

Servas International: Distant Vote Procedure & Schedule

Since the General Assembly (GA) at Mar del Plata in 2009, a program of two Distant Votes (DV) each year between GAs has been adopted, with closing dates for voting being at the end of May & and at the end of November.

The following is a generic procedure and program uses the November Distant Vote to illustrate the key dates and deadlines – without specifying the year. The equivalent dates for the May DV are show in brackets.

Action By

Prior to Distant Vote (DV)

At any time Member groups, EXCO and/or members of EXCO prepare motions and request that they be included in the next Distant Vote. Motions are submitted to the SI President.

Member Groups, EXCO & EXCO members

A motion submitted by member groups must be supported by at least one tenth of the member groups to be accepted for the DV.

MEMBER GROUPS

Voting in previous DV closed on 31 May (or 30 November), votes counted and result advised to SI General Secretary.

DVA

Results advised to NatSecs by SI General Secretary soon after.

GEN SEC

Initial DV Steps

June/July (January/February)

A Reminder of the process and closing date for submitting motions for DV Nov (May) sent to NatSecs by SI General Secretary **as soon as possible** to give time to submit motions.

GEN SEC

SI President receives motions submitted by Servas member groups and confirms request is supported by at least one tenth of member groups.

PRESIDENT

EXCO and/or EXCO members submit motions to be included in DV Nov (May) and prepare a final draft of wording.

EXCO and/or
EXCO Members

30 July (31 May) Closing date for submission of motions for DV November (May).

In the next day or so, say by 7 August (7 June)

SI President sends the SI General Secretary any motions received, and accepted, from Servas member groups.

PRESIDENT

SI General Secretary or SI President sends the Distant Vote Administrator all motions to be included in DV November (May).

GEN SEC or
PRESIDENT

SI General Secretary, advises NatSecs of the number of motions received, including any submitted by EXCO, for inclusion in DV November (May) which closes on 30 November (31 May).

GEN SEC

OR that no motions have been received and that DV November (May) will not be needed.

GEN SEC

Next Step once DV is Confirmed, ie. there are motions to be voted on.

August (June)	Distant Vote Administrator:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirms the list of Servas Member Groups eligible to vote with the SI General Secretary.	DVA/GEN SEC
	(In practice this also involves the SI Treasurer who determines which member groups have “met all of their financial obligations” and are thus eligible to vote. [SI Statute VI 3])	DVA/TREASURER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contacts NatSecs that are voting to confirm where and how their voting paper is to be sent and their preferred method of voting.	DVA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviews the wording of the motions received and in consultation with the submitter/s revises the wording if they are unclear or cannot be voted on by a simple “yes” or “no” vote.	DVA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Arranges translations of the motions, instructions & voting papers.	DVA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prepares voting instructions and voting papers.	DVA

On or before 31 August (30 June)

The exact wording of the motions as well as the voting procedure to be used sent to member groups, to NatSecs, as required by the SI Statutes. DVA

On or before 1 November (1 May)

Distant Vote Administrator sends out Voting Paper and instructions to National Secretaries of Member Groups eligible to vote. DVA

Distant Vote Administrator receives the votes, confirms they are valid. DVA

30 November (31 May)

Voting Closes/Ends

Following the DV Vote

1 December (1 June)

Distant Vote Administrator counts the votes and determines the result for each of the motions in the DV. DVA

On or before 31 December (30 June)

Distant Vote Administrator reports the voting results to the SI General Secretary. DVA

SI General Secretary advises National Secretaries of the result before it is published on Servas websites and in SI News. GEN SEC

31 January (31 July)

Distant Vote Administrator sends Servas EXCO a written report on the distant vote, the voting, the results with a detailed list of how each member group voted on each motion. DVA

Note:

For the DVs until the GA after next (2018) it is anticipated that e-mail will be the primary method of communication for the Distant Vote and that votes will be sent and returned by e-mail using a unique Vote ID to verify them. (The option of communicating and voting, by fax or posted letter will be available if requested.)

Ideally the Distant Vote section of the Servas International web site can be used to make information about the Distant Vote - the process and timetable, the motions, supporting information and the results – available for reading and downloading by member groups.

While this may seem a tardy approach to “electronic communications” my impression is that there is a major gulf between countries with the best and worst availability and reliability of email and internet. I am reluctant to set up barriers to the participation of member groups in the Distant Vote process.