FROM MICHAEL BOORSTEIN, FSRA CHAIR

For those of us in Florida, our lives continue to be dominated by Covid 19. It seems that what I wrote in May, just two months ago, still seems current to what we are going through now. So, stay safe and be healthy!

Our Board met virtually on June 26 and we decided that, unless things improve markedly, we would not plan on having a meeting in September in Bonita Springs. Clearly the situation has worsened since our meeting. The health and safety of our membership is paramount, and we will only attempt to hold luncheons when we are in a “phase” of re-opening that allow for large gatherings. The Board will continue to monitor the health situation in Florida and see if we can plan for an in-person meeting in November and whether we will have to plan for a virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January should the situation not improve by then.

The committee we formed at our April Board meeting to look at the FSRA Constitution reported that the FSRA needs to adhere to the Constitution more closely regarding selection of members of the Board. To that end, I appointed Advisor Alan Van Egmond to chair a Nominating Committee to present a slate of officers for consideration at the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The current officer and Advisors’ terms will only extend to that time. The Board will discuss further amendments to the Constitution to present to the January AGM at our September meeting.

We currently have 12 Advisors including our four Officers, with Joyce Fitzpatrick and Rebecca Armand coming on the Board as Advisors. Rebecca has now taken over from Marian Walsh as the manager of our website and among her accomplishments so far, she has successfully changed our web address to: www.FSRA-FL.org, which makes it easier to remember. The website now has a redesigned web page with links to other sites of interest to members. Rebecca will continue to build out the site’s content and welcomes input from the membership.

The Constitution provides for a total of 10 Advisors in addition to the four Officers, so we still have room for two more Advisors. I invite your interest in serving as an Advisor. If interested, please contact me at maboorstein@outlook.com.

Our Treasurer, Sue Boorstein, has undertaken a project to send a letter from me to over 220 Florida retirees who are members of AFSA but not members of the FSRA, and also to the USAID Alumni, encouraging them to join us.

Several of the Advisors are looking for ways we can meet as an Association virtually through Webinars or other presentations so look for updates in this regard in the coming weeks and months.

Michael Boorstein
Chair, FSRA
FROM Sue Boorstein, FSRA Treasurer

By now, you will have received your FSRA 2020 Directory. If you find any errors/omissions in the directory, contact Sue Boorstein at 703-606-9136, or boorsteins@aol.com.

FROM Rebecca Armand – FSRA Newsletter Editor/Website Manager

In May 2020, I volunteered to take on the FSRA newsletter from Marian Walsh. She had worked wonders with it, so I am merely tweaking it a bit. My larger project is updating and fleshing out our website. The new address, www.FSRA-FL.org (much shorter!) reflects who we are (a la Floridians), and is easier to remember. The Web Links section has been augmented, and the archives page has been 'buffed out' with links to speaker bios, organizations, and more. Our website is a living thing, and I can make changes, additions and so forth at any time - I welcome any and all feedback and suggestions from everyone!

I would like to extend a special thank you to Marian for her time and effort to get me up to speed, her superb insights updating both the newsletter and the website over the past few years. I look forward to working with all of you, getting your input and articles for the newsletter, along with suggestions and ideas to keep our website relevant and informative for all of us, and for potential members.

I am also an Advisor to the Board, and look forward to working with them as we endeavor to provide events and information to each of you in the 'virtual world' during the pandemic. I know we all want to get back to normal, yet we are dealing with the "new normal" and adjusting a bit to create online events, large and small. So keep an eye out for announcements for these, and by all means, please let me know if the team and I can help you implement an idea for an event! I find it very important to stay in touch during this somewhat trying time.

So, stay cool during this hot summer, stay safe and healthy, and my husband Fred (now-retired State SFSO) and I (retired Commerce Officer) hope to see/meet you all at a virtual or in-person event very soon! 
Rebecca Armand

NEW FSRA MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members:

None to report this term.

FSRA ANNUAL DUES

Be an Early Bird and Pay your 2021 Dues Now!

$20 for singles
$30 for couples

FSRA ANNUAL RENEWALS ARE PAYABLE JANUARY 31!

For new member applications, member dues, member address and email changes, contact: Sue Boorstein at email: boorsteins@aol.com or at 703-606-9136. Sue is the new FSRA treasurer.

Please note that annual membership renewals are due by January 31st. Please check your records to see if you are current for 2020.

The New Member & Renewal Form, along with the latest newsletter, is always available on the FSRA website at: www.FSRA-FL.org.

FSRA NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE

Please send any comments or suggestions for the FSRA newsletter or website to: Rebecca Armand 202-247-1294 or armandrk17@gmail.com.
IN MEMORIAM

FORD, Sue Patrick, died on July 6, 2020. More information is forthcoming, and a link to a Facebook page group with more information about her life and funeral arrangements is here. Her funeral will take place Saturday morning, July 18 at 9:45 am, and it will be streamed live on the Facebook page (you must sign up to be a part of the group to see it). She was a long-time board member of FSRA-FL, and had postings as the Consul General in Johannesburg, among many others. Funeral arrangements are with McWhite’s Funeral Home in Ft. Lauderdale, with services also by the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, located at 1701 E. Oakland Park Blvd., Oakland Park, Fl 33334. Sue will be greatly missed.

LINCOLN, Bonnie Mae (Age 87), died on May 29, 2020 in Ft. Myers, FL. One of six children of Leland and Erna Lincoln, Bonnie was born in Wausau, WI and raised in Anoka, MN. She graduated salutatorian from Anoka High School, earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Arizona, and received Master's degrees from the University of Florida and Harvard University. Before joining the Foreign Service, she worked for the Elizabeth Kenny Foundation in Minneapolis. Working for the Department of State, Bonnie served long term assignments in many foreign countries throughout her career including: Lima, Peru; Sofia, Bulgaria; Rotterdam, Netherlands; Mexico City, Mexico; Bogota, Columbia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Port of Spain, Trinidad; Monrovia, Liberia; San Salvador, El Salvador, and San Jose, Costa Rica.

Bonnie retired to Ft. Myers in 1988 where she started a travel agency. She continued to travel extensively and explore many countries and locals throughout her life. She was an avid reader, enjoyed concerts, the opera, and lectures. Bonnie was a member of Friends of the Opera and the American Association of University Women. Every August, she enjoyed attending lectures and events at the Chautauqua Institute in NY. She was a member of St. Michael’s Lutheran Church in Ft. Myers. Preceded in death by her parents; brother, Robert; sisters, Joan and Mary (Dayon), she is survived by her sister, Erna (Weekley); brother, David; and many nieces and nephews. Interment will be at the Forest Hills Cemetery in Anoka, MN, to be scheduled at a later date. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home.

USAID ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UAA) PARTNERSHIP

FSRA is pleased to announce a partnership with the USAID Alumni Association (UAA) which is based in Washington, D.C. The UAA fosters social and collegial networks of former USAID employees while promoting exchange of knowledge among alumni who wish to use their public service experience to advance global development. UAA facilitates access to alumni expertise for professional counsel and public education in support of sound U.S. foreign assistance. A link to the FSRA homepage is now on the UAA website Alumni Groups page.

Frank Young, a FSRA Board member, is the point of contact for USAID retirees in Florida who want to learn more about FSRA and join. A UAA link can be found on the FSRA website Web Links page.

AFSA RETIREE OUTREACH

Christine Miele is the AFSA Retiree Outreach Coordinator. She engages with Foreign Service Retiree Associations and supports the work FSRA does locally to share the story of the Foreign Service. You can reach her at miele@afsa.org, or by visiting www.afsa.org/outreach.
LOOKING FOR NEW READING MATERIAL? YOU MAY WANT TO CHECK THESE OUT...

These books have been published by retired FSO’s (and FSRA members) residing in Florida.

1. HEROES OF WORLD WAR II: RICHARD E. NUGENT, THE 1st BRAZILIAN FIGHTER SQUADRON, AND 209 OTHERS

by Dennis Reece, FSO, Retired. Available for purchase from the publisher: hellgatepress.com, or amazon.com.

Richard E. Nugent commanded the XXIX Tactical Air Command as it gave air support to the Ninth Army from the Siegfried Line to within 53 miles of Berlin. The 1st Brazilian Fighter Squadron, part of the U.S. 350th Fighter Group in Italy, received the Presidential (formerly Distinguished) Unit Citation. All the other 209 individuals, serving in various land or air units, won at least one award for heroism, ranging from the Distinguished Service Cross to the Soldier’s Medal.

2. DEATH IN PAKISTAN (AN ALEX BOYD THRILLER)

by Mel Harrison, FSO, Retired. Available for purchase at amazon.com.

Alex Boyd, Deputy Regional Security officer at the US Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, must defend the Embassy, employees and a visiting US Senate delegation against vicious, heavily armed, fanatical terrorists who are supported by a rogue element within Pakistan’s military intelligence service.

3. THE MAN WITH MANY LIVES

by Robert Day, FSO, Retired. Available directly from the author at 850-510-4989, email: WWhiteeagel@comcast.net.

Also available from the publisher: https://www.xlibris.com/bookstore.

Born in 1919, Robert W. (Bob) Day looks back on ten decades of his lifetime. From warding off machine-gun-wielding revolutionaries to a Prince intent on buying his daughter, he recalls all this and more as he celebrates his 100 years of an adventurous life.

NEW GIFT IDEAS

Polo shirts with the FSRA seal are available through FSRA member Bob Kegley at: RAWombat@msn.com (prices range from $24 - $27 with seal embroidery plus shipping; XL sizes add $6). Search for "Port Authority Polo Shirt" for product info here.

HOW and/or WHERE WILL THE NEXT FSRA EVENT BE HELD?

Are you thinking it would be fun to have a virtual FSRA event? We need members to suggest ideas and speakers. Maybe a virtual wine tasting or Happy Hour? Perhaps a Zoom’ed presentation on WWII? Use your imagination!

Beyond organizing a lunch in your area in the spring of 2021, we are seeking input for virtual events. The board will be happy to help with setting up a Zoom or other meeting modality.

Please contact Ellen Connor Engels, FSRA Vice-Chair for more information, by email: engelsec@hotmail.com or by phone 703-785-0614.