

Servas International: DV May 2017 - Distant Vote May 2017

Voter Mailout #1

to Servas Countries eligible to vote in DV May 2017

This Voter Mailout and the General Announcement sent out by the SI General Secretary (GenSec) are the start of the Distant Vote voting process for DV May 2017.

The General Announcement has been sent to all Servas countries advising them of the motions to be decided, the voting procedures for the Distant Vote and the countries eligible to vote in DV May 2017. A copy of the announcement is attached.

The General Announcement has been sent to the *country@servas.org* e-mail addresses, so you may also receive a copy from the GenSec if e-mails to this address are forwarded to you.

The timetable for the key Voter steps in the voting process for DV May 2017 is:

Now to May 31, 2017	Member Groups, who are eligible to vote, will determine how their vote will be cast on the DV motion.
By Feb 28, 2017	Final text of motions and supporting material sent to Voters.
March 2017	Compilation of the Voter List for DV May 2017.
By Apr 30, 2017	DVA sends out of Voting Papers and voting instructions to Voters.
By May 31, 2017	Voters return voting papers to DVA.
By Jun 30, 2017	DVA counts votes and reports results to SI GenSec. SI GenSec advises NatSec and EXCO of Distant Vote Results.

Compilation of the Voter List for DV May 2017

Ensure your Servas country is on the Voter List by:

- 1/ Confirming you got this Mailout #1 by replying to the email.***
- 2/ Confirming the email address for your National Secretary or the person who will be the Authorised Voter is for your Servas country.***

Please send your **Voter Contact Confirmation** by **24th March** to ensure the Voting Paper and instructions are sent to the right person by April 31st.

If it is not practical or you have difficulty using e-mail for the Distant Vote communications please advise me so we can look at alternatives.

If we do not receive confirmation by e-mail by 24th March 2017, we will try and establish contact by fax or mail (or sms/text?) – if these are in the Dolphin Key List.

The other steps will be described in more detail in Voter Mailouts leading up to the voting period in May 2017. Background to compiling the Voter List follows.

Regards,

Chris Patterson,
Distant Vote Administrator

Please note and use my direct DVA e-mail: servasdva@pl.net

Please use this e-mail address for all correspondence related to the Distant Vote, thanks.

Mob: +64-27-430 9297 Work: +64-9-306 7790 Home: +64-9-630 1555
PO Box 67-040, Mt Eden, Auckland 1349 New Zealand

Background to Compilation of Voter List

As noted in the Voting Procedures in the General Announcement:

“The SI General Secretary has delegated the Distant Vote Administrator to compile the Voter List for the Distant Vote by direct contact with the National Secretaries of each country eligible and able to vote in this Distant Vote to confirm the name and contact details for the person casting the DV vote for their country.”

The Principles set out in the *Servas Regulations for Distant Voting* provide the background and guidance for the compilation of the Voter List for a Distant Vote.

“Principle 1/ The Distant Voting process shall operate by sending the motions and the voting information to the National Secretary of each member group who shall ensure the Distant Vote is sent in for counting.

Principle 2/ The aim of the Distant Voting process is to allow all member groups to participate without being unduly disadvantaged by issues of language, distance, available finances and access to information technology.

Principle 3 / Each member group shall decide itself who will cast the distant vote on their behalf and how the group will determine if the vote on each motion is to be ‘for’, ‘against’ or ‘abstain’.”

For the Voter List for this Distant Vote we need you to confirm:

- a) the name and contact details for the Authorised Voter for their member group;
 - b) the preferred methods of communication for the Distant Voting process;
 - c) the preferred language for written material and if possible, one or more other languages that would be acceptable;
- (Section 5; Responsibilities and Procedures of the Regulations.)

Confirmation of Receipt of Voter Mailout #1 & Authorised Voter

We need to check and confirm that Distant Vote information is reaching each Servas Member Group eligible to vote, and to confirm details for their Authorised Voter. (usually the National Secretary is the Authorised Voter, but it could be someone else)

If we do not receive confirmation by e-mail by 24th March 2017, we will try and establish contact by fax or mail (or sms/text?) – if these are listed in the Dolphin Key List.

When an Authorised Voter is named, their e-mail address will only be used for communications related to DV May 2017 so we can send Voting Papers etc. directly to the voter.

It will not change the Dolphin Key List contact details.

Note: To confirm, you can send a reply to the covering e-mail, and insert your answers after the questions at the end of the e-mail.

Preferred Method of Communication

As advised in the Voting Procedures in the General Announcement, e-mail will be the primary method of voting for DV May 2017. It will also be the primary method of communicating with voters. If this is not practical for you, we are able to send information and Voting Papers by fax or by mail.

If email is not practical for you or you have difficulty using e-mail for the Distant Vote communications please advise me by fax or sms/text.

Translation for Distant Vote

As has been the practice at General Assemblies, arrangements have been made to translate Distant Vote information, Voting Papers and instructions into Spanish – 15 of the 77 member countries are Spanish speaking! The Spanish translation is being done by a Servas volunteers. Thank you all!

For other languages you may get a passable translation of this information using “Google Translate”. This is in the list of services/tools displayed on the top left side of the Google web page.