



Voiture Nationale 40&8

VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

Ken Lafleur – Chef de Chemin de Fer



Patricia and I spent some time in Portland Oregon in mid-March. Oregon, the home of the mighty Ducks and the mighty Columbia River. The river's mouth at the Pacific marks the western edge of the famous Louis and Clark expedition. The chronicles of that journey are certainly incredibly enlightening and entertaining. Les Femmes Presidente Nationale Joyce Robberstad's Homecoming Celebration in Portland was comprised of only slightly less informative and entertaining series of events. From Joe's Crab Shack on Thursday (which we missed) through Joyce's characteristically excellent talk at the Saturday night banquet all details were excellently planned and executed.

Tombstone Arizona. The name brings on visions of the Wild West, silver mines, Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, his girlfriend Big Nose Kate, and the Gunfight at the OK Coral. In a re-enactment of the 30-second event the Earps and Doc Holliday once again vanquished Billy Claiborne and the Clanton and McLauray brothers.

Tombstone (home of the white roses from China via Scotland), a colorful town with a colorful history, was the



site of the Great Western Promenade in early April. Voiture 987 and the Grand Voiture du Arizona hosted the Promenade. Attentive and effective Aides de Camp present were Arizona's Ed Martin and Georgia's Larry Butts. One Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer, Michael Robberstad, and his lovely wife, Presidente Nationale Joyce, also contributed to making for a very pleasant and fun-filled weekend. Three of our candidates for Chef de Chemin de Fer (John Kaiserian, Wally Ciokajlo, Rick Williams) were present and were their usual pleasant

selves.

Efforts to make our Programs continually successful are continuing and I encourage you to participate in some or all of them. Support of our Programs is sometimes reported at the very last minute. Some of that seemingly tardy but not really tardy behavior is due to the way the final level of participation is determined at Locale and Grand levels. But in any case remember, documenting participation early and reporting it promptly is an anxiety reliever for Directeurs.

Among our Sous Directeurs of Membership John Demoss is 3% ahead of the hard-working pack. Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Daniel Tarbell's Grande Voitures lead in Generals' membership quota. The Grande Voiture du Tennessee, host to the Southland Dixie the weekend of April 20th, leads our Grande Voitures with over 100% of quota.

Invite Veterans you know and like to join the Forty-and Eight in having fun with us and in serving our Country. Our Country a Country that needs us now as much as ever.

Kenneth "Doc" Lafleur

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Chef's Travels – Kenneth "Doc" Lafleur Left (Madame President's Homecoming) Right (Great Western Promenade)



A Brief Chuckle



Two guys are out hunting in the woods when one of them collapses. He doesn't appear to be breathing, his eyes are glazed over. The other man pulls out his phone with trembling fingers and calls 911. He gasps, My friend is dead! What can I do?"

The operator says Please stay calm. I will help you. First of all, let's make sure he's dead."

There's a silence, then a gun shot. The guy gets back on the phone and says OK, now what?"

A man asks a farmer near a field, "Sorry sir, would you mind if I crossed your field instead of going around it? You see, I have to catch the 4:23 train."

The farmer says, "Sure, go right ahead. And if my bull sees you, you'll even catch the 4:11 one."

Emblem Sales Highlight of the Month



This month's highlight is the George B. Boland Trust Challenge Coin. Show your 40&8 pride by carrying or displaying this collectable coin. It is 1 and 3/4" and comes in a protective case. The part number is 18RNTC and the price is (\$5.00) or 18RNTC10 Qty 10 (\$35.00). You can purchase this item at our emblem sales store

online at
<http://store.fortyandeight.org/>
or contact Landry Foley,
E-mail:
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Boys! It's Nut Cuttin' Time!

Patrick Mobley -Correspondant National

About a thousand years ago, I was a young man working on the decks of a U.S. Navy warship in the Pacific.

I remember a particularly hot and difficult day, we were trying to disassemble a piece of deck gear on the starboard boat deck. Mind you, this piece of gear had been exposed to the weather since Noah was a deck hand, and been painted over more times than you could count.

Another guy and I had spent most of the morning on this project, and clearly we were losing. As we stood smoking a Marlboro among the pile of progressively longer wrenches, cheater bars, and sledge hammers, deciding what to do next...a booming voice came from above.

Boys! It's nut cuttin' time!

That was the undeniable voice of the old grey beard himself, Chief Boatswains Mate Thompson. From the deck above, he'd been leaning on the railing observing our efforts for some time. There was no doubt that we were working hard; the evidence was all over the deck. But more was needed. He had already sent for a cutting rig and a hull tech to run it. As you might guess, within the hour, by the power of the torch, the offending hardware was cut free.

It was time to stop screwing around and get the job done.

As of this printing, there are approximately 100 days left until the end of the membership year. And yes, it's time to stop screwing around, and get the job done.

We pride ourselves as a top tier organization. An organization of leaders. Yet this organization can't figure out how to save itself. Everyone thinks that it's someone else's job to recruit.

Here's the news flash; it's your job to recruit and wreck new members. Your job.

That is the stark reality. It is the responsibility of every man and woman that wears the Chapeau to actively recruit new members. If we are the "best of the best" organization that we profess to be, why are we dying? There are over 20 Million veterans in the U.S. and barely 20 thousand are Voyageurs. Is no one else worthy to be among our ranks? Or, are we just too damned lazy to go recruit them?

The time for excuses is over. The time for rest has passed. Action is now required. You... the person reading this, is responsible for the fate of this organization; and now is the time to lead.

We've got 30-years of steadily declining membership numbers. That has got to stop.

I'm asking each of you to make a personal commitment to yourself, to La Société, and to the memory of the thousands of Voyageurs who have gone before us and left us this legacy, not to let it perish.

Make a personal commitment to recruit ONE new Veteran in this last 100 days. Don't make excuses as to why it can't be done. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Lead by example.

No wreck scheduled in the next 100 days? Organize one. Lead.

Can't find any eligible veterans? Open your eyes; there are ball caps and bumpers stickers everywhere that tell you where they are. Lead.

I have said it before, and I will continue to say it; if we don't take control of our destiny, and La Société fades away – history will judge us harshly.

If this message offends your sensibilities, I would invite you to take inventory of the number of Voyagers that you have personally sponsored in the past year, balanced against the number of excuses that you have for not doing so.

Boys...its nut cuttin' time.



Voiture 80 Celebrates 40&8's Birthday



Voiture 80's youngest and oldest Voyageurs Phyllis York and Jerry Shorey hold up the Happy Birthday Cake as the Voiture prepares to celebrate 40 & 8's 98th birthday.

Voiture 364 Easter Egg Hunt

Youngsters scramble across the parking lot at the start of the Easter egg Hunt Sunday, March 25, 2018, at the 40 & 8 Chateau in Lafayette, Indiana. Voiture Locale 364 hosted the event where over 3,000 eggs were up for grabs for children to fill their baskets. The hunt was made possible by donations from the Voyageurs of Voiture 364. It was the second year the Locale hosted a public Easter Egg Hunt. Chef de Gare Brad Young recently reported his Locale at just over 100% Membership with 309 Voyageurs.



Presidential Biographies

Jimmy Carter aspired to make Government “competent and compassionate,” responsive to the American people and their expectations. His achievements were notable, but in an era of rising energy costs, mounting inflation, and continuing tensions, it was impossible for his administration to meet these high expectations.

Carter, who has rarely used his full name—James Earl Carter, Jr.—was born October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia. Peanut farming, talk of politics, and devotion to the Baptist faith were mainstays of his upbringing. Upon graduation in 1946 from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Carter married Rosalynn Smith. The Carters have three sons, John William (Jack), James Earl III (Chip), Donnel Jeffrey (Jeff), and a daughter, Amy Lynn.

After seven years’ service as a naval officer, Carter returned to Plains. In 1962 he entered state politics, and eight years later he was elected Governor of Georgia. Among the new young southern governors, he attracted attention by emphasizing ecology, efficiency in government, and the removal of racial barriers.

Carter announced his candidacy for President in December 1974 and began a two-year campaign that gradually gained momentum. At the Democratic Convention,



he was nominated on the first ballot. He chose Senator Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota as his running mate. Carter campaigned hard against President Gerald R. Ford, debating with him three times. Carter won by 297 electoral votes to 241 for Ford.

Carter worked hard to combat the continuing economic woes of inflation and unemployment. By the end of his administration, he could claim an increase of nearly eight million jobs and a decrease in the budget deficit, measured in percentage of the gross national product. Unfortunately, inflation and interest rates were at near record highs, and efforts to reduce them

caused a short recession.

Carter could point to a number of achievements in domestic affairs. He dealt with the energy shortage by establishing a national energy policy and by decontrolling domestic petroleum prices to stimulate production. He prompted Government efficiency through civil service reform and proceeded with deregulation of the trucking and airline industries. He sought to improve the environment. His expansion of the national park system included protection of 103 million acres of Alaskan lands. To increase human and social services, he created the Department of Education, bolstered the Social Security

system, and appointed record numbers of women, blacks, and Hispanics to Government jobs.

In foreign affairs, Carter set his own style. His championing of human rights was coldly received by the Soviet Union and some other nations. In the Middle East, through the Camp David agreement of 1978, he helped bring amity between Egypt and Israel. He succeeded in obtaining ratification of the Panama Canal treaties. Building upon the work of predecessors, he established full diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China and completed negotiation of the SALT II nuclear limitation treaty with the Soviet Union.

There were serious setbacks, however. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan caused the suspension of plans for ratification of the SALT II pact. The seizure as hostages of the U. S. embassy staff in Iran dominated the news during the last 14 months of the administration. The consequences of Iran’s holding Americans captive, together with continuing inflation at home, contributed to Carter’s defeat in 1980. Even then, he continued the difficult negotiations over the hostages. Iran finally released the 52 Americans the same day Carter left office.

Building Donation Challenge
Grand Total -\$158,000.15



Data Call:

Locomotive/Rolling Stock/Box Car Insurance

Voyageurs all:

In the past year or so, Voiture Nationale has received word from ever increasing numbers of Locales and Grandes that they are experiencing issues obtaining suitable insurance for their rolling stock.



Insurance carriers are either refusing to provide coverage, or the premiums become cost prohibitive. This has been the case with both Locomotives and Merci Box Cars.

It would be helpful if those currently carrying active insurance policies on any rolling stock would contact the Correspondant National at pmobley@fortyandeight.org with the details. This information would then be shared with those Voyageurs that have an insurance need, eliminating a great deal of time and effort searching for a suitable vendor.

Patrick Mobley
Correspondant National

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Voiture Nationale has Gone Social!!

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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 Grandes. There are only 10 Grand Voitures that are not participating, but these Grandes 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 Grandes 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 you 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 Grandes 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 Northeast 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 MARCH
"GRAND du MICHIGAN"
Northeast Region

Posting earned sales to-date of 200 Pins for \$600 and a member per-capita of \$.71, also submitting \$155 in Donations.

"MERCI, Fellow Voyageurs Militaire", National Secretaire/Treasurer, *H.T. "Terry" Sharp*