



Voiture Nationale 40&8

VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

Rick Williams –Chef de Chemin de Fer



Hope that everyone enjoyed their celebration of our 99th year in existence. Our organization has shown some great achievements and we should be proud of what we have done, but we have to continue to be dedicated to our services and programs and to let the public know what we are doing. We are part of an organization that helps others more than itself. Let's show pride in what we do and encourage others to get involved with us.

Well, your Chef went from the frozen lakes to what should have been sunny and warm California. It did not turn out that way. The weather was wet and cold and did not help to break the cold in this body of mine, but we still had a good time in Fresno. Two of my aides were in attendance (Edward Martin of AZ and Jim Scott of AK), and they took great care of me. The hospitality of the Grand du California, Grand Correspondant Joe Donavon, Grand Chef de Gare Will Williams and hosted by the American Legion Post 16, was warm and welcoming. The Voyagers of Voiture 365 Grand du CA presented a few checks for me to bring back. They were donations to Carville Star for \$7000.00, and \$5000.00 each to the Boland and Ardery Trust Funds. I'm glad that our Commissaire Intendant Nationale, Daniel Du-



mas was there to turn the checks over to. I, on behalf of Voiture National, extend a big Merci Beaucoup to the Voyagers of Voiture 365.



Back home to TN, then off to the Cajun Wreck in Lafayette, LA, for hopefully, some warm and dry weather. Well it was not dry but not as cold as I have been exposed to lately. A good many passe Chef de Chemin de Fers were in attendance and a lot of good friends and some new ones. Of course I had two Aides de Camp on the scene -- Larry Butts of GA and Tom Russell of IN. My designated escort Red Miller, with Doc Lafleur Chef de Chemin de Fer 2018, sure know how to make anyone feel right at home. The party started at Doc's where he and his lovely bride, Patricia,

hosted a get - together at his home which was very well done- first class all the way, Doc.

Now a Cajun Wreck would just not be a Cajun Wreck without some good Cajun cooking and Roy Boy can cook up some Cajun cuisine! He even went out and tagged an alligator for some of his tail. It was very tasty but I do not think it was from the one he tagged!



They managed to wreck three PG'S into our ranks so that leaves us with just 4179 new members to join us in La Societe. We need to turn up the recruitment, Voyagers! As it looks at this time my challenge to every Voyager is not going to be met, so we will have less members next year, I think that we are our own worse enemy to recruitment of new members. We leave our membership up to the Local and some refuse to go along with our policy on who is eligible, and only invite prospective members if they belong to the American Legion. The only requirement that we have is an honorable discharge or be on active duty.

Our National Public Relations Directeur Robert Cearlock is correct we have a good PR program, what is needed is a workable marketing plan. I am receptive for ideas on how we could proceed in this direction, submit them to me at my e-mail address, subject marketing plan. Each of them will be reviewed and considered; with the best one or ones brought to the attention of our govern body for consideration.

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Terry Sims -Correspondant National

I had the chance last week to inspect the Double Tree Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC where our 100th Promenade & 56th Rendezvous Nationale will be held September 10-14, 2019. This facility is excellent in all categories. Dave Hill and the Convention Corporation should be congratulated for their diligent work putting this 100th Anniversary Promenade together. All rooms have a beautiful view of the ocean. Another plus factor is all meeting rooms are in a consolidated area where hardly any travel is needed for attending multiple meetings. The corporation will have four golf carts and two vans that will take you where you wish to go. Our members that may need handicapped equipment there is a listing of businesses on our 40/8 website that you may rent scooters or other equipment if necessary. The Early Bird Party

will be held outside in a grassy yard with a view of the ocean. I have given you only a few of the attractions that you will enjoy. COME AND JOIN US IN MYRTLE BEACH FOR YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LA SOCIETE.

The Frank Martin Memorial “Walk” shirts have arrived at Voiture Nationale. Randy Page our Walk Directeur and myself will be transporting them to events that we will be attending or you may purchase them on the website. There are two colors this year, red & blue. Terri Taylor, our retired office secretary had the lowest price and they look very nice. Also, they come with a pocket, which many Voyageurs & Dames have been wanting for several years. If you contact Randy or myself with your size and color and we will be attending a func-



tion that you are attending, we'll save you the shipping charge. The shirts are \$20. The red & blue is really outstanding.

YOURS FOR LA SOCIETE

Get Your Walk Shirts Now While They Last!

To Order Your Walk Shirt go to: www.fortyandeight.org/events



Voiture 80 Youth Sports

Voiture 80 presented the Oakridge High School girls basketball program with a \$500 donation for equipment and uniforms.



Voiture 899



Voiture 899 Chef de Gare Scottie-Ann Murphy presents a donation to George Gray of Sons of Amvets Post 21 for the annual fundraiser for Landstul Hospital.



Grande du South Carolina invites you to attend the 100th Promenade & 56th Rendezvous Nationale, Myrtle Beach, SC.

For More Information go to:

<http://www.fortyandeight.org/promenade-nationale/>

National Nurses Training Program



GRAND VOITURE of the MONTH February



Our National Nurse Training Club has seen solid support this year from 40 participating Grands as we work to raise funding in support of the Boland Trust Fund. Pin sales and donations continue to be our primary revenue source.

Maximum participation is our goal and to achieve that goal we need everyone's help. Pin sales are important to our success and we urge the 14 non-participating Grands to come join us in a unified effort to achieve our goal.

Remember, 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. Talk with your fellow Voyageurs and 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 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 February

“GRAND du NEW YORK”

Northeast Region, Posting earned sales to-date of 163 Pins for \$489 and a member per-capita of \$.55.

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

Grand du Texas Celebrates Gratitude

David J. Knutson, Grand Publiciste



They came from all around Texas (over 2,500 miles travelled) to attend the 70th Anniversary of the Texas Merci Boxcar, a historic gift of friendship from the people of France and a part of the Gratitude Train of 1949!

In 1950 the Grand Voiture du Texas met for the 1st annual pilgrimage (photo below) and thought they should do this each year. As they have done since 1950 members of the Forty & Eight veterans organization held their Annual Pilgrimage here in Austin. This year is the 70th Annual Pilgrimage held!

Little fanfare surrounded their memorial service where they read off the names of the Voyageurs Militaire and Dames who passed over the last 12 months. But their dedication should be noted as nearly all members of this organization travel at their own expense.

There is no big budget for travel like the larger veteran organizations, yet most have repeated this trip for years. A very special Thank You to those dedicated folks in Grand du Texas!

TEXAS *Legion* NEWS

FEBRUARY 25, 1950

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40 And 8 Makes First Merci Car Pilgrimage



More than 20 voitures locale sent more than 100 voyageurs to Austin Saturday and Sunday, February 18 and 19 for the first pilgrimage to the French boxcar, presented to the American Legion by the government of France as part of the Merci Train last year. Above is a picture of the boxcar, now at Camp Mabry, Austin and those standing in front are rep-

resentatives of Texas voitures who presented Department Commander Joe Spurlock 6002 memberships. It was decided to make the pilgrimage an annual affair. The little girl is Anne, four year old daughter of Voyageur Roger Dawson, Georgetown.

Building Donation Challenge Grand Total \$165,493.57
February 2019



NAME	VOITURE	GR	AMT
Voiture 1510	KS	1510	\$ 200.00
Voiture 912	CA	912	\$ 27.50
Grand du TN	Grand	TN	\$ 27.00
Voiture 1539	AK	1539	\$ 25.00
Ernie & Suzanne Cooper	KS	1510	\$ 25.00
Voiture 1114	VA	1114	\$ 11.00
Bill Cooley	IN	276	\$ 10.85

Trip to Carville



Carville Star National Director Tom Adams Visits Carville during the Cajun Wreck (2/21/2019).





Voiture Nationale has Gone Social!
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Vice Presidential History

Daniel D. Tompkins (June 21, 1774 – June 11, 1825) was the sixth vice president of the United States from 1817 to 1825.

Born in Scarsdale, New York, Tompkins practiced law in New York City after graduating from Columbia College. He was a delegate to the 1801 New York constitutional convention and served on the New York Supreme Court from 1804 to 1807. In 1807, he defeated incumbent Morgan Lewis to become the Governor of New York. He held that office from 1807 to 1817, serving for the duration of the War of 1812. During the war, he often spent his own money to equip and pay the militia when the legislature wasn't in session, or would not approve the necessary funds.

Tompkins was the Democratic-



Republican Party's vice presidential nominee in the 1816 presidential election. The ticket of James Monroe and Tompkins easily prevailed over limited Federalist opposition. He served as vice president from 1817 to 1825, and was the only 19th century vice president to serve two full terms. In 1820, he sought another term as Governor of New York, but was defeated by DeWitt Clinton. After the War of 1812, Tompkins was in poor physical and financial health, the latter condition stemming largely from his spending for the military effort during the War of 1812. He fell into alcoholism and was unable to re-establish fiscal solvency despite winning partial reimbursement from the federal government in 1823. He died in June 1825, soon after leaving office.