

29th S.I. CONFERENCE Piaski - POLAND



DAILY NEWSLETTER

DAY 1

Sunday 19th. August 2012
Daily Conference Summary,
Delegate Comments & ideas.

OPENING SESION

The General Assembly was officially opened this morning by Pramod Kumar. After that, Penny, Pablo, Danielle and Mirek, who make up the EXCO team were introduced as well as the moderators. Thanks were given to the lovely Polish Organizing Team and to Amir. Then Michael and Suzanne (Canada) did a role play showing how Servas might be in 2015.



WORKSHOPS

There were four two hours workshops running repeatedly from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

HUMAN RIGHTS WORKSHOP (By Margaret Seelig)

The sessions began with a brief outline of Servas's role at the UN, with consultative status on ECOSOC -Economic, Cultural and Social Commission-. Then moved to an overview of the articles of UDHR -Human Declaration of Human Rights- and definitions of Human Rights as perceived by the group. It was felt quite strongly that statements concerning "The right to freedom from all forms of discrimination" were central to Servas.

RULES OF ORDER WORKSHOP (By Chris Jones)

We reviewed how Delegates should behave, vote and challenge during a meeting. It is important to stay focused on the motion being discussed, not to interrupt, be an active listener. Remember that following this "game rules" we can make decisions in a efficient and respectful manner. The suggested rules of order will be approved on Day 3.

LOCAL PEACE PROJECTS WORKSHOP (By Danielle Serres) Reports from 18 Servas Groups containing lots of positive actions and ideas: community links and collaborations, work with young and old, disabled and disadvantaged people, environmental and woman's projects, links with UN. Examples are members giving blood, support an orphanage, work with young people from poor areas in conflict resolution, collaboration with city farm to address the problem of food deserts in inner cities, peace clubs in schools, peace pages on websites. Japan and New Zealand thanked groups for their support following their earthquakes.

PEACE BEGINS WITH ME WORKSHOP

(By Julie Dotsch) We paired up with someone we had not previously met, to look for commonalities and differences. We looked at our emotional responses, what creates and breaks down communication barriers and the importance of inner peace to encourage dialogue.

Social Networking and media

Attendees: Servas France, Switzerland, Sweden, Italy, Russia. We had a brainstorming about the current situation of Servas, concerning its presence in Social Networks (facebook), Discussion Groups (Google Groups and Yahoo Groups) and Wikipedia. It is turn out that a committee such as the ICT (Information and Communication Team) should deal with existing facebook accounts to ensure that there will have adequate and updated information published. Social Networking contributes to horizontal communication between hosts and enrich Servas. More info upon request (hostlistcoordinator@servas.org).

REMEMBER !!

A good list rule for a host: answer quickly any travelers request for hosting! (Jocelyne Vignal of Reunion)

SERVAS PORTUGAL BADGES

Help fund Servas peace activities in Portugal by buying fabulous badges. Talk to Carla or Alexandra from Servas Portugal.



You can not shake hands with a closed fist !

END OF THE DAY

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Area meetings.
9:00 - 10:30 p.m. Youth group and Area Coordinators made their presenta-

Why do you travel? To find those who still know how to live in peace.
Ella Maillot



GET YOUR LEGS UP !!

Two weeks following the last GA in Argentina, Michael (Norway) had a successful kidney transplant. Wow !! We are delighted to see him at this GA looking so well and actively taking part. If you see him sitting please find him a chair to rest his legs on.

By: 🇿🇲 Demelza (Malawi), Suzanne (Canada), Sophia (Guatemala), Lucy (Spain), Susana (Mexico), Gustavo (Bolivia)