

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION BOXCAR HOBOS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT IS A BOXCAR HOBO? Boxcar Hobos entertain for the children and their teachers during Nationale each year. They are brought to the Nationale Headquarters Hotel for lunch either by buses or train, if permitted. Some of the Hobos dress as clowns or hobos so they can assist the children and hand out pins, balloons, etc. Other Hobos who don't dress out help with serving the food and seeing that each guest has been fed.

Throughout the year, the Hobos visit hospitals, nursing homes, etc. to entertain those who are sick or can't be with their families for a period of time. There are some that help with the Special Olympics within their areas.

WHAT YEAR WAS THE BOXCAR HOBOS FIRST ESTABLISHED? The official National Association Boxcar Hobos were first established in 1994. However, various people were entertaining on their own before being officially established.

HOW CAN I BECOME A MEMBER? First of all, you must be a member of the 40&8, either a voyageur or dame. Membership dues are \$5.00 per year payable to National Association Boxcar Hobos. However, if you wish to be a LIFE member, you pay a one-time fee of \$100.00 but you must remain a member of the 40&8. If you let your membership with the 40&8 lapse and you have paid for a LIFE membership, you are automatically dropped as a Boxcar Hobo and your \$100.00 is non-refundable.

If you want to become a member, there is a form at this website that you should complete and mail along with your dues to the address provided on the form.

HOW CAN A LOCALE OR GRANDE SET UP A CLOWN UNIT? There are no set rules as to how to set up a unit. However, you can follow the National Constitution and By-Laws for the Boxcar Hobos to ensure that you are covering everything and even establish your own Constitution and By-Laws if you wish. You may want to elect a president, secretary and treasurer to begin with. You may also want someone to be a photographer in order to have a photo record of your events. In some cases, you will want someone to do the driving for the clowns that are dressed.

If you want to set up dues for the locale/grande group, it will have to be over and above the \$5.00 annually. You can also have fund raisers to have in a bank account to cover some of the expenses of the unit. As stated above, there are no set rules as to how to set up a unit.

If you have any other questions regarding the history of the Boxcar Hobos, please the History of the Hobos listed elsewhere under the National Association Boxcar Hobos.