

Times change and so Servas must change with the times. Many people have access to computers and use them as a major way of communicating with each other. Servas is moving into the ICT world. People learn about Servas from our website [www.servas.org](http://www.servas.org) which is linked into other travel sites. EXCO have their website which is accessible, [www.siexco.org](http://www.siexco.org). They use email as a way of group discussion as do other Servas country management groups. Some countries are putting their host lists on line with the WHALE project. Others are not so happy about this and are holding back. SI News can be accessed on line. It is hoped to set up a web page for SI News which will have a monthly update and will have archives for the longer articles that do not fit in the hard copy. Some are saying that SI News should only be on line - What is your opinion? Should we become more reliant on ICT as our main form of communication? Over to the members.