

View from New York - the city that never sleeps.

As we write, we are aware that the world is currently facing a great challenge. The coronavirus scare is widespread. The USA is no exception. Arriving back at JFK two weeks ago, the scene was almost apocalyptic: the vast arrivals hall normally teeming with people, suddenly empty, workers all wearing masks.

It is hard to imagine that in the space of a month, the city that never sleeps, is sleeping.

Broadway is a dark, bars and restaurants closed, even on St Patrick's day, stores are closed and Fifth Avenue deserted, Times square silent...

Not since 9/11 have we experienced such a sense of disbelief and foreboding.

Unlike our friends in Europe, we still have freedom of movement. We can go out. But the only place to go is the supermarket and yes, the wine store.

We hear stories of our friends in Europe who are not even allowed to walk in the streets, and wonder how long before we are under a similar curfew, especially in New York which is the worst affected area.

Yet Americans are resilient, resourceful and ready to adapt. Already there is a sense of solidarity, of a desire to help others. Just one example - Supermarkets are allowing those over the age of 60 to shop before the store opens to avoid crowds.

Indeed, even political differences are being put aside in the interests of the nation as a whole.

Each day we await with a sense of apprehension and hope, the daily address from our President.

We wonder if the world as we knew it will ever be the same again. And then we remember 9/11, the Notre Dame Fire, indeed many other catastrophes and now the Coronavirus and realize that this too shall pass, and what afflicts us now will make us stronger.

Against this backdrop, we do not know if our Amicale events will take place as planned, or not, but we are optimistic. We will plan ahead knowing that, as they say "spring always follows winter" and we are confident of better days ahead.

Amicale USA wishes to assure our colleagues in France of our solidarity, and wishes them "Bon courage" during these difficult times

FLORIDA



The Amicale year traditionally starts off with a reunion lunch event in Florida. It's an annual event and this year was no exception, albeit with a greatly reduced participation. The group met at the appropriately named Bistro Café Crème, a charming French restaurant in North Miami who reserved their outdoors patio for our exclusive use. The Florida delegation is a mix of not only local residents, but also those who retired to the sunshine state and other members

who are fortunate enough to spend their winters in Florida. Annik hosted the event that started with champagne and hors d'oeuvres followed by a 3-course French themed lunch and wine throughout.

CALIFORNIA



Florida will be followed by the West coast delegation who have planned an early May visit with lunch in Pasadena, a delightful city located about 11 miles from Los Angeles, famous and for its Rose Bowl football game, and New year's day tournament of the roses. The Sorriso Ristorante is the venue for this year's annual gathering. West delegate Ed Pfeiffer is in charge of arrangements.

NEW YORK



As summer approaches the New York delegation is planning an afternoon at sea enjoying the beautiful coastal waters off Long island. This event, on June 6, is open to all Amicale members, family and friends. Amicale has reserved the entire boat and the cruise will feature an al fresco nautical lunch.

While the rest of the year is not planned as yet, we can count on the Houston delegation having its

annual Christmas lunch as the prestigious Houston Petroleum Club and the New York delegation annual holiday reunion lunch at a venue, yet to be announced.

In the interim New York may organize a Sunday Champagne brunch in Yonkers, on the Hudson, 30 minutes north of New York city. The venue is Les Moulins eatery, a French Bistro owned by one of our members.

Here are some photos of Amicale members, taken last year as various events around the country

NEW YORK AFTERNOON CRUISE OUT OF LONG ISLAND



NEW YORK HOLIDAY LUNCH IN MANHATTAN



HOUSTON DELEGATION CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE HOUSOTN PETROLEUM CLUB



**WEST DELEGATION MEET IN PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA,
(at the home of members Robert Bracken and George Applegate)**

