

USA-003 MOTION FOR SI GA 2015

Subject Working Group: Technology - Future

Title of motion

Recognize, Encourage and Support SI Mentors

National secretary and national member group proposing motion
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Mary Jane Mikuriya, National Secretary, US Servas

Summary of the motion

Recognize the use of SI Mentors as teachers to help strengthen Servas

Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.

Currently there are Area Coordinators to help national groups work together in a geographic area but there is no one identified to help National Servas groups learn the detailed expectations of Servas membership as explained in the Servas Handbook. Mentors have and can educate National Groups, especially beginning or troubled National groups.

Encourage, Recognize and Support the use of SI Mentors to help build Servas International. (Long time active Servas Members who are frequent visitors to a country can help develop and expand Servas. Charlotte Melville was a frequent visitor to Georgia where her son-in-law worked in the US Consulate. During her visits with family living Georgia, Charlotte was able to identify an honest, able, new National Group establisher to take over the leadership in Servas in Georgia. She and Rolande Hodel, as US Servas frequent visitors to troubled Servas national groups in Georgia and Cameroon respectively helped resolve internal country problems. Nancy Mitchell is an recognized, USA and SI Distant Interviewer. More such volunteer Distant Interviewers are needed because after the traveler returns home with excitement about Servas, Nancy mentors the traveler to help develop a Servas group in their Country . American Traveler, Jan Passon, worked with Mary Jane Mikuriya to develop a Servas Group in Rwanda while he was on a peace building training assignment in Rwanda. Individuals who frequent troubled and undeveloped Servas National Groups should be recognized as Mentors. Other than US Servas members should be recruited and encouraged to become SI Mentors)

Experienced Key Servas Persons have the knowledge and expertise to work with beginning groups to clarify Servas expectations, the neutrality and listening skills to help clashing individuals/groups work out differences, to be a witness as groups with differences resolve their issues and to help national groups grow to become voting National Servas groups.

The SI Development Committee (DC) is charged with working with national groups that have few hosts until the national groups are reclassified as National Groups with voting rights.

in 2009-2012 SI DC realized an experienced Servas member who frequently visited a country was a better helper than having the DC -- a committee of many who did not visit the country to help them directly.

Volunteers, who as a frequent visitors, familiar with the country and its ways have proven to be excellent MENTORS. Mentors can answer all sorts of questions, and clarify the Servas Handbook such the explanation regarding SI traveler stamps, preparing host lists, making annual reports, explain how money collected in the name of Servas had to be reported annually to the National members, elections of key National leaders, Host list coordinator duties, what a Letter of Introduction does, etc . The Mentors can attend the local Servas gatherings and become welcomed "Servas experts" sent to help establish the National Servas group until it was ready to be recommended to the GA as a voting member

Distant Interviewers wear two hats. The Distant Interviewer is not only an interviewer for travelers in countries that don't have a Servas presence but also seeks to recruit this traveler, after his/her Servas travel experience, to work to establish Servas in the traveler's home country. This means the SI Distant Interviewer is expected to have a continuing relationship with the traveler and help him/her introduce Servas to friends and colleagues. In this latter role the distant interviewer becomes the mentor for the establishment of a new Servas group.

Mentors are identified for special projects. The Mentor is a willing volunteer for a special assignment and able to make a long term commitment to see the project to the end.

The Host list validation team for 2014 identified more than 40 countries countries where not all hosts know they are Servas hosts. This Reliability list could be used to identify those counties that might welcome mentors to help them strengthen Servas in their country

PS All distant Interviewers should be invited to attend DC meeting because they bring a working knowledge how to establish beginning Servas groups.

Likely benefits for Servas International and national groups if the motion is passed.

Resource implications if the motion is passed in terms of time, human resources and specialist expertise.

- >Have a GA workshop on Mentors and Mentorships
- >Publicize the role of the Mentor
- >Develop a list of mentorship opportunities
- >Recruit willing knowledgeable potential Distant Interviewers, and Mentors for specific the countries identified in by the Host List reliability data

What are the budget implications, if any, of the motion for Servas International and for national groups in the short and longer term?

None

Who should be responsible for the actions arising from the motion in terms of planning, development and management, for example which officer within SI Exco or SI Committee.

EXCO and Development Committee are responsible for recruiting and assigning SI Mentors

Responsible: Mary Jane Mikuriya,+ Arnoud Philippo

Measurement: Mentor work is on going so no completion is expected.

There should be an annual report on the Use of Mentors and their effectiveness presented by DC and EXCO as well as improved Host List Validation results

Would there be implications for the Servas International statutes if the motion is passed?

No

What is the likely impact if the motion is not passed?

A lost opportunity for help strengthen Servas