

NEWSLETTER REGARDING CORONA EPIDEMIC

Less than a year ago we had the opportunity to join the warm-hearted American Reunion in USA. Let's hope that the world will recover by 2021 when we have the next Finnish Reunion. This new situation brings challenges to maintain the well being of both as individuals and as nations. In this situation, the stability of Finland and the countries all over the world is now extremely important in order to avoid international conflicts and to keep the world safe in our mutual fight against corona.

Our club could have meetings using telecommunication, but as chairman I propose to delay the meetings and see how the things progress. It is now favourable to continue the collection and processing the family book material by those who are in home quarantine. However, I want to highlight that it is most important to survive corona. I will review the sukuseura activities based on the feedback from the board. It is most likely that the trip to Estonia in 7.- 9. Aug. will be cancelled.

I believe that world wide every household now has tensions regarding the health and economics. I also trust that we Finns have the "Winter War Spirit", no one will be left behind. May this attitude spread world wide. We Finns who may stay healthy, should prepare to help others within our capabilities.

In this situation there will be increased distress in families with lost jobs and those with basic problems before corona. Self-employed people are also vulnerable. Cheap loan does not help much if there are no customers for months. Let's go see them and keep contact in today's methods (telephone and video connections).

SUMMARY OF CORONA EPIDEMIC TODAY

The COVID-19 virus initiated from China at the end of 2019, and has since spread to a worldwide pandemia. The first case in Finland was confirmed in Jan. 29, 2020 in Lapland. The virus was found on a tourist who had come from Wuhan. The second case was Jan. 26 by a Finnish citizen returning from Italy. Today (April 5, 2020) Finland has tested 31 700 cases, with 1272 positive results. 28 people have died.

The pandemia in Finland has lead to emergency conditions. The Emergency Powers Act was activated on March 16, 2020 [St. Urho's Day: translator's note] in order to secure functionality of the society. The situation is unique. The previous time that The Emergency Powers Act has been in force was at war time. During that time, the the decision power has been concentrated to ministeries and the Government. The Finnish Government has on March 19 obliged the people over 70 to refrain from close contacts as best as possible, and to avoid staying outside their homes. The Uusimaa province borders are closed for the period of March 28 to April 19, 2020. The emergency management was organized on April 1, 2020. The restaurants will be kept closed for the period of April 4 – May 31, 2020. The restaurants are allowed prepare food to take out. The schools teach remotely at least until May 13, 2020. Meetings by more than 10 people are forbidden.

We should remember that we have relatives around USA where the situation is becoming critical at the moment. Today April 5. the no. of deceased is reported to be 7020 people.

In past years the healthcare people and experts have warned about the population growth impact in the spread of the deceases. The world population in the 16th and 17th centuries was about 500 million (300 000 in Finland). Now the population approaches 8 billion, i.e. 8000 million ((population in Finland is abt. 5,5 million). The population in 500 years has multiplied by 16 times, and in Finland 18 times.

We wish to express our condolences to Doris Wasti family. She passed away on March 28.

I wish you all descendants of Robert and Albertina, a Blessed Easter in Finland, USA or anywhere else in the world. May our forefathers' prayers protect us, and let us all pray for God's blessing for each other and for the whole world.

Meeri Latva-Reinikka, Board Chairman