

Dear new, returning, and soon to be members,

Thank you for your flexibility as we have faced a pandemic like none seen in recent history. We would also like to thank you for the feedback you gave us on the events we are hosting. We understand that many of you are exhausted with virtual meetings and are eager to see one another and do activities together in person. Of course, we empathize with that desire. We all deeply miss being physically present with our friends and family.

As a board, we have worked tirelessly and relentlessly in conjunction with leadership of Team Hill to allow us to continue to offer opportunities for connection and support in this lonely and isolating time. Prior to December, we spent hours upon hours working to get approval for in person socials and activities. Unfortunately, due to rapidly changing mandates from state, national, local, and base leaders, we sadly had to cancel those events.

In light of those disheartening cancellations and out of concern for the health and safety of our community, the board elected to hold our events online. Hosting virtual events is the only way to guarantee there will be no cancellations and is the best way to ensure that all members can socialize safely, including those who are high-risk and/or have vulnerable family members. As a private organization of Team Hill, our number one duty is to empower every spouse by upholding the integrity of the mission and military. Team Hill is trying to protect us all through mandates that **currently** extend through April 30th, and we must follow those mandates to the letter for the good of us all. Therefore, we must continue to meet virtually until COVID-19 case numbers improve and mandates shift.

Your board set goals at the beginning of our term that were not based simply on how many members we could gain, but on how we treated and reached out to those members. I hope that you have felt the effort we put forth this year. We set goals to have communication in place, clarity in events and scheduling, and opportunities to interact safely during this pandemic. We promise that we are going to continue to offer those opportunities. We thank you for your support and for being a part of Hill Spouses' Club.

On behalf of the HSC Board, thank you.