



# Heartland of America Chapter

-- **We Never Stop Serving** --  
-- **We Are One Powerful Voice** --  
--- **for Every Officer at Every Stage of Life and Career** ---  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* **June 2020** \*\*\*\*\*



**Welcome to our new 6<sup>th</sup> Armed Service (logo on the left)**  
**AND..... (on the right) perhaps the logo of the future !!!**

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.....

**No MOAA dinner in June NOR July**

**Next Scheduled Dinner Meeting AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup>**

(see inside back cover for details)

Check out our website at [www.heartlandMOAA.us](http://www.heartlandMOAA.us) or call (402)339-7888

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# The Bulletin Board

Is the Newsletter of the Heartland of America Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Content is from members, MOAA's [Take Action](#), [Legislative Action Center](#), and other military-oriented sources. Material used is public domain or attributed as to source and copyright. Our editorial policy is the same [non-partisan policy as MOAA](#).

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Lt Colonel Patrick L. Jones, USAF(Ret) Editor & Webmaster - (402)650-4457

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**With the continuing restrictions that Covid-19 has placed on restaurants, our dinner meeting place, Anthony's Steakhouse, continues to be closed. It may to be a good thing as some of us fall into the age group that appears to be more susceptible to the coronavirus. We had no meeting in May and we have cancelled our planned June meeting. We had decided a couple of years ago to not meet in July because so many members were on vacation and our meeting attendance was relatively low. Our next meeting, assuming that Anthony's is open and can support us, will be Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**For our Chapter Board members, we will have a Zoom meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>. If the Special is open in July, we will meet there on July 9<sup>th</sup>. If it is not open, we will do another Zoom meeting.**

**Many of you are aware that this year's Storming the Hill that was to take place in March was cancelled. I had my airline ticket and most of my appointments with both our senators and our three congressmen. The Covid-19 pandemic caused the cancellation but it also identified an issue that needs congressional action. The civilian medical systems have little incentive to maintain excess capacity to respond to a national medical emergency. As a result, the nation turned to the uniformed services and by the end of April, approximately 4400 active duty military medical personnel were deployed for Covid-19. The FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) transitioned the military health systems to the Defense Health Agency and mandated that 48 Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) be closed or downsized. The 2018 National Defense Strategy emphasized building a more "lethal" force and shifted approximately 18,000 medical billets to lethality roles. We are asking for a provision in the FY2021 NDAA to stop the DoD Medical billet reductions and MTF downsizing amid the Covid-19 uncertainty and, to ensure the NHS reform is not simply paused, but re-evaluated along with our national medical capabilities, and adapted to incorporate lessons learned from the coronavirus pandemic.**

**Jeff Mikesell, our Legislative Chairman, and I are scheduling virtual meetings with our senators and congressman. Our first meeting was with our Congressman Don Bacon who sits on the House Armed Services Committee. He expressed strong support for these proposals. He also mentioned his great satisfaction in obtaining \$950 million for Offutt AFB reconstruction and the new runway.**

**This year's Annual MOAA Meeting, which includes the presentation of the Level of Excellence Awards, is projected to occur in Kansas City, MO, October 21-24. With the uncertainties of Covid-19, this is subject to change.**

**The MOAA Foundation will soon offer financial assistance in the form of small grants up to \$500. While I do not believe these grants would interest any chapter members, they are available to those who are currently serving (including National Guard and Reserve), spouses of currently serving, veterans (with an honorable discharge), and caregivers of the same who are experiencing an unexpected, short-term financial setback due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The assistance is open to all ranks and U.S. uniformed services. Preference will be given to those who are not eligible for support from service relief societies.**

**This morning I learned that Barb Jones, wife of Pat Jones (our webmaster and editor of this newsletter) had a nasty fall, broke her ankle and heel, and sustained a large laceration on her scalp. She underwent 4 hours of surgery. We wish her Godspeed for successful surgery and a rapid recovery.**

Dan Donovan

[d.donovan1@cox.net](mailto:d.donovan1@cox.net)

402-339-7888

### **20 VA Facilities Have Restarted Some Non-COVID Services**

(MOAA newsl.etter May 20, 2020)

**Twenty VA facilities in 19 states began offering "select health care services" May 18 – procedures and appointments that had been discontinued as part of the department's COVID-19 response. (Neb. Is not listed but Omaha VA told me some limited # of appointments are available so call in if you need to – PLJ)**

**Veterans seeking care at the following sites should contact their provider or the facility to find out which services will be offered:**

- **Arkansas: Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (HCS)**
- **Arizona: VA Southern Arizona HCS**
- **Florida: West Palm Beach VA Medical Center (VAMC)**
- **Idaho: Boise VAMC**
- **Missouri: Kansas City VAMC**
- **Montana: Fort Harrison VAMC**
- **Nevada: VA Southern Nevada HCS**

- **New York: Syracuse VAMC**
- **North Dakota: Fargo HCS**
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- **West Virginia: Hershel “Woody” Williams VAMC**
- **Wisconsin: Tomah VAMC; William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital  
Madison VAMC**

**[DONATE: MOAA's COVID-19 Relief Fund]**

**All safety measures for patients and employees will remain in place at the facilities, according to a VA press release announcing the changes. The department plans to use these 20 sites to lead “a phased approach to reintroducing select health care services while ensuring a safe environment,” per the release.**

**The majority of the facilities still have patients being treated for COVID-19; Military Times provided this breakdown shortly after VA’s announcement.**

**“The safety of Veterans and staff is the highest priority when we consider how we provide health care services and procedures during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,” VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in the release. “VA will take into account guidance from various agencies including federal, state, and local government as we gradually expand health care services.”**

**VA maintains system-wide COVID-19 statistics, as well as breakdowns by state and facility, ([click here](#)). There were 1,925 active cases (including patients, staff, and other categories) and 1,066 deaths (including 710 inpatient deaths) as of May 19.**

**Additionally, the VA continues to work with TriWest and OptumServe contractors to assess the availability of private sector providers and their ability to safely deliver care to veterans in the community. Though the VA did not halt community care during the pandemic and continued rolling out network expansions required in the MISSION Act, community providers around the country reduced in-person**

**health care appointments and increased telehealth care services when conditions warranted.**

**Like VA medical centers, the department will be working closely over the coming weeks and months to let community providers know what VA policies and procedures are for resuming medical services to assure necessary wrap-around care is available to veterans when and where they need it. VA is planning to increase its communication with veterans to help them understand local guidance and what to expect when receiving care in the VA or in the community setting in terms of screening, mask usage, physical distancing, and other safety precautions.**

### **Support Waiving TRICARE Pharmacy Copays During COVID Crisis**

(By: Karen Ruedisueli, MOAA Newsletter 21 April)

**(Reprinted due to importance)**

**Reduced hours at military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacies; Crowded waiting areas that prevent social distancing; Installation access restrictions; Longer wait times at pharmacy counters; We've heard you: Pharmacy concerns are the top medical issue reported to MOAA related to the COVID-19 emergency.**

**Addressing MOAA members' concerns about getting prescription medications safely and affordably is one of our top priorities during this national emergency. MOAA is calling on Congress to [make home shipping an affordable option for TRICARE beneficiaries](#).**

**[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Waive Mail Order Copays During the Pandemic](#)]**

**Most recently, we worked with the office of [Rep. Andy Kim \(D-N.J.\)](#) on a bipartisan effort to temporarily waive copays for TRICARE mail order pharmacy prescriptions. MOAA played a key role in developing a letter calling on House leadership to eliminate these copays so beneficiaries can continue to access their medications at no cost while practicing social distancing and protecting mission-critical personnel at military treatment facilities (MTFs.)**

**The [joint letter](#) with [Rep. Elaine Luria \(D-Va.\)](#) was signed by a bipartisan group of more than 50 members of Congress and sent to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy on April 13.**

**MOAA endorsed the letter and coordinated endorsement by numerous other military and veteran service organizations, including the Air Force Sergeants Association, American Warrior Partnership, Armed Services YMCA, Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S., Blinded Veterans Association, Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S., Fleet Reserve Association,**

**Gold Star Wives of America, National Military Family Association, Secure Families Initiative, Service Women's Action Network, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, TREA: The Enlisted Association, Vets Community Connection, and Wounded Warrior Project.**

**MOAA is currently conducting outreach to encourage a similar effort on the Senate side.**

**Many thanks to those who have shared their feedback with MOAA. If you encounter problems related to COVID-19, please [Share your story](#) or report your issue at [legis@moaa.org](mailto:legis@moaa.org). Get more COVID-19 resources, including the latest news and links to official guidance, [here](#).**



**Remember when?? We are now aiming for August 19<sup>th</sup> !!!**

### **TAPS**

(from LtCol Ron Russell)

**TAPS is a deeply touching melody, especially when played in ceremonies for our fallen. When played at dusk and our flag is lowered, it is a reminder of those who served and that we should pause a few moments in their memory. Have you ever wondered where that haunting tune came from? Stories range from Napoleon to an old army general, to it just kind of happened. But, there is one story that floats around that could be true. *(I also heard the story when I was my Boy Scout Troop Bugler when I was in Jr. High.... many, many years ago!! At Camporees, Summer Camp, and Winter Camp I got to play Reveille in the morning Oh Boy, Oh Boy and Taps at the flag lowering ceremony every evening... touching even back then - plj)***

**Reportedly, it all began in 1862, during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land they had fought over.**

**During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the battlefield. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical**

**attention. Crawling on his stomach through the continuing gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was a Confederate soldier he had recovered, but the soldier had died.**

**Later, when the Captain lit a lantern, he suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the dead soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy had enlisted in the Confederate Army.**

**The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.**

**The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral.**

**The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, his commander said he would give him one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of his dead son's uniform.**

**The wish was granted and the haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps,' used at military funerals, was born.**

**The words are:**

**“Day is done.  
Gone the sun.  
From the lakes  
From the hills.  
From the sky.  
All is well.  
Safely rest.  
God is nigh.**

**Fading light.  
Dims the sight.  
And a star.  
Gems the sky.  
Gleaming bright.  
From afar.  
Drawing nigh.  
Falls the night.**



**Thanks and praise.  
For our days.  
Neath the sun  
Neath the stars.  
Neath the sky  
As we go.  
This we know.  
God is nigh”**



**(Editor’s note: go to our website:  
<http://www.heartlandmoaa.us/memories.html>**

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**MOAA’s and Heartland Chapter’s Missions are the Same**

**The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, working to support military and their families at every stage of life. It actively petitions Congress on behalf of the military community on issues affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA offers a wide range of personal and financial services exclusive to MOAA members. Whatever the stage of a career, MOAA membership delivers benefits geared specifically to you – and your family. You become part of the strongest advocate for our military and their families. Those with prior officer service in any of the seven uniformed services can become members. Consider joining today because every voice counts! You will be protecting not only your earned benefits but for all serving today. Our Heartland Chapter also focuses on state and local issues, interfacing with the Legislature and the Governor. We provide a really great environment for camaraderie and mutual support with our meetings, speakers, newsletters, website, and community involvement. We are like family.**

**As MOAA does, WE NEVER STOP SERVING....**

**We are One Powerful Voice –**

**For every officer at every stage of life and career...**

**Join Us !! You will be glad you did!**

## Selection of Membership

<p><b>When you join MOAA, you become part of the strongest advocate for our military's personnel and their families. The stronger our membership is, the stronger our voice becomes. Consider joining today because every voice counts. Three membership levels to meet the needs of all Officers.</b></p>	 <b>BASIC</b>	 <b>PREMIUM</b>	 <b>LIFE</b>
<p><b>Features of each Membership level</b></p>	<p>No-cost electronic Membership designed for today's junior officers.</p>	<p>Full access to MOAA's career resources, countless discounts on products and travel, &amp; access to all of MOAA-exclusive pubs &amp; news updates. <b>Full access to a wide variety of member benefits for today's career officer.</b></p>	<p>Receive all the benefits that PREMIUM membership has plus exclusive privileges and benefits.</p>
<p><b>Membership Dues</b></p>	<p>Free</p>	<p>1 year - \$48, 2 years - \$82 3 years - \$108</p>	<p>Dues are based on your current age</p>
<p>Support of critical advocacy efforts to protect the benefits of the entire military community.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Electronic access to several of MOAA's news updates.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Discounts on products and travel.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Career transition resources</b> MOAA helps transition efforts by hosting career fairs, resume critiques, training sessions &amp; much more.</p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Expert advice on your military pay &amp; benefits</b> MOAA's team of highly trained professionals can help you receive the military benefits you've earned through one-on-one counseling.</p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Financial planning and investment advice</b></p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Military Office magazine</b></p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Access to all MOAA-exclusive publications</b></p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Scholarships, interest-free loans, &amp; grants</b></p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>MOAA Chapters</b> - Take advantage of the opportunity to get involved &amp; meet fellow offices in your community. A PREMIUM or LIFE membership makes it easy.</p>	<p>Dues vary by Chapter. (Heartland Chapter of Ne is \$20 per yr)</p>	<p>New chapter members receive a voucher good for one year of chapter dues.</p>	<p>New chapter members receive a voucher good for two years of chapter dues.</p>
<p><b>Bonus travel rewards and discounts</b></p>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Initiation fee waived at the Army and Navy Club of Washington, D. C.</b></p>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Spouse Protection -membership</b> benefits transfers if something happen to you.</p>		<p>Auxiliary Annual DUES 1 Yr - \$43 2 Yr - \$73 3 Yr - \$97</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# National Membership Form

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service-members and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers and their surviving spouses. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

## THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA membership matters.



Select YOUR Membership:  LIFE  PREMIUM  BASIC

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank/Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Active  Retired  Former  Reserve  National Guard  Surviving Spouse

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain if available. We value your privacy. MOAA does not rent or sell its members' emails to third parties. If you include your email address, you will receive e-communications from MOAA as a member benefit. Visit [www.moaa.org/email](http://www.moaa.org/email) for details.

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse email \_\_\_\_\_

Your spouse has access to all of your MOAA member benefits.

Local Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_

For LIFE or PREMIUM options, choose one of the following payment methods:  
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(1/10th of my dues; invoices will be sent monthly for remaining dues)

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Annual membership dues include a \$12 subscription to Military Officer magazine.

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For faster service, call (800) 234-MOAA (6622) or visit [www.moaa.org/join](http://www.moaa.org/join).

LIFE Membership Dues

Dues are based on your current age.

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Age 51-55	\$801
Age 56-60	\$757
Age 61-65	\$692
Age 66-70	\$615
Age 71-75	\$529
Age 76-80	\$434
Age 81-85	\$332
Age 86-90	\$234
Age 91-95	\$145
Age 96-99	\$88
Age 100+	FREE

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One-Year PREMIUM

\$48 (Surviving Spouse - \$43)

Two-Year PREMIUM

\$82 (Surviving Spouse - \$73)

15% Savings

Three-Year PREMIUM

\$108 (Surviving Spouse - \$97)

25% Savings

BASIC Membership Dues

FREE

**Local Membership Form**



Heartland of America Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
P.O. Box 1756  
Bellevue, NE 68005-1756

**LOCAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

(Heartland Chapter members must also be a National MOAA Member)

Membership:  Initial or  Renewal

Annual local dues  \$20.00  \$10.00 (new ones after 1 July)  Aux. \$5.00

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Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

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Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_ Retired  NOAA  USPHS

Active Duty  Regular  Reserve  Nat'l Guard  Former Officer

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

National MOAA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member?  Yes  No

Brief Bio: (entered service: branch: assignment summary: Interesting career anecdotes:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Chapter Officers for more info:** President Dan Donovan - 402-339-7888,  
**Membership:** Michael DeBolt 402-980-0554, **Surviving Spouse Affairs:** Martha Didamo -  
402-291-2194, **Legislation:** Jeff Mikesell - 402-990-2713, **Treasurer:** Rene Dreiling 402-  
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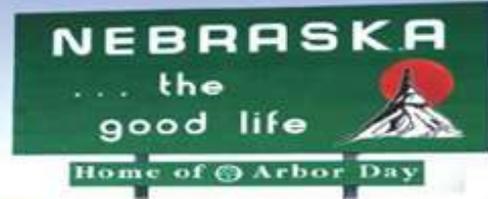
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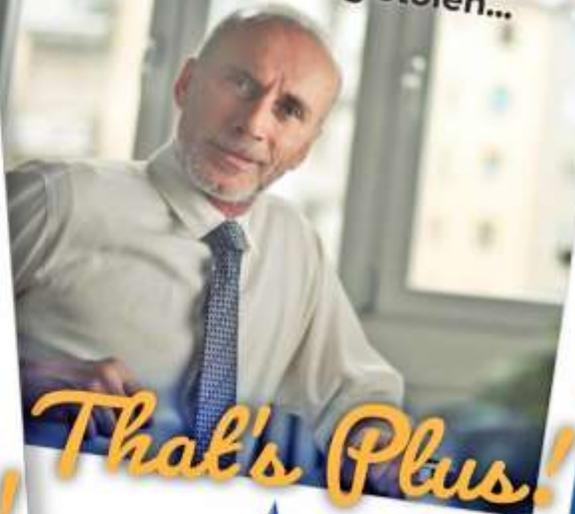


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### **May They Not Be Forgotten:**

I mean the men and women who have answered the call and paid the ultimate price so that we and future generations could have the freedoms so cherished by human beings. We must ever be vigilant and prepared to defend our way of life against those who would deny it. Callous politicians, power hungry egotists, corrupt individuals, adversarial religions, and even our latest self-oriented generations pose grave threat to the preservation of what many take for granted. Every citizen should take a few moments from time to time and reflect on the benefits we have in our country. They should give thanks to those who have served and preserved our way of life.



Hopefully, they will also pledge to do their part to keep it so. - PLj

### **Wandering Mind of An Old Retired Guy**



**Life is Good!**

**"GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE JEWELS OF  
LIFE,  
DIFFICULT TO FIND AND IMPOSSIBLE TO  
REPLACE!"**

**TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE  
YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE,**

**SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS."**



**Next Scheduled Dinner is August 19<sup>th</sup>**

# **June 17<sup>th</sup> Dinner is Cancelled**

**(The following is reprinted..... hoping for ideas & doers)**

An email from Ron & Sharon Russell:

I hate to run from a fight. I'd like to take this virus on and risk meeting, but, so far, the possible risks to our older MOAA folks are too high. I wish there was a way to have a virtual meeting for our members to reassure them that "we'll be back!" However, doing that in a real-time video teleconference is likely too hard at the moment. Perhaps our tech smart folks can think of a way.

Sharon and I did a drive last month with hundreds of others, up and down Main Street in Plattsburgh. We had a chance to see the faces of our friends and family as we slowly drove by, greeting each other, in sort of car parade. It was fun and it showed a "fighting spirit" that this sly virus was not going to win the war. People find a way to interact.

If we did a drive by MOAA meeting in a big parking lot like those in our empty shopping centers or even at Anthony's, we could at least see each other and say hello, showing we aren't beaten! We could organize this during our regular monthly meeting times. Oh well, just a thought. --Ron and Sharon

Reply from PJ, editor:

Great idea.... my Serenaders have had 3 ZOOM meetings now that had 17 participants... nice to make "live" contact again.. The auto honking, waving, etc., that Ron mentions reminds me of my old high school Friday and Saturday nites when we would all cruise the square and teen hangouts and do the same thing.... FUN – FUN – FUN !!!

Lets float such an idea to our members... (I will put the idea in the NL to see what happens) – Pat

**(Maybe a parking area near a great eating place with curbside pickup...  
..... Kinda like a tailgate party??)**

**Share your ideas folks.... pj**

**Remember when ??**

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