



Next Prom
TBA

Next Cheminot
TBA



Voiture 99 Vancouver, WA

BOXCAR BULLETIN

Volume 20 Issue 5

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May 2020

Chef de Gare's Corner

Greetings Voyageurs,

I hope you all have been handling our new reality in a positive way. Your officers have been working hard with our remaining staff to keep spending to a minimum and keeping our enterprise afloat. We have filed and been approved for a Payroll Protection Program loan through the SBA. It funded on April 21st, and if utilized for approved uses, payroll, health insurance and utilities these expenses can be forgiven up to 100%. Our employees are hanging in there and are now getting the benefits that are available to each and every one of them.

Until Gov. Inslee changes the current guidelines there will be no meetings or events held at our facilities, except the Cheminot to discuss matters on a limited basis. We are in a holding pattern with opening as well as with our usual upcoming elections. When it is safe to do so we will continue with our Promenades. I know we all want to get back to "normal" what ever that is, but I don't think that will be any time soon.

We have received a call from a

local retirement home wanting the Loci to do a Mini Parade as most of our events have cancelled. I have enthusiastically authorized this event on May 7th and will try to have a route planned out where we can also pass by fire stations, police stations and hospitals to let those first responders know the community appreciates their hard work, sacrifice and dedication. We are Veterans and we know what those words mean. We have a photographer lined up to take photos when we are out and about bringing smiles to our community and we will be sharing those photos with you soon.

It was mentioned by our Chef du Train, Todd Boyd that the Thunderbirds and the Blue Angels will be making flyovers of major cities, he stated that May 6th flyovers were to be held in Portland and hopefully in the same run to Seattle. If this is the case, they could possibly fly over Vancouver and give us an opportunity to see them in action. The Thunderbirds and or the Blue Angels may have a website and if so, I figure a schedule might be posted there.

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Correspondants Notes

It's May and the enemy (CoronaVirus) is still rampant in the community. Our Governor has not lifted the restrictions on gatherings, the shelter in place or social distancing restrictions imposed during March. The Cheminot is aware of the problems they pose for the Voiture and the future of the Bingo Hall. For the Voiture the nomination of new officers for next year, elections and instillation is not really a problem. If necessary, these can be postponed until all restrictions have been lifted or another format for voting may be instituted on a one time basis. This is covered in detail in our Constitution and By-Laws. The bigger challenge will be the reopening of the Chateau and the support our various functions.

The Bingo Hall poses many additional problems to be considered. Do we reopen it at some point in the future or just shut it down completely now? No

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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

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Coffee & Doughnuts 7:00-9:30am CANCELLED	Member Guest Breakfast 7:30am-9am CANCELLED	Chateau Lounge open 12pm - 5pm CANCELLED
3	4 PROM Chateau CANCELLED	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	ALL 40et8 AND BINGO ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE				16
17	18	19 CHEMINOT Chateau 5:30pm CANCELLED	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

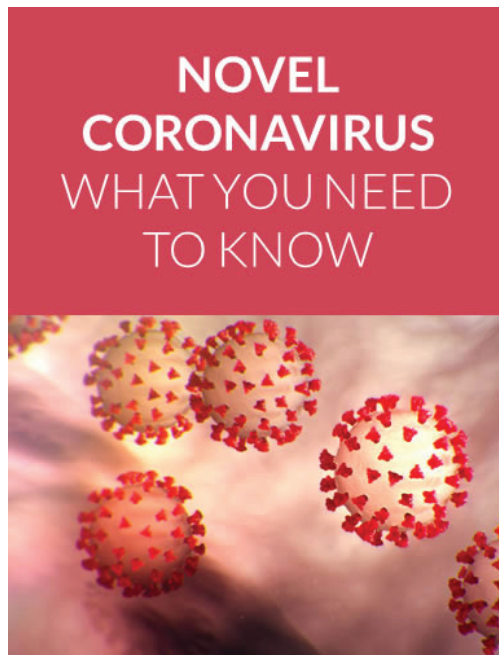


Correspondants Notes, cont.

one can tell what the future will bring or how long this virus will continue to plague us. Regardless of the length of the closures, we still have to maintain a presence on the property for security, maintenance and limited administrative functions. And for that, we need to maintain a limited staff of some sort to support these functions. The Cheminot will be meeting periodically to discuss these issues and take appropriate actions. More on that as things develop.

Membership. We are going to end this membership year at only 84% renewed. We have lost only a few members to their passing, and a couple who have moved out of state. However, the majority of those not renewing seem to be disenchanted or dissatisfied with La Societe. That is a shame as our goals and programs have not changed. We continue to support Veterans Assistance, Nursing, Children and Youth and Child Welfare programs. As a reminder, our new membership drive for the Membership Year of 2021 will begin on August 1st. A decision has yet to be made as to whether or not we will have a Picnic this year due to the limits on gatherings. As soon as a decision is made, you will be advised.

Meanwhile, please take care of you and your families. Stay safe, stay healthy.



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



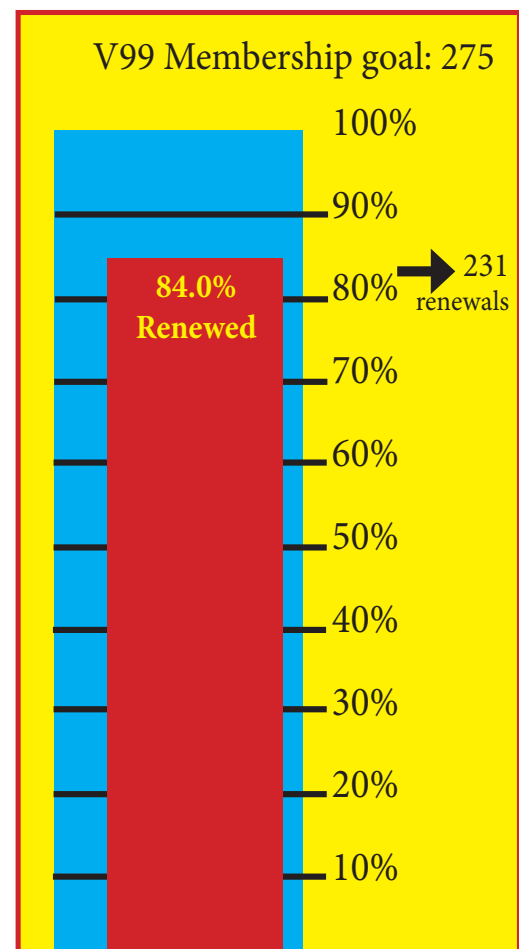
Chef de Gare, continued

I have overused my left hand and wrist so much I have developed Tenosynovitis and am wearing a brace. I am willing to make fabric masks for our voyageurs in need. I can do 2 layers of cotton or, a layer of cotton and a layer of flannel with t-shirt yarn ear loops. I have patterns for children, ladies and men. I will not charge for them but if you want to make a donation of fabric (cotton quilting) or money to buy more fabric that will be appreciated.

I wish everyone a healthy and safe spring and hopefully soon we can all get together for the Chef's Belated Birthday Party.

Yours in Service to the Voiture,

Annie



I talked with a man today, an 80+ year old man. I asked him if there was anything I can get him while this Coronavirus scare was gripping America.

He simply smiled, looked away and said:

“Let me tell you what I need! I need to believe, at some point, this country my generation fought for... I need to believe this nation we handed safely to our children and their children...

I need to know this generation will quit being a bunch of sissies..that they respect what they’ve been given...that they’ve earned what others sacrificed for.”

I wasn’t sure where the conversation was going or if it was going anywhere at all. So, I sat there, quietly observing.

“You know, I was a little boy during WWII. Those were scary days. We didn’t know if we were going to be speaking English, German or Japanese at the end of the war. There was no certainty, no guarantees like Americans enjoy today.

And no home went without sacrifice or loss. Every house, up and down every street, had someone in harm’s way. Maybe their Daddy was a soldier, maybe their son was a sailor, maybe it was an uncle. Sometimes it was the whole damn family...fathers, sons, uncles...

Having someone, you love, sent off to war...it wasn’t less frightening than it is today. It was scary as Hell. If anything, it was more frightening. We didn’t have battle front news. We didn’t have email or cellphones. You sent them away and you hoped...you prayed. You may not hear from them for months, if ever. Sometimes a mother was getting her son’s letters the same day Dad was comforting her over their child’s death.

And we sacrificed. You couldn’t buy things. Everything was rationed. You were only allowed so much milk per month, only so much bread, toilet paper. EVERYTHING was restricted for the war effort. And what you weren’t using, what you didn’t need, things you threw away, they were saved and sorted for the war effort. My generation was the

original recycling movement in America.

And we had viruses back then...serious viruses. Things like polio, measles, and such. It was nothing to walk to school and pass a house or two that was quarantined. We didn’t shut down our schools. We didn’t shut down our cities. We carried on, without masks, without hand sanitizer. And do you know what? We persevered. We overcame. We didn’t attack our President, we came together. We rallied around the flag for the war. Thick or thin, we were in it to win. And we would lose more boys in an hour of combat than we lose in entire wars today.”

He slowly looked away again. Maybe I saw a small tear in the corner of his eye. Then he continued:

“Today’s kids don’t know sacrifice. They think a sacrifice is not having coverage on their phone while they freely drive across the country. Today’s kids are selfish and spoiled. In my generation, we looked out for our elders. We helped out with single moms who’s husbands were either at war or dead from war. Today’s kids rush the store, buying everything they can...no concern for anyone but themselves. It’s shameful the way Americans behave these days. None of them deserve the sacrifices their granddads made.

So, no I don’t need anything. I appreciate your offer but, I know I’ve been through worse things than this virus. But maybe I should be asking you, what can I do to help you? Do you have enough pop to get through this, enough steak? Will you be able to survive with 113 channels on your tv?”

I smiled, fighting back a tear of my own...now humbled by a man in his 80’s. All I could do was thank him for the history lesson, leave my number for emergency and leave with my ego firmly tucked in my rear.

I talked to a man today. A real man. An American man from an era long gone and forgotten. We will never understand the sacrifices. We will never fully earn their sacrifices. But we should work harder to learn about them..learn from them...to respect them.

I saw this and it was too good not to share!