

Dear Florida Suncoast Member,

Jackie Kline, our newsletter editor, is away for a while. Until her return, the newsletters will be in the form of plain bulletins. Printed copies will be mailed to those without email. The first one for May 1st 2007 is set out below. There are 4 numbered paragraphs.

1. The general meeting will as usual be on the third Saturday of the month, May 19th at 4:30 pm at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 10891 102nd Ave N, Seminole. It is at this meeting that we elect the new principal officers. The nominating committee, Jean Choong, Ken Dean and Nadine Giani, are recommending the following slate: President-Vivian Grimm, Secretary-Nancy Warner, 1st VP Programs-Michael Manning, 2nd VP Membership-Robert Lehner, VP at Large-Aila Erman and Treasurer-Don Weaver. The remaining board positions will be appointed by the new President who will take office in September 2007.

At this May meeting we are having an interesting talk on travel insurance, a subject that is important to most members.

The refreshments will be coffee and cakes followed by a silent auction for the club's fund raising purposes. Jean Pellegrini has a collection of items donated by members for this purpose. If you have extra items you would like to donate, please bring them to the meeting with a removable tag indicating the minimum price. One of the advantages of silent auctions is that they can be conducted quite quickly.

Contributions of cakes or other 'finger food' will be appreciated.

On June 16th we have our annual picnic at the lovely Phillippe Park on the Tampa Bay waterfront near Safety Harbor. Further details with a map will be sent beforehand.

In September Viv has arranged for a very popular and respected speaker, Dr. Carl Kuttler, President of St Petersburg College. Dr Kuttler and his wife are former members of our club, and were in Siberia recently. You may have seen an article in the St Petersburg Times on Sunday which referred to Dr Kuttler and his interest in Russia. Dr. Kuttler's link with our club was mentioned, but unfortunately the journalist seems to have made a mistake with our name.

2. The next board meeting will be on May 8th at the Royal Palms, on the north side of East Bay Drive one stop-light west of CR1/Keene/Starkey Road.
3. Helen Detamore has undergone surgery and is in hospital now. We all wish her a speedy recovery. Cards and letters can be sent as follows: Helen Detamore, Morton Plant Hospital Room 609, 300 Pinellas Street, Clearwater, FL 33756. I spoke to Helen today, and understand that she will be there for at least another few days.
4. The following advice for Day Hosts will be put on our website, www.friendshipforcefloridasuncoast.org.

DAY HOSTS are important to our FFFS program. They allow broader participation by members who cannot home host. They offer added friendships and experiences to our visitors. HOME HOSTS are requested to share their hosting experience with at least one DAY HOST. We are anxious to improve the DAY HOST PROGRAM. The following suggestions are based on experiences in past exchanges. Past experience shows that DAY HOSTS are chosen by HOME HOSTS not because they are on a DAY HOST list for a particular exchange, but because the HOME HOST is familiar with that DAY HOST and knows that the DAY HOST is dependable and will do a good job.

Ask to DAY HOST. Find out who the HOME HOSTS are and state that you are not only willing, but anxious to DAY HOST! In other words, do not wait to be asked!

Offer a special tour of an area, which you do especially well, but be flexible if the activity does not coincide with the interests of the Ambassador.

Remember that DAY HOSTS are also used on days when there is an activity planned.

Join with another DAY HOST. Often it is difficult to drive and talk at the same time. Share your hosting. This is also a way to train anew DAY HOST.

If you have committed to DAY HOST and you have to cancel, FIND ANOTHER DAY HOST.

Remember the HOME HOST, as well as the Ambassador, are counting on you. It is a good idea for an exchange to have a DAY HOST Coordinator who can coordinate and give advice.

If you sign up to DAY HOST, you should be prepared to pick up the Ambassadors at the home of the HOME HOST, and deliver them back when your hosting is over.

If you host an Ambassador (visitor) who speaks English and there are other visitors who do not speak English, it is nice to invite that non-English speaking visitor too. Remember that the non-English speaking visitors really need DAY HOSTS. DAY HOSTING may also include inviting Ambassadors to dinner (with or without HOME HOSTS by arrangement).