March Chatter

Hello everyone! Hope all of you are well. My prayers for the ones who are sick, having surgery and condolences for a loss.

The first part of February was quiet. Valentine’s day weekend I was in Forest Lake, Minnesota for the Mid-Winter Cheminot with Grande de Minnesota. Laura Blue and Linda Kroupenske picked me up from the airport, then we went to lunch at Norman Quacks. The food was great, and the weather was very cold. After lunch, we had time on our hands so off to the casino for a little fun and later to the American Legion for dinner. Saturday morning, we were back at the Legion for the Cheminot. A very productive meeting was held. We all had lunch together, then that evening PNP Lorinda Kies and others took me out for dinner. Thank you for the goodies I had in my room and the gift of kitchen towels. I’ll put them to good use.

Got home Sunday afternoon, then Tuesday evening was in Charlotte, NC for a very early flight Wednesday morning to Lafayette, Louisiana for the Cajun Wreck. David and I were picked up at the airport by Verona Courville & Joann Barron. Later that evening several of us went to Doc & Patricia Lafleur’s beautiful home for dinner. Patricia “blinged me out with Mardi Gras beads and hat”. Thursday morning after sitting on the highway for almost an hour due to an accident we finally made it to the Carville Museum. We were unable to tour the grounds due to the rain, but the tour of the museum was unbelievable. Chef de Chemin de Fer Mike and I left our pins to be put with the others past Chefs and Presidentes on display. On Friday, Verona & Joann took David and me to Avery Island to tour the tabasco factory, then to lunch. Friday evening at the kangaroo court I was “privileged” to another pie and raised $249 for my program Aid to the Voiture. Saturday afternoon I attended the Grande de Louisiana’s Cheminot. That evening at the banquet, I challenged Chef Mike that the Dames would be 100% before the Voyageurs. I thanked the Dames of Louisiana for the beautiful goodies, flowers and gifts I received. I’ll treasure them.

Dames it’s time to get serious!! We are five months into this year. I haven’t seen an email, letter or a received phone call from the Committee Chairman on what you have been doing this year! Has the Voyageur Directeur been in contact with you? If not, have you contacted them? What have you been doing to promote your program?

Now on membership. Nationally we are at 78.22%, 492 short of making 100%. Area 1 Sous Presidente Kathy Graham is 90.09% short 76, Area 2 Lori Bolley-Majeske 71.58% short 214 and Area 3 Sue Morgan 72.02% short 202. The last time Nationale was 100% was back in 2012. I believe we can do it again in 2020. Congratulations to Arkansas, Texas, Alaska and South Dakota for being 100% or more. There are 10 Grandes that are in the 80 & 90 percentile range. Here’s a big pat on the back to help encourage your Grandes to get the last few memberships in to make it to 100%. And I’m sad to report we have 2 Grandes that have goose eggs.

A huge congratulations to Pennsylvania for forming a new Cabane. La Sous Presidente Kathy Graham and I will be going to Pennsylvania April 8th to initiate and install around 13 or 14 new members into La Societe de Femme. I have talked with the committees that are working on the new Constitution and Ritual and looks like we are still on schedule to have them completed in April. Also, I hope you read last month’s chatter for the changes in the trophy and awards requirements. I say thank you to Chairman Marilyn Rowley and her committee for getting this new information out to the membership.

On the fourth of March, I will be heading to Fort Wayne, Indiana for the Chef de Chemin de Fer’s homecoming. Thanks to the Dames of Grande Cabane de North Carolina who are working hard to make my homecoming (April 2nd – 4th) an enjoyable event for you all to attend. I’m looking forward to seeing you all there.

Yours in Service,

Penny Provette Haigler

Presidente Nationale 2020
Greetings Grande and Locale Correspondante’s,
Our current membership year is rapidly coming to an end, which of course means that Rendezvous Nationale is quickly approaching.
You will find the following documents and information on the website:

**Call to Nationale** – remember that this must be read at a regularly scheduled Rendezvous

**Delegates and Officers Forms** (for Grande / for Locale)
This forms MUST be returned even if no Dames will be attending Nationale Rendezvous. The form is also provided to list your newly elected Presidente and Correspondante for the coming year 2021. This form assures that each Cabane gets important information for all Dames. Please also include current email addresses.

**About Us Pamphlets** – to assist in recruiting new members

**Membership Applications** – To sign up those newly recruiting Dames.

All of these documents and more are available on our website: [http://www.fortyandeight.org/lfhome/](http://www.fortyandeight.org/lfhome/).
All the reports for awards at Nationale Rendezvous are also available on the website for you to print and send to the appropriate Chairman by the required deadline.
Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance to you and the Dames of your Cabane.

For the good of La Societe,

Carol K. Austin

Correspondante Nationale
Hello from the sunny state of Florida. I am in my 8th year as Nationale Commissaire Intendante and I have been a member of Cabane 1219 in Citrus County Florida since 1999.

The office of Commissaire Intendante, whether it be on the locale, Grande or Nationale level, is an important one to every member. It is the responsibility of La Commissaire Intendante to pay all bills timely, present a yearly budget, a year-end financial report and audit the books at the end of the year. On the Nationale level, the monthly bank statements are reviewed, as well as all receipts and disbursements of Cabane Nationale. At Nationale Rendezvous, it is the responsibility of the Nationale Commissaire Intendante to keep track of all monies distributed to and collected from the various programs, such as Ways and Means, Founders Club, registration, the 50/50 raffle money, etc., and turn it over to La Correspondante Nationale to be deposited.

The position of Commissaire Intendante is important on every level of La Societe and I am proud to hold this position.

Carol Kaiserian

Commissaire Intendante 2020
CORRESPONDANTE’S CORNER

Dames,

I hope all is well with you!

Please make sure you check out the printed forms on the website under La femmes at fortyandeight.org. It’s time to think about sending your registration for Rendezvous Nationale in, the form is on the website.

All Cabanes need to start thinking about your Dames running for Nationale Office, We need you to step up and hold an office.

Membership, Membership, Membership is the back bone of the La Femmes, Please collect their dues.

Carol K Austin
La Correspondant Nationale
LETTERS OF INTENT FOR
NATIONALE ELECTED OFFICES

NOTE

As amended at Rendezvous Nationale 2015, each Grande or state can have two (2) resolutions of endorsement as long as they are for two (2) different offices. You do not have to have a Grande to run for Nationale office. A Cabane Locale can submit a Resolution of Endorsement where no Grande exists.

Rendezvous Nationale is fast approaching and we need you to consider running for one of the elected Nationale Officers positions. We will need to elect:


We currently have two letters of intent JANET WALSH, GA, FOR LA PRESIDENTE. None for La Sous Presidente, CAROL KAISERIAN, FL, for Commissaire Intendante, none for Drapeau, None for Garde de la Porte and none for Aumonier, none for Historian.

Please consider running for one of these vital offices. Get those letters of intent in as soon as possible and then get your resolution done and signed by your Locale and Grande. Resolutions of Endorsements must be received no later than August 24, 2020.

Subject: National Ways and Means 2020

Dear Dames,

On behalf of the Nationale Ways and Means Committee, Susie Conrad, I am writing this letter to tell you what we have planned for you this year and at Nationale in September. We are asking each Grand for Your help with the following: (All money made at Nationale, goes to Cabane Nationale).

Goodie Bags: Each Grande or Cabane, that has Dames in attendance, could you please bring some goodie bags to Nationale. They should be wrapped so that you can’t see what is in them, and should each have a value of $2.00 each. Items inside of bags should be new. (Ideas for the bags, could be stationary, greeting cards, body lotion, pen sets, anything that you think someone would like to receive in their goodie bags). If your Cabane or Grande is not coming to Nationale, please remember that you could donate some money so the committee can purchase items for the bags. Any donation would be appreciated. You can send the donation to SUSIE CONRAD, 2007 BLUERIDGE RD, COLUMBIA, MO, 65202. Phone number 309-883-1279. Mark the check Goodie Bags. Thank you for all help.

Silent Auction: We will again be holding a Silent Auction at Nationale. It would be greatly appreciated if each Grand in attendance would bring items for the silent auction. Last year very few items were donated, so it would be great to have more items to auction off this year. If your Grande is not coming, or you cannot bring something with you, please donate money, so we can purchase things. Send money donations to Susie Conrad, mark it Silent Auction.

You can also bring your money right to Nationale.

Grandes and Locale Cabanes please help us in any way that you can. If you have any questions, please call Susie, or Jan Markinka, 815-341-6479.
APPOINTMENTS TO NATIONALE OFFICES
If you are interested in an appointment to a Nationale Office or Committee, please email or call Cabane Nationale with your request. All candidates for La Presidente Nationale will be notified of your desired appointment. femmes@fortyandeight.org or 317-639-1879.

TOTALS FOR OUR PROGRAMS
SEPTEMBER 2019 TO AUGUST 2020

How Are We Doing?
Presidente’s Program:

AIDE TO VOITURE
GOAL: $3,000.00 YTD: $615.00

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Box Car
Goal: $3,000.00 YTD: $250.00

PENNIES FOR POW/MIA:
Goal: $3,000.00 YTD: $295.00

Nickels for Nurses:
Goal: $3,000.00 YTD: $509.50

Child Welfare:
Goal $3,000.00 YTD: $50.00

Youth Sports:
Goal $3,000.00 YTD $75.00

WAYS AND MEANS
YTD $100.00

FINAL MEMBERSHIP
Final Membership totals will be on the Website, JULY 10, 2020.
INVITING THE LA PRESIDENTE NATIONALE AND
LA FEMMES PROTOCOL FOR VISITATIONS

If your Locale or Grande plans to invite La Presidente Nationale to a function, please be aware that
the invitation should be in written form with a copy mailed to La Presidente and a copy to Cabane Nationale.
Please remember that Madam Presidente’s schedule fills up fast so you should send your invitation as soon
as possible after Rendezvous Nationale. La Presidente is responsible for her own transportation, but you,
the host, is responsible for her lodging expenses, banquet tickets, registrations, etc. You should also assure
that other meals are offered and/or provided for your guest.

While most Dames are polite and knowledgeable about etiquette, there have been examples rude or
inattentive behavior and/or lack of appropriate protocol during the past visits by National dignitaries. While
such faux pas can be the result of many things, they are more than likely the result of poor planning, a lack
of communication or a lack of knowledge about customary procedures involving Nationale officers’ visits.
Exercising “visitor courtesy” effectively requires that we are at least familiar with the basic aspects of proto-
col.

First and foremost is communications. Once your guest has accepted your invitation you will receive
a visitation packet with information sheet. Be specific and complete with the information you provide.
When describing attire, use definite descriptions, such as: evening gown, cocktail dress, pantsuit, and for the
spouse, business suit, sport coat, tuxedo shirt, black diner-jacket, etc.

A complete description of the event (s) is imperative. Advise what normal weather situations may be.
Make sure the guest(s) have telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, and email addresses of their local
contacts. Include complete information about the Hotel/Motel (name, address, phone numbers etc). Lastly,
confirm their travel plans, as you understand them, method of arrival (car or plane) confirm flight numbers
and arrival/departure times. Above all, don’t assume anything!

Next: meet your guest (s) properly and punctually. When meeting your guest(s) at the airport, make
sure you both know where you will meet. While your guests will be comfortable with any Dame or Voyageur,
someone who they know, a person who is familiar with details of the event, the local femmes and 40/8 activ-
ities will add greatly to the enjoyment of the trip. Don’t forget that your guest (s) may have been traveling for
hours before you met them and if the car trip is lengthy; be sure to include an adequate comfort stop on the
route. If your guests (s) won’t recognize your face, they will certainly know the chapeau, a large Forty et
Eight emblem, or a sign.

Nothing is more distressing or embarrassing to the traveler than to arrive for a function and find no
one at the meeting place. There is no excuse for this. The plane was early/late, the weather was bad, the
traffic was congested, etc; these things can be determined ahead of time and changes and allowances made.

If your guest is driving to your city, he/she should be met at the hotel (motel). Be sure to be there
waiting for them. You should plan to be at the hotel before their estimated time of arrival, in case they
should get there early. Registrations and room assignment should be done before they arrive and the room
should be the best available. Always provide two keys (if signatures are required, they can be obtained later).
The room should reflect comfort, hospitality and careful planning. A modest arrangement of flowers as a to-
ken of appreciation is certainly in order. Fruit and/or snacks, especially if your meal function is much later,
as soon as possible after arrival, give your visitors a chance to rest. Let them determine the amount of time they
require... to ignore them for several hours because nothing was planned, would be rude. Set a definite time
for someone to call for them, so they will be ready for scheduled events.

Next, the main event itself and the challenge of seating places the two most important persons (the
chairman and the principal guest) at the center of the dais, with the guest at the right of the chairman.
If a podium is used, it should be set between the two, with the rest of the seating delegated according to the
importance of the assignment as insufficient room at the head table to honor everyone you wish, then a lower
table or group of tables in front could solve the problem. Place cards should be used and any tickets re-
quired should be provided for your guest(s) long before the waitress requests them.

Now you have everyone seated and you are ready for the meal. You may find it difficult to offer deluxe
food service at your function, due to the prohibitive costs, and occasionally paper or plastic-wares are used...
that’s O.K., so long as whatever the menu, serve your guests the same food in the same manner as everyone
else. However, should your guest have a dietary restriction or a religious conviction, which requires a special
diet, it is essential you provide for that situation. While it is the guest who has the responsibility to make
such restrictions known, it is the welcome committee who has the responsibility to act on that information
and provide for special food ahead of time. Never wait until the program is underway to make such arrange-
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Now you are ready to introduce your guest, an honor that is often given to the highest ranking member in attendance and not necessarily the chairman or master of ceremonies. The reason for giving him/her this task is that it is a means of giving them an honor involving him/her in the program. Forty and Eight functions usually include some type of fundraising activity such as a raffle and/or fines. While the head table is considered fair game, you should not approach your special guest directly. If they so desire to participate, they will make this fact known.

When it comes time to show your appreciation to your guests, remember that the very best way is to simply thank her. Many Cabanes give gifts and when this is done, the emphasis should be more as a memento or a token of appreciation rather than an item of major monetary value. If your guest is flying, you should avoid bulky items that could make travel difficult or offer to ship it home for him/her at no cost to the guest.

If possible, some local sightseeing should be planned. After all, the visit may be the only time you guest will be in your area of the country. What may be an everyday attraction for you, may well be a “once in a lifetime” opportunity for your visitors. The guest’s spouse may have even more time to take in the sights, but give them both an opportunity to express their wishes.

Never wait until the event is over before informing your guests of your departure plans for them, and don’t embarrass your guests by obtaining transportation or discussing your arrangements in their presence. Inform them when they should be ready, and don’t plan on too tight a schedule. Always assume there will be heavy traffic. Checking out of the hotel should be accomplished without incident. Forty and Eight policy dictates that the host is responsible for accommodations for the guests at official functions, but if everyone involved, including the hotel is not aware of this, there could be problems at the time of checkout. No matter how heavy the traffic, or how difficult the parking, it is rude to drop your guests at the airport and drive on. You should arrange to have a small delegation stay with them until departure time or until it is time to proceed to the gate. This period before departure could also be used to go over the event, and it is an opportunity for the guests to get names and addresses of those they may want to thank by note. It could also be an opportunity for a light breakfast or snack.

Whatever you do, remember that your goodbye should be just as gracious as your welcome. Also, remember that the courtesy shown to your principal guest should be given to your other visitors too. Whether they play an active role in your event or simply grace your tables with their presence, they deserve the respect of their position and an appreciation of their interest in your event.

Last but not to be forgotten, is saying, “Thanks”. Thank you notes are simply good manners. Your guests will send you and your committee expressions of their appreciation, but they also deserve a message of thanks from you. Be sure to include in your correspondence any photos that were taken. This communication is the last stop in the process of protocol and being nice. It is the proper conclusion to your event and ties a ribbon on the whole package.
La Societe de Femme

Founder’s Club

Receive a special beret shaped Founder’s Club pin free with your
Paid membership
ONLY $5.00

La Societe de Femme was formed on September 19, 1963, by founders Edith Schwindler, Edna Kirkpat-ricks, Grace Bunch, and Helen Jolliff. The Founders Club was started to honor those founders of La Societe de Femme. The dues and donations received from Founders Club Members are used by Cabane Nationale for Web-site, Internet, Email and IT services from Voiture Nationale and to maintain, repair, upgrade and, when necessary, to replace equipment used at our Nationale Headquarters.

FOUNDERS CLUB

PLEASE PRINT

NAME:__________________________________________________________

ADDRESS:_________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

CABANE# _____________ or VOITURE# ______________

EMAIL:________________________ DONATION $_________________

Mail to Cabane Nationale, 250 East 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205

INFORMATION: I have been approached several times recently with a question about when is it appropriate to wear our beret. In our Member Handbook, page 23 under “Do and Don’ts” it states:

“Berets may NOT be worn in a bar or establishment serving alcohol. They can be worn in hospitality rooms but NEVER drink while wearing the Beret.”

Now your question may be what does that mean?

A “bar or establishment serving alcohol” most likely refers to ‘anywhere alcohol is sold’, for example a cash bar in a banquet or meeting room. Hospitality rooms are for social gathering where ‘snacks and alcohol’ are often provided at no charge. If there is a charge for alcohol the Beret should not be worn.

Cheryl Jamnick
PNP 2019
Chairman-Advisory Board