



Next Prom
TBA

Next Cheminot
TBA



Voiture 99 Vancouver, WA

BOXCAR BULLETIN

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www.voiture-99.com

April 2020

Chef de Gare's Corner

Dearest Voyageurs and
Voyageuses,

First of all I can't believe how much I am missing each of you, some more than others, but I digress. We are definitely living in a time of uncertainty and change and we shall continue to stay the course. We are taking every precaution to ensure the safety and viability of all of our members, staff, property and assets. Your Cheminot is still working hard for you behind the scenes addressing issues that have come up at the Bingo Hall. We are working with our essential staff to see if our business interruption insurance can kick-in but we haven't heard back from that yet.

I encourage all of you to reach out to each other during this period of "Shelter at Home".

I am thinking about setting up a Voiture 99 Facebook page for members only where we can both disseminate information and share some humor, as well as maybe a Discord page where you could talk and have virtual coffee on Thursdays and breakfast on Friday mornings. Discord is a free program for your phone or computer that support voice and text chatting. We are working with our essential staff to see if our business interruption insurance

can kick in but we haven't heard back from that yet.

We will continue to adhere to all state and federal recommendations related to public safety, rest assured we are and will reopen when it is safe to do so, with that being said, I am sure we will have to postpone our April Promenade indefinitely. I truly believe that with our membership, many of which are in the vulnerable category I will not put any of you in a compromised situation until deemed safe.

If you are in dire need of something call me!! I am willing and able to run necessary errands for those who don't want to go out in public. I understand not everyone may have other family members to turn to for help at this time, but for better or worse you do have me as your Chef du Gare, and you are my family.

Please take care of yourselves, be kind to one another, and be strong. You are not being asked to go back to a theater of war, you are asked to go to your den and be in your home theater, I know you can do it! We got this!!

Annie Beaton,
Phone/text 360 910-4018
email Hlannieb@yahoo.com

Chef du Gare 2020 and I guess Covid 19

Correspondants Notes

As I sit here trying to think of something innovative, interesting and new to say about the situation that we are all in with this virus, I find that I'm coming up at a loss for words. Being confined to the house for the past week, there seems to be nothing on any news channel except coverage of this virus and how to protect yourself against it. It all comes down to two things, Social distancing, Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. If you feel you have the symptoms, fever, cough, fatigue, call your doctor for instructions. There are a lot of scams surfacing with magical cures being spread on the internet. There is no magical cure! If you think you have been exposed to the virus go to=

<https://www.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVIDexposed.pdf>

The Washington State Department of Health web site.

continued on page 3



Look for your
Service Branch
throughout
the Boxcar

Chateau Schedule

Members and guests allowed on Friday for breakfast.
 Thursday morning coffee & doughnuts at the Chateau at 7:00am.- 9:30am
 Chateau (360)574-3872

Voiture 99 Meeting Reminders
 Prom TBA
 Cheminot TBA

April 2020

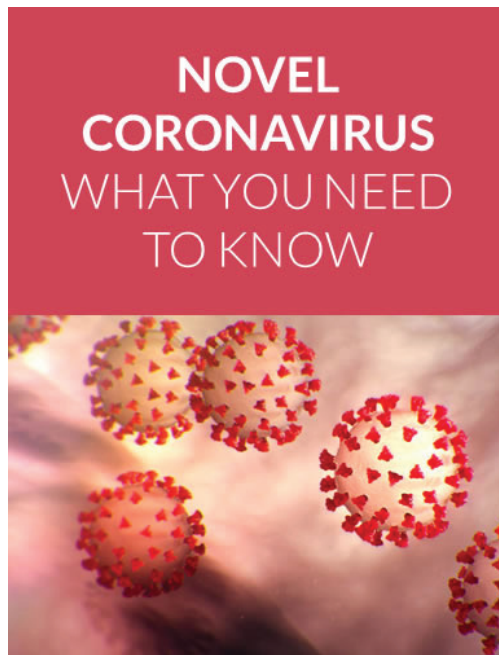
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | Coffee & Doughnuts 7:00-9:30am CANCELLED | Member Guest Breakfast 7:30am-9am CANCELLED | Chateau Lounge open 12pm - 5pm CANCELLED |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| | PROM Chateau CANCELLED | | | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| ALL 40et8 AND BINGO ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE | | | | | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | | CHEMINOT Chateau 5:30pm CANCELLED | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| | | | | |  | |



Correspondants Notes, cont.

Needless to say, the Promenade scheduled for April will be postponed. The Chateau and Bingo Hall remain shut down for the next number of weeks. When we can resume meetings and Bingo operations we will have a lot of catching up to do. We still have to nominate and elect our leadership for next year. Decisions will have to be made on whether we continue to open on Saturdays or not because of the low participation and many more.

But for now, remain home, if you can. Follow the rules and be safe.



<https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/novel-coronavirus>



La Femmes

Because of the Corona Virus difficult times are upon us. Our prayers are that we all manage to get through the coming days both healthy and strong. Remember to wash your hands often and stay home or if you have to go out please practice Social Distancing.

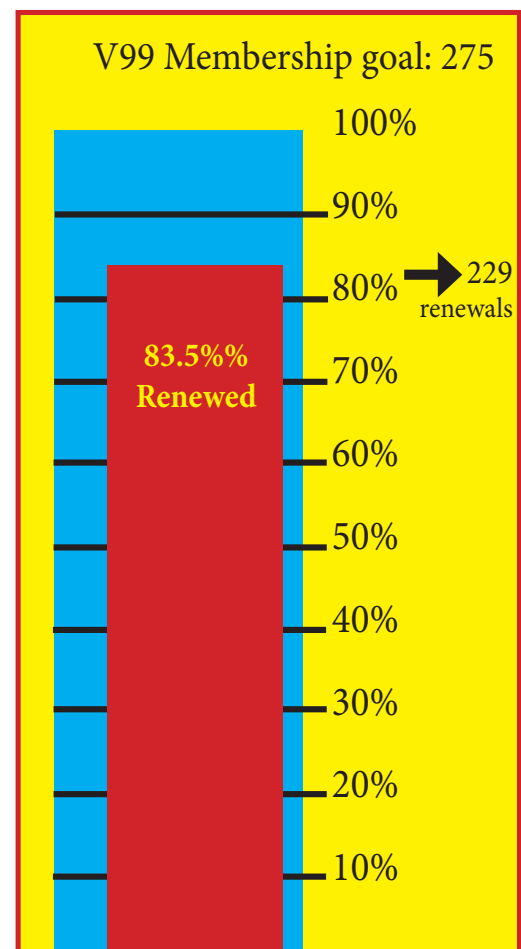
The La Femmes have had to cancel two fundraisers recently because of the Corona Virus. The Corned Beef Dinner would have been on March 21st. At first we were going to postpone the dinner, but since we don't know how long our social distancing orders will last, it was decided in a vote by the cheminot to cancel this dinner. We will be returning the money for reservations by check during the next couple weeks. The Book Sale was to be on April 24th & 25th will be rescheduled later in the year. Please keep the books

you have collected and we will notify everyone of the new date after we are able to get together again.

A bit of sad news is that Caroline Ruhmshottel lost her husband Phil Ruhmshottel on March 18th after a very long illness. He was a wonderful man and contributed so much to Voiture 99, he will be missed so much. Caroline, we wish we could come by to comfort you but just know that we are sending our love and prayers for you and your family.

As our world is changing around us lets all try to be more thoughtful and kind to others and try to help each other through the days ahead.

Mary Snder
LaSous Correspondent



Philip Eugene Ruhmshottel
March 13, 1941 - March 18, 2020

Philip “Phil” Ruhmshottel, 79, of Vancouver, WA, passed away on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at the Elaine and Don Heimbigner Hospice Care Center in Vancouver of congestive heart failure and a traumatic brain injury. Phil was born March 13, 1941, to Herbert and Lillian Ruhmshottel in Cornwall, NY, the middle of three children.



In 1959, Phil joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he served 5 years during the Cuban Missile Crisis and at NAS Sangley Point on Manilla Bay, Philippines just before the Vietnam War. In 1969 he moved out to the West Coast to be with his two children from a previous marriage, Diane and Alan (both now deceased). In 1983, Phil met his soon-to-be bride of 34 years when she moved across the street. He later married Caroline Smith Netzel in 1985. As a truck driver for Coca-Cola, Phil worked for the company for 25 years, eventually retiring in 1998. In his spare time, he loved to read, work with wood and garden, along with spending time with his family.

In retirement, Phil led a full and active life embracing all around him as a leader in many groups helping veterans. Phil was a charter member of the Marine Corps League Columbia River Detachment, filling many positions including Commandant of the local detachment in 2000 and Department Commandant around 2005. He was selected by his peers to be the Marine of the Year locally and at the State level. Furthering his involvement, Phil was involved with the Military Order of Devil Dogs, at all levels including National Dog Robber and 53rd National Chief Devil Dog in 2009-11. Accentuating his love of veterans, he served under Governor Gregoire on the Governor’s Council for Veteran’s Affairs from 2000-2008 where he advocated wherever possible for veterans as well as worked on developing the WA State Veterans License Plate program. Also, he enjoyed leading the local voyagers of the 40 et 8 as their Chef De Gare in 2008.

Well known in the veteran community, Phil greeted those who entered the VA at the Vancouver, WA campus at the information desk with a warm smile and friendly “may I help you?”. He was a gentle gracious man who possessed the ability to talk to anyone and make them feel comfortable. Between 1999-2019, he directed visitors for over 20 years and over 7,500 volunteer hours.

After recovering from a broken hip in April 2019, he fell in May causing a traumatic brain injury with four brain bleeds and frontal lobe damage. Phil courageously powered through the many challenges of the injury with a steady decline in health and more rapid decline January through early March. He was in the loving care of his family at home until a hospice care facility became necessary two days before his death.



Phil is survived by his wife Caroline, his sister Valerie Hoppenstedt in New York State, his daughter Nicole Rounce, and many nieces and nephews. A graveside service and celebration of life will be scheduled and held at later dates. Phil’s volunteer work at the Vancouver VA was his passion, ministry, and fellowship. A Phil Ruhmshottel Memorial Fund has been set up to help any veteran with a personal need to be handled by the VA Voluntary Services. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in remembrance of Phil to: VAPORHCS, ATTN: V2VOL, 1601 East Fourth Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA, 98661 (checks need to have the notation:” in memory of Phil Ruhmshottel” and GPF 9313 unearmarked)

Contributors will receive a thank you letter and receipt from the VA.