

THE BELLRINGERS

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR SERRA LEADERS

15 MARCH 2006

SPOKANE 2006 CONVENTION

Please find important information regarding this year's international convention. Spokane 2006 will offer a convention venue and program of the highest standard. If you have not attended an international convention before, make the best of this year's opportunity for an informative and stimulating look at the Serra apostolate worldwide.

It is many years since the international convention was held near where Serra was founded. Spokane is one of the earliest Serra Clubs and is therefore part of historic District One - that now encompasses the northwestern United States and British Columbia in Canada.

Once again, we need the solid support of our worldwide membership if we are to ensure that the Spokane convention truly reflects Serra's global outreach as the lay apostolate for vocations in the Catholic Church.

Many of you are approaching the end of your term as district governor, club president or as the holder of some other important office in Serra. As leaders of Serra, you can help to ensure that Spokane 2006 is the success it deserves to be. Please make a direct appeal to your constituency so we can achieve a big boost in first-time registrations. Your personal encouragement may well make the difference.

Thank you for your help in this and for all your good work for Serra.

John W. Woodward
Executive Director

A DELEGATE FROM EVERY CLUB AT SPOKANE 2006

We urge every Serra Club to send a delegate to the 64th Convention of Serra International to be held in Spokane, Washington from 29 June - 02 July 2006. At the delegates' meeting, there will be discussion and voting on a number of important matters, including proposed amendments to the Bylaws of Serra International, a proposal to increase the international dues base, the election of the 2006-2007 Board of Trustees and approval of the 2006-2007 budget.

It is important for each club's voice to be heard and vote counted.

Delegates also bring back to their clubs a report of the convention happenings; they inform members of the new ideas and initiatives for vocation activities, internal programs, recruiting and membership retention, and communications.

At your club board of trustees meeting, plan now to make sure that your club will be represented by its own delegate or alternate delegate or by proxy.

Please complete and return the Delegate Credential by the date specified.

Bylaw amendments proposed by Serra's National Council for the United States

In accordance with Article XIV of the Bylaws of Serra International, delegates will also vote on a proposal by the Serra's National Council for the United States to amend Bylaws Article IX as follows:

ARTICLE IX Serra Councils

Present Bylaws

When and if approval has been given by the board of trustees of SERRA INTERNATIONAL, Serra Councils may be created by the Serrans or the SERRA CLUBS in any particular country or regions provided that this shall be done without prejudice to the functions, duties and jurisdiction of the various boards, committees and officers at all levels of Serra International provided in or pursuant to these bylaws; and provided further that the constitution and bylaws of such Councils conform to guidelines established from time to time therefore by the board of trustees of SERRA INTERNATIONAL, and that the constitution and bylaws of each specific Council (and any amendments thereto) are approved by such board of trustees prior to their adoption.

The following purposes of common interest may be assigned to Serra Councils so created:

1. To provide a national or regional organization so recognized which shall be entitled to represent all Serrans and SERRA CLUBS within the particular country or region in accordance with this article.
2. To provide in the national or regional environment help and assistance to the clubs, as they may require for the orientation and coordination of their needs, activities and initiatives and for the formulation of their individual programs and mutual exchange of views.

3. To promote extension and to give assistance in that respect to the governors and the individual clubs.
4. To maintain an additional supplementary link to SEFFA INTERNATIONAL, especially for the proper understanding of matters and problems peculiar to that particular country or region.
5. To organize and carry out national or regional events with the collaboration of the governors and clubs: to publish and distribute manuals, newsletters and other Serra and vocations literature; and to make more effective use of all available media of communications to promote Serra's ideals and objectives.

The board of trustees of SEFFA INTERNATIONAL may withdraw its approval of any Serra Council if it determines that such Council is not conducting its activities in accordance with the duly adopted constitution and bylaws of such Council.

ARTICLE IX Serra Councils

Proposed Bylaws

When and if approval has been given by the board of trustees of SERRA INTERNATIONAL, Serra Councils may be created by the Serrans or the SERRA CLUBS in any particular country or regions provided that this shall be done without prejudice to the functions, duties and jurisdiction of the various boards, committees and officers at all levels of Serra International provided in or pursuant to these bylaws; and provided further that the constitution and bylaws of such Councils conform to guidelines established from time to time therefore by the board of trustees of SERRA INTERNATIONAL, and that the constitution and bylaws of each specific Council (and any amendments thereto) are approved by such board of trustees prior to their adoption.

The following purposes of common interest ~~may~~ shall be assigned to Serra Councils so created:

1. To provide for the administrative functions of the nation or region.
2. To provide a national or regional organization so recognized which shall be entitled to represent all Serrans and SERRA CLUBS within the particular country or region in accordance with this article.
3. To provide in the national or regional environment help and assistance to the clubs, as they may require for the orientation and coordination of their needs, activities and initiatives and for the formulation of their individual programs and mutual exchange of views.
4. To promote extension and to give assistance in that respect to the governors and the individual clubs.
5. To maintain an additional supplementary link to SERRA INTERNATIONAL, especially for the proper understanding of matters and problems peculiar to that particular country or region.
6. To organize and carry out national or regional events with the collaboration of the governors and clubs: to publish and distribute manuals, newsletters and other Serra and vocations literature and to make more effective use of all available media of communications to promote Serra's ideals and objectives.

The board of trustees of SERRA INTERNATIONAL may withdraw its approval of any Serra Council only if it reasonably determines, upon a Fair Hearing with notice to the Council to appear and be heard, that by

clear and convincing evidence, such Council is not conducting its activities substantially in accordance with the duly adopted constitution and bylaws of the Council and of SERRA INTERNATIONAL, to substantial harm of the Serrans in the Council, and upon three quarters (3/4) vote of all of the members of the SERRA INTERNATIONAL Board of trustees.

The Council may appeal any adverse action of the Board of SERRA INTERNATIONAL through arbitration utilizing an arbitration service associated with or affiliated with the Catholic Church.

Notwithstanding any of the provisions of Article I, Section 2 of these bylaws, any changes to this Article occurring at the 2006 Serra International Convention shall be retroactive to January 1, 2006, and any actions of the SERRA INTERNATIONAL Board of Trustees taken after January 1, 2006, in conflict with these changes, specifically including any action taken to adopt or implement a report of its Long Range Planning Committee on January 14 or 15, 2006 shall be null and void.

Nominations to the Board of Trustees of Serra International

The Nominating Committee Report will be presented at the Delegates' Meeting during the international convention in Spokane, Washington.

Serra International Nominating Committee Report Slate of Officers and Trustees 2006-2007

Robert Wright	Serra Club of Reading PA	President
Lloyd Crockett	Serra Club of Williamson County TN	President Elect
Flavio Carvalho	Serra Club of Rio de Janeiro Brazil	Vice President
Vila Nova Carvalho	Serra Club of Vancouver Canada	Vice President
Cesare Gambardella	Serra Club of Palermo Italy	Vice President
Darryl Ross	Serra Club of St. Louis MO	Vice President
Cynthia Bell	Serra Club of Green Bay WI	Secretary
Michael Potter	Serra Club of Canberra Australia	Treasurer
Dennis Leiber	Serra Club of Grand Rapids MI	Past President
Tomi Asenuga	Serra Club of Lagos Nigeria	Trustee
Alejandro Carbajal	Serra Club of Tlaxcala Mexico	Trustee
Don DeDecker	Serra Club of NW Metro Denver CO	Trustee
Robert Goldsmith	Serra Club of Southern Maryland MD	Trustee
Don Herman	Serra Club of North San Diego CA	Trustee
Joseph Krygiel	Serra Club of North Metro Atlanta GA	Trustee
Joao Rodini Luis	Serra Club of Ribereirao Preto Brazil	Trustee
Neo Mendes	Serra Club of Dhaka Bangladesh	Trustee
Alberto Pietra	Serra Club of Padua Italy	Trustee
Jorge Steverlynck	Serra Club of Buenos Aires Argentina	Trustee
Adolfo Quaglia	Serra Club of Milan Italy	Trustee

Recommendation to increase the international dues base

Refer to Serra International Bylaws Article XI, Sections 2 and 3.

Delegates to the Spokane 2006 convention will be asked to vote on the following proposal approved by Serra's Board of Trustees at its meeting on 14 January 2006 in San Diego, California:

“That the present international dues base of US\$28.00 be increased to US\$32.00 effective 02 July 2006.”

The most recent increase in the international dues base was approved by the delegates to the Chicago 2003 convention. Serra International Bylaws Article XI, Section 2 requires that, if the delegates vote to change the international dues base at the Spokane 2006 convention, any future change in the international dues base shall not occur before the international convention in 2009.

Spokane 2006 Convention Registration

You will soon receive by mail the convention brochure giving detailed information regarding this year's international convention. Spokane 2006's venue and program will set new standards, so start planning and mark your calendars to attend what promises to be a memorable convention!

A registration form for the 64th Annual Serra International Convention to be held in Spokane, Washington, U. S. A., 29 June-02 July 2006 is enclosed. Please complete and return it by mail or fax or register online at www.serra.org.

Please see the convention registration form in this package.

Please note that this year, all hotel reservations MUST be made directly with the DoubleTree Hotel by either calling the hotel directly at (800) 222-8733 or the Red Lion Hotel at (800) 733-5466 and mentioning Serra, or by booking online at www.serra.org.



*Here I Am Lord,
Send Me!*

2006 Serra International Convention

29 June – 2 July

Spokane Convention Center

www.spokanepfd.org

334 West Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201 U.S.A.

Name _____ Spouse (if attending) _____

Name on badge _____ Spouse name on badge _____

Children (give ages if attending) _____



Address _____ City _____ St./Prov. _____ Post Code _____

Country _____ Tel (Home) _____ Tel (Work) _____

E-Mail _____ Serra Club of _____

Language: English Spanish Italian Portuguese _____

Check all applicable titles for attendees (as of 1 June, 2006)

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club President | <input type="checkbox"/> Past Club President | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President Elect | <input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee | <input type="checkbox"/> Council President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> Past District Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> District Governor Elect | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Rep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaplain | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocations Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister | <input type="checkbox"/> Brother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Priest | <input type="checkbox"/> Past Int'l President | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Any adult who has not attended an international convention since 2001 is eligible for a special registration rate of \$250.00

Registration Information: _____ Adults at US \$275.00 _____ Teens/Pre-teens **at no registration charge!**

I have not attended since 2001: _____ Adults at US \$250.00 Total Due \$ _____

Payment by (circle one): Check Credit card

Hotel Accommodations: The **Doubletree Spokane City Center** is the main convention hotel for Spokane 2006. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-222-TREE (8733), or online through www.serra.org. Rates per night are as follows (the second rate includes two continental breakfasts per day):

Single:	US \$99.00	With breakfasts:	US \$111.00
Double:	US \$99.00	With breakfasts:	US \$111.00
Triple:	US \$109.00	With breakfasts:	US \$133.00
Statesman Suites:	US \$125.00	With breakfasts:	US \$137.00

Accommodations are also available at the **Red Lion Hotel at the Park** for US \$89.00 per Night, or US \$99.00 per night inclusive of up to four continental breakfasts per day. Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-RED-LION (733-5466) or online at www.serra.org.

Credit Card Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover
<input type="checkbox"/> American Express
Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____
Signature _____

Cancellation Policy: All cancellations must be received by 5 June 2006 to receive a full refund. Cancellations received 6 June – 24 June will receive a 50% refund. There will be no refunds after the convention has begun.

2006 CONVENTION DELEGATE CREDENTIAL

Please have your club elect a delegate to the 2006 international convention by completing the form on the reverse side and either mailing it to Serra International, 70 East Lake Street, Suite 1210, Chicago, IL 60601 U.S.A. or faxing it to (312) 419 8077. Delegate credentials sent by mail must be postmarked no later than 30 May 2006.

Bylaws of Serra International, Article II, Section 2

The only members of SERRA INTERNATIONAL entitled to vote as such under the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act shall be SERRA CLUBS. Each SERRA CLUB in good standing shall be entitled to one vote at international conventions, which shall be cast for it by its duly elected delegate. Each SERRA CLUB in good standing shall be entitled to one delegate. Such delegate, and an alternate shall be selected from the membership of the club, but, if the club cannot send one of its own members, it may select, as a proxy delegate, a member of another club in the same district to represent it at a convention, or it may select a proxy delegate from any other district. The credentials of a delegate, alternate delegate or proxy delegate shall be evidenced by a certificate of the president and the secretary of the club she or he represents, and such credentials shall be delivered to SERRA INTERNATIONAL before noon on the opening day of the convention, or mailed to the executive office of SERRA INTERNATIONAL postmarked not less than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the convention.

Delegates have the option of delivering their credentials in person when they arrive in Spokane. To be valid, such delegate credentials must be delivered before noon on 28 June 2006 to SERRA INTERNATIONAL'S office located at the Spokane Convention Center – *Big Bend Room, Columbia Basin D.*

As required by the Bylaws of SERRA INTERNATIONAL, every delegate credential must bear the signatures of both the president and the secretary of the Serra Club that he or she is representing.

The club chaplain is NOT eligible to serve as delegate.

Each club, in order to send a delegate to the convention, must be in good standing with Serra International.

2006 Delegate Credential

This certifies that the official delegate of the Serra Club of _____ to the 64th convention of Serra International to be held in Spokane, Washington is:

Delegate's Name: _____

Address: _____

Alternate's Name: _____

Address: _____

Signatures – President: _____ Secretary: _____

President: _____ Secretary: _____
(print name) (print name)

(If no member of the club can attend this convention)

Proxy's Name: _____

Serra Club of: _____

Address: _____

Signatures -President: _____ Secretary: _____

President: _____ Secretary: _____
(print name) (print name)

Serra International Awards

In our December 2005 issue of *The Bellringers*, you received the pertinent forms for the *Harry O'Haire Award*, *Archbishop Cousins Award*, *Father Junipero Serra Award for Furthering Catholicism* and *Father Junipero Serra Award for Promoting Vocations*.

Additional forms are available on request. You are reminded that the deadline for their completion and return is **31 March 2006**.

Serra International

70 East Lake Street Suite 1210 Chicago Illinois 60601 U.S.A.

Telephone: (312) 419 7411 or (800) 488-4008 (U.S.A. only)

Fax: (312) 419 8077 or (800) 377-7877 (U.S.A. only)

Website: www.serra.org

E-mail: serra@serrainternational.org