

Servas International General Assembly 2012

Decisions Taken On Tuesday, August 21, 2012

Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
1	The revised agenda was accepted.
2	The Servas Identity card proposal will be discussed at the ServasOnLine session.
3	Georgia accepted as a member group of Servas International.
4	Nepal reinstated as a member group of Servas International.
5	Ukraine reinstated as a member group of Servas International.
6	Kenya accepted as a member group of Servas International.
7	Iran accepted as a member group of Servas International.
8	The status of Latvia changed from member group to national group.
9	The status of Estonia changed from member group to national group.
10	The status of Egypt changed from member group to national group.
11	The status of Togo changed from member group to national group.
12	The status of Senegal changed from member group to national group.
13	The status of Bulgaria changed from member group to national group.
14	The status of Iceland changed from member group to national group.
15	The status of Philippines changed from member group to national group.
16	The voting process shall include three voting options for each motion "Support/Yes", "Against/No" and "Abstain", and that "Abstentions" shall not be counted as a vote "for", or "against" the motion. In addition, in the SI Statutes, Section IX Dissolution, the words "members present and voting" be replaced by "eligible voters present", and in Section X Amendment of Statutes, the words "those present and voting" be replaced by "the eligible voters present". (Statute Amendment)
17	Amended Rules of Order accepted.
18	Minutes of SI GA 2009 accepted as presented.
19	Accepted the Officer Reports 2009-2012.
20	The approval of the 2010 and 2011 Auditor Reports has been deferred to a Distant Vote.
21	The same External Auditor will be used, Vasudev Pai and Company, Bangalore, India.
22	Jonny Sågänger (Sweden) elected SI President.
23	Ann Greenhough (Britain) elected SI Vice President by acclamation.
24	Jaime Romero (Colombia) elected SI General Secretary.
25	Mirosław Wasilewski (Poland) elected SI Treasurer by acclamation.
26	Arnoud Philippo (The Netherlands) elected SI Host List Coordinator.
27	Danielle Serres (France) elected SI Peace Secretary.
28	All the ballots (for SI elections) to be destroyed.

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Decisions Taken On Thursday August 23, 2012

Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
1	<p>SI Peace Secretary should be given the means to create a strong team of local representatives at the UN. The goal would be to inform Servas members about the upcoming UN activities available and afterwards write a report.</p> <p>Allocate adequate financial resources, as CHF 1000 per year for communication material and to cover minor expenses for these volunteers.</p>
2	<p>Effective immediately, the positions of Servas Youth Coordinator and Youth Development Officer are to be replaced with a permanent Youth Committee of five or more individuals preferably from at least three different continents with members appointed by the present EXCO before the end of the GA 2012, until a distant vote.</p> <p>A Distant Vote will take place as soon as possible to elect a Youth Committee of five individuals responsible to EXCO. All team members are responsible for following the rules of the Financial Operating Procedures (FOP).</p> <p>(Statute Amendment)</p>
3	<p>Our good old values (such as peace, tolerance, mutual understanding etc.) – although still important – are not enough by themselves any more to attract, specially young people. It is therefore important to take big steps towards modernizing Servas into the electronic future, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Servas App for smart phones• Online/electronic availability of host lists <p>Moreover, it would be useful to make the various Servas web sites offer the same information about the core values and aims of Servas and to encourage the sharing of web site technology, to enable groups with limited resources to develop their own web sites.</p> <p>Budget CHF 1000</p>
4	<p>To acknowledge the report of the ServasOnline Senior Panel dated May 2012.</p>

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Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
5	<p>SI EXCO, in cooperation with the ICT, shall form a Steering Team to oversee further development of ServasOnLine.</p> <p>This group should collect requirements that have guided previous projects such as Whale, Dolphin and the ServasOnLine prototype. The SI Host list Coordinator and National Secretaries should be asked to collect additional requirements that may be specific to their countries.</p> <p>These requirements should be revised, extended and prioritized by the Steering Team to form a well-defined project plan (including schedule and a specific budget). The requirements and project plan should be published for a public bidding process for proposals from professionals.</p>
6	<p>Country representatives or individual members will be responsible for entering and maintaining personal data in the ServasOnLine system. Administration of ServasOnLine shall be handled in the framework of the Information Communication Team (ICT) in close contact with member countries. All member countries should appoint persons responsible for this cooperation.</p> <p>ServasOnLine responsibilities and working methods should be reviewed every year and reported to SI EXCO and at following General Assemblies.</p>
7	<p>To authorize SI EXCO to recruit a web designer to create a <i>unified design standard</i> for all Servas International web sites (including servas.org, siexco.org, ServasOnline and servasyouth.org).</p>
8	<p>To recommend EXCO to look for any suitable system to protect Host Lists so every Host List can be sent in Electronic Form to approved travelers. Request ICT to find a better way to protect PDF files and personal data.</p> <p>It is proposed a maximum budget of CHF360 a year, until ServasOnLine is implemented.</p>
9	<p><i>To save effort, only countries with less than 70% score in the previous HL Reliability survey will be surveyed. Countries will be emailed first, and telephone calls only made to those who do not reply to the email.</i></p> <p>Any countries requesting SI funding must be surveyed, and their Host List must be at least 70% reliable and fit into the standard format defined by SI HL Coordinator. (To be part of the SI Financial Operating Procedures.)</p> <p>Standard Host List Format: Based on Dolphin/Whale format.</p> <p>A budget of CHF300 will be needed according previous experience.</p>
10	<p>To authorize EXCO to contract a computer system administrator, using a transparent recruitment and appointment process, if there are no suitable volunteers available. Max budget CHF1000 per year</p>

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11	Terry Stone (Greece) elected SI Newsletter Editor by acclamation.
12	Chris Patterson (New Zealand) elected Distant Vote Administrator by acclamation.
13	Robert Mitchell (USA) elected SI Archivist by acclamation.
14	Chris Jones (Canada), Jack Huang (China) and Alvany Santiago (Brazil) elected to SI Job Descriptions and Statutes Committee by acclamation.
15	Phyllis Chinn (USA), LV Subramanian (India) and Emmanuel Kakinda (Uganda) elected to SI Audit Committee by acclamation.
16	Norma Nicholson (Australia), Jean Seymour (Britain) and Amir Levy (Israel) elected to SI Nominations Committee by acclamation.
17	Julie Dotsch (Canada), Clare Mateke (Zambia) and Marneo Serenelli (Italy) elected to SI Conflict Resolution Committee.
18	Ewa Dzierżawska (Poland), Joel Kaloba (Zambia), Pablo Chufeni (Argentina), Aneris Cao (Argentina) and Anna Cristina Siragusa (Italy) elected to SI Development Committee.
19	The ServasOnLine money that has already been collected shall be held to be used for the development of a ServasOnLine system. Every effort should be made by EXCO, in particular the treasurer, to collect money that is still owed for this fund. The money collected and designated for the development of ServasOnLine must only be used for that purpose. The levy for further funds for the ServasOnLine project shall be suspended and only reinstated by a distant vote at a time when the funds already collected have been appropriately spent towards the development of ServasOnLine.

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Decisions Taken On Friday August 24, 2012

Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
1	<p>To accept the draft budget as presented, for 2013-2016, named "GA 2012 motion SI-2013-16_Budget_01.xls" which has been circulated.</p> <p><u>Amendments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove CHF 500 each year for HL Reliability since it is a duplicate of the Host List Project decision by the GA.• The expenses that are not used during the year will be equally reallocated to area meetings and youth meetings in order to increase their previous budget.• To allocate an operative fund of CHF 500 per year to the Youth Committee.• That CHF 200 per year be allocated to the archivist which includes travel expenses, to be revised at the next GA. <p>See attached budget named "GA 2012 – motion SI_2013-16_Budget_01 20120824 mw.xls"</p>
2	Set objectives and methodology for a Servas In-depth Longer Stay Experience program including cultural, environmental and volunteer experiences by creating a special commission to promote and organize this program between Servas members of different countries
3	The Peace Secretary shall seek volunteers to share a common vision of peaceful communication. Using this vision they will create guidelines for peaceful communication.
4	That promotional publicity guidelines be developed by a working group which is created by the Peace Secretary. That National Peace Secretaries or National Representatives share peace activities with all Servas members.

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Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Servas Planning Group (SPG) be established immediately in order to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) gather information regarding current common practices from Servas national groups and other non-national groups; b) gather demographic and other data from Servas national groups and other non-national groups; c) determine a common understanding of current beliefs regarding Servas' vision, mission, principles, policies and practices; and d) gather other information that may be useful in establishing a comprehensive understanding of where we are, at present, as an organization. 2. The SPG will analyze and use the information that it gathers together with any other information that becomes available to lay the foundation for developing a set of plans for future development and taking such actions as are necessary in order to move Servas forward. 3. The SPG will operate under the auspices of SI EXCO and will report to SI EXCO on an annual basis or more frequently as requested by SI EXCO and present the results at the next GA. 4. SI EXCO shall consider any individual who is prepared to volunteer as a member of the SPG. The number of members of the SPG will be determined by SI EXCO.
6	<p>The Conflict Resolution Committee, NSs and other volunteers, coordinated by New Zealand, work together to prepare guidelines on how to act when complaints about hosts and travelers are received.</p>
7	<p>If an elected SI officer is unable to do his/her duties for a significant period of time, they are encouraged to tell EXCO and help to arrange for a replacement. If an officer does not fulfill his/her duties for three or more months, EXCO may relieve the officer from his/her duties and appoint someone to fill the role in an acting capacity until the situation is resolved. In addition, all committees will choose their own replacement members, as they are separate, independent decision makers.</p>
8	<p>Every Servas International EXCO member, every committee and every elected officer is strongly encouraged to appoint an assistant between 18 and 30 at the time of the appointment whenever possible.</p>
9	<p>All business relations between Servas International and vendors or service providers shall be based on a written agreement approved by EXCO or by a committee authorized by EXCO to approve such agreements, if the value of the goods or services to be procured exceeds CHF 500.</p>

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Decisions Taken On Saturday August 25, 2012

Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
1	<p>To accept the recommendation from EXCO to revise the SI Statutes. (As published in the background materials, pages 33-39). Change from “Any national Servas groups containing ten or more...” to “Any national Servas groups containing fifteen or more...” was withdrawn.</p> <p>Additional changes based on motions passed at the 2012 GA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Section III Officers, replace “Servas Youth Officer and Youth Development Officer” with “and a Youth Leadership Committee of three to five individuals from at least three different continents”. b. Section VI Voting at Meetings, insert after point 6: “7) The voting process shall include three voting options for each motion, "support/yes", "against/no" and "abstain". “Abstentions” shall not be counted as a vote for or against the motion, except as required in Sections IX Dissolution and X Amendment of Statutes.”, and renumber point 7 as point 8. c. Section IX Dissolution, replace “members present and voting” with “eligible voters present”. d. Section X Amendment of Statutes, replace “those present and voting” with “the eligible voters present”. <p>(Statute Amendment)</p>
2	The President, General Secretary and Treasurer shall be empowered to sign for financial matters on behalf of Servas International
3	The next General Assembly is in 2015.
4	EXCO will decide the location of the 2015 GA considering the offers from New Zealand and Colombia and any other country that offers, working with all of those countries, allowing sufficient time for feasibility studies.
5	Starting at the 2012 GA, a person cannot be nominated for an elected Servas International position if he/she has been in an elected or appointed Servas International position for a total of 6 or more years within the last 10 years. The clock starts at the 2012 GA.
6	National groups should be encouraged to report regularly on peace activities in their country to the Peace Secretary who should then distribute the information widely to all national groups.
7	Servas countries should be encouraged to inform and explain, in their websites and literature, opportunities for travelers to be introduced to projects with volunteering or educational activities.
8	All money collected in the name of Servas must be used for Servas purposes only. No one is allowed to collect money in the name of

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	<p>Servas for personal use.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended that a statement of Income and Expenses should be submitted by a treasurer or designated person to the country's members at least annually and/or on request. A statement to this effect shall be included in the Servas Handbook</p>
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