



NEWS BULLETIN

FROM THE SERVAS INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

– News from Servas International Executive Committee (Exco) –

===== Vol. 15 No 4 - 2019 =====

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SERVAS AIMS TO DOUBLE ITS SIZE IN 2020

Servas offers unique experiences and we would like your help to offer many more people the opportunity to share these.

Servas also needs to increase its financial basis.

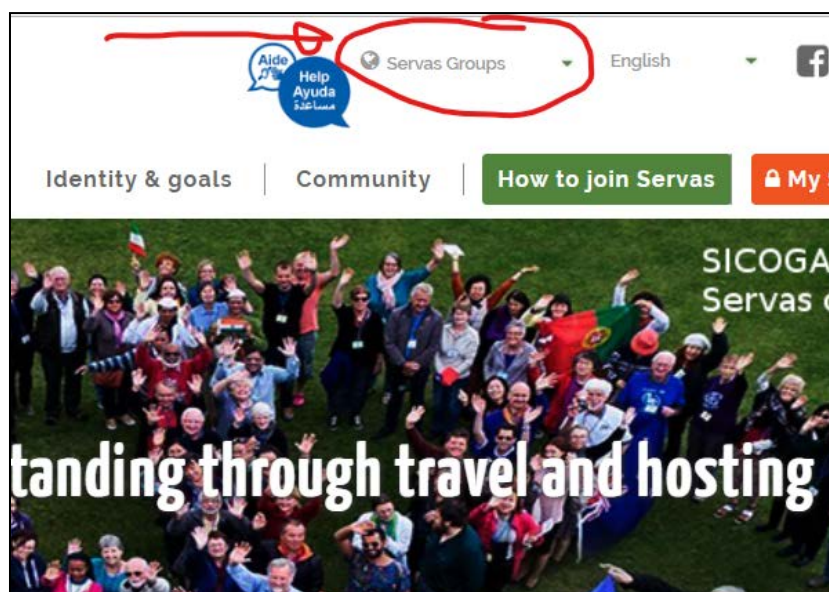
That's why during 2020 Servas International (SI) is launching a campaign to make the organization grow both in numbers and financially.

The concept is simple. In 2020 all individual Servas members, travellers, hosts and volunteers are invited to recruit at least one new individual member.

This could be as a:

- host and traveller
- host or traveller
- day host
- supporting Servas member

Since SI is a global federation of Servas member groups and country groups, the procedure for joining Servas may differ from country to country; but usually there are informative talks – also called "interviews" – between an existing Servas member and a prospective new Servas member and other criteria. The leaders of all the Servas member and country groups are encouraged to prepare for, support and stimulate the growth campaign from now on and during the entire year of 2020.



Contact information for all Servas countries is in "Servas Groups" on the navigation bar at the top of Servas International's website servas.org.

Under the heading "Recruiting new members", you will find some ideas to get you started on the campaign.

The campaign will run from January to the end of 2020. It will also include other ways for Servas to expand the organization's activities.

SI Exco, SI's global board, has access to statistics to monitor the progress of the campaign over time, and to summarize the final results during 2021.

A number of Servas members have come forward to form a volunteer SI Growth Team (SI GT). You can read more about them below.

Do you have questions about the Servas growth campaign and on what you can do to recruit a new member? Send an email to servasgrowth@servas.org with "SI GT questions" in the subject line.

SI Exco and the SI Growth Team (SI GT) wish you the best of luck with our campaign!

SI Growth Team (SI GT): Pamela Yang, Servas Taiwan; Peter Lindgren, Servas Singapore and Stefan Fagerström, Servas Sweden

SI Exco liaisons: Jonny Sågänger, SI President (convenor), Paige Lacombe, SI Peace Secretary and Radha B. Radhakrishna, SI Treasurer

LEADER: SERVAS MEMBERS UNITED FOR GROWTH

2020 will be an exiting year for Servas.

It's a year when all members capacity to unite around one common and important goal will be put to test. The goal is to make Servas grow, both in numbers of individual members and in income.

The growth campaign that will be going on during 2020 involves a number of activities, which are dependent on the ambition of individual member, country groups and the Servas International leadership.

The main activities are:

- Each individual Servas member recruits one new. This involves identifying at least one person you think would enjoy a Servas membership, making sure she or he has gone through the recruitment process and has a formal membership by December 31 2020. Those who would like to recruit several new members are of course most welcome to do so.
- Spread the word about Servas through social media. In practical terms this means that each individual member that has access to social media writes her or his best story about staying with – or hosting – Servas members, about a Servas meeting or any other appreciated Servas experience. Sharing these experiences will make people interested in our organisation. How to get started? Each individual member should post one story each in social media, for example Instagram and Facebook. In the social media posting we also challenge three other Servas people by name (tag) to do the same. This can start a snowball effect.

On January 1 the growth campaign starts and will continue until during twelve months.

I will of course walk the talk. So, in January I will start my search for potential members to recruit. I will also write at least one Servas story with the hashtag #Servas, share with a number of other members and challenge them to write their stories.

The growth campaign will then be evaluated during 2021.

I will be very exciting to find out how successful we've all been.

Why is it so important for Servas to grow?

There are several reasons. The most important ones are that a Servas membership offers great intercultural learning experiences, it can give you friends for life all over the world and it gives you the opportunity to engage in a mission to contribute to a more peaceful world. With more members, Servas can offer even richer experiences and can engage in more peace activities.

Growth is also a necessity to give Servas International the economic muscles needed to finance a global platform for hosting and travelling which is vital to our organisation's existence.

Good luck to us all!

*Jonny Sägänger, President
Servas International*



Servas International President Jonny Sägänger will walk the talk during 2020 and recruit at least one new Servas member.

RECRUITING NEW SERVAS MEMBERS

All individual members of Servas are encouraged to be part of making Servas grow in 2020. One way is to talk to people you think should become members.

Share with them:

- the reasons why you think they would like and benefit from joining Servas
- the reasons you're a Servas member yourself
- two or three things you like the most about Servas
- some great short or longer stories about your experiences from hosting, travelling, volunteer work and/or meetings you have taken part in through Servas.

Share your stories when you meet or in writing – with or without photos – on Instagram, Facebook, WeChat, SnapChat and other social media channels.

The Servas International Growth Team (SI GT) would like to hear your stories too. Email the stories to servasstories@servas.org

Here's a list of points you can use to persuade people you think should join Servas:

- Hosting someone you've never met before brings new knowledge about the world into your home.
- Staying overnight in the homes of Servas hosts allows for unique insights into people's everyday life, beyond the traditional visitor sights.
- Servas gives you concrete/practical information about how to travel in an ethical and environmentally sustainable way to reduce your ecological footprint on the Earth.
- Servas is a non-profit organization and does not use people's personal data for commercial purposes.
- Servas offers opportunities for people who would like to volunteer in peace-oriented activities. Servas International has consultative status as an international non-governmental organization (iNGO) with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations. The consultative status makes it possible for SI to be active at the premises of the United Nations in New York City in USA, Geneva in Switzerland and Vienna in Austria.
- As a Servas member you get access to a number of different events, ranging from hiking and trekking activities to youth and families camps.

You can read more about the SI growth campaign in the article above, under the heading "Servas aims to double its size in 2020".

Do you have questions about the Servas growth campaign and about recruiting a new member?

If you have problems getting in touch with the people responsible for recruiting new members in your Servas member/country group, email servasgrowth@servas.org with "Questions for SI Growth Team" in the subject line. Outline your question in the email. For easier contact, add your mobile/WhatsApp number.

SI Growth Team, SI GT: Pamela Yang, Servas Taiwan; Peter Lindgren, Servas Singapore; Stefan Fagerström, Servas Sweden

SI Exco liaison: Jonny Sägänger, SI President (convenor); Paige Lacombe, SI Peace Secretary

1,837 MORE MEMBERS IN SERVASONLINE

On November 30 2019 the total number of individual Servas members with their profiles on ServasOnline, our membership and communication system, was 13 238. Last January there were 11 401, so there's been an increase with 1 837 individual member profiles during the last ten months.

Note that Servas USA and Servas Germany are not yet in ServasOnline.

This is the current status for these two countries:

- Germany is finishing the migration preparation for all their members and the ambition is to migrate full profiles before the end of this year.
- The USA is also making preparations for joining Servas Online, considering various options of migrating members' data.

Both countries have been testing their membership migration on the test server.

The figures in the box will be followed up continuously during the Servas International growth campaign in 2020. There will be a final follow-up and evaluation of figures in the box above and the growth campaign during the first quarter of 2021.

One of the campaign aims is to double the number of individual members in Servas around the world.

The statistics have been provided by Paul Nielsen of Servas International ICT coordination team and Servas Australia.

Jonny Sågänger, SI President

Total ServasOnline System statistics on November 30:

NUMBER	CATEGORY
13 238	Total Members in ServasOnline
13 049	Hosts & Traveller plus other roles
5 141	Host plus other roles but not traveller
4 785	Host Only
1 070	Traveller plus other roles but not host
1 062	Traveller only

Footnote: "Hosts" and "Day hosts" are counted as one.

MYRIAD SERVAS ACTIVITIES – NOT JUST OVERNIGHT STAYS

Servas core income-generating activity is the hospitality and meeting programme that promotes intercultural learning and unique insights into people's everyday life, different religions and ways of life, as a way to create a more peaceful and tolerant world. But there are many more Servas activities around the world, for example:

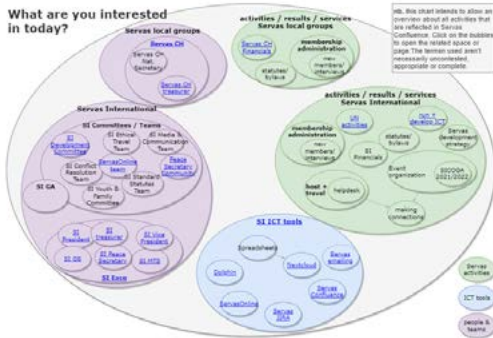
- Servas activities in cyberspace with web-based co-working space with digital tools.
- SI Making Connections project
servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/other_files/2019/SI%20Making%20Connections%20Directory%202019.pdf
- Information about ethical and environmentally sustainable travels
- Events, ranging from hiking and trekking activities to youth and families camps.

Following are some photos of different Servas activities around the world:

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Servas in cyberspace: web based co-working space



Youth camps



Africa regional meetings



Servas China invites the whole world to AGM



Artists in Servas



Family camps in Romania



Britain supporting refugees and asylum seekers

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS BULLETIN

SERVAS BRITAIN INITIATIVE FOR REFUGEES

By Giles and June Waley, Servas Britain/Scotland

We're living in a world where there are almost 70 million persons who are either refugees, asylum seekers or internally displaced across the globe

A SERVAS REFUGEE SUCCESS STORY

Rosale Strick was an asylum seeker and was granted refugee status during the summer this year. She and another refugee spent a week travelling to 4 Servas hosts in Scotland. Her travels were funded by Servas.

The following is what she wrote to her hosts you used to Giles and June Waley, members of Servas Britain:

"The most important thing in the world of your host to welcome us and make us feel safe and secure! Thank you to make us feel human again. Servas has changed my life."

• 2018

We're living in a world where there are almost 70 million persons who are either refugees, asylum seekers or internally displaced across the globe

Recent examples in Scotland
We are aware of a number of occasions when Servas members in Scotland have taken actions to help

Ganesh festival in India



Teaching asylum seekers to bicycle



SI GROWTH TEAM FORMED

The Servas International Growth Team (SI GT) has been formed to stimulate and support special Servas growth campaign in 2020 to increase the number of individual members and the organization's income.

The members are:

- Pamela Yang, Servas Taiwan, and member of the SI Development Committee (SI DC). Special skills: management, marketing
- Peter Lindgren, National Secretary Servas Singapore. Special skills: management, marketing
- Stefan Fagerström, members of Servas Sweden. Special skills: mobile marketing, management
- Jonny Sågänger (convenor), Servas International President, member of Servas International Executive Committee, and members of Servas Sweden
- Paige LaCombe, Servas International Peace Secretary, member of Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco) and Servas USA
- Radha B. Radhakrishna, Servas International Treasurer, member of Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco) and Servas USA



Three of the six-member SI Growth Team (SI GT): Pamela Yang, Servas Taiwan, (centre), and members of the SI Development Committee (SI DC), Peter Lindgren, National Secretary Servas Singapore, (left) and Stefan Fagerström, member of Servas Sweden (right).

The two main goals for the Servas growth campaign team are to:

1. Double the number of Servas members in 2020.
2. Start a project to make it possible for Servas International to receive donations.

Jonny Sågänger, SI President

SERVAS INCOME FROM STAMP USAGE FALLS

Servas International's income has been going down steadily, and the trend continues. Since this development is not sustainable, it has to be turned into an upward, positive curve.

Servas International's income is made up almost entirely of the money that member groups and member countries pay for the fees that SI charges for the stamps used on Letters of introduction, LOI.

Provisional financial figures show that Servas International (SI) received income from stamp fees to the value of 54,185 Swiss francs (CHF) during the 12-month financial year between April 1 2018–March 31, 2019. The income for these 12 months trended lower compared to the previous financial years: SI income from stamp fees for April 1 2017–March 31, 2018 was 56,589 Swiss francs compared to the income for the twelve months before at 57 699 Swiss Francs.

The size of SI from stamp fee income reflects how many LOIs have been issued by the member groups and countries' stamps for Letters of introduction. The number of stamps issued is an indicator of how attractive Servas is as a global peace and hospitality organization.

The downward trend for SI's income is not sustainable and has to be reversed. If there's no such turnaround, there will not be enough resources to pay the maintenance and development costs for information and

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communications systems like the ServasOnline System and other expenses needed for running the organization.

The global board of Servas International (SI Exco) for 2019–2021 elected in October 2018 by the SI General Assembly has decided that Servas growth is one of the five top priorities during the mandate period.

Reversing the downward trend and increasing SI revenues is becoming more and more important. Currently SI annual outflows are significantly higher (45%) than our inflows.

To some extent SI is protected by our accumulated cash balances – or in plain English “money in the bank”. The accumulated Servas International cash balances have been built up over many years of careful stewardship and stood at 370 464 Swiss francs at March 31

2019, according to the organization’s financial statement. A year earlier, on March 31 2018, the cash balance stood at 437 159 Swiss francs. A year before that the accumulated cash balance was 412 367 Swiss francs.

The accumulated money, which includes an extraordinary fee (which was called a levy) decided at SI GA 2009, has enabled the Servas International to meet the substantial capital expenditure for the new website launched at the beginning of 2017 and the global membership administration and content management system - ServasOnline System - being implemented since summer 2017. These features are all based on the ServasOnline System, which has been the largest investment in SI’s history.

These figures above can be found in the SI financial statements.

SI financial statements can be downloaded on these weblinks:

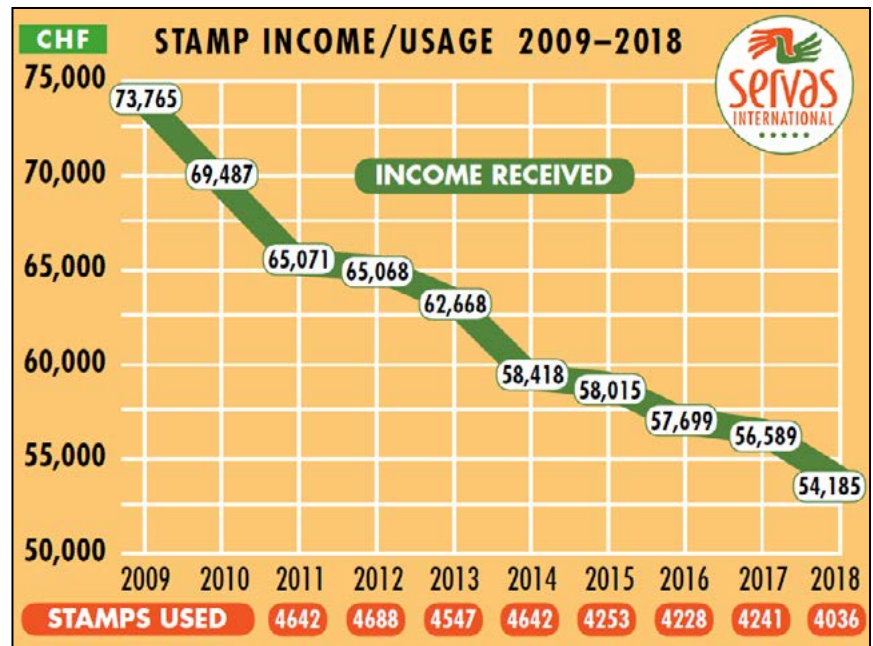
<https://servas.org/en/distant-vote>

[https://servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/distant_vote/2019/5-Audited Financial Statements 2017-18.pdf](https://servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/distant_vote/2019/5-Audited_Financial_Statements_2017-18.pdf)

[https://servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/distant_vote/2017/SI FY 2016-17-Fin Stt-1.pdf](https://servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/distant_vote/2017/SI_FY_2016-17-Fin_Stt-1.pdf)

Jonny Sägänger, SI President

Radha B. Radhakrishna, SI Treasurer



The graph shows two things: 1. Servas International’s income from member group payments for stamps have fallen over a long period of time. 2. Stamp usage has also reduced. These two factors are directly connected, since member group payments for stamps is the main source of income for Servas International.

STAMP USAGE & INCOME PER COUNTRY

During the most recent three-year period the total number of stamps for Letters of introduction (LOI) reported and paid for by Servas country groups to Servas International fell to 4 036 for 2018, down from 4 228 in 2016. Over the same period the Servas International income from stamps from Servas countries decreased to 54 185 Swiss francs for 2018, down from 58 020 Swiss francs in 2016.

Over the same three-year period, however, some Servas countries reported increased use of LOI stamps and as a consequence of that paid an increasing amount of money to SI. In a large number of Servas countries the use of LOI stamp and payments for these stamps were unchanged or decreased. This means that in some countries more Servas members are travelling within the Servas network of hosts, while the number of travellers is decreasing or remains stable in other countries.

In the data tables below you can see the LOI stamp usage and SI income from this stamp usage.

During the Servas Growth campaign 2020 all Servas countries are encouraged to challenge themselves to increase their membership and stamp usage.

The countries with shrinking stamp use are encouraged to analyse why they have a negative trend, and to compare notes with Servas representatives in the countries where stamp use is increasing to find out what kind of activities have helped achieve the growth.

COLOR CODE	
Black	Reported and verified by stamp returns
Red	Returns not reported or not verified
Green	Free stamps

LOI Stamp Usage & LOI Fees 2016-2018						
	Stamps Used			Swiss Francs Paid		
	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016
USA	998	921	830	17 610	16 070	14 250
France	670	742	819	11 050	12 490	14 030
Germany	385	458	433	5 680	6 994	6 544
Italy	279	212	229	3 835	2 830	3 085
Australia	197	206	181	2 605	2 740	2 365
Canada	179	211	268	2 335	2 815	3 670
Britain	157	180	202	2 005	2 350	2 680
Belgium	112	115	132	1 330	1 375	2 071
Spain	97	86	94	1 105	940	1 060
Poland	70	78	54	700	820	460
Switzerland	65	58	100	625	520	1 150
Israel	64	58	74	610	520	760
New Zealand	64	69	89	610	685	985
Netherlands	55	88	48	475	970	380
Denmark	54	97	97	460	1 105	1 105
Japan	52	35	48	430	250	380
Austria	49	50	46	390	400	360
Argentina	44	36	46	340	260	360
Taiwan	43	34	42	330	240	320
Hungary	42	37	23	320	270	230
Korea	38	63	34	280	595	240
Brazil	34	18	35	240	80	250
India	26	33	19	160	230	90
Czech Republic	25	37	30	150	270	200
Sweden	23	47	55	130	370	475
Mexico	21	12	0	110	20	0
Portugal	17	16	18	70	60	80
Ireland	16	20	32	60	100	220
Finland	14	9	14	40	0	40
Thailand	14	0	0	40	0	0
Turkey	14	6	26	50	0	160
Russia	11	15	10	10	50	0
Bangladesh	10	0	0	0	0	0
Belarus	10	9	4	0	0	0
Chile	10	4	0	0	0	0

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LOI Stamp Usage & LOI Fees 2016-2018						
	Stamps Used			Swiss Francs Paid		
	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016
China	10	7	7	0	0	0
Colombia	10	10	8	0	0	0
Costa Rica	10	10	2	0	0	0
Georgia	8	10	0	0	0	0
Indonesia	5	1	5	0	0	0
Romania	4	4	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	4	4	8	0	0	0
Iran	3	1	0	0	0	0
Jordan	3	2	5	0	0	0
Latvia	3	2	0	0	0	0
Malta	3			0	0	0
Norway	3	12	2	0	20	0
South Africa	3	9	12	0	0	20
Croatia	2	1	3	0	0	0
Myanmar	2	9	0	0	0	0
Peru	2	0	0	0	0	0
Phillipines	1			0	0	0
Zimbabwe	1	6	0	0	0	0
Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	5	0	0	0
Burundi	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cameroon	0	10	0	0	0	0
Cuba	0	10	0	0	0	0
Egypt	0			0	0	0
Estonia	0		0	0	0	0

LOI Stamp Usage & LOI Fees 2016-2018						
	Stamps Used			Swiss Francs Paid		
	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016
Greece	0	2	3	0	0	0
Guatemala	0	10	8	0	0	0
Hong Kong	0	4	1	0	0	0
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0			0	0	0
Malawi	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaysia	0	10	10	0	0	0
Nepal	0	6	1	0	0	0
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Panama	0		0	0	0	0
Paraguay	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	0			0	0	0
Singapore	0	4	4	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	10	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	0	2	2	0	0	0
Gambia		10	0	0	0	0
Honduras		5	0	0	0	0
Iceland			0	0	0	0
Suriname		0	0	0	0	0
Tanzania		0	0	0	0	0
Uganda		0	0	0	0	0
Uruguay		10	10	0	0	0
Venezuela		0	0	0	0	0
Vietnam		0	0	0	0	0
Zambia			0	0	0	0
TOTAL	4036	4241	4228	54185	56439	58020

WHAT SI EXCO HAS DECIDED – FIND OUT HERE

At the most recent meetings SI Exco made decisions, among other things, about the following:

Decisions at November 11 SI Exco meeting

- SI Exco endorsed the recruitment of a SI Growth Team (SI GT).
- The SI Peace Secretary and the SI Membership and Technology Secretary will ask the Roadmap Team to carry out a consultation process with National Secretaries and other relevant parties regarding the standardization in Servas membership fee structure.

Decisions at October 27 SI Exco meeting

- SI Exco approved a motion about a Servas growth campaign for 2020 in order to increase the number of individual Servas members worldwide, and the recruitment of a SI Growth Team (SI GT).
- SI Exco approved a motion that the SI Growth Team (SI GT) will also research what measures are needed to make it possible for Servas International to receive donations from individuals, companies and other organizations.

- A SI Nomination Team has been formed by the SI Peace Secretary (SI PS). The SI PS will inform the SI Nomination Team about the possible financial difficulty in holding the next SI Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA).
- SI Exco approved the recommendations of SIETTT, the SI Ethical Travel Team for ethical and environmentally sustainable travel. The SI President and the SI Peace Secretary will formulate the recommendations into simpler wording and work on more specific action proposals for individuals and groups.
- SI Exco unanimously approved Distant voting privileges for Servas Bulgaria.

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

Minutes from the SI Exco meetings are posted on the Servas International website at:

<https://servas.org/en/community/board-and-management/si-exco>

PEOPLE: NEW SERVAS KEY PEOPLE

SERVAS BULGARIA

- Since October 2019 Jivko Gradinarov has been the National Secretary. Jivko replaces John Ayerst.
- Deputies are Leda Georgieva and Tania Boyajieva.

SERVAS LAOS

Good news! New Servas country in South East Asia.

- Since November 2019 there are two members in Servas Laos, a traveller and a day host.
- Bryan Zulauf will welcome you in Luang Prabang, a Unesco World Heritage Site. In the past, before moving to Laos, Bryan has been member of Servas USA.

SERVAS UGANDA

This is the current board of Servas Uganda:

- Margaret Ntambi: National Secretary
- Moses Kigozi: Deputy, replacing Ibrahim Everest
- Prossy Nampijja: Peace Secretary
- John Hopekins Kinene: Host List Coordinator
- Kalanzi Robinson: Treasurer
- Maria Nansenja: Youth and Family Contact

You'll find updated Host Lists and more details in ServasOnline and in the Members list stored in the host list storage area (HLSA) of Dolphin.

Rita Dessauvage, SI Dolphin Team

Member of Servas Belgium & Luxembourg

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 the event organizers ask us 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 set up.

So 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 the links for the latest events to all National Secretaries and key people.

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 at 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)

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 Philipppo, 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.

SI EXCO 2018-2021

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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 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.