

Voiture Nationale 40&8

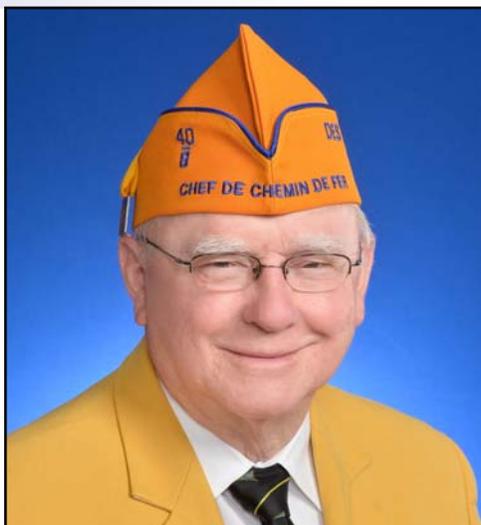
VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

Ken Lafleur - Chef de Chemin de Fer



My Homecoming and the 34th annual Cajun Wreck were held at the Wyndam Hotel in Lafayette LA in the middle of February immediately following Mardi Gras and during the appearance of the Jersey Boys at the Heymann Performing Arts Center. The Boys occupied eighteen of our hotel rooms and were polite and well behaved. Friends and acquaintances attending their performance were quite impressed by the quality of their music.

A highlight of activity during the weekend was a visit to Carville and the Carville museum located along the Mighty Mississippi River between the state capital, Baton Rouge, and colorful New Orleans. Transportation from our Cajun Wreck Hotel in Lafayette was via private vehicles and two relatively large capacity ones provided by Louisiana's own Red Miller (National Directeur Carville Star). A visit to Carville is an annual event and it is an early part of Cajun Wreck festivities. A tour of the museum and grounds is a delightful and informative experience highly recommended by me and by Joyce Robberstad our Presidente Nationale. A stop on the way home at a great restaurant for truly excellent food and camaraderie is a traditional part of the trip.



The Cajun Wreck is hosted by Voiture 1351 and is a multi-Voiture effort. The early bird party Friday evening was well attended and a very pleasant event. The Kangaroo Kourt immediately following was quite entertaining and enjoyed by all. Enjoyed more by some than by others. The pies in the face were high-spirited and all in good fun. My darling Patricia seemed ever so slightly over-enthusiastic about smashing a pie in my face

The Wreck on Saturday was again a multi-Voiture effort. I did not witness the tricks but I understand that they were well and tastefully done. It is always a pleasure to attend a Wreck. Having our National Champion Color Guard post the colors that weekend was an additional pleasure and a highlight for us.

The master of ceremonies at my Homecoming Saturday evening banquet was our resident Red Miller. Seated in the Banquet Hall Saturday night and quite well behaved were Chefs de Chemin de Fer Passé Terry Sims, Bob Kaseman, Ted Land, Mark Moots, Mike Wood, Don Emley, Joe Jamnick, and Hank Kwiatkowski. There were so many present at the same time and place

that for over a moment I thought we were at Bozo's Restaurant in Pascagoula Mississippi attending the Nutcracker Wreck.

The venerable Paul Landry Chef de Chemin de Fer Passé 1992 and a founding father of the Cajun Wreck has been under the weather for a few years and was unable to attend. We missed his presence and that of his wife Des Landry. Des recently expired and Cabane 1351 lost one of its most senior members and its' only Presidente Nationale Passé.

Pat Mobley, Correspondant National, brought greetings from National Headquarters and more importantly brought a fantastic bottle of very old Scotch. Sous Chefs de Chemin de Fer (Dennis Engdahl, Michael Robberstad, the general leading membership Daniel Tarbell, the one with the delightful smile, Angie Anderson) were all present, in quite a good mood, and were very pleasant company.

The parade of gifts was very favorably impressive to me and to Patricia. Thanks for each of those gifts and thanks to all who attended.

Our National Presidente, the delightful Joyce Robberstad, was there accompanied by our Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Michael. Three of our four Candidates for Chef de Chemin de Fer 2018 (Mike McGary, Rick Williams, John Kaiserian) were present and were their usual pleasant selves. Our fourth candidate, Wally Ciokajlo, was absent due to some transient difficulty.

Another highlight of the weekend was the development of Terry Lee of Florida as our latest World Class Cajun Boudin Connoisseur.

On March 15 it's off to Portland Oregon for our Presidente's Homecoming and a weekend for working on retention and recruitment but mostly for a weekend of celebration.

Inside this issue:

Chef Ken Lafleur	1
Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	2
Fight for the Forty and Eight?	3
Remembering Van T. Barfoot	4
Presidential History	5
Grande de Wisconsin Donation	6

Sooo....You Wanna be a Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer?

by Patrick Mobley Correspondant National

Voiture Nationale is now accepting Letters of Intent (LOI) for Voyageurs wishing to ascend to the high office of Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer.

“What does a Sous Chef have to do?” you say. That question is conveniently covered in The Constitution of La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux:

ARTICLE VIII

Section 2. SOUS CHEFS DE CHEMIN DE FER.

The Sous Chefs de Chemin de Fer shall act as representatives of the Chef de Chemin de Fer in all matters referred by the Chef de Chemin de Fer and shall, at the Chef de Chemin de Fer’s request, preside over the Promenade Nationale or meetings of the Cheminots Nationaux; correlate the Grandes Voitures and activities of La Société in the territory designated by the Chef de Chemin de Fer; and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

So, what does that mean?

First and foremost, it means that you should be able,



available, and financially stable enough to travel throughout the United States to represent La Société and the Chef de Chemin de Fer as necessary.

In addition, you will become an integral part of the National Membership Team, responsible for reporting on several Grandes and approximately 6-thousand Voyageurs. Yes, you’ll be at the tip of the Membership spear.

The most common first step to achieving this high office

is the submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI), notifying the Committee on Committees of your goal.

Your LOI should be in your “voice” and from your perspective. There is no cookie cutter formula. Your LOI should summarize your 40 & 8 activities. It should cover a chronological list of offices held, the year(s) that you held them and what you accomplished in that role. This will give the Committee a “snapshot” of your entire 40&8 career.

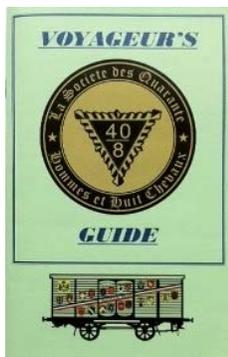
It should be addressed to the Committee on Committees and sent to me here at Voiture Nationale (email and hard copy via USPS). After review, I will formally submit your LOI to the members of the Committee on Committees.

Be advised, applicants must have served as a Grande Chef in order to be qualified for this high office. In addition, you will require an Endorsement Resolution, from your Grande Voiture. Understanding that varying timelines are involved, your LOI should state when your Grande Promenade is scheduled, and that you anticipate a favorable endorsement at that time.

Unless I miss my guess, these few facts will generate some questions. It might be beneficial to consult past Sous Chefs de Chemin de Fer about their experiences. As always, feel free to reach out to me for administrative questions using the normal methods. I’m happy to help.

Thank you all for your continued efforts on behalf of La Société and those we serve.

Emblem Sales Highlight of the Month



This month's highlight is the Voyageur's Guide manual. This manual is very useful for the new member kits. It is an excellent guide to the overall organization and all its' programs. The part number is 04VGXX and the price is (\$6.00). 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



You fought for your country, will you fight for the Forty and Eight?

P.A.L.S. L'Editeur Renslar "Renny" Keagle

By virtue of being a veteran, myself and fellow Voyageurs Militaire (VM), served and fought for our country in many capacities. We have VM who fought in many ways... we have combat veterans, era veterans, cold war veterans, draftees, retirees, etc. Members also from every branch of service and a wide variety of occupational specialties. There are also full-time active duty veterans, part-time veterans, Reserves, National Guard and finally IRR (Individual Ready Reserve).

Having fought and served in one of the capacities above, most of us are well aware of the sacrifices we have made in service to our country—some the ultimate sacrifice. We don't expect anyone to die as a result of their service to the Forty and Eight. Although my wife does tell me that if I don't slow down, "the Forty and Eight is going to kill me." She does say that lovingly. I'm willing to bet, my lovely spouse is not the first to say that.

So let's get to the point, we have defined our service obligation—now it is time to define our obligation to La Société. You fought for your country, will you consider fighting and making sacrifices for the Forty and Eight?

Let's also settle one thing—we know the Forty and Eight is worth fighting for. Based on our size, comparatively, no other veterans organization is doing the kinds of things at the level we are doing it.

Like any battle, the battlefield must be defined. We must know who our enemy is. So what must we in the Forty and Eight be fighting for? First and foremost we must be fighting against a declining membership. As reported at the last Promenade Nationale, 1267 VM were lost to Taps with 1143 new members – a loss of 124. There were 1395 non-renewals, a final total loss of 1519 members. We ended the 2017 Membership Year with only 24,174 members nationally. At some point in time, we must draw a "line in the sand" on membership and each and every one of us must enter this membership battle if we are going to survive. We have defined in previous issues of the Bulletin strategies and ideas on improving membership. This is a battle that has to be fought at the Locale level, down to each of us as an individual VM—committed to recruitment and new membership. Also, the membership battle is not going to be won if our Locales are not doing some kind of community work that will stimulate membership and give our current membership a reason to stay committed to us rather than some other veteran's organization.

Remember the proverb (attributed to Benjamin Franklin in Poor Richards Almanac) - "For the want of a nail a shoe was lost, for the want of a shoe a horse was lost, for the want of a horse a rider was lost, for the loss of a rider a message was lost, for the want of a message a battle was lost, for the failure of battle, the kingdom was lost." (During World War II, this verse was framed and hung on the wall of the Anglo-American Supply Headquarters in London, England. - Wikipedia.org).

A failure to pay attention to all of the little things that make up our Promenades like ritual and ceremony, a failure to mentor new members, a failure to work at least one or two programs, a failure to support pin sales, etc., are all nails that may seem of little consequence individually, but together could have grave and unforeseen consequences.

There are many, many VM, Locales and Grands doing great things, we see it in the Forty and Eighter, Voyageur Briefs, in Locale and Grand newsletters. A great number of VM make sacrifices in time and financially in support of La Société. However, the fight ahead of us we must all bear if we are to grow and be the premier honor society for all veterans. Remember that one small change can have a ripple effect. If you are carrying a 2018 membership card you are in the battle—please fight for your Forty and Eight.

Membership – Our survival



is everyone's responsibility.

Remembering Van T. Barfoot

Remember the guy who wouldn't take the flag pole down on his Virginia property a while back?

You might remember the news story about a crotchety old man in Virginia who defied his local Homeowners Association, and refused to take down the flag pole on his property along with the large American flag he flew on it.

Now we learn who that old man was. On June 15, 1919, Van T. Barfoot was born in Edinburg, Texas.



That probably didn't make news back then but twenty-five years later, on May 23,

1944, near **Carano, Italy**, That same Van T. Barfoot, who had in 1940 enlisted in the U.S. Army, set out alone to flank German machine gun positions from which gunfire was raining down on his fellow soldiers.

His advance took him through a minefield but having done so, he proceeded to single-handedly take out three enemy machine gun positions, returning with 17 prisoners of war.

And if that weren't enough for a day's work, he later took on and destroyed three Ger-



man tanks sent to retake the machine gun positions. That probably didn't make much news either, given the scope of the war, but it did earn Van T. Barfoot, who retired



as a Colonel after also serving in Korea and Vietnam, a well-deserved **Medal of Honor**.

What did make news...Was his Neighborhood Assn. quibble with how the 90-year-old veteran chose to fly the American flag outside his suburban Virginia home. Seems the HOA rules said it was OK to fly a flag on a house-mounted Bracket, but, for decorum, items such as Barfoot's 21-foot flagpole were "unsuitable."

Van Barfoot had been denied a permit for the pole, but erected it anyway and was facing court action unless he

agreed to take it down.

Then the HOA story made national TV, and the Neighborhood Association rethought its position and agreed to indulge this aging hero who dwelt among them. "In the time I have left", he said to the Associated Press, "I plan to continue To fly the American flag without interference." As well he should. And if any of his neighbors had taken a notion to contest him further, they might have done well to read his Medal of Honor citation first. Seems it indicates Mr. Barfoot wasn't particularly good at backing down.

Ritual of Celebration for the Birthday of La Societe de Quarante Homes et Huit Cheveux: by Nationale Directeur of Rituals Walter E. Ciokajlo Jr.

Let me start off by wishing you and all Voyageurs, a very Happy Birthday. As you all know March 15th is our Voiture's Birthday (It will be our 98th) Your Voiture should be using our Ritual of manuals to perform the celebration ceremony of this special day. It does not have to be performed right on March 15th But, your Voiture Locale can celebrate this day any day in March where they may have ample time to perform this celebration. This is a good

opportunity for your Voiture Locale to invite guest, (or potential Voyageurs), and all your members including those we haven't seen all winter to come together. In other words, this could be a great tool for a membership drive for your Voiture Locale. This could help in retaining old members and help with the interest in the new membership to help them to understand what we stand for. Make phone calls to your members, put out the word in

your Voiture Locale's newsletter. If a Voyageur tells you he/she cannot attend because he/she doesn't drive any more, or they have no means of transportation see if you or one of your Voyageurs can't pick them up and give them a ride to this important and impressive ceremony. Who knows but with a little cake and refreshments by the Voiture Locale you may help your membership grow. Please remember to invite the Dames of your Cabane too



(They are always there for the 40/8). As we have always stated membership is the heart of the Voiture. Therefore, let us as the Nationale Ritual Committee help to get this heart to beat a little harder, and faster by having a successful celebration.

Presidential Biographies

When Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office on August 9, 1974, he declared, "I assume the Presidency under extraordinary circumstances.... This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts."

It was indeed an unprecedented time. He had been the first Vice President chosen under the terms of the Twenty-fifth Amendment and, in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, was succeeding the first President ever to resign.

Ford was confronted with almost insuperable tasks. There were the challenges of mastering inflation, reviving a depressed economy, solving chronic energy shortages, and trying to ensure world peace.

The President acted to curb the trend toward Government intervention and spending as a means of solving the problems of American society and the economy. In the long run, he believed, this shift would bring a better life for all Americans.

Ford's reputation for integrity and openness had made him popular during his 25 years in Congress. From 1965 to 1973, he was House Minority Leader. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1913, he grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He starred on the University of Michigan football team, then went to Yale, where he served as assistant coach while earning his law degree. During World War II he attained the rank of lieutenant commander in the Navy. After the war he returned to Grand Rapids, where he began the practice of law, and



entered Republican politics. A few weeks before his election to Congress in 1948, he married Elizabeth Bloomer. They have four children: Michael, John, Steven, and Susan.

As President, Ford tried to calm earlier controversies by granting former President Nixon a full pardon. His nominee for Vice President, former Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York, was the second person to fill that office by appointment. Gradually, Ford selected a cabinet of his own.

Ford established his policies during his first year in office, despite opposition from a heavily Democratic Congress. His first goal was to curb inflation. Then, when recession became the Na-

tion's most serious domestic problem, he shifted to measures aimed at stimulating the economy. But, still fearing inflation, Ford vetoed a number of non-military appropriations bills that would have further increased the already heavy budgetary deficit. During his first 14 months as President he vetoed 39 measures. His vetoes were usually sustained.

Ford continued as he had in his Congressional days to view himself as "a moderate in domestic affairs, a conservative in fiscal affairs, and a dyed-in-the-wool internationalist in foreign affairs." A major goal was to help business operate more freely by reducing taxes upon it and easing the controls exercised by regulatory agencies. "We...declared our inde-

pendence 200 years ago, and we are not about to lose it now to paper shufflers and computers," he said.

In foreign affairs Ford acted vigorously to maintain U. S. power and prestige after the collapse of Cambodia and South Viet Nam. Preventing a new war in the Middle East remained a major objective; by providing aid to both Israel and Egypt, the Ford Administration helped persuade the two countries to accept an interim truce agreement. Detente with the Soviet Union continued. President Ford and Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev set new limitations upon nuclear weapons.

President Ford won the Republican nomination for the Presidency in 1976, but lost the election to his Democratic opponent, former Governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia.

On Inauguration Day, President Carter began his speech: "For myself and for our Nation, I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land." A grateful people concurred.



Building Donation Challenge Grand Total - \$158,000.15



February 2018 Donations

NAME	VOITURE	GRANDE	AMT
Grande de Wisconsin	20053	WI	\$ 10,000.00
Voiture 592	592	IL	\$ 50.00
Voiture 1213	1213	WA	\$ 43.00
Voiture 1233	1233	FL	\$ 29.00
Voiture 1539	1539	AK	\$ 20.00
Voiture 1539	1539	AK	\$ 20.00
W E Thomas	2000	VN	\$ 10.00
John Sid Bowden	2000	VN	\$ 10.00
Freddie Tate	2000	VN	\$ 5.00
Wilfred Lacaze	2000	VN	\$ 1.00
Voiture 599	599	MI	\$ 1.00

Voiture Nationale has Gone Social!
Like, Follow and Re-tweet

Grande Voiture de Wisconsin Makes Generous Voiture Nationale Mortgage Donation

Grande Voiture de Wisconsin recently presented Voiture Nationale with a generous donation of **\$10,000** in memory of Voyageur Militaire **Harald P. Kahlert**.

Voyageur Kahlert was kind enough to remember Grande de Wisconsin in his estate planning. As a result, the Wisconsin Voyageurs voted at their Mid-Winter Petite Promenade on February 9, 2018, to extend Voyageur Kahlert's generosity, by making a donation to the ongoing Building Fund campaign to pay off the mortgage.

You may recall that Voiture Nationale acquired our current property and building in April of 2014. At that time a 5-year promissory note was executed. Due to the ongoing campaign to pay off the mortgage, three additional lump sum mortgage payments of \$40,000, \$20,000, and most recently, \$10,000 have been made.

Wisconsin's substantial donation brings the current balance of the mortgage to \$95,150.67

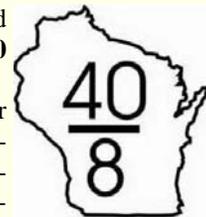
The 5-year promissory note comes due in April 2019. At that time, the estimated balance of \$85,000 will either have to be paid in full, or a new mortgage will have to be obtained.

When the appeal for donations for the Building Fund began in 2014, the response from Voyageurs all over the nation was impressive. As you might expect, four years later participation has fallen off significantly.

Voiture Nationale would like to thank the Voyageurs of Grande Voiture de Wisconsin for leading the way in this worthy effort. Their generosity and forethought have made a significant impact that they can, and should be proud of.

Throughout the next 12-months, please consider joining Grande Voiture de Wisconsin in this final push to erase this debt. No donation is too small, and every donation is gratefully received. Proceeds from one extra raffle or one more tip board could make all the difference.

To the Voyageurs of Grande Voiture de Wisconsin, we offer our sincere gratitude for your generosity. **Merci beaucoup!**



National Nurses Training Program



Our "La Societe" encompasses 54 Grand Voitures with a total membership of 23,768 Voyageurs Militaire. The level of participation in our National Nurse Training Club Pin program for the 2018 year stands at 44 participating Grands. There are only 10 Grand Voitures that are not participating, but these Grands make up a total of 579 Voyageurs. The reasons may vary for their non-participation, but the root cause stems from a lack of communications. These Voyageurs are not being apprised of the primary purpose of our Pin program. I urge the Officers of these non-participating Grands to give their Locales the opportunity to choose to support our Nurse Training efforts or just say "NO". I cannot believe that 579 Voyageurs would turn down the opportunity to support such a vital endeavor. A token \$3 donation would provide these Voyageurs a Pin to proudly display on their Chapeau or Lapel and all participation levels are for a worthy cause. Contact your Locales and urge them to contribute at some level.



The pride that goes with being a member of a contributing Grand goes a long way in indicating the attitude and dedication of the Voyageurs of that Grand. While many Grands are putting forth those extra efforts, there is always a Grand Voiture that stands out with their hard work at any given time.

This month one such Grand from the Southeast Region has shown a great effort in support of the National Nurse Training Program by demonstrating the commitment needed to effectively support this vital program of the 40/8.

**GRAND VOITURE of the Month for FEBRUARY
"GRAND du LOUISIANA"**

Southeast Region, Posting earned sales to-date of 267 Pins for \$801 and a member per-capita of \$ 1.16.
"MERCI, Fellow Voyageurs Militaire", National Secretaire/Treasurer, H.T. "Terry" Sharp