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– SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS BULLETIN –

– News from Servas International Executive Committee (Exco) –

===== söndag den 4 dec 2016 =====

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*** PIONEERING COUNTRIES IN ACTION FOR SERVASONLINE

In Austria, Sweden, Equador, Canada, New Zealand, Denmark and other countries Servas volunteers are now getting ready to follow France's example and transfer the original members data from Dolphin, Whale and other systems to the new system developed in the ServasOnline project.

Gradually ServasOnline will become the main Servas system for membership administration. Each individual member will be able to go online and complete her/his profile and place her/his home on the Servas map.

Please let the ServasOnline team know if you and your Servas country/member group also is willing to start with the process of transferring members data?

If the answer is yes – we’re hoping so – when could you get started?

Who would your contact person/s be in this process?

What information do you need to help you with this?

Please let us know your answer by replying to this email with a copy/cc to servasonline@servas.org. The Dolphin Host List Storage Area will be closed when every Servas country is using ServasOnline. Host Dolphin will be closed when all countries that were using Host Dolphin to manage their host information have moved to ServasOnline. Key Dolphin will be used until it is included in ServasOnline.

Pablo Colangelo, the Servas International host list coordinator, is playing a central and crucial role in the transition from Dolphin to ServasOnline. If you have questions about the transition from Dolphin, other national members databases or other queries about member administration, contact Pablo Colangelo by email to hostlistcoordinator@servas.org

If you are not sure about saying yes to this request, Bernard Andrieu, the project manager for ServasOnline and a member of the pioneering Servas country France reassures us: *“Now all countries can follow on with confidence. We are ready to share our experience with them.”*

Jonny Sågänger
President
Servas International
SI Exco sponsor of the ServasOnline project

Pablo Colangelo
ServasOnline Team
Member of SI Exco

*** UPDATE ON NEW SERVAS WEBSITE

The launch of a modernized website at servas.org is planned for the second half of 2016. The activity is being spearheaded by a group of people in the ServasOnline team and by individuals who have volunteered to a pilot and test the new website, the information and communication platform (ICT platform) and the members' database application.

Here is a "sneak preview" with a screen image from Servas International's new website:



Dancers take to the floor during Servas Argentina's successful Exchange Programme with tango course earlier this year.

The new website and the ServasOnline system will be launched in several steps. First comes the launch of the new website, and then the members database application which will allow for two-way communication between travellers and hosts, geographic search and other new functions.
See the movie about the development of ServasOnline here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xY7HFZcx_04

Jonny Sägänger

President

Servas International

president@servas.org

***** THAILAND'S EARLY START IN INTERNATIONAL SERVAS WEEK**

Servas Thailand got off to an early start with International Servas week, visiting the LifePrep Foundation in Samut Sakhon on the first day, September 17. They took clothes, books, toys and money for migrant kids whose parents came to Thailand to seek better economic opportunities. Many of the parents end up being taken advantage of in their new country. Later in the afternoon, the Servas Thailand group visited temples and enjoyed the sea view in Samut Sakhon, Thailand's seafood capital.

Servas Thailand was one of the first member groups to publicize their activities during Servas International week on social media like Facebook. The event takes place during the week around 21 September, the UN international day of peace, to celebrate Servas values such as peace, solidarity, service, hospitality and understanding.



Choosing letters for a group activity at the LifePrep Foundation in Samut Sakhon during the international Servas week in Thailand.



Servas Thailand members on a visit to migrant children at the LifePrep Foundation in Samut Sakhon during the international Servas week in September 2016. The Servas volunteers in the picture are, from left to right, Kiattikul T-mongkol (Lek), Areewan Tokrasae (Wan) and Soonthariya Rongrongmuang (Nan).



The Servas volunteers Rachada Arpornsilp (Tarn), Nadtaya Prakongsub (Aoy) Wansiri Rongrongmuang (Topsi) and Penpak Kregmatukorn (Pern) entertain migrant children at the LifePrep Foundation in Samut Sakhon during the international Servas week in September 2016.

***** INTERNATIONAL SERVAS WEEK**

International Servas Week started as planned on September 17. The event is a project run by Aneris Cao and other members of the Servas Innovation Group. During the week Servas volunteers celebrated Servas, by making connections all over the world, with activities that highlight Servas values, such as peace, solidarity, service, hospitality and understanding. The event takes place during the week around 21 September, the UN international day of peace, to celebrate Servas values.

For more information and plans for International Servas Week 2016 and the next one in 2017 email your questions to innovation@servas.org

***** SERVAS INTERNATIONAL TREASURER RESIGNS**

At the SI Exco meeting in August 2016 Venkatasubramanian Lakshmanan Subramanian (LVS) informed the board that he will leave his position as treasurer for health reasons and due to the workload.

The Internal Audit Committee is working with the president and SI Exco on possible solutions to the situation.

Exco has the mandate to appointment people to fill in when LVS leaves.

Work is in progress to find a solution as soon as possible.

If you, as a Servas key person, have ideas and suggestions that could be of help to solve the situation, please send an email to president@servas.org.

LVS will stay in his position as long as needed to make sure the transition with his successor or successors is as smooth as possible.

***** MEMBER GROUPS PAID SERVASONLINE LEVY**

The new website and ServasOnline system are almost complete after considerable efforts and financial outlay. When ServasOnline is operational, there will be maintenance and upgrading costs, which are mandatory and necessary during coming years. The financial costs for the three years, 2016 to 2018, were presented and approved at the 2015 Servas International General Assembly.

Following a decision at the Servas International General Assembly (SI GA) 2009 regarding a levy to pay for the ServasOnline system (SOL), the request from Servas International's global executive committee, SI Exco, to ten Servas International member groups (SIMG's) to fulfill these financial obligations has been productive. Up to September 30 a number of SIMG's had paid their contributions towards the ServasOnline system.

The member groups/countries that have fulfilled their financial obligations are now entitled to vote in the Distant Vote scheduled for November 2016. Lakshmanan Venkata Subramanian (LVS), treasurer of Servas International, will follow up and facilitate with the other member groups to finalize the pending financial obligations.

Please contact SI Treasurer to arrange the payment as soon as possible. He can be contacted by email at Treasurer@servas.org.

Current status for payments of the outstanding ServasOnline levies decided at SI GA 2009:

Norway, Italy, Hungary and Taiwan have paid.. The Servas Australia board has informed Exco that they will discuss whether to pay or not during their meeting in October. Four countries are yet to pay and are requested to contact LVS at Treasurer@servas.org to complete their payments

Jonny Sågänger
President
Servas International

***** INTERNATIONAL SERVAS EVENT IN SWEDEN**

During a week of cultural and social activities 31 Servas members from around the world were hosted by Servas hosts in Uppsala, Sweden.

The event was called "Welcome to Sweden". Here you can watch a video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1R7zIbKQjGo>

***** WHAT SI EXCO HAS DECIDED – FIND OUT HERE**

On the Servas International website you find the minutes from SI Exco meetings.

***** NEWSLETTER IN SPANISH TOO**

You can read this newsletter in Spanish too. You can find it on Servas International's website.

Would you like to become a member of the team of translators?

Please email Lilly Kerekes, the co-ordinator: spanishcoordinator@servas.org

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***** 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 Co-ordinators:

- **Jonny Sågänger** SI President president@servas.org
- **Ann Greenhough** Vice-President vicepresident@servas.org
- **Picot Cassidy**, Servas Britain

What would you like to read about in the SI News Bulletin? Please let us know. Send an email to president@servas.org
Servas key persons around the world are encouraged to forward the newsletter to individual members in Servas.
Feel free to quote this newsletter, but please remember to mention Servas International News Bulletin as the source.

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SI Exco 2016-2018

President **Jonny Sågänger** president@servas.org
Vice-President **Ann Greenhough** vicepresident@servas.org
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Host List Coordinator **Pablo Colangelo** hostlistcoordinator@servas.org
Peace Secretary **Danielle Serres** peacesecretary@servas.org

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Servas International on the world wide web/Internet

Servas International website

<http://servas.org/index.php>

Servas on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/ServasI?lang=en>

Servas on Facebook:

Facebookgroup Servas

This public group is for people who are interested in Servas International. You don't have to be a member of Servas. Membership in this Facebook group does not make you a member of Servas.

Administrators: Alan Stone, Stefan Fagerström, Pablo Colangelo, Jonny Sågänger.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/servas/>

Facebookgroup Servas International

This closed group is for people who are members of Servas. Your membership will be verified.

Administrators: Pablo Colangelo, Arnoud Philipppo.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/117649068294944/>

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About Servas International

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

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.

