

Voiture Nationale 40&8

VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

Ken Lafleur – Chef de Chemin de Fer



Patricia and I arrived in Fargo North Dakota on the afternoon of Thursday, June 21st and were greeted at the airport by the cheerful Grand Chef de Gare, Al Tuma, and his lovely wife Kathy. After a five-minute drive we stopped for lunch and shortly arrived at our host motel the Holiday Inn on 13th Avenue. Our room was large and newly refurbished and the staff members were accommodating, competent, and pleasant upon our arrival and throughout our visit.

The Holiday Inn has a really good restaurant with excellent food and we had dinner there that night. The plans for a hospitality room went awry and we did well without one.

Friday morning it was time for breakfast at the motel with food impressive both in quality and quantity. The Grand Cheminot, Grande Promenade, election and installation of officers were all accomplished that morning. I received a memorable bobble head statue of Thundar™ the bison mascot of North Dakota State University. That University has an impressive number of Division I Football Championships.



The American Legion Department of North Dakota was meeting at the same place and time and the food 40 & 8 Members were unable to eat from our breakfast buffet was gratefully consumed by American Legion members seated at the nearby Legion registration table and elsewhere.

At the time of the Grande Promenade, of eleven North Dakota Voitures Locaux six were admirably at 100% of membership quota or higher. The Grande Voiture as a whole was at 90% of quota.

Friday afternoon was pleasantly spent in Fargo at the Plains Art Museum and at the Fargo Air Museum. We had an informative visit at the Scandinavian Museum across the Red River from Fargo in Moorhead, Minnesota. At that location we were fortunate in that a Viking Festival was in progress and that Festival served food from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland.

At the banquet Friday night the National Commander of The American Legion gave a stimulating and heartwarming address. Our entrée included a choice of excellent

beef or filet of Walleye exceeded in quality only by the National Commander's speech.

We enjoyed a pleasant evening Friday and then it was off to the Fargo Airport with a first stop in Dallas and then onward to Lafayette and Opelousas in Louisiana.

The Grande Voiture du New York held its' Promenade in the State Capital on the weekend of July 14, 2018. Aide de Camp Larry Butts met Patricia and me in Atlanta and then we were off to Albany for an airport greeting by Chuck and Kathy Graham. At the hotel entrance Chef de Chemin De Fer Passé, the smiling Bernie Sampson, greeted us. There was no stopping at the desk of the Holiday Inn Express in Latham, but straight to a large well-stocked room complete with registration badge and distilled water for CPAP machines. Ten minutes later we were off to a really nice restaurant with a group of 18 Voyageurs, Dames, and guests. It was at that dinner that I learned that Chef de Chemin de Fer Passé, John Digilio, is one of the finest conversationalists in the 40&8, and that his wife, Dianne (Grande Presidente), is a very rare and wonderful woman. The General has not been to a Cajun Wreck for a few years but may attend the next one in Lafayette LA in February. Our Carville Star National Directeur, Red Miller, is laying the groundwork for that Wreck now. Events at the Wreck include a trip to the historic former leprosarium, and our museum both located at Carville.

Suffolk County Voiture and Cabane 713, Grand Chef Bob Shadler, and Dianne Digilio were our gracious hosts. To our delight Presidente Nationale, Joyce Robberstad, arrived Friday on a delayed

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Ken Lafleur -Cont'd

flight from Portland. Her loving husband Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer, Robert, accompanied her. Later in the day in the afternoon Grand Chef de Gares Passé met and discussed various aspects of Grande Voiture business and interviewed potential candidates for election on the following day. Following that meeting a good friend and former Nurses Training co-worker, Jerry Gomiller, and Tom Lambert took us out to dinner at a Golf Course restaurant.

Saturday morning at the Grande Promenade, 2018-19 Grande officers were elected and installed. The banquet was held Saturday night with General John Digilio, Jr. as Master of Ceremonies. Presidente Nationale Joyce Robberstad delivered an expected and usual excellent address. Great photographs of WWI boxcars were presented to Patricia and me and we retired for the evening.



L to R: 2008 Chef de Chemin de Fer Bernie Sampson, 2003 Chef de Chemin de Fer General John Digilio, 2018 Chef de Chemin de Fer Kenneth "Doc" Lafleur, Grand Voiture du New York Chef Bob Shadler. (7/14/2018)

A Brief Chuckle



Bob left work one Friday evening.

But it was payday, so instead of going home, he stayed out the entire weekend partying with his mates and spending his entire wages.

When he finally appeared at home on Sunday night, he was confronted by his angry wife and was barraged for nearly two hours with a tirade befitting his actions. Finally his wife stopped the nagging and said to him, "How would you like it if you didn't see me for two or three days?"

He replied, "That would be fine with me."

Monday went by and he didn't see his wife.

Tuesday and Wednesday came and went with the same results.

But on Thursday, the swelling went down just enough where he could see her a little out of the corner of his left eye.

Emblem Sales Highlight of the Month



This month's highlight is the 1-1/4" Paid Life Membership Pin. The part number is 02PLMP and the price is (\$5.00). You can purchase this item at our emblem sales store online at:

<http://store.fortyandeight.org/>

or contact Landry Foley,

E-mail:

lfoley@fortyandeight.org

Ph. (317) 634-1804

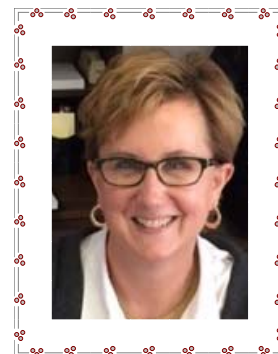
Fax. (317) 632-9365

Voiture Nationale

Emblem Sales

250 E 38th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46205



La Femmes Contribution to Voyageurs

By 2015 Chef de Chemin de Fer Mike Wood

During the Great Lakes Promenade this year on June 9, 2018 in Lafayette, IN the La Femmes demonstrated just how much they contribute to not only Voyageurs but to all Veterans as well. They were informed that the Indiana Veterans' Home (IVH) was located just over in West Lafayette; so a handful of Dames sprang into action. The Voyageurs were busy that day with the Great Lakes Promenade meetings and business, so these Dames decided to visit the Veterans at the Veterans' Home. They went to the WalMart and purchased cookies and treats, paid for out of their own pockets and returned to the hotel. They gathered in the empty hospitality room and formed an assembly line that Henry Ford would have been proud of. The Dames wrapped the goodies and placed them in individual bags so they could present them to each of the over 200 Veterans at the Home. When they arrived at the Veterans' Home they visited with each of the Veterans going floor by floor as to bring them their goodies, a smile and their gratitude for their service to this Great Country. This seemed to bring some smiles and joy to these Veterans who enjoyed the visit as much as the Dames enjoyed being there. After visiting and exchanging stories with these men, they returned to the hotel.

The purpose of me bringing this up is two-fold. Number one, these dedicated, unselfish and hardworking Dames decided to do something to bring a little joy into these Veterans day instead of going shopping, having a group luncheon, visiting a winery or just doing what women do with their spare time. These were not just a group of women, these were Dames and that takes a special lady. They made this trip as Dames, but they were also promoting the Forty and Eight to these eligible Veterans as prospective members.

Reason Number two is that the next time a Voiture Locale even has to wonder if a Cabane would be of value to them, well I guess this unselfish act would answer that question, you damn right they would be an asset to any Locale.

This is just one example of what they do, I could name several things I have seen them do over the years that has nothing to do with ritual or duty, they do these things to serve and for that very reason they have my utmost and sincere respect. The Dames that gave their time and the cost of the goodies to those Veterans that day were led by La Presidente Nationale Joyce Robberstad and included Lori Coe, Patricia LaFleur, Cheryl Jamnick, Carol Kaiserian, Sandy Wood and Michelle DeJonghe-Hill. These Dames did something that is just as important to the Public Relations of our organization as many of the things that we do and even better than some of those things. Merci Beaucoup Dames for a JOB WELL DONE. I would not normally list the names of those involved, but in this case I believe that they have earned the recognition from all of us. They were transported to the Veterans' Home by the shuttle bus from the Lafayette Voiture Locale 364 and their driver and escorted by Voyageurs Mike Robberstad, Dave Hill and John Kaiserian to carry all the bags for the Dames.

Voyageur Activities Example

By 2015 Chef de Chemin de Fer Mike Wood

If you have ever wondered just what Voyageur Activities involve then I would like to offer you a shining example for your consideration. On 7 July 2018 I was fortunate enough to be invited to a Good Ole Southern July 4th BBQ hosted by Nationale Voiture Activities Sous Directeur Gary Cox at his home in Cleveland, TN. The food was outstanding including BBQ ribs and chicken skillfully cooking all day by Gary and Big Chef candidate Rick Williams and all the side fixins were supplied by the Dames and wives of Voyageurs that attended. There were about 30 guests from 4 Southeastern states including 2 Chefs de Chemin de Fer Passe and a large attendance from Voiture & Cabane 735 in Cleveland, TN. There was a lot of great camaraderie, friendship and just good relaxed conversations with its fair share of jokes and amusing stories. Everyone was mindful of the reason for the holiday and spoke often of the birthday of this Great Nation and the freedoms that we enjoy.

Now the amazing thing is that there was very little Forty and Eight business, politics or issues discussed, it was just a very informal and relaxed gathering of men and women who happen to be Voyageurs and Dames. There was no difference between Officers and Voyageurs or Dames. It did not take a Promenade, Cheminot, Wreck or any type Forty and Eight function to gather these folks together. Everyone enjoyed themselves and all it took was an invitation to a Voyageurs home to share the celebration of an American holiday. I feel very fortunate to have been one of those invited. The only negative thing that happened was that I believe everyone's waistline was expanded from the delicious food served.

I want to personally thank Gary for hosting this cookout and being such a gracious host although I think he worked too hard. So the next time you are trying to figure out just what would constitute a Voyageur Activity you may want to ask Nationale Sous Directeur Gary Cox for some advice. I think this is a great example of just what to do just get together with other Voyageurs and enjoy each other's company. You don't have to have 30 Voyageurs to have a Voiture Activity, as few as two Voyageurs riding together to a Promenade would suffice, just use your own ideas and have fun. I firmly believe it will help make La Societe a stronger and more united organization and could help with membership recruiting. I would like to offer a big Merci and a Tip of my Chapeau to Gary and all his helpers for a great Voyageur Activity.

Presidential Biographies

At the end of his two terms in office, Ronald Reagan viewed with satisfaction the achievements of his innovative program known as the Reagan Revolution, which aimed to reinvigorate the American people and reduce their reliance upon Government. He felt he had fulfilled his campaign pledge of 1980 to restore “the great, confident roar of American progress and growth and optimism.”

On February 6, 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan was born to Nelle and John Reagan in Tampico, Illinois. He attended high school in nearby Dixon and then worked his way through Eureka College. There, he studied economics and sociology, played on the football team, and acted in school plays. Upon graduation, he became a radio sports announcer. A screen test in 1937 won him a contract in Hollywood. During the next two decades he appeared in 53 films.

From his first marriage to actress Jane Wyman, he had two children, Maureen and Michael. Maureen passed away in 2001. In 1952 he married Nancy Davis, who was also an actress, and they had two children, Patricia Ann and Ronald Prescott.

As president of the Screen Actors Guild, Reagan became embroiled in disputes over the issue of Communism in the film industry; his political views shifted from liberal to conservative. He toured the country as a television host, becoming a spokesman for conservatism. In 1966 he was



elected Governor of California by a margin of a million votes; he was re-elected in 1970.

Ronald Reagan won the Republican Presidential nomination in 1980 and chose as his running mate former Texas Congressman and United Nations Ambassador George Bush. Voters troubled by inflation and by the year-long confinement of Americans in Iran swept the Republican ticket into office. Reagan won 489 electoral votes to 49 for President Jimmy Carter.

On January 20, 1981, Reagan took office. Only 69 days later he was shot by a would-be assassin, but quickly recovered and returned to duty. His grace and wit during the dangerous incident caused his popularity to soar.

Dealing skillfully with Con-

gress, Reagan obtained legislation to stimulate economic growth, curb inflation, increase employment, and strengthen national defense. He embarked upon a course of cutting taxes and Government expenditures, refusing to deviate from it when the strengthening of defense forces led to a large deficit.

A renewal of national self-confidence by 1984 helped Reagan and Bush win a second term with an unprecedented number of electoral votes. Their victory turned away Democratic challengers Walter F. Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro.

In 1986 Reagan obtained an overhaul of the income tax code, which eliminated many deductions and exempted millions of people with low incomes. At the end of his administration, the Nation

was enjoying its longest recorded period of peacetime prosperity without recession or depression.

In foreign policy, Reagan sought to achieve “peace through strength.” During his two terms he increased defense spending 35 percent, but sought to improve relations with the Soviet Union. In dramatic meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, he negotiated a treaty that would eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles. Reagan declared war against international terrorism, sending American bombers against Libya after evidence came out that Libya was involved in an attack on American soldiers in a West Berlin nightclub.

By ordering naval escorts in the Persian Gulf, he maintained the free flow of oil during the Iran-Iraq war. In keeping with the Reagan Doctrine, he gave support to anti-Communist insurgencies in Central America, Asia, and Africa.

Overall, the Reagan years saw a restoration of prosperity, and the goal of peace through strength seemed to be within grasp.



**Building Donation Challenge
Grand Total \$159,493.75**



Promenade registration requests must be Received by Voiture Nationale no later than close of business on 15 Aug 2018 in order to receive the discounted \$114/night room rate.

June 2018 Donations

NAME	VOITURE	GR	AMT
Voiture 1119	1119	CA	\$ 66.00
Voiture 915	915	NC	\$ 50.00
Voiture 471	471	IN	\$ 36.50
Voiture 1510	1510	KS	\$ 29.05
Voiture 1379	1379	MO	\$ 18.00
Voiture 63	63	CT	\$ 17.30
Voiture 1576	1576	FL	\$ 12.00
Voiture 209	209	AR	\$ 11.00
Voiture 191	191	MS	\$ 8.00
Voiture 457	457	ND	\$ 6.00
Voiture 717	717	IL	\$ 3.50
Voiture 620	620	NC	\$ 2.15

What to Pack

- Gentlemen are expected to wear (at a minimum) collared shirts and trousers to all Business Meetings, Cheminots and the Promenade sessions.
- Shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, sandals or open toed shoes are not appropriate.
- Suitable banquet attire is considered to be a coat and tie at a minimum.
- Gardes de la Porte will be instructed to enforce the dress code.
- Please pack accordingly.

For More Information or to Register for Promenade Nationale go to;
<http://www.fortyandeight.org/promenade-nationale/>



“Proud first graders display their flags presented by Tom Adams (Voiture 1411) and Pat Adams (Cabane 1411). This year Voiture 1411 visited every first grade class in Jackson County Mississippi, distributing flags to 2,055 students.”