

Hoala Club Espanol members!

I am honored to be your 2021 club president. As a snowbird, during the last four years, I have been a member and have taken beginning Spanish classes. Since I joined, I have been impressed by our teachers who are all volunteers, by my fellow classmates who are willing to do homework, make mistakes in class and learn a new language and by the fun Fiestas!

This pandemic year has been a challenging one for all of us. It has been amazing to see how many of our club members have come forward and have volunteered their time and talent to help our club survive and I believe thrive!

During summer 2020, when Lee Howard was president, the Board and the teaching staff became aware that the way we have been offering live classes would be extremely difficult to do during COVID-19. An alternative would be needed but there was limited time to develop it. MaryAnne Jasken (master teacher), Katie Switaj, Davis Hodnik and Frank Seaborg (Spanish students) explored the use of zoom and set up a system to provide support to teachers and students who wished to take classes. 10 classes have been offered by 6 teachers. They are supported by 9 volunteers who serve during zoom classes as the technical support. An excellent example of what can happen when club members act together to solve a club need. Much can be achieved!

This fall, members received an urgent appeal from the Board for someone to volunteer for and run in December for the treasurer position. It was truly urgent as there are four positions that the Recreation Center requires are always filled and treasurer is one of those. To our delight, four members volunteered! During the interviews of the candidates, it became clear that the Club could use the talents of all four. Sarah Goodrich has agreed to be our Auditor; Laura Johnson, our Treasurer; Reverend Steve Murray agree to lead a Digital Transformation Committee which is looking into how our club can do some of our finances online and Cindy Larson has agreed to be part of the digital effort. Again another indication of what our member volunteers can do!

Since October 2016, Jim Jasken has been the editor of our Newsletter (see the collection on our website, spanish.SCWclubs.com). The collection displays his talent to produce a colorful, attractive and informative publication. Over the course of his editorship, he published 18 newsletters that showcased events, books, book reviews, recipes, reports of trips, upcoming travel opportunities and even Spanish funnies! Jim has decided to retire from being our editor. I am most grateful to him for the talents he donated to our club! Thanks Jim, the newsletters reflect the spirit and breath of our club.

The board has been meeting monthly and you should be receiving our monthly email, Hola Mis Amigos. In it we highlight what the board is working on. We are now focusing on summer and fall 2021. The uncertainty of the pandemic makes it difficult to make decisions about how to offer classes safely. We hope to be able to do so in the fall and to have Fiesta! Read the monthly email for the latest news. If you would like to become more involved in our club, please contact Tish Iwaszuk, our volunteer coordinator. tish@iwaszuk.com

Hasta mas tarde!

Mimi Williams. mimiqw31@gmail.com