



Voiture Nationale 40&8

VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

Mike McGary - Chef de Chemin de Fer



In normal times I would be concluding my travels for the year and preparing for National Promenade. As we know these are not normal times, with Promenade National being cancelled work still needs to be done to prepare for the coming year, after all, the work of this organization does not quit due to some adversity.

At this time, I would like to thank all of my officers, both elected and appointed, for doing a great job under stressful conditions at best. Although we had an eight percent drop in membership, I know through the communications and conversations that the effort was there. It didn't help that we lost two Sous Directeurs during the year, but the remaining officers did a fantastic job in picking up the slack. This was also the case in our programs, with one of the hardest hit being POW-MIA. Directeur Steve stepped it up and still made the program a success for the year. I was very fortunate to have a great group of hard-working officers.

That being said, everyone knows that all of the elected officers of this year will remain the same for next year. I have received the Directeurs evaluations and the Grandes recommendations for appointed office positions for the coming year. This information has been compiled and the process of going through it for next year's appointments have begun. When this process is completed an announcement will be made as



to who my appointments are for next year. These results will also be published in the Fall 40 & 8'er. Once again Thank -You to all my officers.

I would also like to thank our office staff. It has not been an easy year for them either. Under the direction of our Correspondant National and office manager Bill Beaumont they have cut costs, developed a system to work from home when the city was under a stay at home order, and yet made sure everything was done in a timely manner. They work together to provide a lean, effective work environment that we can be very proud to have. Thank-you staff for what you've accomplished and making my life a little easier. I look forward to working with you next year.

The yearly finance meeting was held this week via a zoom conference call with all members in attendance. This was my first experience with zoom, and I must say it worked out very well. The finances are in good shape due to a lack of travel expense and our fundraisers. Although we lost a lot of cash flow due to the reduced per-capita income money from our fall in membership, most of that was picked up in a great response to our fundraisers. I encourage everyone to support these fundraisers as these pick up the slack due to a variety of shortfalls that seem to flare up during the fiscal year. Thank-you for your support of these fundraisers and please continue to do so.

These have been troubling and stressful times, not only for the organization but also on a personal level. All have had to deal with staying home, social distancing, wearing masks, lack of food on the shelves, job losses, and probably the hardest of all, the lack of toilet paper. Through it all we have survived. Mainly because we are strong, within ourselves and our organization. I'm very proud to be your Chef. This has been a 100th anniversary year that I would like to rewrite for the record books. Knowing that can't be done I look forward to being a part in bringing the Forty and Eight back in full glory and faster than any of the other veteran organizations. Of course, this has to start with membership. Let's get an early jump on getting the cards turned in.

Please be safe and together we can get the job done. God bless you and yours.

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Terry Sims -Correspondant National

The old cliché that “When the going gets tough, the tough get going”. Those times are certainly here. Soldiers have fought through many Wars and we have prevailed to become the “Greatest Country on the Face of the Earth”. It’s very difficult for our Programs to fully function at their highest when so many areas have been hindered. We give so much credit to our Program Committees for doing their best under these most difficult times.

In reality, over the years a great percentage of events including Active and Formal “Wrecks” have gone by the wayside, making it more difficult for our Programs to sell pins, cards and

other merchandise to support the Programs of La Societe. Bill Beaumont has computed the membership trend chart contained in this Voyageur Briefs. This is the reality that we must fight through by utilizing all of the intestinal fortitude we can muster. It can be done with everyone helping in any way they can for our Programs and Membership. We need both. One does not exist without the other. Chef de Chemin de Fer “Mike” has appointed high caliber Program and Sous Directeurs and they can get the job done with your help.

Promenade Nationale to be held next September in Springfield, MO is

gearing up to be an excellent Promenade. The Heritage group which sold ads and printed the Promenade Nationale program book has abruptly gone bankrupt leaving the host Grande to secure their own advertising and printing. You can help by buying an ad for your Grand, Locale or even yourself.



Yours For La Societe,
Terry

Membership Year	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Length of time between membership years (in years)	20	10	5	1	1	1	1	1
End of Membership Year Total	51,578	34,399	26,889	25,899	24,173	22,326	21,092	19,308
Total Membership Decline in 10 years (2000 - 2010)		-17,179						
Percent Membership Decline in 10 years (2000 - 2010)		-33%						
Total Membership Decline in 5 years (2010 - 2015)			-7,510					
Percent Membership Decline in 5 years (2010 - 2015)			-22%					
Total Membership Decline in 1 year (2015 - 2016)				-990				
Percent Membership Decline in 1 year (2015 - 2016)				-3.7%				
Total Membership Decline in 1 year (2016 - 2017)					-1726			
Percent Membership Decline in 1 year (2016 - 2017)					-6.7%			
Total Membership Decline in 1 year (2017 - 2018)						-1,847		
Percent Membership Decline in 1 year (2017 - 2018)						-7.6%		
Total Membership Decline in 1 year (2018 - 2019)							-1,234	
Percent Membership Decline in 1 year (2018 - 2019)							-5.5%	
Total Membership Decline in 1 year (2019 - 2020)								-1,784
Percent Membership Decline in 1 year (2019 - 2020)								-8.5%
Total Membership Decline in last 5 years (2015 - 2020)								-7,581
Percent Membership Decline in last 5 years (2015 - 2020)								-28%
Total Membership Decline in last 20 years (2000 - 2020)								-32,270
Percent Membership Decline in last 20 years (2000 - 2020)								-63%

The 2021 Carville Star Program Pin

The pin's photograph depicts Zella Brown who lost her legs to Hansen's disease yet was able to navigate the miles of corridors that linked the buildings of Carville - thanks to her special wheelchair. (The chair has padded handles for each hand that are cranked like pedals of a bicycle to move the chair. Each handle is connected by chain to an axle sprocket on a wheel.) Hers was not the only such chair used by patients to avoid hand contact with wheels and spokes, a source of frequent injury to the numb hands of many patients. At the top of the pin is the Marine Corps unofficial slogan "Adapt, Improve, and Overcome." "Through Innovation" noted at the bottom of the pin, is appropriate since innovation led to adapting a wheelchair that improved the quality of life for Zella Brown and other patients at Carville.



The 2021 Carville Star Program Pin is now available for purchase from the Carville Star Sous representing your area (see the list below). Please call or email them for pin purchases and consignments.

Sous Directeurs

Danielle Duffaut
11308 Barbi Lane
Los Alamitos CA 90720
626-734-8256
dadduff@hotmail.com

AREA 1 - AR, CO, IL, IA, IN, KS, MI,
MO, NE, OK, TX, WI

Steve Villegas
1160 Steller Way
Millpitas, CA 95035
408-309-9158
spummer1@gmail.com

AREA 2 - AK, AZ, CA, ID, MN, MT,
NV, NM, ND, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY

Diane Yager
503 Meadow Dr.
Fuquay-Varina NC 27526
919-557-5316
las_ger@yahoo.com

AREA 3 - AL, FL, France, GA,
Germany, KY, Central Amer, LA,
Mexico, MS, NC, SC, TN VA

Ron Diebold
344 Getzville Rd
Amhurst NY 14226-2515
716-836-9617
dadiebold2002@yahoo.com

AREA 4 - CT, DE, DC, MA, MD, ME,
NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WV

**California Merci Boxcar
recently refurbished
in 2019.**

**It is located in Fresno
California at American
Legion Post 509.**

**Chuck Camarato with wife
Lauree Camarato.**



Emblem Sales Highlight of the Month



The 2020 Frank Martin Memorial Walk shirts are available for \$24.95 each. They are available in sizes; Sm - 4X. This item can be ordered by calling - Terri Taylor,
E-mail: ttaylor@fortyandeight.org
Ph.(317) 634-1804
Fax.(317) 632-9365

Voiture Nationale
Emblem Sales
250 E 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205



Special Tax Benefits for Members of the Military and Their Families

Members of the military may qualify for special tax benefits. For instance, they don't have to pay taxes on some types of income. Special rules could lower the tax they owe or allow them more time to file and pay their federal taxes.

Here are some of these special tax benefits:

Combat pay exclusion: If someone serves in a combat zone, part or all of their pay is tax-free. This also applies to people working in an area outside a combat zone when the Department of Defense certifies that area is in direct support of military operations in a combat zone. There are limits to this exclusion for commissioned officers.

Other nontaxable benefits: Base allowance for housing, base allowance for subsistence and uniform allowances are among several government pay items excluded from gross income, which means they are not taxed.#

Moving expenses: Some non-reimbursed moving expenses may be tax deductible. To deduct these expenses, the taxpayer must be a member of the Armed Forces on active duty and their move must be due to a military order or result of a permanent change of station.#

Deadline extensions: Some members of the military – such as those who serve overseas – can postpone most tax deadlines. Those who qualify can get automatic extensions of time to file and pay their taxes.

Earned income tax credit: Special rules allow military members who get nontaxable combat pay to choose to include it in their taxable income. One reason they might do this is to increase the amount of their earned income tax credit. People who qualify for this credit could owe less tax or even get a larger refund.

Joint return signatures: Both spouses must normally sign a joint income tax return. However, if military service prevents that from happening, one spouse may be able to sign for the other or get a power of attorney. Service members may want to consult with their installation's legal office to see if a power of attorney is right for them.

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Reserve and National Guard travel: Members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces may be able to deduct their unreimbursed travel expenses on their return. In order to do so, they must travel more than 100 miles away from home in connection with their performance of services as a member of the reserves.#

ROTC allowances: Some amounts paid to ROTC students in advanced training are not taxable. However, active duty ROTC pay is taxable. This includes things like pay for summer advanced camp.#

This article is provided by the Internal Revenue Service at IRS.gov.

Dan Dumas
Commissaire Intendant Nationale

Building Donation Challenge Grand Total \$185,354.82

July 2020



<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOITURE</u>	<u>GR</u>	<u>AMT</u>
KEN LAFLEUR	1351	LA	\$ 341.00
VOITURE 589	589	NC	\$ 157.50
VOITURE 33	33	MN	\$ 139.00
VOITURE 1298	1298	OK	\$ 84.00
VOITURE 88	88	WA	\$ 75.00
VOITURE 500	500	NJ	\$ 58.50
VOITURE 3	3	MO	\$ 52.50
VOITURE 129	129	SD	\$ 50.00
VOITURE 529	529	IL	\$ 46.00
VOITURE 288	288	NJ	\$ 46.00
VOITURE 1411	1411	MS	\$ 44.50
VOITURE 365	365	CA	\$ 41.00
VOITURE 1292	1292	MO	\$ 29.95
VOITURE 1352	1352	FL	\$ 14.00
VOITURE 1172	1172	NC	\$ 12.50
VOITURE 1576	1576	FL	\$ 12.00
VOITURE 143	143	NY	\$ 11.00
VOITURE 191	191	MS	\$ 10.50
VOITURE 70	70	NH	\$ 5.50
VOITURE 183	183	NH	\$ 4.00
VOITURE 925	925	OH	\$ 1.50



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

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Indianapolis, IN 46205

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National Nurses Training Program

GRAND VOITURE of the MONTH

July

The Nurse Training 2021 Pin sales program has now opened and the first month has been a rewarding one.

Our 2021 National Nurse Training Club Pin program has drawn outstanding support to-date which speaks well of the pride and dedication of the Voyageurs Militaire of our "La Societe".

Many Grands have already ordered and received their 2021 Consignments and have begun to distribute them throughout their Locales. With an early jump on their efforts, this promises to shape up as another banner year for our Nurse Training Pin program.

GRAND VOITURE of the month for JULY ; **"GRAND du KANSAS"**

From the SOUTHWEST REGION of Sous Directeur ROGER DECKER

Earned sales to-date of 75 Pins for \$225

These Voyageurs Militaire currently hold a \$.49 per capita.
"MERCI" Fellow Voyageurs Militaire"

The 2021 Nurse Training Pin presents a beautiful design that depicts the US Navy Hospital Ship USS Comfort (AH-3) that saw dual service in WWI. Originally launched in 1906 as the SS Havana, a passenger steamer, she would be requisitioned by the War Department and assigned to the US Army to be used as a Troop Transport on May 24th, 1917 as the "USAT Havanna".

She would be then be sold to the US Navy, refitted and commissioned 18 March 1918 as USS Comfort (AH-3) hospital ship to bring home wounded from Europe.

(A more in-depth History will be forth coming)

This pin carries with it an inspiring history and should present collectors and Historians alike a special significance as gifts and keepsakes.

!!! Get them early !!!

