



Voiture Nationale 40&8

VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

[Send your Articles and photos with descriptions to VoyageurBriefs@gmail.com](mailto:VoyageurBriefs@gmail.com)

Frank Kronen – Chef de Chemin de Fer

Greetings Voyageurs,

Needless to say this past 12 months has been a tremendous experience. I never believed a year could fly by as fast as this. In the past 52 weeks, Official travel had me visiting 18 different events. I also did two others on my own. I had the opportunity to meet many Voyageurs who I, in the past, only had contact via email.

The high point of my year without question was Memorial Day and the wreath placement at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Never before, and I can probably say never again, will I have the Honor of something as grand as that event.

The position of Chef de Chemin de Fer carries many responsibilities. Most importantly the preservation of the integrity of this great organization. Following protocol sometimes decisions and acts are made to maintain the harmony and integrity of this Great Organization. In closing, I wish to thank all Voyageurs for allowing me to represent you as your Chef de Chemin de Fer.

Sincerely,
Frank W. Kronen



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Correspondent National

The "Honorable" Terry Sims

I would like to convey to you of several changes at Voiture National. **Ron Rolfes, Jr.** will be your new Correspondant National. Ron has been the VAVS Directeur National for approximately 17 years. He is very articulate and knowledgeable concerning 40/8 protocols. Ron's vast knowledge and attitude will be an asset to Voiture National.

We also have a new part-time Office Assistant by the name of **Becky Fancher**. Becky was employed by the Department Indiana as Executive Administrative Assistant. Becky is also, a huge asset to Voiture National with her skills and knowledge. She will be going to Promenade Nationale, so stop by the Emblem Sales and National Office held in the Indigo Bay room and say "Hi."



I have enjoyed being your Correspondant National for the past few years, and I thank each and every one of you for your support. It's time for me to move on and get the new blood in this position. Always remember, we are a fun organization. We tend to business very seriously and when we have fun, we do it with the best of 'm. Life is too short not to have fun.

Terry Sims - Correspondant National

Emblem Sales

Check out this Gavel Plaque that can be gifted to your favorite leader! It is a fine wood-grain plaque with a removable gavel. The low price of **\$43.50** includes four lines of engraving to your specifications. Imprinting area measures 2" x 3". The order code is 11GAVS and website (<http://store.fortyandeight.org/>) for customization is located in the store under CATEGORY—>AWARDS.

This item can be also be ordered by contacting **Terri Taylor** at Promenade Nationale or:

E-mail: ttaylor@fortyandeight.org

Ph. (317) 634-1804 Fax. (317) 632-9365.

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



Le Banter from L'Editeur

Nick "Soapbox Speech" Weyers

"For God and country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To create a charitable and non-profit veterans organization; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to assist and promote the welfare and well being of those who have served or are now serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and their widows, widowers and orphans; to participate in all memorial services for and to be present at the funerals of departed comrades; to take part in and encourage others to participate in the proper observance of all days honoring veterans; to preserve the memories of our Service in the Armed Forces of our Country; to actively participate within our membership in projects relating to (a) the welfare of the children of America; (b) the health of our Nation by fostering a nurses training program; and (c) selected charitable endeavors."

Turn the page. Start a new chapter. Embrace and learn from the past, be present today, and look for how you can fit into the next year. Proud past and fantastic future.

My father, a Naval Aviator, always spoke highly of his commitment to service. So much so that at 17 years old I enlisted in the Army as both of my grandfathers before me. He unknowingly instilled so much of our preamble that brought me to this organization. When is the last time the preamble was truly reflected upon with your Locale or Grande? Let's take a look:



For God and country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To create a charitable and non-profit veterans organization;

One would think that this is the easiest statement in our preamble. It's just about creating something, right? I argue that this is the most difficult statement and sets the stage for all of the other statements in our ritual. This simple introduction embraces the concept of community. "Build it and they will come." I surmise that a strong foundation is necessary prior to building upon it. This is the first step of what we associate ourselves with: Comradery. Build a network of veterans and families and the rest of the preamble is innately complete. As I turn the page on last year I reflect on my own effect on this community. Could I have bit my tongue a little longer? Were my actions more harmful than good even though well intentioned? Did I argue my point so well that it chased someone away from the group instead of fostering an environment of openness? By facilitating a culture of kindness and understanding we build a community. The phrase "I understand and accept that I do not understand" is being self-aware. We add tools to our toolboxes with relationships that can tackle whatever problems we face and enable creating this charitable and non-profit veterans organization.

to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

If I were a founding father and returning from WWI, I would contextualize that this concept was a prevalent theme in much culture. Have my actions this year been in the spirit of the founding fathers? Did I support the ideals of the Constitution? Can I reread something or research a bit more and apply context? Recently I have been listening to a short video series on the Constitution and what I remember is not necessarily what is in the written document. I guess age is beginning to show. I could have fought valiantly in arguments for what I believed... and been wrong.

to assist and promote the welfare and well being of those who have served or are now serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and their widows, widowers and orphans;

I return to community. How best have we promoted a healthy return to civilian life for our veterans and their families? A return to the local community as veterans is a lifetime commitment. A commitment for us to challenge ourselves and for the community to support our engagement. The healthy return is not just when

Continued Banter from L'Editeur

someone has a family or earns a civilian career or job. For some, it takes the rest of their lives to take off the camo paint. Have we just put a brown bottle and pack of smokes in front of them and laughed and called it good? Is this really the community we want to encourage and does it support their physical and mental well-being? Does it support their families or did we pull them away? Or should we be encouraging their families and children to participate in building the foundation to build upon?

to participate in all memorial services for and to be present at the funerals of departed comrades;
Respecting our fallen comrades. Our community aches and yearns for connection when a comrade joins Voiture Everlasting. Have we been there for their families, friends, and community? I mean, really been mentally present and not just showing up to the funeral. Have we reached out a month later just to say we were thinking of them? Sometimes it's not about fixing their hurt but offering a silent shoulder to lean on.



to take part in and encourage others to participate in the proper observance of all days honoring veterans;
When I read this statement I reflect on the word "encourage." This means setting the example and making our participation not mandatory but being absent creates a feeling of a void. Have you had a chance to put our flags (and pick them up) during Memorial Day? What about participating or attending a Veterans Day ceremony at city hall or at a small local park or VFW? Have you handed out flags to children at parades? This encourages others to participate by making it meaningful.

to preserve the memories of our Service in the Armed Forces of our Country;
How better to preserve our memories of our Service than to laugh together? This year could I have been a little less serious? Did I enable a culture of clean and fun jokes and pranks? As a local leader and the Grande du Kansas Chef de Gare I challenged our leaders to build culture together. The stories that are told of our Service, no matter or small, creates bonds that can last a lifetime and builds the catalyst that keeps this organization together.

to actively participate within our membership in projects relating to (a) the welfare of the children of America; (b) the health of our Nation by fostering a nurses training program; and (c) selected charitable endeavors."
Key words: actively participate. This can be by being a leader of a local program or only supporting financially if you are unable. Do not judge those whose kind generosity is limited to funding due to disability, shyness, or maybe even some PTSD. This year, I could have done better to foster an embracing culture. I could have delegated more. I could have listened more and transmitted less.

So, now it's time for 2024. I hope each of you considers your own thoughts and reviews our preamble. Keep up the great work and support each other, even if we don't understand. May the ties of comradeship which bound us together during our military service be ever strengthened, and let us hasten to each others aid at every opportunity.



Voyageur Briefs Concepts

Would you like some more publicity for your Locale, Grande, or Community? Submit an article in Microsoft Word with some clear photographs for inclusion into the Voyageur Briefs. You may email clear photos with a description of each photo including date, names of people, and location to voyageurbriefs@gmail.com.

Some quick guidelines....

First: Let's keep the Voyageur Briefs just that.... brief . Submit your short articles and photos (with names, dates, descriptions, and locations) and I'll get the quality photos into this format to enhance the effectivity of your harassment. Note: The photos cannot be blurry must have appropriate zoom, and be of high enough resolution for print. I can help wordsmith some things for you if writing is not your strength.

Second: The Voyageur Briefs are published quarterly. This means articles for specific holidays may be best described for the next quarter. The next Voyageur Briefs will be published in late December, so articles for holidays in January through March would be most effective.

Third: Keep it fun! There is no formal requirement for photo or story submission but keep it brief. Chapeau's aren't required and reasonably PC photos will be published!

Lastly: Laugh a little. We are the "fun loving" veterans organization!



SCAM ALERT!

**THERE ARE SO MANY
SCAMS ON THE INTERNET**

NOW A DAYS...

**SEND ME \$19.95, I WILL
TELL YOU HOW TO AVOID THEM**

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME EMAILS ASKING FOR GIFT CARDS FROM VARIOUS PROGRAMS. THESE ARE SCAMS. DO NOT SEND ANYTHING OR REPLY. NATIONALE OFFICERS AND VOITURE NATIONALE STAFF WILL NEVER ASK YOU TO SEND US MONEY THROUGH EMAIL.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE IF ITS A SCAM PLEASE CALL HEAD-QUARTERS AND ASK.

DIGITAL UPDATE! IT'S 2023, NOT Y2K!

This is the place to add links to important forms, communique, etc. Links and descriptions only! That's the purpose of a digital presence... You can just click-and-go.

Submit revisions to your digital presence here for the next publication!!!

Nationale: <https://www.fortyandeight.org/>

2023 Petite Communique is updated! <https://www.fortyandeight.org/forms-petite/>

National Constitution Organization Educational Videos on the US Constitution:
<https://constitutioncenter.org/education/videos>

V.A.V.S. Keep Those Wheelchairs Rolling Contest



Recently members from Florida presented a check to the Lake City VAMC for \$100.00 to purchase Outdoor Games as part of their Recreation Therapy. Pictured from left to right is Jeremy Newman (Recreational Therapy Supervisor), La Femme Linda Marriott, Grande Cheminot Alberto Marriott (both from the Grande Cabane and Grande du Florida) and Robert Coon, Director, CDCE, Lake City VAMC.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Forty & Eight, as are most Veterans Organizations, is an active member and participant in the VAVS program. As part of this program, Voyageurs (called Representatives or Deputy Representatives) represent the Forty and Eight by regularly attending the VAVS Committee meetings at their Local Veteran Administration Medical Centers (VAMC's). They as well as other Voyageur Volunteers visit the VAMC's on a regular basis, where they give comfort and assistance to, or just visit with, the hospitalized veterans. VAVS Volunteers are a priceless asset to the Nation's Veterans and to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Forty & Eight has adopted an additional program for these veterans, called "Keep Those Wheelchairs Rolling." Under this program, the VAVS Representative (or Deputy Representative) writes a brief letter outlining a "need" of the patients. These "needs" may cover a project, equipment or comfort and convenience items needed by the hospitalized veterans. The entries are then judged on the need and benefit to the patients, and those selected receive the item(s) requested, courtesy of the Nationale Box Car Association.

Directeur of V.A.V.S.

Ron "Selleck's 'stache is Bush League" Rolfes

National Directeur of VAVS Ron Rolfes made a surprise visit to New York to honor a couple of Voyageurs for their dedicated service to the VAVS program. First stop was the Batavia VAMC, where Carl Boyle, at 91 years young, was retiring from Voluntary Service after serving 29 years.



(Left) From left is Wayne Sorrentino (Grande Chef de Gare), Voyageur Jim Delair, Danielle Bergman (Assistant Director), Mary Boyle, Car Boyle (seated), Ron Rolfes, Pam Ware (Daughters of the American Revolution), Shawn Gianforte (PTSD Program Manager), and Pat Haeger (American Legion).

The Rocking chairs are Amish made and were donated to the PTSD clinic as part of the Keep the Wheelchairs Rolling program this year.

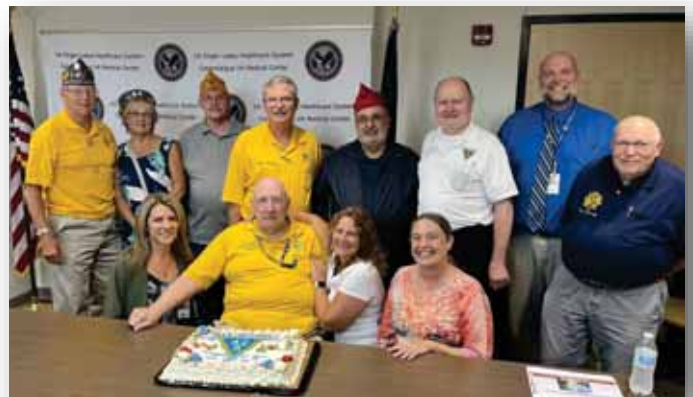
The next morning, we were off to Canandaigua VAMC to meet with and honor Don Miller, Longtime Volunteer and Past Grande Chef de Gare of New York. Don is another one that has been volunteering for over 20 years and has recently surpassed his 2000 hours of service. We were able to surprise him with an award for his service and several folks showed up to support the event.

(Right) Ron Rolfes, Shawn DeFries, Wayne Sorrentino, Don Miller (seated)



(Left) Ron Rolfes, Don Miller, Gina Deck (Acting Chief Center for Development and Civic Engagement formally Voluntary Service).

(Right) Across the back, Past Grande Chef de Gares of New York Mike Bowen and his wife Patti, Fred Percy, Ron Rolfes, Abe Zino, Wayne Sorrentino, Hank Riegel (VA Finger Lakes Recreation Therapy Supervisor), Calvin Nichols (Past Chef de Gare). Bottom row: Gina Deck (Acting Chief), Don Miller, Carol Thompson (RN - Advanced Illness Care Coordinator), and Julie Knapp (CLC Social Work Supervisor & Hospice/Palliative Care Social Worker).



Most are not aware, but Canandaigua is undergoing a major renovation and they were a little short handed the day we were there.

Directeur of Membership

Gena Keller (with trusty sidekick DAISY!)

Greetings my family Voyageurs and LaFemmes!

Wow, what a rollercoaster ride this year has been! It's been a wild, fun, frustrating, and enthusiastic journey filled with countless memories. And guess what? You, my amazing membership team! have played a huge role in making all of this possible. Without your support, none of these incredible experiences could have happened.

We've accomplished so much together in terms of team building. From the hilarious team-building exercises that made us laugh until our bellies ached, what was that one team building question at Chef's homecoming that got everyone in stitches? Chef de Chemin de Fer Passe, Bill Simpson and his wife Dell, Sandy and Robbie, myself and a bunch more were there. Let me know if you remember!! To the challenging escape rooms that put our problem-solving skills to the test, we've truly become a force to be reckoned with. Remember that circle of trust in Kansas? We solved so many of the world's problems, now if only someone would listen!

But let's not forget the most important aspect of our organization: you, the cherished members, and what we do for our community and our veterans, and I say both Voyageurs and La Femmes, I am a dual member, and proud of it. (subtle hint here for marketing) My team and I expressed through the year to give you a reason to belong, as Ron Rolfes has said this year, what is your 'Why?' Through the strength in membership we build through the year a reason to stay involved. From driving cross country to the Great State of Wyoming and visiting their Boxcar, to the HillBilly Wreck in TN, and visiting the Armed Service Recruitment center with sandwiches, to Wisconsin home of the most amazing cheese curds and cheese heads, to Minnesota home to the largest mosquitoes I have ever encountered and 1000 lakes that remind me daily of the beauty all around. The rewards of being a member are endless. And let's not forget the opportunity for a Voyager to win a Life Membership through the Membership Raffle that will be drawn in Sandusky!! You know that person is going to be very happy!



As we bid farewell to the membership year 2023, let's not close down our efforts to recruit new members. We're not just a team; we're a family, and families are always growing. So, keep doing what you're doing to enhance this incredible organization. Spread the word about the fantastic opportunities that await new members – the crazy adventures, the lifelong friendships, and the endless key possibilities for personal growth.

Thank you for being a part of this amazing journey. Cheers to you, the ones who have made this year unforgettable. Let's continue making waves and creating memories that will make future generations say, "Wow, those guys were legendary!" Stay motivated, stay humorous, and above all, stay awesome! Look out 2024!

A New Home for the Minnesota Froggie!

Gena Keller (with trusty sidekick DAISY!)

Grande du Minnesota, and Froggie, the mischievous little frog from Mankato MN, never fails to keep us entertained with their antics. As the newly elected Honorary Chef de Gare Passe Club member, my faithful Daisy and I have been given the esteemed privilege of becoming Froggie and his family's adoptive family for the upcoming year. Our adventure with Froggie has already taken us on a whirlwind journey spanning over 650 miles across two states. Who knew a little frog could have such wanderlust?

But that's not all that has been keeping Froggie busy. Imagine our surprise when we received the news that Mrs. Froggie is expecting not one, but twin tadpoles due to make their debut around the time of Valentine's Day! Looks like love really is in the air for the Froggie family. I can't help but wonder if Froggie has been practicing his parenting skills by serenading them with his "ribbit" lullabies.

In true Froggie fashion, he has also taken it upon himself to raise funds for a noble cause. The Child Welfare Program has been chosen as the beneficiary of Froggie's fundraising efforts. With his charismatic charm and undeniable cuteness, Froggie has already managed to collect an impressive \$43.00. It's clear that this little frog is determined to make a difference, one leap at a time.

As we gather for our first family meeting, Daisy and I can't help but feel a mix of excitement and responsibility. The impending arrival of the twin tadpoles and our goal of raising even more funds for the Child Welfare Program means we have plenty of work cut out for us in the coming months. But with Froggie's infectious enthusiasm and our willingness to support him and his family, we are ready to tackle any challenge that comes our way.

And if you're interested in capturing a moment with the infamous Froggie and his adorable tadpoles, you're in luck! For just 48 cents per person, you can have your very own photo with the froggy and his family. So, stay tuned as we keep you updated on our monthly adventures with Froggie and his ribbit-ing sense of humor. Fun and frog humor await you on this wild and amazing journey with Grande du Minnesota and his ever-expanding family!

Already people are asking if T-shirts might be in the future? Who knows, once we have a family meeting, we will let everyone know!

In this photo, you will see him excited to be in South Dakota, and the other photo shows my excitement when I was announced as his foster mom for the upcoming year.



Thank you,
Gena Keller and The Froggie Family



GRANDE DU TEXAS

Grand du Texas got an additional \$500+ to their Keep the Wheelchairs Rolling award for requested clothing items that were given to veterans at the Olen E. Teague Medical Center in Temple, Texas. Many quietly received their donation and were appreciative for the items and the visit.

On July 10, 2023, a small group from Grand du Texas met with the VA Representative Reginald Hardy and presented clothing gifts to some of the residents. Good quality fleece tops and bottoms were given to veterans at the Olen E. Teague Medical Center. Most were residents of the VA Community Living Center. It was extremely heartwarming to do this and see the appreciation on their faces.



(Left) Jim Sweeney (Voiture 1031 Chef de Gare) and Al Banzer (Voiture 175 Chef de Gare) present clothing items to veteran Thomas J McLafferty.



One of the more active residents is Herbert Alexander pictured with members of Grand du Texas during their visit.

(Right) Al Banzer, Jim Sweeney, Herbert Alexander, Keith Ross Jr (newly elected Grand Chef de Gare) and David Knutson (Grand Chef de Gare Passe).



Grande du MiZZouri



(Left) Allen Schultz (Grand Historien) presenting Hallie Williams (Grand Chef de Gare du Missouri) with his 2022-2023 History Book



(Right) Allen Schultz and Hallie Williams presenting Forrest Johnson (Chef de Train of Voiture Locale #1541) with 1st place for Locale History Book for 2022-2023



CPL Greg Bohn received the Grande du Missouri "Law Officer of the Year". Greg is a 17 year Veteran of the Jefferson County Sherriff's Department. He was awarded the Medal of Valor for saving the life of Deputy Zack Faulkner. He has received the Combat Award in 2022, Distinguished Service Award in 2021, and American Legion Missouri Law Officer of the Year.

(Left) Theodore McCart, Walter Bauman, CPL Bohn, Harry Barnes Jr., John Kramer and Duane DeClue

Thank you, Allen J. Schultz (Grand du Missouri Historien Passe and Locale #1541 Historien) for sending the photos with great descriptions!

Grande du Kansas Grande Promenade

(Right) 30 Voyageurs and their families attended the Grande du Kansas annual Banquet. Hosted by VL58 of Wichita.



(Left) Renny Keagle (Nationale Directeur of Public Relations) speaks at the annual banquet of Grande du Kansas. Head table consisting of Tom Emerson (Correspondent Passe), Ron Purdie (Chef de Gare Passe) and wife Joyce.

(Right) Vance Chartier (KS Directeur of the Boxcar, Merci Train, Chef de Train) presents his proposal for a 501.c.3 foundation to raise funds for the Kansas Merci Boxcar



VOITURE 36 du SAN BERNARDINO GRANDE du CA

Nurses Training & POW/MIA Scholarship Fundraiser

Voiture 36 carried out a successful combined fundraiser 19 Aug at American Legion Post 422 Rialto, CA. Featured were: BBQ Rib Dinner, DJ Music, Shine & Show, Vendors, 50/50, Raffles.



(Front row) I Rael (Dir Nurses Trng), J Donovan (Grand Correspondant), N Martinez (Dir POW/MIA)
(Back row) R Alvarado (Chef d Gare), P Pfeifer, H Cardiel, T Giltner, B Depasopil, B Voss, J Thomas, L Lombard,
G Torres, G Butterfield, T Patton
(Not pictured) – S Newlen

The event was planned by Nurses Training Directeur Irene Rael and POW/MIA Directeur Norma Martinez.

We were also graced by the attendance of Grand Correspondant Joe Donovan.

62 dinners were served; many prizes were dispersed; vendors were happy; Goodfella's (local association and car club) donated \$200, for which we are very grateful.

Over \$1600 was raised for the two Scholarship Programs.

Many thanks to all who supported this function despite threatening weather.

We extend a hearty "Merci" to Post 422 Commander Tyrone Patton and staff for coordinating the use of their Post.

Merci from Voiture 36!

RANDO!!! (Submit RANDOm photos with info to VoyageurBriefs@gmail.com)



(Above) Grande du Virginia Promenade

(Below) Voiture 58 members support a Veterans Expo community event.

Ron Purdie, Benny Teague, Bill Doll, +Random participant



(Left) VL786 of Baldwin, KS host their annual amazing steak dinner with all the sides!

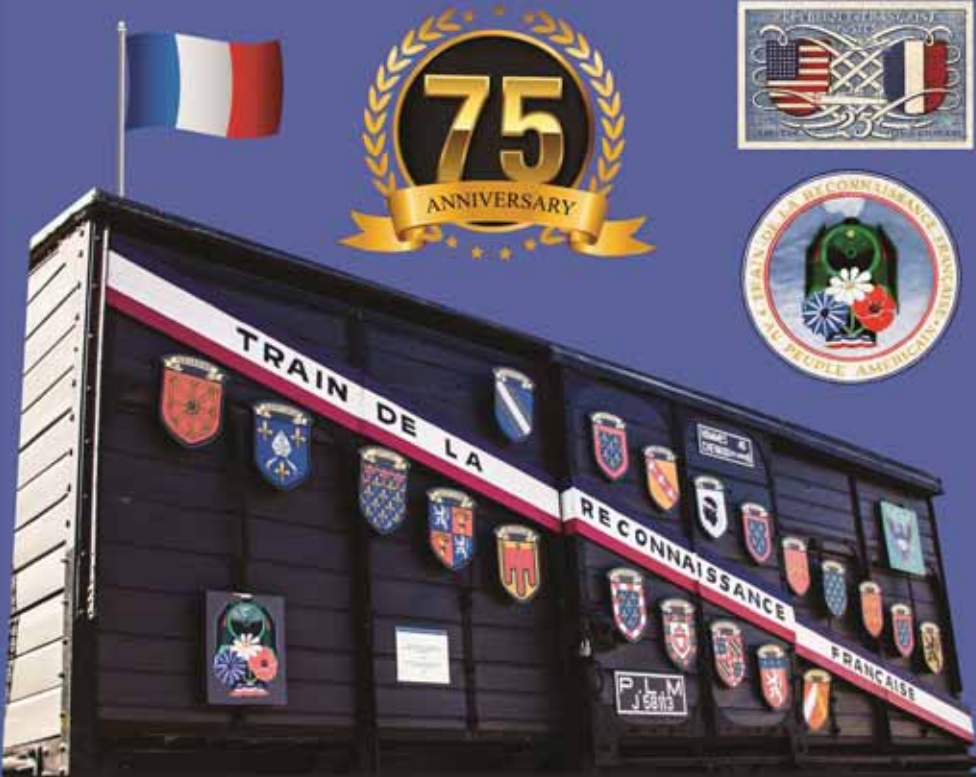


From left: Larry Francq (V786), Vern Russell (V786), Tim Evans (GdKS), Curt Renard (GdKS), Nick Weyers (CdG GdKS), Jordan Wieber (GdKS), Aaron Winkleman (V786), Tom Emerson (GdKS), Gary Sanden (V786), John Hey (V786), and Tim Russell (CdG V786)



(Left) The Voyagers of LaSalle County Illinois Voiture # 378 at their annual Dinner Meeting on August 3, 2023 in Tonica. Nurses Training scholarship awards were presented to: Abigail Venzula and Lenan Peterson.

More kind of official stuff...





THE “MERCİ” TRAIN
A Show of Goodwill and Gratitude

2024 is the 75th Anniversary of the Merci Train when the people of France showed their appreciation in an extraordinary way.

The American “Doughboys” of WWI were transported in small boxcars referred to as “Forty & Eights” and would carry either 40 men or 8 horses and thus marked Hommes 40 / Chevaux 8.

On February 2, 1949, France sent 49 of these WWI boxcars to the United States. Each magnificently decorated and filled with gifts. Today 43 boxcars remain from the Gratitude Train and are on display all over the United States. To find the boxcars and planned events near you scan the codes below or visit:

www.mercitrain.org

More kind of official stuff...

Public Relations—P.A.L.S.—Blue Chevalier July—Aug 2023



Public Relations DIRECTEURS MONTHLY COMMUNIQUE



Well, this month it's more of a bi-monthly communique. July was an extremely busy month tidying up Texas Grand stuff, a trip to Kansas for their Grand Prom and working on PR reports and starting prep for Nationale. A busy time for all Directeurs.

The August issue of the P.A.L.S. Bulletin newsletter went out and it has gotten some attention with our take on how to properly publish your minutes and protocols to consider under the Privacy Act and what exactly is confidential information. If you didn't see a copy because you are not a member of P.A.L.S., let me know and I'll get to you.



Grand Public Relations Directeurs—Publiciste—Where and Who?

If you look at La Societes Information Manual you will see a detailed list of officers and their duties. Public Relations or Publiciste is not directly mentioned until you get to the Voyageur's Guide, where the duties are described only for the Nationale Publiciste as "responsible for publicizing La Societe and its programs to the national news media and the public in general."

Back to the Information Manual, the duties of the L'Editeur is described in detail with the caveat "in the absence of an official publication (newsletter), he (she) would be properly called "Publiciste" with duties to exert efforts to present the proper image of La Societe and its programs.

In Grande du Texas, L'Editeur or Publiciste is appointed and that is the case for most Locales and Grands everywhere. Being appointed rather than elected is a mute point and does not diminish the importance of any position.

In our 2023 membership year we only had 20 Publicistes or Grand Directeurs of Public Relations out of 52 Grands—not even 50%.

It is no wonder I only received 16 PR reports despite being one of the easiest and simple reports to prepare and send in. I humbly state this is not criticism because I realize Public Relations is not at the forefront of many duties and responsibilities we have in our Locales and Grands and positions are sometimes difficult to fill.

I am working hard and dedicated to change that.

Elections are over for almost all Grands and Locales—and if this position is not filled consider finding someone willing to take on this important task and have then contact me—I'll mentor anyone who is willing to be your Grands storyteller and principle ambassador.

To those attending Nationale—I encourage attendance at the Public Relations Committee meeting, on Thursday, September 14th at 10 am. We had a room full last year and I wish for standing room only this year. Important things to discuss and report this year including important Blue Chevalier issues and a needed dues increase for printing and mailing our newsletter the Bulletin due to three postal rate increases. Blessings and safe travels to all. •

Directeur Public Relations

Renslar "Renny" Keagle

rennykeagle@gmail.com

More kind of official stuff...

Attention: New Veteran Benefit Laws

DID YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE SERVE IN THE FOLLOWING ERAS?



VIETNAM



GULF WAR



POST-9/11

VA's New PACT Act is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act

- (1) expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and (2) expands eligibility for era, and Post-9/11 era **AND**
- (2) expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

All Veterans and Survivors (even if previously denied) can NOW file claims for the below conditions - ACT NOW!

For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

- Brain cancer
- Glioblastoma
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type Head cancer of any type Lymphoma of any type
- Lymphatic cancer of any type
- Neck cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type Kidney cancer
- Melanoma
- Asthma (diagnosed after service)
- Chronic rhinitis

- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis
- Chronic bronchitis
- COPD

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
- High blood pressure (hypertension)

NEXT STEPS

Call **1-800-698-2411** or go to **VA.gov/PACT** to learn more and file your claim.



LEARN MORE

Scan the code to learn more & file your claim!