

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