

MOTION FORM FOR SI GA 2018

1. Heading for motion (No more than 10 words)

Adding "Interest in Making Connections?" field for ServasOnline.

2. Member Group(s) proposing motion (note that only SI Exco and Member Groups may propose motions)

Servas Canada

3. Exact wording of the motion to be voted on

To propose that an "Interest in Making Connections?" field be added to ServasOnline database as a new field that members would complete in their online profile to indicate an interest in participating or hosting in programmes that is more than a 1 or 2 night stay. Specifically, there would be two fields: "Willing to host Servas travellers engaged in *Making Connections* (or *other* programmes)?" and "Interested in participating in *Making Connections* (or *other* programmes)?"

4. Background information and reasons for proposing the motion

With the technological move to ServasOnline, the global Servas community is now open to the world! From our understanding, the *Making Connections* umbrella (embodying cultural activities, language opportunities, volunteerism/experiential learning, and youth and adult exchange programmes) was approved at the 2015 Servas International General Assembly. This type of *other* programmes, more than a 1 or 2 night stay in a Servas host's home, is where Servas differs from the many other types of international travel groups. More importantly though, this type of *other* programmes is the direction where Servas will grow and expand, through participation in local community activities that engages dialogue on learning, cultural sensitivity and understanding as well as sharing ideals of peace initiatives across the globe; in essence, building our humanity. With this type of *Making Connections* programmes, Servas members go beyond the more-common individual or partnered travel and instead engage in real community-based activities.

This motion requests that we use the resources of ServasOnline as the simple means to communicate our members' desire to participate in *Making Connections* opportunities. Specifically, I ask that ServasOnline adds two new fields (Yes/No; default off=empty=No) to the ServasOnline database that identifies:

- Servas hosts interested in hosting Servas youth or Servas adults in other programmes*
- Servas youth or Servas adult travellers interested in participating in other programmes*

* Other programmes defined as: language, cultural, and/or volunteer experience opportunities; possibly in the future, exchange opportunities. This description of other programmes would be under the umbrella of *Making Connections*.

Currently there is no easy way for a Servas traveller or host to indicate their interest in being involved in *other* programmes. With these two new fields, an organizational structure for *Making Connections* is naturally created where Servas hosts, travellers, and countries can use information from these two fields to make connections with Servas members worldwide. This request for two fields in the Servas Online database is a "tangible" that will help facilitate the operation and expansion of other programmes through the umbrella of *Making Connections*.

The two fields would be: "Willing to host Servas travellers engaged in *Making Connections* (or *other* programmes)?" and "Interested in participating in *Making Connections* (or *other* programmes)?" These fields would be clicked on if the host is willing to take that role or if the traveller is interested in participating in that role. As a Yes/No alternative, it would be an easy and effective way to show host and traveller interest in Servas *other* programmes opportunities.

Note that *Making Connections* produces an occasional bulletin that outlines current international *other* programmes opportunities for Servas members. The details in this bulletin could easily work in conjunction with the ServasOnline fields proposed in this motion, as it would encourage Servas members to communicate their *other* programmes desires within the Servas sub-community that wants to be involved in such programmes. The combination of these two resources (the occasional bulletin and the ServasOnline fields)

would also allow a national member-country-based coordinator for <i>Making Connections</i> programmes to bring together interested hosts and travellers.

5. Who is responsible for accomplishing the results of the motion?

Servas Canada is proposing this motion; ServasOnline group for following through on this motion, if approved at the 2018 Servas International General Assembly.

6. Benefits for SI

Huge benefits for Servas because it opens the communications for members interested in participating as travellers or as hosts in the <i>Making Connections</i> (other programmes) opportunities worldwide.

The benefits of having these two fields in the ServasOnline database are:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By including these fields now (near the beginning of ServasOnline live access), we will capture every Servas members' awareness as they familiarize themselves with ServasOnline• As a simple Yes/No alternative, these fields will act as a gatekeeper indicating a Servas member's interest in hosting and/or travelling as a first step for dialogue about these opportunities• As a simple Yes/No alternative, Servas members will be more inclined to identify their interest• When circumstances change, the Servas host or traveller can easily alter the option• Being a field that is searchable is a very efficient way of online database organization• As a simple searchable Yes/No alternative, these fields will offer ease of planning by travellers, hosts, and Servas country representatives who could facilitate participation in these <i>other</i> programmes• As a simple searchable Yes/No alternative, these fields would be standardized |
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Having these fields encourages Servas travellers to pursue travel beyond 1 or 2 night stays, and thus promotes and supports the <i>Making Connections</i> motion approved at the 2015 General Assembly and enhances Bob Luitweiler's original view of Servas within the global community.

7. Resource needs - time, human resources and specialist expertise

Time - minimal as ServasOnline is operational now and only requires the creation, implementation and testing of the proposed fields. Human resources/specialist expertise - ServasOnline group to create, implement, and test proposed fields.
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8. Budget implications

None, as ServasOnline group currently exists and operates ServasOnline functionality.

9. Does it affect the SI statutes?

No.

10. What is the impact if the motion is not passed?
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Non-approval of this motion will limit and restrict open communication about Servas member's involvement in <i>Making Connections</i> (other programmes) opportunities.

For Minute Taker Use Only:

Amendments (Passed or defeated)

Final Motion (Passed or defeated)