

September 1, 2021

Dear Members,

This final letter as president of Friendship Force Florida Suncoast feels like a swan song even though I have never been a performer on the stage. My Covid-years term has meant many roles to be filled, some on Zoom, some at parks, others at club houses, one at a recreation center, well, you have the idea. It has been a challenge, but you wonderful members have been so supportive and willing to make things work.

We had two fundraisers, one for Friendship Force International and one for the build in Romania. Our club made each of these a success. We were even able to host ambassadors from Montana, Washington State and Virginia, which almost didn't happen. And now we are looking forward to an outbound trip to Long Island next month.

I think you will agree that our Sunday/Funday activities have been so interesting, many of them taking place on outside decks or in spacious rooms. Remember, our first was in a tent on a cool winter's day, but heaters helped with the problem.

A couple of our meetings were held on Zoom, and one of our members even made us known to other Friendship Force International clubs when her photography presentation was recorded and used as one of their virtual programs. We discovered that Zooming is actually the best way to hold a board meeting. No more searching for a place to meet that's convenient for all, driving to a meeting or bringing materials to share. All the minutes, treasurer's reports and notes from the various chairs can be looked at in advance of the meeting to save time.

You must admit, our meetings have been different and unusual. In fact, thanks to our wonderful newsletter staff for keeping us informed when and where the next meeting would be held. I sometimes wondered where we could meet, and then someone would make a wonderful, successful suggestion.

I pass the baton to Gena Cameron, who will make a marvelous president. She has many ideas and so much enthusiasm. I know you will give her the support and help that you gave me. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you the past two years.

In Friendship,

Jane Lee