SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS BULLETIN

FROM THE SERVAS INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

– News from Servas International Executive Committee (Exco) –

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### 100 Plus Volunteers Develop Servas International

At the SI General Assembly (SI GA) in October 2018 a number of Servas officers were elected for the mandate period 2019–2021. After the SI GA 2018 many Servas volunteers were appointed to teams by SI Exco for the same time period.

There are currently more than a hundred volunteers working in these committees, teams and other groups towards the Servas vision and mission and to develop Servas International as an organization. You will find the names of these persons below. We’re very sorry if the list isn’t complete. Please send the names of people to add and the country where they live to president@servas.org. Write “Additional SI volunteers” in the email subject line.

If you would like to join any of the teams or would like to be involved as a support person with any of the elected committees, please send an email to exco@servas.org with “Volunteering for Servas International!” in the email subject line.

#### SI Executive Committee, SI Exco (elected)
- **SI President (SI P):** Jonny Sågäng (Sweden)
- **SI Vice President (SI VP):** Carla Kristensen (Portugal)
- **SI Treasurer (SI T):** Radha B. Rodhakrishna (USA)
- **SI General Secretary (SI GS):** Kiat Y Tan (Malaysia)
- **SI Member & Technology Secretary (SI MTS):** Andreas Becker (Switzerland)
- **SI Peace Secretary (SI PS):** Paige LaCombe (USA)

#### SI Youth and Families Committee (elected)
- Susana Martinez (Spain)
- Raffaella Rota (Italy)
- Natasha Noreen (Italy)
- Aneris Cao (Chile)
- Mar Ferre (Spain)

#### SI Development Committee, SI DC (elected)
- Ewa Dzierzawska (Poland)
- Fidèle Rutayisire (Rwanda)
- Pamela Yang (Taiwan)
- Lilly Kerekes Beltrán (Mexico)
- Pablo Colangelo (Argentina)

#### SI Internal Audit Committee, SI IAC (elected)
- L V Subramanian (India)
- Phyllis Chinn (USA)
- Gülşen Elyak (Turkey)

#### SI Distant Vote Administrator (SI DVA)
- Chris Patterson (New Zealand)

### -- Appointed Servas Volunteers --

#### SI Membership & Technology Secretary (SI MTS) Support Team
- ServasOnline Team:
  - Joseph Lestang (France)
  - Claudia Sagi (Israel)
  - Paul Nielsen (Australia)
  - Dagmar Förster (Germany)
  - Jim Leask (Canada)
  - Derek Carver (New Zealand)
  - Tys Sniffen (USA)
  - Judy Bartel (Canada)

#### SI ICT Coordination Team (SI ICT CT)
- Bernard Andrieu (France)
- Gábor Magyarfalvi (Hungary)
- Paul Nielsen (Australia)
- Jim Leask (Canada)
- Peter Mair (Germany)

#### SI Roadmap Project Team (SI RPT)
- Chris-Ann Lauria (USA)
- Ana Manghi (Argentina)
- Faridul Hasan Shuvo (Bangladesh)
- Angelica Korob (Belarus)
- Claudia Sagi (Israel)

#### SI Information and Communication Team (SI ICT)
- Mark Hahn (Canada)
- (position vacant)

#### SI Dolphin Team
- Rita Dessauvage (Belgium)
- Pablo Colangelo (Argentina)

#### SI Help Desk
- Amir Levy (Israel)
- Andréa Assis (Brazil)

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**SI Membership Team**
Rita Dessauvage (Belgium)
Harald Seiffert (Germany)
Alexey Tereshchenko (Latvia)

**Media & Communication Team**
Jonny Sågänger, convenor (Sweden)
Michael Johnson (Canada)
Alon Stone (Israel)
Sergey Kibirkin (Ukraine)
Jean-Marc Eyot (France)
Luis Miguel Avendaño (Spain)
Picot Cassidy (Great Britain)
Christopher Stone (Greece)
Manon Yzermans (France)
Boglárka “Bogi” Kovács (Hungary)
Zahra Karimi (Iran)
Bogdan Ionescu (Romania)
Itzcoatl (Jorge) Rendon (Mexico)
Lauren Gordon (Australia)
Wolfgang Stapelfeldt (Germany)
SI President collaborator: Manon Yzermans (France)

**Servas Facebook Moderators**
Arnoud Philippo (Spain)
Paige LaCombe (USA)
Tawney Foskett (USA)

**SI Conflict Resolution Team (SI CRT)**
Marijke Batenburg, convenor (New Zealand)
Alvany Santiago (Brazil)
Abhay Shaha (India)
Martin Henner (USA)
Belinda Baird (New Zealand)
Dorothy Fine (Ireland)

**SI Growth Team (SI GT)**
To be appointed

**SI Image and Design Support Team (SI IDST)**
Alan Stone (Greece)
Stefan Fagerström (Sweden)

**SI Ethical Travel Team (SIETT)**
Robert Howell, convenor (New Zealand)
Nancy Palardy (Canada)
Shohei Morita (USA)
Pauline Franklin (New Zealand)
Andrea Assis (Brazil)

**SI Standard Statutes Team (SI SST)**
Jonny Sågänger, convenor (Sweden)
Isabelle Girard (France)
Manon Yzermans (France)

**Assistants to SI Vice President**
Craig Melrose Australia
Alvany Santiago (Brazil)

**Making Connections Project Group**
Ann Greenough (Great Britain)
Innovation Project Group
Aneris Cao (Chile)

**Assistant to SI General Secretary (SI GS)**
Prossy Nampijja (Uganda)

**SICOGA organizing team**
Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA) organizing team:
SI General Secretary Kiat Y Tan (Malaysia)
Amir Levy (Israel)

**Spanish Translation Team**
Spanish Translation Coordinator/Convenor: Lilly Kerekas Beltrán (Mexico)
Elia Rodríguez Martinez (Spain)
Mar Ferre (Spain)

**SI Archive Consulting Group**
Anna Koster (USA)
Penny Pattison (Canada)
Mary Jane Mikuriya (USA)

**SI Distant Interviewer Team**
Craig Melrose (Australia)
(position vacant)
(position vacant)

**SI Peace Secretary Support Team**
Assistants to Peace Secretary:
Raleigh Tomlinson (USA)
Salomon Luna (Mexico)
Zahra Karimi (Iran)
Rafaella Rota (Italy)

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LEADER: LET’S REDUCE OUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

Over the last five to six years Servas International has been developing a new way for individual members and active volunteers to contribute to a more peaceful world with:

Actions to minimize the destruction of our Earth’s environment.

Historically, individual members of Servas have contributed to a more peaceful world by engaging in the learning experience of intercultural exchange of ideas and perspectives, which broaden our views and can result in greater understanding of different cultures, ideologies, political systems and religions.

Ever since the organization began in the 1940s, Servas volunteers have been engaged in peacebuilding activities on a local, national and global level, for example inside the United Nations system and its locations in New York City, Geneva and Vienna.

For the new direction towards more ethical and sustainable ways of travel and life there have been some important milestones. Let me mention a few of them:

• At the 2015 Servas International General Assembly (SI GA), it was decided to promote the idea of travelling peacefully and walking lightly on the Earth.

• During the 2018 SI Conference and General Assembly 2018 (SICOGA 2018) measures were taken to reduce the ecological impact of the conference. For example, no disposables were used during the conference and only vegetarian food was on the menu one of the days. A pre-study was made to estimate the potential cost of purchasing carbon offsets for the air flights that transported a majority of the approximately 180 participants to Seoul in South Korea, where the conference took place.

• The 2018 SI GA decided, as proposed by Servas Canada, that Servas International should raise the
climate consciousness of its global community. Read the document at:

• In August this year the SI Ethical Travel Team (SIETT) presented their first report. It describes the major causes of the climate crisis and the significance of travel, and in particular, air travel. In their report the working group presents academic evidence that describes the connection between armed conflict and climate change. “Every half degree of warming, it is estimated, will see an increase of 10-20% of the likelihood of armed conflict”, according to an article in the scientific journal Science (341 No 6151). The SI Ethical Travel Team also presents recommendations for individual Servas members, national groups and global committees and teams to reduce their ecological footprint as a way of decreasing the environmental burden on our planet.

The report and its recommendations have so far been discussed by a narrow group of Servas volunteers, but now the discussion will open up for everybody who would like to participate in this movement inside our hospitality and peace organization. The report will be uploaded on Servas.org, but can also be requested by an email to president@servas.org with the words “Please email SIETT report” in the email subject line.

It’s my sincere hope that the report will spark a discussion about how Servas as an organization can become an internal think tank and a pool of knowledge and experiences that can inspire ethical and responsible travel.

I’m personally making a decisive effort to become a role model for all Servas members, by reducing my ecological footprint. I try to choose train or bus instead of air travel. I use my bicycle every day. My wife and I own and drive a car mainly fuelled by biogas. I try to reduce my consumption of unsustainably produced meat and try to eat more vegetarian food.

It’s not easy to change old habits and there’s a lot more I can do.

I have been advised by my Servas friends in the Ethical Travel Team to get a digital tool to measure both my current ecological footprint as well as the progress I make in reducing it. So I’ve now started to search for a carbon footprint calculator that’s created and calibrated for the conditions in Sweden, where I live.

I encourage all Servas member to search on the Internet for a reliable footprint calculator in your country. Note that reliable footprint calculators adjusted to national conditions may not be available for all countries, but everybody can surf on the United Nations carbon offset platform and use the calculator provided there.

Now that I’ve shared some of my efforts I hope that you – the members of Servas – will contribute your inspiring stories about what you do to reduce your ecological footprint, both while travelling and hosting with Servas as well as in your daily life.

Please email your input to president@servas.org.

Finally, a number of weblinks where you can find tips on how to reduce carbon footprints in travels:

• www.earth-changers.com/blog/2018/5/15/10-tips-on-how-to-reduce-your-carbon-footprint-in-travel-and-should-you-carbon-offset
• www.earth-changers.com/blog/2018/1/17/de-plastic-fantastic-your-travel
• www.travelandleisure.com/articles/tips-eco-friendly-flights

Good luck!

Jonny Sågänger, SI President president@servas.org
SERVAS TEAM REPORT ABOUT ETHICAL TRAVEL

In August Servas International Ethical Travel Team (SIETT) presented a report describing the major causes of the climate crisis and the significance of travel, and in particular, air travel.

It refers to evidence showing the efforts to date, and in the foreseeable future, of the United Nations (by excluding air travel from its deliberations) and the International Air Transport Association, will not significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from air travel.

The report describes and recommends the use of a footprint analysis and the use of offsetting carbon emissions at both an individual, national and international level of Servas. The members of the team make a number of suggestions about guidelines and actions at all three levels that could, and should, be considered and adopted in some form by Servas, to implement actions following the footprint analysis in order to reduce or eliminate emissions.

The idea of “travel peacefully and walk lightly on the Earth” arose in Servas International Conference & General Assembly – SICOGA 2015 – in Matamata, New Zealand. There were also decisions at SICOGA 2018 in Seoul, South Korea. One of the SI General Assembly decisions was that Servas International will raise the climate consciousness of its global community, by:

- Acknowledging this global issue on the Servas International website, and encouraging member countries to also acknowledge this issue through member-based communications.
- Offering Servas hosts and travellers suggestions of how to live and travel in a carbon-light way. For travel, this option could include travelling in a zero-carbon way (such as through walking or bicycling) or by purchasing carbon offsets for more distant travel, which can be purchased through credible websites like less.ca and carbonzero.ca.
- Finding ways to lessen Servas business travel, including SICOGA and member country meetings.
- Sharing among members, ways that Servas International may become a more climate-conscious organization, such as promoting non-travel Servas services, including distance conversations among Servas members.

The SIETT report is currently under review by SI Exco. For those who would like to read the report order a personal copy by sending an email to president@servas.org with the words “Please email SIETT report” in the email subject line.

The SI Ethical Travel Team members are: Robert Howell, convenor (New Zealand), Nancy Palardy (Canada), Andréa Assis (Brazil), Pauline Franklin (New Zealand), Shohei Morita, initially, and then Tim Lynch (USA).

Would you like to contact the team? Please send an email to the team’s convenor Robert Howell rhowellnz@gmail.com

Jonny Sågänger
SI President
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SERVASONLINE UPDATE: ITALY MIGRATED 1,260 PROFILES
There are already 107 countries on ServasOnline. Lately, additional countries have moved or are making the necessary preparations for moving their members’ data to ServasOnline:

- Italy has migrated successfully most of the members and have now 1260 profiles online. They are currently working hard to complete members' profiles and locate them on the map.
- Germany is finishing the migration preparation of all their members and will migrate full profiles before the end of this year.
- US is making preparations for joining Servas Online, considering various options of migrating members’ data.

Current ServasOnline Activities
Significant changes have been made to ServasOnline over the last months. The primary reasons for these changes have been to clarify / simplify the questions on the member’s profile and improve the Search function and make it easier for administrators to import files and manage records.

Some of these changes affect the data that has already been entered and members or administrators will have to update or enter data again.

Enhancements for members:
- Adding children fields in More About me section of the member’s profile - in order to have separate fields for name, gender, age instead of free text.
- Simplifying the hosting information in Hosting section of the member’s profile - removing non-relevant data and adding new data.

Enhancements for Administrators:
- Making sure that all new and old data is kept in members list.
- Improved import process, due to added fields and GPS coordinates for address.
- Standardizing the definitions in the hosting profile and adding new items/abbreviations.

Additional countries joined ServasOnline:
- The largest among these countries is Italy.
- Wonderful work has been done by Dalton Otieno from Kenya - helping 14 countries in Africa to join ServasOnline, upload data, finding country coordinators and instructing them.

What’s ahead:
- We are exploring changes to the “find members” search process, to speed up searches.

Claudia Sagi
ServasOnline Team
SERVAS YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN SPAIN AND ITALY

The Servas Youth and Families Committee has been very active this summer. Two camps took place, in Spain and Italy.

Spain: The Servas Youth and Families Committee invited young Servas members (18 to 30 years old) to an environmental work camp, in the beautiful El Saler Natural Park, Valencia. The camp was aimed at increasing awareness about protection of and respect for the environment, focusing on forests, beaches (protected sea animals) and lakes (migratory birds).

During the camp the participants of the Servas Youth Environmental Work Camp joined other volunteers on a beach-cleaning activity.

Facebook comments about Servas Youth beach cleaning:
“This is what Servas needs to get involved with much more broadly. To serve for peace. This is so great.”
— Joanne McGarry

“Hi Joanne. I very much agree with you. Cleaning the ocean, cleaning nature...is to respect nature, respect the habitat of animals, respect the habitat of people, ourselves... PEACE!”
— Arnoud Philippo

Italy: This year, the International Summer Camp was dedicated to Mediterranean culture, how different cultures and ways of living mix and coexist, based on the ”art of welcoming”, of empathy and overcoming prejudice and fear. The goal is to take down walls and build bridges, and let the Seeds of Servas grow in all countries.

Activities: Team building, debates, sharing of experiences, knowledge of the territory, playful moments, sharing of the different cultures expressed also in the way food is prepared (food as a value, non-waste, sharing, bio-diversity and sustainability). The activities were proposed alternatively, taking into account the different ages.

Jonny Sågänger, SI President
STANDARD NATIONAL STATUTES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

A team of Servas volunteers have created a draft set of formal Servas International standard statutes intended to assist Servas National Groups in structuring the work of their boards and key official positions. The model statutes need to be adapted according to the legal requirements of each individual country, but they provide Servas National Groups with suggestions of certain basic areas that usually need to be covered.

Examples of items in the draft standard national statutes:

- Principles, Ethos and Values, Vision and Mission
- Protection of personal integrity
- Draft agenda for a national General Assembly
- Loss of membership status for individuals

The draft document also contains a draft Servas International Code of Conduct (SI CoC).

Those who would like to read the draft Servas International standard national statutes (SI NSS) and the draft Servas International Code of Conduct (SI CoC) can order a personal copy by sending an email to president@servas.org with “Please email draft Standard National Statutes” in the email subject line.

Jonny Sägänger  
SI President

PEOPLE: ABOUT KEY PEOPLE IN NATIONAL GROUPS

Servas Switzerland

Since May 2019 Servas Switzerland has a new board:

Christoph Kuhn continues as National Secretary
Michael Hübscher, ServasOn line Administrator
Patricia Brügger, Deputy
René Steiner, Deputy

Werner Lacher, Treasurer, replacing Andreas Becker (SI Membership and Technology Secretary)
Birgit Fechter, Host List Coordinator, and Katja Schmid Deputy left the board.

Servas USA

There are new people in the board of Servas USA:

Heather Brown is the Main Contact, replacing Grace Lovell
Barbara Pioli is a new board member, replacing Dennis Mogerman

Other members of the board:

Chris-Ann Lauria, National Secretary
David Schwarz, Peace Secretary
Steve Kanters, Treasurer
Office Servas, Helpdesk

Servas Greece

July 11, 2019, National Secretary Terry Stone resigned as National Secretary of Servas Greece and left Servas.

Servas Costa Rica

Since August 2019 Marc Krebs is the new ServasOnline Administrator, replacing Johnny Aburto

Other members of the board:

Carmen Mora Mora, National Secretary
Roxana Fonseac Abarca, Deputy

Ligia Araya Zamora, Peace Secretary
Nydia Fernandez Aguilar, Treasurer

Note: All members are in ServasOnline and the ‘member list’ is uploaded in the Dolphin HLSA.

Rita Dessauvage, SI Dolphin Team  
Member of Servas Belgium & Luxemburg
SERVAS INDIA LEGALLY REGISTERED AFTER 68 YEARS
On behalf of Servas India executive committee, I am, very happy to inform you that after consistent efforts and hurdles we have finally succeeded in registering Servas India as a legal entity at office of Charity Commissioner for trusts and societies. The legal registered name is SERVAS FOUNDATION.

For almost 68 years, Servas has been functioning in India. Now as per new requirements and laws SERVAS is registered in India.

Our most recent National Secretary Pramod Kumar began this process during his tenure, and I must thank him for his contribution. Over the last two years, today’s EXCO Servas India members took a lot of effort to make this possible.

We are thankful to Jonny Sågängér, President of Servas International, for his guidance and suggestions regarding registration. Hiren Goradia and I had a chance to meet him at the SI General Assembly 2018 in Seoul, South Korea.

We are hopeful of making Servas India inclusive and reaching out with its goals.

Abhay Shaha, National Secretary, Servas India

WHAT SI EXCO HAS DECIDED — FIND OUT HERE
Minutes from SI Exco meetings are posted on the Servas International website at: https://servas.org/en/community/board-and-management/si-exco

SI Exco is the global board for Servas International. The board has regular minuted web-based meetings, usually once a month.

DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION ON EVENTS AND MEETINGS
Dear Friends,

Recently, and happily, a large number of events and meetings have been held worldwide, and for each of these events there is a request to inform all our members about them.

This creates quite a load on the person distributing information and mainly on all National Group leaders, expecting them to forward all the information emails to their members. And as a result, a few members may also feel that they are being flooded with emails. To try and improve handling this and ease everyone’s load a new procedure has been established.

What happens when a Servas country or group wants to advertise an international event? Put your invitation (text, photos, registration form, information, etc) in Word format and send it to vicepresident@servas.org. Your event will then be uploaded as soon as possible through a link to the events page: https://servas.org/en/events-meetings. Once a month the Servas Distribution Team will send to all National Secretaries and key people the links for the latest events.

It is very important that the National Groups are willing to inform their members about these international events. We want our members to be well informed, and to see new faces in our meetings. All cooperation in spreading the information from National Secretaries to individual members is much appreciated.

National Groups are expected to send the monthly letters to all their members. We wish to thank everyone for their help and cooperation, as well as the enormous dedication and commitment of all our volunteers.

Carla Kristensen, SI Vice President (vicepresident@servas.org)
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GARY SEALEY

APRIL 3, 1942 – AUGUST 5, 2019

Servas Canada is sad to inform the Servas International (SI) community of the passing of Gary Sealey, a member of Servas Canada for decades. I first met him in late 2002, discussing the United Nations. Less than two years later at the 2004 SI General Assembly (GA) in Spain, Gary was elected SI Peace Secretary, and went on to significantly enhance our United Nations presence.

An extraordinary SI GA was necessary in 2006, and Gary spent a huge amount of energy planning for it. His skill at delegating, identifying strong contributors and his general vision were invaluable. The meeting was a big success, and Gary was elected SI President, and again at the 2009 GA.

During his tenure as SI President, Gary dealt with some challenging situations, with strength and diplomacy. He also had the strong vision of an online presence for Servas from the moment he got involved at the international level, and moved our organization along towards that goal.

Under Gary’s leadership, the SI GAs became professional and carefully planned, much in the way they run today.

Julie Cormack, Servas Canada National Secretary, wrote of Gary’s passing “Although I never met Gary, I spoke with him on email and on the phone numerous times – he was deeply committed and passionate to the ideals of the global human community.”

Mirek Wasilewski, former SI Treasurer, wrote “I remember Gary’s special, unusual and rare managerial skills, his approach to organizing the work of a team and his energy when he was solving difficult situations in our organization.”

Michael Johnson, past National Secretary of Servas Canada, relates his personal relationship with Gary:

“I met, befriended, hosted and stayed with Gary Sealey in the past 14 years. I urged him to run for SI President, which he did successfully. During two “tours of Canada” that I arranged in 2013, I brought Servas friends to his home overnight. He took me and Marisa Contini of Uruguay on a tour of Ottawa including on the Ottawa River, then served us rack of lamb for dinner. He was always inviting people to his home including a Servas pool party at his large backyard pool. Many of us will really miss Mr. Hospitality. A truly wonderful human being who gave many years of service to Servas.”

Gary personified a real leader and amazing volunteer. He accepted, or even enjoyed, being challenged on his ideas, and remained respectful always. The world has been a better place because of his presence.

Penny Pattison
Servas Canada National Secretary 2002 – 2009
SI General Secretary 2009-2012 and 2015-2018
SERVAS NEWS BULLETIN AVAILABLE IN SPANISH
You can also read the SI News Bulletin in Spanish on the Servas International website.
Join the Servas Translators Team. Email Lilly Kerekes, the coordinator: spanishcoordinator@servas.org

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL ON THE INTERNET
Servas International website: servas.org/index.php
Servas on Twitter: twitter.com/ServasI?lang=en
Servas on Facebook:

Servas Travelling for Peace www.facebook.com/groups/servas/
This public discussion group is for people who are interested in learning more about Servas International. Membership in a recognized Servas Group is not required. Membership in this Facebook group does not make you a member of Servas.
• Administrators: Jonny Sågänger, Carla Kristensen, Servas International (FB Page)
• Moderators: Jae Kwoang Park

Servas International www.facebook.com/groups/117649068294944/
This closed discussion group is for people who are members of Servas. Your membership will be verified.
• Administrators: Arnoud Philippo, Paige LaCombe
• Moderator: Tawny Foskett

SI Facebook Page www.facebook.com/pg/Servas.International/about/?ref=page_internal
Public profile, open to all.
• Administrators: Jonny Sågänger, Carla Kristensen
• Editor: Uthman Shahid

ABOUT SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS BULLETIN
The Servas International News Bulletin (SI News Bulletin) is a newsletter from Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco), which is the organization’s global board. The SI News Bulletin contains a brief report about current issues and decisions.

Editors & Newsletter Coordinators:
Jonny Sågänger, SI President president@servas.org
Picot Cassidy, Servas Britain
Itzcóatl (Jorge) Rendon, Mexico
Graphic Design/Layout: Alan Stone

What would you like to read about in the SI News Bulletin? Let us know.
Email: president@servas.org

We encourage Servas key people around the world to forward this bulletin to individual members. Feel free to quote this bulletin but please remember to mention Servas International News Bulletin as the source.
ABOUT SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

Servas International is an international, non-profit, non-governmental federation of national Servas groups, supporting an international network of hosts and travellers.

Our network aims to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by offering opportunities for personal contacts between people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities.