

# SERRA INTERNATIONAL

## MEMORANDUM

Date: 18 January 2012  
From: John W. Woodward  
To: Treasurers of Serra Clubs in the United States  
Subject: Dues billing for the period 15 January 2012 –14 July 2012

As you are no doubt 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 acceptance 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 (see enclosure). As you will see in that report, it 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 % decline in membership in the United States over the past six years.

One important effect of the board's action was then and is now, despite USAC's refusal to accept the board's decision and the subsequent legal action that the board deemed necessary to enforce its decision, is that USAC is no longer authorized to collect dues from Serra Clubs in the United States.

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.

Please find enclosed the *per capita* dues invoice for your Serra Club for the second semester of the 2011-2012 fiscal year. You will notice that there are additional items shown 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 the amount of these dues is 20% lower than that of similar Council dues payable in the past. That reduction is made possible by eliminating much of the duplication of accounting and other administrative services.

If Serra is to move forward, the first priority is the resumption of payments of international dues that have been withheld by some Serra Clubs because of uncertainty caused by the legal action. Payment of international dues 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.