



Serra International

19 January 2012

Dear Serra Club President,

Please accept my warmest New Year greetings to you from Hong Kong! As you are aware, Serra International's governing board ("board") voted on 12 December 2011 to withdraw its approval of Serra's National Council for the United States ("USAC"). An important reason for that action was the recognition of its fiduciary duty to move forward with the consolidation of the two Serra offices in Chicago as called for in the Memorandum of Agreement ("Omaha Agreement") dated 03 December 2007.

In making that decision, the board relied on the report of its Co-location Task Force dated 08 October 2010, a copy of which has been mailed to your Treasurer with the dues billing for the second semester of 2011-2012. That report stressed the urgency of acting to reduce operating expenses in Chicago to bring them in line with the reduction in revenue resulting from a 16.0 per cent decline in membership in the United States over the past six years.

At its meeting on 14 January 2012, the board decided that it was time to move forward with its plans for the provision to Serra Clubs in the U.S.A by Serra's Central Secretariat in Chicago of member support services previously provided by USAC. Your Treasurer will no doubt report to you that there are additional items in that invoice, reflecting the board's decision to approve a new category of dues to be paid to Serra International, namely "National Dues in the U.S.A." You will notice that those dues are 20 per cent lower than USAC dues payable in 2010. Such a useful reduction is made possible by eliminating the duplication of office rent and equipment leasing as well as accounting and other administrative services.

If Serra is to achieve financial stability, it is critical that there be resumption of payments of international dues withheld by some Serra Clubs because of concern caused by the drawn-out legal action. Please support us with your international dues, payment of which is compulsory.

While no more or less compulsory than USAC dues were in the past, prompt payment of National Dues in the United States will demonstrate that your Serra Club wishes to support the progressive roll-out of the full range of member support services (including manuals, training webinars, mailing lists, event insurance, protection of tax-exempt status, etc) similar to member support services that were made available from the one Serra office in Chicago for at least thirty years prior to 1999.

Mary, mother of vocations, pray for us!

Sincerely,

Thomas A Wong
PRESIDENT

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His Eminence
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
Illinois U.S.A.

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Serra Club of Hong Kong
P.R.C.

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Serra Club of St. Louis
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Serra Club of Santiago
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Serra Club of Singapore
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