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- SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS BULLETIN -

- news from Servas International Executive Committee (Exco) -

===== måndag den 8 aug 2016 =====

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*** SHE LEADS THE SERVAS INNOVATION PROJECT

The Servas International Innovation Project will be led by Aneris Cao of Servas Chile and others. They will develop the ideas that came out of discussion during the Speaker's Corner sessions at the Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA) 2015 in New Zealand.

Speaker's Corner was an open session and forum at the international conference where everyone could contribute ideas about how Servas can develop in the future.

Several innovative ideas were put forward, some of which the Innovation Group will now try to put into action.

The Servas International vice president Ann Greenhough will be the link between the project and Servas International's global board, SI Exco.

Read about the innovation project "International Servas Week" below.

Aneris Cao and other members of the Innovation Group can be contacted via and email to innovation@servas.org.



Aneris Cao from Argentina, now living in Chile, will lead the Servas International Innovation Project.

*** "INTERNATIONAL SERVAS WEEK" IN SEPTEMBER

We want to invite you to participate in the Project "International Servas Week". This project aims to put into action one of the ideas debated in the workshop we had at SICOGA 2015, named "Speakers corner".

This project aims to start this September and everyone can contribute to make it happen!

We want to celebrate Servas, making connections all over the world during the same week, with simultaneous activities that spread Servas values, such as Peace, Solidarity, Service, Hospitality, and Understanding.

Here you can see the aim of the project:

PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL SERVAS WEEK

IMPORTANT NOTICE: THIS YEAR : 17TH TO 26TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Name and theme: Connecting SERVAS: making connections with the world

Aim of the project:

What? Celebrate Servas Week once a year around the world, with simultaneous events organized during the week of 21st September.

How? Take part in global action to show ourselves to the world and so reinforce our values as an organisation, such as Peace, Solidarity, Service, Hospitality, Understanding.

Impact: As Servas members make new connections between us and with others who share common ground with Servas.

Annual Date: the week of 21st September, the UN international day of peace, to celebrate Servas values such as: Peace, Solidarity, Service, Hospitality, and Understanding.

First Time of the Project: the week from Saturday 17th to Sunday 26th September 2016

You can receive more information and examples by sending an email to innovation@servas.org

Thanks in advance for joining us in this first activity!

In peace and friendship,

Aneris Cao and the other members of the Servas Innovation Group

innovation@servas.org

***** INITIATIVE TO USE STORYTELLING TO PROMOTE SERVAS**



Servas members participating at Servas International Conference and General Assembly in New Zealand in October 2015. Photo: Ben Childs

This is a pledge to national secretaries and other key persons in Servas to spread the word about a communication project to increase the knowledge about our organization in the world.

Telling and publishing stories about great Servas experiences is an efficient way to inspire people to join the organization and to make existing individual members travel and host more.

In a communications campaign we (Stefan Fagerström and Jonny Sågänger) encourage all individual Servas members to tell their story about Servas. We are especially interested in getting personal photos and stories that express answers to this question:

What does Servas mean to *you*?

The members are encouraged to share the stories and photos by sending an email to servasdesignhelp@gmail.com or by sharing the information on the SI Facebook page which promotes Servas here <https://www.facebook.com/Servas.International/?ref=bookmarks>

The main purpose of this communication initiative is to collect material which we can use on Servas web sites and in social media to tell other people about Servas. We will of course get permission from the contributors before publishing.

Please spread this information to all individual Servas members in your country.

We are looking forward to see many photos and to read all your great Servas experiences and to make them fit for publishing.

Thanking you in advance!

Stefan Fagerström, member of Servas International Image & Design Support Team and administrator of the SI face book page

Jonny Sågänger, president Servas International and administrator of the SI face book page

***** "ONE SMALL STEP FOR HUMANITY, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR SERVAS"**

Servas France has in July been able to successfully transfer the original data of the country's Servas members to the new Internet based system ServasOnline.

"A group of motivated members and all the coordinators have enthusiastically and efficiently worked to prepare this transfer and then to make it true," says Bernard Andrieu, project manager for the ServasOnline project (which you can read more about below).

Bernard Andrieu describes – with a portion of humour – but also lots of pride – the successful transfer of members data, "one small step for humanity, one giant leap for Servas". The transfer of the data was completed on July 25th.

Some adjustments were necessary due to the complexity of building the import file. Now it is up to each individual member to complete her/his profile and to place her/his home on the map.

"Now all countries can follow with confidence. We are ready to share our experience with them," assures Bernard Andrieu.

ServasOnline will now step by step become Servas main system for member administration.



Bernard Andrieu
Gerente de Proyecto del Sistema ServasOnline

***** SERVASONLINE LEVY REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE INTERNET PROJECT**

The ServasOnline (SOL) levy as decided at the Servas International General Assembly 2009 in Argentina still is unpaid by some Servas member groups. Servas International's global executive committee, SI Exco, now requests these member groups to pay up so that all the financial obligations are fulfilled and they can exercise their vote at the Distant Voting scheduled for November 2016. Lakshmanan Venkata Subramanian (LV), who is the treasurer of Servas International, will follow up and facilitate with the respective member groups for concluding the pending financial obligations.

This is the background to Exco's action: The ServasOnline project group was set up in Argentina GA 2009 to develop a new website to replace the existing one at www.servas.org, and a new online member system, ServasOnline, to replace

the existing Dolphin system. The new website and ServasOnline will provide extensive information for interested people, and also a real time membership system and communication platform for members.

In 2009 it was understood that this would involve a large financial outlay which would be partly met by SI reserves and partly by means of a levy charged to all SI Member Groups having more than 100 host members. A motion was passed at the 2009 GA to charge CHF 1 for every host member in countries with over 100 hosts.

The levy was in effect for 2010, 2011 and 2012. It was suspended after 2012 by a 2012 GA decision.

Currently, the SI Treasurer's records show that 10 countries have not paid their ServasOnline levy for one or more of the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The new website and ServasOnline are almost completed, and there has been considerable financial outlay. After implementation, there will be ongoing maintenance costs which are mandatory and necessary. There are also planned additional functions and upgrades which will need to be paid. The financial costs for the next three years, namely 2016 to 2018, were presented and approved at the last 2015 GA.

Since the ServasOnline levy was a GA decision, it is a financial obligation. Member Groups who have not met their financial obligations are not entitled to vote in Distant Votes or at General Assemblies.

It is therefore requested to those Member Groups that have not paid the ServasOnline levy pay it as soon as possible, to ensure that they are eligible to vote in the upcoming November 2016 Distant Vote. These outstanding levy funds will also support upcoming expenses as the website and ServasOnline are put into production.

Please contact SI Treasurer Lakshmanan Venkata Subramanian (LV) to arrange the payment by 31st August 2016. He can be contacted by email at Treasurer@servas.org.

Thank you for your attention and early compliance.

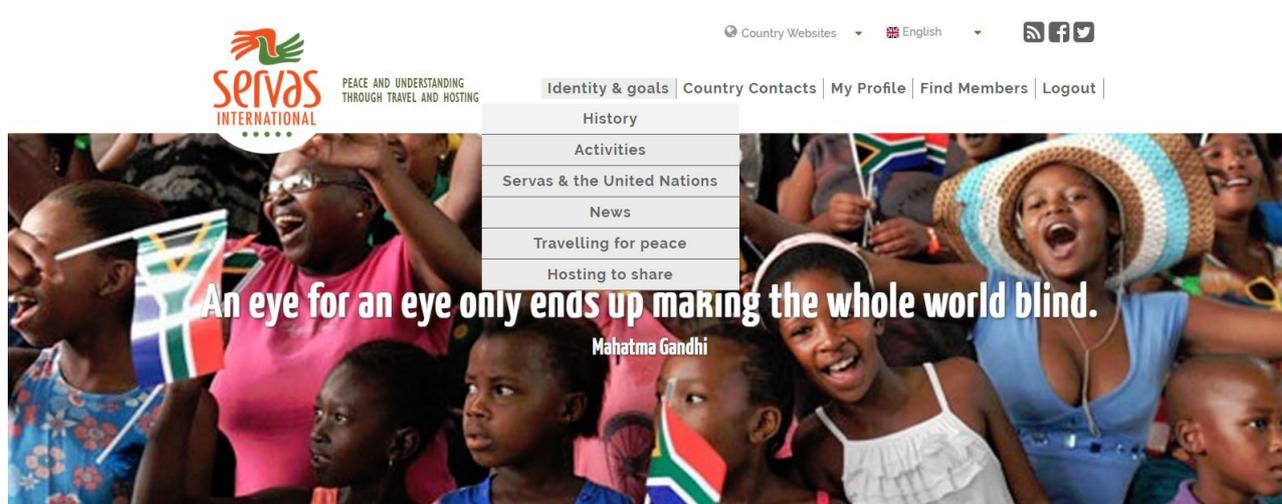
Regards

Jonny Sågänger

President

Servas International

*** UPDATE ON SERVAS' NEW WEBSITE AND SERVASONLINE



This image taken from a test version of the new Servas International website gives an idea about the future design that will be launched on the Internet domain servas.org. Illustration: Copyright free image from the web

The launch of a new and modernized Servas International website on the Internet domain servas.org is coming closer and closer. The activity is being spearheaded by a group of people in a so called ServasOnline team and by individuals who have volunteered as pilots and testers of the new website, the information and communication platform (ICT platform) and the members' database application.

The new website and the ServasOnline system will be launched in several steps. First comes the presentation 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.

Preparations are right now being done to transfer member data from the current members' database application Dolphin to ServasOnline.

The Servas member countries France, New Zealand and Canada are currently testing ServasOnline. France expects to load the members' data in July. The French Servas volunteers will make the member profiles visible to the Servas world in September, after at least a full month of validation of their personal data.

Dolphin will be closed when the last Servas member country will have have uploaded the member data in the ServasOnline system.

Pablo Colangelo, the Servas International host list coordinator, is playing a central and crucial role in the transition from Dolphin to ServasOnline.

Pablo Colangelo and the rest of the ServasOnline Team are preparing the ServasOnline deployment in each country jointly with the national secretaries, who will be instrumental in the transition of national members' databases into ServasOnline.

Do you have questions about the transition from Dolphin, other national member's databases or other queries about member administration please contact for Pablo Colangelo via an email to hostlistcoordinator@servas.org

Please send an email to servasonline@servas.org if you have questions about the new website and/or if you would like to volunteer to offer your services for the completion and future development of this exciting project.

See the movie about the development of ServasOnline here:

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



Jonny Sångänger

President

Servas International

president@servas.org

***SERVAS GENERAL SECRETARY UPDATE

Greetings everyone!

There have been a few developments since the conference in New Zealand in October 2015 that I would like to draw to your attention.

- **General Assembly decision to make Spanish a working language of Servas International:** Lilly Keredes, from Servas Mexico, has been appointed as the SI Spanish Translation Coordinator. In this role, Lilly will have a team of translators, and she will coordinate the translations and review them for accuracy. We look forward to working with you in both English and Spanish. As you will understand, this is a BIG job! And Lilly needs more translators on her team! **Please email spanishcoordinator@servas.org if you can help!**
- **SI Annual Reports** – The 2016 Annual Report form was sent out to all Member Groups of SI. It is one of the requirements for a member group to retain its member status. 56 of the 77 Member Groups have sent their Annual Reports. **If you have not done it yet, please do so as soon as possible.**
- **SI Analysis Group:** There is a lot of information in the Annual Reports, which have been collected for many years. An SI Analysis group is being set up to do analysis of the data that we have, and also look at the best use of the information, and if there is some that would be useful to collect in the future.
If you have experience with analysis or an interest in looking at data and using the information to identify trends, issues or interesting conclusions, please write to Penny Pattison at generalsecretary@servas.org
- **SI Archive Consulting Group:** A new SI Archivist, Anna Koster, was elected at the conference, and she has begun work. She has 110 boxes of information stored at the Hoover Institute in California. And that is only papers from 2007 and earlier! Then there is all of the electronic information from the last 10 years. And then more is created every day as we go forward.

We are setting up a consulting group to work with Anna, to decide such things as:

- What information to keep from now into the future?
- What information to keep from the past 10 years?
- How to decide what to keep out of the 110 boxes of earlier records?
- How to make valuable SI information available to everyone?

If you have experience with archives, or are interested in helping with this important project, please write to Anna archivist@servas.org

- **www.servas.org:** The ServasOnline project is moving along well. Until it is implemented, we have the current www.servas.org website – I encourage you to check it out! The contents of this website will be moved to ServasOnline when the time is right. Recently, three sections have been created or updated:
 - **Servas at the UN** – This is where all you can see what is happening with Servas at the United Nations. Any question or comments should be sent to Danielle Serres at peacesecretary@servas.org
 - **Events and Meetings** (found under the main menu item ‘Links and Events’) – Here you can see international Servas meetings that are planned. If you have an event that you would like to publicize, please send it to me at generalsecretary@servas.org.
 - **Administration** – this area is mainly intended for the key people in each country. However, others might be interested to see some of these key documents related to SI. Of special interest is the SI Handbook, which gives an overview of Servas. If you have questions, or would like to see something added to this section, please write to me at generalsecretary@servas.org.

May you have wonderful Servas experiences!



In peace,
Penny Pattison
SI General Secretary

***** MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AT THE UN**

Dear friends,

As you know, Servas International has consultative status with the United Nations, and through its representatives in UN venues, has a voice on the international scene. You may find on Servas International website and SI News some examples of such activities.

Some of us in the SI UN team have been working on a document to submit to Servas community through its National Peace Secretaries. We have been approached at times about issues related to human rights situation in different countries where Servas is present, as part of our peace mission.

In the particularly difficult times we are living, education on human rights is most important. *"Far greater emphasis must be placed on human rights as the international community continues to work towards implementing the agreed-upon sustainable development agenda, because it is the most powerful driver of peace and development"*, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recently stated. *"Human rights are at the heart of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from ending poverty to reducing inequality and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies."*

We would therefore be grateful if you could send us the attached questionnaire by August 8, 2016 and inform us if there are any human rights issues you wish our representatives to address during the 33rd regular session of the Human Rights Council, which will be held in Geneva September 13 to 30.

We also encourage you to contact us any time when there are urgent cases of concern that you would like to bring to the immediate attention of the UN.



In peace and friendship,

Danielle Serres

Servas International Peace Secretary

***** NOVEMBER 2016 2016 DISTANT VOTE**

Servas International holds a General Assembly every three years. Between General Assemblies, a Distant Vote process is used to allow decisions to be made. The next Distant Vote ends on November 30, 2016. For information about the SI Distant Vote, visit <http://www.servas.org/who-we-are-distant-vote.php>.

***** IMPORTANT TO KEEP COUNTRY HOST LIST UPDATED**

Servas host lists is the core of our organization. The host lists must therefore be kept as updated/up to date as possible. So, if you are a host or a day host remember to check almost once a year your data with is being published, and in case there is something to update get in touch with your local Host List Coordinator or National Secretary to do the changes needed. With the coming ServasOnline system every individual member will be able to edit their own records or request assistance as well.

If you are an officer (key person) remember that having the host list updated is essential for your country to keep their membership at the Servas International General Assembly (SI GA) and have the right to vote there of by distant vote. A host list not older than three years – which is a lot in current times – is needed to fit into the criteria for voting at the SI GA and at distant vote.

For those countries that are still not members of the Servas International General Assembly of Servas International and therefore they don't have the right to vote on the motions, having a host list with more than 10 members and regular updated is one of the criteria to be eligible to become a member and be able to participate more actively on the decisions and the future of Servas.

We want all countries to be members of the Servas International General Assembly and no countries to be withdrawn: so count on me in case you need any assistance or recommendation.

Regardless of administrative issues Host Lists are very important and make possible that people meet each other all around the world!

*By Pablo Colangelo
Servas International
Host List Coordinator*

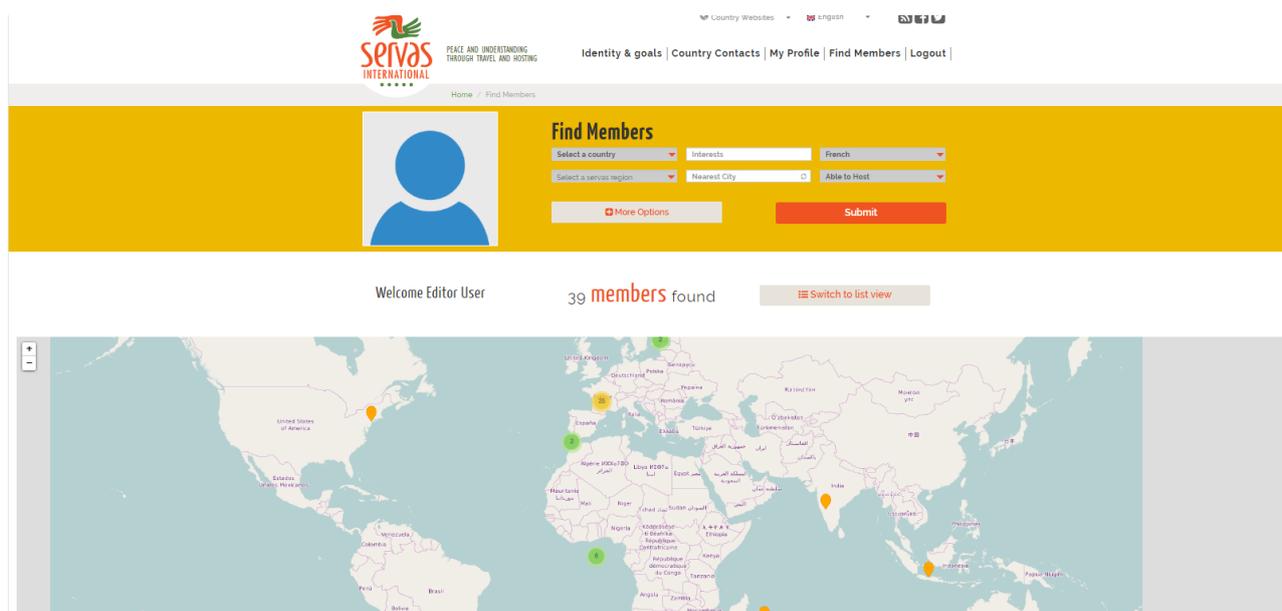
***** OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG SERVAS MEMBERS**

It was agreed at the Servas International General Assembly in New Zealand in October 2015 that Servas International and the Servas national groups shall actively work towards a rejuvenation of the organisation. To do this, the global board of Servas (Exco) will appoint a workgroup of at least two people who will have the task of promoting the rejuvenation of Servas. The workgroup will report the results to Exco by the end of 2016, for distribution. They will also report the results and future strategy to the next GA.

Young people who would like to join the workgroup should present their interest in an email to Pablo Colangelo, who is the Servas International Host List Coordinator. Please write to Pablo Colangelo by using this email address: hostlistcoordinator@servas.org.

*By Pablo Colangelo
Servas International
Host List Coordinator*

*** ABOUT THE SERVASONLINE SYSTEM PROJECT



The ServasOnline System project consists of the following parts:

- The creation of presence and appearance on the world-wide-web, www=Internet.
- Information and communication platform (ICT platform)
- Members' database application.

The ServasOnLine System has a range of different features. Its search engine enables easy communication between travellers and potential hosts. It should also facilitate for better communication – and interaction – between all people who are part of our global organisation.

The website should be attractive enough to attract new members of all ages, in order to make our network bigger and to give the organisation a needed numeral and economic boost.

Other features in the ServasOnLine System project is to offer member groups and member countries tools to handle the important task of member administration. When this kind of bureaucracy can be done on shorten time and with less money spent Servas volunteers around the world can focus more on peace activities and the promotion of Servas services and values.

The French web design and development company Oonops has created the new website's design and look, in close cooperation with key Servas volunteers. The design phase was followed by the *development phase* of the project, which has been executed by the company Netiapps in India. The development is coming close to an end.

An operational version of ServasOnline was launched in June 2016.

During the design and development phases roles and responsibilities for example for hosting, administration, webmaster and webeditors for ServasOnline have been defined and volunteers have been recruited. This recruitment process is still in progress. Volunteers with experience of working with administrative and editorial work on websites are welcome to present their interest via an email to servasonline@servas.org.

SI Exco and the ServasOnline Team are convinced that the new website and the ServasOnline System needs to be finished as soon as possible, in order to prevent loss of existing members and to keep recruitment of new members on an acceptable level.

The current version of the new Servas website and the ServasOnline system you find here: <http://testsolsys.servas.org>
Please remember that any information added to the test version will be erased when the systems becomes operative.

Bernard Andrieu
ServasOnline System Project Manager

Jonny Sägänger
ServasOnLine System project sponsor
President Servas International

*** FACTS ABOUT SERVASONLINE SYSTEM

The ServasOnLine System includes the following parts:

- A public website, including a restricted area accessible to authenticated Servas members only.
- An online application for updating contents of the public website. This is called a content management system (CMS).
- An online application for the Members Administration.

There are now a test version of the new website with interactive but basic functionality.

The test website can be visited here:

<http://testsolsys.servas.org/>

The graphical design has been developed by Oonops in cooperation with the ServasOnLine Steering Committee Management Team (ServasOnLine System SCMT)* and SI Exco during the second half of 2014.

During 2014 a Servas International Image & Design Support Team (SIIDST) created one of the main components for the website: a Servas International logo with this design:



SI Exco has through SIIDST been able to offer member groups and member countries the tools and services needed to use the new logo. The offer has been well received and many groups have made use of the opportunity.

The investment in the new servas.org website will at least partly be financed with the so called ServasOnLine levy, which is money that has been collected from Servas member groups according to a decision that was made at the Servas International General Assembly in Argentina in the year 2009 (SIGA2009). Alternative economic resources for ServasOnLine were allocated in the SI budget for the period 2012-2015. Economic resources has also been allocated for investments and running costs for 2016-2018.

* The SOLSCMT currently consists of the Servas members Bernard Andrieu (Project Manager), Frédéric Morizot, Pablo Colangelo (SI Host List Administrator) and Jonny Sågänger (SI Exco project sponsor).

Jonny Sågänger

SI Exco ServasOnLine System project sponsor

President Servas International

***** SURF IN AND VISIT SERVAS CURRENT WEBSITE**

Servas International (SI) has an internet domain called <http://servas.org>. This is the domain where the project group ServasOnLine System SCMT and SI EXCO will launch the new website during 2016. On the domain servas.org there's currently a website with basic functionality and weblinks to for example Servas member groups and national groups. The current website has been created during 2014 mainly by Stefan Fagerström, Jean-Marc Eyot and Matthew Pashkovskiy after the shutdown of the previous website in December 2013. The old website was shut down by the SI Information and Communication Team (SI ICT), which considered it too old fashioned and virtually impossible to modernize. Please visit Servas on its Internet domain <http://servas.org/>

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

Servas International's global board is called SI Exco and the group has monthly video meetings via Internet. The meetings are minuted, which means that decisions and other important matters are documented. The minutes are published and available for you to read, in order to maximize transparency and openness in a democratic manner.

On this website you find the most recently posted SI Exco meeting minutes:

http://servas.org/minutes/Minutes_SI_Exco_20160515.pdf

On this website you find the minutes from previous SI Exco meetings:

<http://servas.org/who-we-are-SI-EXCO.php>

***** THIS NEWSLETTER EXISTS IN SPANISH TOO**

This newsletter exists also in spanish. You can find it on servas.org
You can find it here:
<http://servas.org/who-we-are-newsletter.php>

Would you like to become a member of the team of translators?
Please present your interest in an email to Lilly Kerekes, the coordinator: princesamagyarul@gmail.com

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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 Coordinators:

- **Jonny Sågänger** SI President president@servas.org
- **Ann Greenhough** Vice-President vicepresident@servas.org

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

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SI Exco 2016-2018

President **Jonny Sågänger** president@servas.org

Vice-President **Ann Greenhough** vicepresident@servas.org
Treasurer **LV Subramanian** treasurer@servas.org
General Secretary **Penny Pattison** generalsecretary@servas.org
Host List Coordinator **Pablo Colangelo** hostlistcoordinator@servas.org
Peace Secretary **Danielle Serres** peacesecretary@servas.org

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Here you will find Servas International on the world wide web/Internet

Servas International website
<http://servas.org/index.php>

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 group does not make you a member.

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

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

Facebookgroup Servas International

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

Administrators: Pablo Colangelo, Arnoud Philippo.

<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, encompassing an international network of hosts and travelers.

The purpose of the network is to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by providing opportunities for personal contacts among people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities.



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