



Voiture Nationale 40&8

VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

WE'RE BACK! (VoyeurBriefs@gmail.com)

Frank Kronen – Chef de Chemin de Fer

First, I wish to thank my Voiture Local Medina County 601, The Grande Voiture du Ohio, and Voiture Nationale for having the confidence in me to become your Chef de Chemin de Fer. I also wish to Thank My Awesome Friend Tisha Ray for being there to place my Chapeau on my head after my swearing in as your Chef. September 17, 2022, marked the BIGGEST day in my life. As those of you in attendance at Promenade Nationale in Green Bay know. That was the day I was elected to be your Chef de Chemin de Fer. Something I take as a Tremendous Honor. Especially since we are the “Honor Societe of American Veterans”. Thank you all once again for having the confidence in me to be your Chef de Chemin de Fer. Yes, we will discuss membership as we do each, and every year. However, I believe part of our RETENTION situation can be traced to a tremendous lack of COMMUNICATION!!!

A very simple question is this, in the past year now many Promenades or Cheminot meetings, either Locale or Grand level, have you attended that were short of being a quorum? Why does this possibly occur? Could it be a lack of COMMUNICATION?



If communication (notification), for events such as this are not being sent out, then how are our members aware this event even exists? Sooner or later, and it might just be sooner than we want to experience, they might just ask themselves, if we aren't doing anything, (even though you are but it's not communicated), why should I continue to pay my dues? Even if it's just a phone call, text message, or email. GET THE ITEMS COMMUNICATED. I have personally experienced Cheminot meetings in the past that lack being a quorum. It is my belief that this is a major contributor to lost membership. I'm asking all Locale's as well as

Grande Voitures to seriously address this. The future of our Great Organization depends on it. And by all means when you are together HAVE FUN!!! We are known as the “Fun and Honor Societe” not the “Grumpy Societe”.

Wow, my year started with a visit to my favorite city. I was invited to attend the Shamrock Wreck in Savannah; Ga. Hospitality was terrific, and fun was at it's 40 & 8 Best. Voiture Local 567 Chef de Gare Tim Butterbaugh even took me, and my Aide de Camp Joe Dolwig who traveled there with me, to River Street to one of my favorite watering holes, (Bernie's Oyster House), I personally know this location very well since I attended 15 straight St. Patrick's Days in a row, for one of their legendary Bloody Mary's. Later that evening at the Kangaroo Court I was placed in the stocks and helped raise \$ 160 for the National Box Car Association Program. As mentioned earlier FUN was had by all since the Georgia Grand Chef also paid his respects to the Stocks while guarding the “Paul Bunyan Gavel”.

On Saturday Morning, prior to the “First Degree”, I had the Honor of

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Frank Kronen –Chef de Chemin de Fer (Continued briefly...)

Obligating the PG's. 6 new Voyageurs were inducted into our ranks. At the banquet Saturday evening, somehow, the Chef de Gare's Gavel found its way into my hands not once, but twice. As I said earlier, great Food, Fun and Comradery was had by all.

My next venture was attending the 60th Wedding Anniversary Party for 1999 Chef de Chemin de Fer Verne and Judy Eccleston. Attending with me were 2002 Chef de Chemin de Fer Robert Kaseman and Kathy. 2004 Chef de Chemin de Fer Wm. "Joe" Jammick and Cheryl. And grand and FUN time was had by all. Also within the Grande Voiture du Ohio I attended Promenades at Lorain County Voiture 149 and Trumbull County Voiture 1182 where I had the distinct honor of placing the Chapeau on the head of a New Voyageur.

As mentioned at the beginning, COMMUNICATION needs to be the highpoint along with Membership this year. I look forward to seeing many of my fellow Voyageurs this Year as we continue to have "FUN"!!!

In closing, allow me to Wish all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year!!!

And let me say once more, Thank You for Allowing me to be your "Chef". God Bless all, and God Bless These United States of America, and our Military Service Members around the world. Keep them please in your thoughts and prayers.

Some years ago many people thought that the United States would cease to be the number one country in the world, and they had several reasons to believe this. We had given away our Panama Canal, we had pardoned the Draft Dodger, and had granted amnesty to the deserter. We decided to go with an all-volunteer Army and had few new weapons, none of which had been battle-tested. We still had our anti-nuke demonstrations and our peace marches. We had our commentators and several movie people telling us

we were the aggressors and we had only to disarm to bring about world peace. Tell that to the ones that lost their loved ones September 11, 2001, and in the mountains of Afghanistan and the sand piles of Iraq or any other war that our men and women sacrificed their lives and fortunes to keep free our liberty. America will ALWAYS be the number one country in the world. Let us get into a real emergency and see what happens.

That's when you will see those 100% brave, red-blooded Americans come forward to defend our freedoms.

Our Veterans are the ones who have kept this dream of a free America alive. They speak out for her. They have shown the world we are a free country and we intend to REMAIN free. To be free requires a lot of faith, a constant vigil, and a strong right arm. A quote from Abraham Lincoln, "All the combined armies of Europe, Asia and Africa, with Bonaparte for a commander, in a million years, could not by force, take one sip from the Missouri or make one track on the Blue Ridge. If destruction is to be our lot, we ourselves must be its author and its creator". If we lose our civilization the way we know it, it's our fault. We don't have to be hawks or doves, but we certainly have to be eagles. Our veterans go out and tell the story of America, the loving, caring, compassionate America, the one we know and love. Never before in history has one nation poured out so much of its heart and wealth to foreign lands as we have. We have sent more care packages over seas and built more bridges and hospitals for foreign countries than has any nation in history. We have been the first on the scene at any natural or man-made catastrophe on earth. We have attempted to bring some peace to this chaotic world only to catch

hell both abroad and at home, fail and repeatedly try again. It is true that every year we waste billions of dollars on foreign nations who do nothing but criticize us; but when the chips are down, when the going gets really rough, whom do they still turn to? These Great United States Of America.

Every time you get a chance to speak out for this great land, tell how it began with a bunch of Indians, a flock of turkeys, and a few religious nuts shivering on the New England shore to become the greatest nation on the face of the earth. Our Veterans have made this possible.

The bold colors of "Old Glory"- Red, White and Blue, paint a portrait of patriotism, pride and gratitude in our hearts and our minds. These are the colors that our fallen comrades, who are the defenders of our freedoms- the defenders of our faith and the defenders of our great American way of life--- so gallantly fought and died for. Yes, we are at war today. Our men and women are fighting to stop the tennacles of terrorism from choking our future generations.

We will lose more American men and women through the travesties of war, and we will again bury our dead with dignity, as they gave the "Supreme Sacrifice", and this great country will continue to breed future Veterans.

We still have the same "Idiots and Morons" that still want to desecrate our Flag. They don't see the blood and guts left behind on faraway battle fields- the severely wounded (physically and mentally) returning home- wishing they could return to their comrades to fight for Democracy. The American soldier is part of the best fighting machine in the world - the machine that fights for Freedom. God Bless Them All !!!

Nationale Building Update

Terry Sims—Correspondant Nationale



The building loan for Voiture Nationale is now paid and Carville Star has been paid in full. A huge “Thank You” to all Voyageurs, Locales and Grandes for their donations to this project. Your donations helped pay the loan of \$86,000 to “0” in four and a half years.



The parking lot and driveway at Headquarters is in dire need of repair. We have taken bids, passed them to the Finance Committee and

they have voted favorably for the new construction at a cost of \$16,000. This is a very good price for what has to be done.

Once again, we are asking your help through donations to help pay for this project to keep the property safe and presentable.

Emblem Sales

This month’s highlight is a small pocket sized notepad. It features the 40&8 emblem on the front cover, has 26 lined pages, front & back and measures 2 ¾” X 5”. The price for this item is **\$1.50**. The part number is 13MEMO. This item can be ordered at our emblem sales store online at <http://store.fortyandeight.org/> or contact Terry 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

Thank you, Bill Beaumont! - Voyageur Briefs Editor Passe

In 1983, having graduated from Indiana University, Bill, like most college graduates, set out to make his “mark” in the world. Fortunately for the 40&8, his search brought him to Voiture Nationale, and on September 15, 1984, he became a member of the Voiture Nationale staff.

Bill is the person most responsible for bringing La Societe into the world of modern Information Technology (IT), it would be difficult if not impossible to detail all the ways he has served and shaped Voiture Nationale. During his 38 year tenure he also served in one form or another as a systems



manager, office manager, business manager, procurement manager, and operations manager. When necessary and called on to do so, he has also served as a trusted and valued consultant and advisor to nearly every Nationale Committee, Chef de Chemin de Fer and Correspondant Nationale.

Bill retired December 31, 2022, he is missed and we wish him nothing but the best and happiness in his future adventures.

Editors note: Thank you for the template for the *Voyager Briefs*!

The BRIEFS are back! (Banter from the editor)

Hello Veterans! The BRIEFS are back! I hope that you find humor in this publication.

I have tried (somewhat poorly) to provide some fun-loving content in this digital format. I must warn you that I am an engineer by trade and thinking Writing is not my strength, but laughing is. One of my mentors ground into me that “for harassment to be effective, it must be continuous.” We are the fun loving organization... or so we’re told. There is never any ill-will presented in this publication Now that we have covered that let’s set some ground rules...

First: Let’s keep the Voyageur Briefs just that.... brief . Submit your short articles and photos (with names, dates, and locations) to me and I’ll get the quality photos into this format to enhance the effectivity of your harassment. Note: They have to be quality photos for print.

Second: As a ‘younger’ veteran, I still have the ‘privilege’ of a career to maintain. (That’s like saying “I’m just not younger this year” every birthday). So, I plan to publish this quarterly for now.

Third: Keep it fun! Following in Bill Beaumont's footsteps, I hope to keep this 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. Every 3 seconds of laughing extends your life by 15 seconds. I made that up but prove me wrong. Submit your commentary, original jokes (don’t spam my email), and photos with notes to voyageurbriefs@gmail.com

Please submit articles and photos no later than **June 1st** for inclusion into the next Voyageur Briefs!



GRANDE DU OKLAHOMA

Grande du Oklahoma’s Annual Christmas Party for residents at the JD McCarty Center for Children with Developmental Disabilities was held on 17 December 2022. Grande du OK founded the JD McCarty Center in 1946 as a Cerebral Palsy Hospital and is still active with the annual Christmas Party and Voyageurs on the Cerebral Palsy Commission. Due to Covid restrictions over the past 2 years, Grande du OK purchased presents for the residents, but the Voyageurs were unable to personally give the presents to the residents. This year the Voyageurs acted as Santa’s elves and presented the presents to the residents. Voyageurs and Dames also donated presents to Santa’s Workshop so toys could be given to out-patient children. It was great to be able to pass out the presents in person, and everyone had a great time.



VOITURE 1637, BURLINGTON, ON, CA

The first display of our new Voiture 1637 Banner mounted on a flagpole for future parades.

We meet monthly for breakfast to collectively solve all of the world's problems, to keep in touch with one another and to offer any necessary help or just an ear and a shoulder.

Our monthly Proms are held at Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) Branch 60 in Burlington. The Canadian Legion treats us well and has given us our own (free of charge) meeting/storage room on the 2nd floor for privacy and a place to store our stuff.

We conduct our own Wrecks in the RCL's large 2nd floor meeting room / banquet hall.

Membership has grown steadily since our Chartering on 11-17-2015. We are already over 100% of last year's membership and we're still working the issue...

Editors Note: "Eh" is pronounced like "hay" without the 'h' in Canada. Keep up the good work, eh!



Kneeling L to R: Ross Hoffman (USAF vet), VM David Noonan (USMC vet).

Standing L to R: VM Ron Newton (US Navy vet), Jim Crabbe (helper with Cenotaph restart), Chef Wayne P. Sorrentino (US Navy vet), VM Bob Winder (US Army vet), Phil Watson (USMC vet), VM Arnie Tuchow (USAF vet) & VM Kelly

DIGIAL 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!!! I happen to live in Kansas and Jordan W. has updated our websites! Frank H. has been very helpful with all that. He's already volunteered to help if you need it.

Voitiure 58, Wichita, KS: www.voiture58.org (Yes, I am shamelessly peddling my Voiture Locale)
Grande du Kansas: <https://www.ksfortyandeight.com/>

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

Something that made the editor think: [Why Are The Younger Veterans Avoiding The Veteran Service Organizations?](#)

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

This edition is filled with favoritism or my own personality influenced... Provide more content next quarter to avoid it! Otherwise, the soap box is retained with the editor. No fault is to be given right now as we are just spinning this Voyageur Briefs back up after a brief cat nap.

GRANDE DU CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY, 2023



WRECK SEASON IS HERE!

Shamrock

October 7-8, Savannah, GA, USA

Seven Voyageurs Militaire were welcomed into our great organization in Savannah, Georgia this year at the Shamrock Wreck. It was a great time with splendid hospitality. Keep up the great wrecking party, Shamrock!



TWISTER

February, Wichita, KS, USA



Fourteen (14) Poor Goofs from across Kansas were saved this year and conditioned into Voyageurs Militaires. Gena Keller, Nationale Directeur of Membership and Ron Rolfes, Sous Correspondent Nationale were part of the fun!

Left: George Hohn (V1510) receives a “I Got Two” pin from Gena Keller. Two “I Got Two” pins were awarded at the *TWISTER*.

Right: Ron Rolfes receives his pistol shooting target from earlier in the week. Of note, there were not any holes in it! (presented by from Ron Purdie, CdGduKS)



All 14 PGs survived the *TWISTER* this year!



Above: Chef Frank gets some Cajun desert!



Above: The fun train arrives at the Cajun!!

CAJUN February 8-12, New Iberia, LA, USA

In the words of Chef Frank:

“On Wednesday the 8th, there was a visit to anyone who wished to go to Carville. It was a very moving and historic experience. As always, a fantastic time. “



Above: Chef Frank visits with Tom Adams and Robbie Garland about the history of Carville Star.

“Coon Ass Cook Ray Boy had cooked for lunch, Jambalaya and deep-fried alligator. As always, DELICIOUS!!! 3 new voyageurs came out of that wreck. An interesting fact is that they actually wear black and white striped uniforms completed with striped skull cap!”

Below: The chef and Madam president with the Mardi Gras theme of the Hospitality Room



More kind of official stuff...



Voiture Nationale

La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

Frank W. Kronen

Chef de Chemin de Fer

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February 22, 2023

To: All Grand Voitures and Grand Cabane of La Societe.
The Corporation agrees to along with Voyageur and La Femme credentials indicating Delegate and Alternate. A credential will also be available for Guests and will be stamped Guest.
If you would please notify your membership of this the Promenade Corporation would greatly appreciate it, being many visitors will be present as spouses or partners and not be Voyageurs or La Femme's.

Sincerely,

Frank W. Kronen

Chef de Chemin de Fer

Secretary Ohio Promenade Corporation

Youth Sports Releases Challenge Coins!



40 ET 8 YOUTH SPORTS PIN and CHALLENGE COIN ORDER FORM



Order placed for: Voiture Locale _____ of Grande du _____ or,
 Grande du _____

Number of Pins Ordered: _____ @ \$3.00 each = \$ _____

Number of Challenge Coins Ordered: _____ @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____

Order Total = \$ _____

Ship to:

Mail this form and payment to: Donald Reed
212 W. Caroline Lane
Chandler, AZ, 85225
(480) 206-1323

Alternatively, this form may be emailed to: v1466dr@aol.com with payment mailed to the above address.

Download the form this [link](#)

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



L-R: (Random patron above), Gena Keller (Nationale), Ron Rolfes (Nationale), Curt Renard (V58+GdKS), Jordan Wieber (V58), Tim Evans (V58+GdKS), and Bruce Kouba (Nationale), enjoy an evening out at Nortons Brewing Company while “preparing” for the *TWISTER* wreck!

(Missing from photo: Daisy who has NOT ordered a beer and must be taking the photo)

Right: Meet and Greet in Florida at the Mid-Winter Cheminot with the Florida CdG and Madam President



Below: A tale of the red chefs! Bill and Frank prepare for the Joint Carolinas!



Above: Chef Passe Vern and Judy's 60th anniversary party!