La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Grande Voiture du Texas

TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND du TEXAS
WINNER OF THE ARTHUR MCDOWELL AWARD 1991 – 1992 – 1993 – 1994 – 1995 – 1996
BEST GRAND VOITURE PUBLICATION IN THE NATION WITHOUT ADVERTISING AND WINNER OF THE ROBERT KASEMAN AWARD 2018

Fall 2019 **Volume 62 Issue 3**

FALL CHEMINOT MERGED WITH MERCI BOXCAR

You may have noticed we did not have a Fall Cheminot in October and that decision was made at the Grand Promenade in Kerrville in June.

Less and less are able to attend or choose not to attend our Grande functions. Some are due to health issues and others may find the travel too far and expensive. We do not have the luxuries of the larger organizations with reimbursements, but each locale should be able to help with travel expenses for their Locale Chef de Gare to help cover these costs. Of the 14 locales within Grand du Texas we usually see representation from about half at a grand event. The decision to eliminate the Fall Cheminot was done in hopes more Voyageurs Militaire will choose to attend the Spring Cheminot / Annual Pilgrimage to the Merci Boxcar and/or the Grande Promenade which will be moved to later in the summer.

Awards will be given at Merci Boxcar and we will include our 2019 Law Officer of the Year, 2019 Hero of the Year, representative(s) from the 2019 City of the Year (Harker Heights) who was selected as the National City of the Year and recognized at Promenade Nationale in September.

For those who travel, we are glad that El Paso Voiture 605 has been so actively involved and makes the 500+ mile trip each way. If you are only a few hours away then we hope you will join us at Merci Boxcar as there will be more going on than usual as you will see further on in the newsletter.

We hope to see some folks who have not been able to attend for a while and we also should have some new folks from our newest Voiture Locale #689 in Amarillo who became active again earlier this year.

David J. Knutson
Grand Publiciste

FROM THE GRAND CHEF DE GARE

Time brings all things to pass. This year time caught up with two great Forty and Eighter's, George Murphy and Darrell Gibbs, both Grand Chef de Gare Passes. They will be missed and may they rest in peace as we keep their families in our prayers. It should serve as a reminder to all of us of our mortality - we should be taking care of ourselves and doing our best to watch over each other. As our Grande grows smaller, we should try to be closer despite being such a large state and spread out so far. Many of us are also not feeling well and dealing with new or recurring medical issues, keep all those in sickness and distress in your prayers.

I want to take this opportunity to thank John Rodgers for his work as Grand Chef de Train and all of you who work tirelessly on membership. I think we have a chance this year to make goal but it will take some diligence to resolve some Locale issues and get others jump started. Congratulations to those already at 100% or higher. Remember, technically, anyone who has not renewed their membership is no longer in good standing as of December 31st. Technically cannot attend promenades or enjoy any of the rewards or benefits of being a Voyageur Militaire.

I do know some Locales are bringing in new members – great! If a VM brings in two new members within the same membership year, remember to submit them for the "I Got Two" pin and certificate- the form is on the Nationale website

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FROM THE GRAND CHEF DE GARE (continued)

I know many of you have newsletters, I am asking if your Locale has one, whether it is black and white, color, whether it is one page or a more, whether it is mailed or emailed – you need to send a copy to Dave Knutson, Grand Publiste and myself as Grand Chef and Sous Directeur for Public Relations, Area 1 which includes Texas. Please CC us on special events you are having like Flags for First Graders, special events and dinners, nurse presentations, etc. Much appreciated!

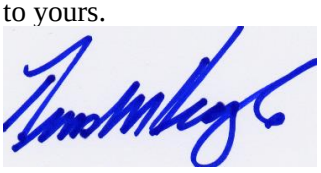
Most know we meet only twice a year now, so the upcoming Merci Boxcar is extremely important – it is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in March 6-7-8, 2020. Dave will get details out once hotel is confirmed - but plan now for that weekend. One of the orders of business will awards. Each Directeur will need to identify which Locale and honorable mention should be selected for their programs. Dave will provide a deadline and guidance for submission. My understanding we will go with streamers rather than plaques, we'll see how that goes this year. We have some Nationale awards to be presented also.

If you follow my letters, you will notice that reports are a special area of interest for me. So at Merci Boxcar, I'm asking for an hour, probably less, after committee meetings to discuss and go over reports. Also any Locale that would like to get a Flags for First Graders program started or get points and tips, we will have the opportunity to discuss. V-605 has one of the best programs within Nationale and has been recognized for it – so we would like to share what we have learned. We might bring some extra flags.

Special Awards I would love to see several candidates for Voyageur of the Year – other awards also like City of the Year and Law Officer. But especially, Voyageur of the Year – it's not complicated, the 2 forms on are on-line and just add specifics, photos, a bio, etc. and let's have a hard time this year picking someone.

Finally, I sincerely want to wish everyone the best the holiday season has to offer. Some will be spending it without a loved one, keep them in your prayers. Others ill or just not feeling well, prayers also. Be safe in your travels, enjoy your families. If you are busy, get some rest.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my family to yours.



Renslar "Renny Keagle
Chef de Gare, Grande du Texas

Please send copies of newsletters and events to both me and Dave Knutson at: rennykeagle@gmail.com and davidknutson@sbcglobal.net

FROM THE GRAND CHEF DE TRAIN

Hello to all;

Well we are still standing at 67.72%. We really need to start pushing membership. I have tried to contact several locales. Some have answered and others have not. We need to open up are lines of communication. I have spoken to the Grand Chef and changes are on the way. We still have only 2 locales at 100%. Others are really close and some have only 1 or 2 on their rolls.

PLEASE contact me if something is wrong. If needed I will come to your locale and help.

I would also ask that if you need any assistance with your membership feel free to contact me at this email or phone 512 713-9178

John Rodgers
Grand Chef de Train

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Grande Voiture du Texas

TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

2020 Membership Report

November 27, 2019

Division / Locale	Location	Current	Goal	Percent
1st Division				
689	Amarillo	10	12	83.33%
1185	Ft Worth	1	10	10%
Total		11	22	50%
2nd Division				
163	Houston	16	21	76%
266	Copperas Cove	29	32	91%
312	Beaumont	14	14	100%
980	Willis	7	19	37%
1031	Killeen	37	25	148%
Total		103	111	93%
3rd Division				
175	Austin	1	15	7%
231	La Feria	3	6	50%
542	San Antonio	11	22	50%
1134	Kingsville	2	12	17%
Total		17	55	31%
4th Division				
605	El Paso	32	49	65%
1055	Kerrville	9	17	53%
Total		41	66	62%
Grand Total		172	254	67.72%

The 2020 membership year started August 1, 2019.

MEMBERSHIP IS DELINQUENT AFTER DEC 31, 2019!

FROM THE GRAND CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 12.

DUES.

a) Dues shall be payable to Voiture Nationale in advance of December 31st of each year and payment thereof constitutes the payer a member in good standing until the end of the following calendar year. Dues paid prior to August 1 of any year on account of new members shall be considered as for the current year and those paid on or after August 1 of any year on account of new members shall be considered for the ensuing year.

b) Dues for Grand Officers, Grand Directeurs and Grand Cheminot members shall be payable for the term of years for which they are elected or appointed before the Fall Cheminot convenes**.**

Section 13.

PENALTIES FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES. Any member who fails to pay his dues for the current year on or before December 31 shall not be permitted to attend any Promenade until such dues have been paid; any member who shall be in arrears one (1) year in the payment of his dues shall stand suspended and notice to that effect shall be given to him by the Correspondant of his Voiture Locale, addressed to his last known place of residence, and if he shall fail within 1 month from the date of the mailing of said notice to pay the arrears, and such reinstatement fees as may be required by the Grand Voiture or Voiture Locale, he shall stand expelled and may not be readmitted except upon petition in accordance with Section 6 of this article.

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Grande Voiture du Texas

TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

VOITURE 266 – COPPERAS COVE HARD AT WORK SUPPORTING THEIR COMMUNITY

Photo Right:
Clarence "Pops" Hill and David Mills
Voiture 266 donate cleaning supplies
To Copperas Cove Soup Kitchen

Photo Below:
Clarence "Pops" Hill, Voiture 266 donates cleaning Supplies to the Cove House

HOW DO YOU SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY?
SEND YOUR NEWS, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS TO
GRAND PUBLICISTE DAVID KNUTSON!

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
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TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

MORE COMMUNITY SUPPORT BY VOITURE 266

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Grande Voiture du Texas
TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

FOR TICKETS CONTACT GRAND CHEF DE TRAIN JOHN RODGERS

RODGERSJOHN393@YAHOO.COM

PHONE: 512-713-9178

OR

DAVE KNUTSON / EMAIL: DAVIDKNUTSON@SBCGLOBAL.NET

PHONE: 512-736-2377

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Grande Voiture du Texas

TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

Voiture 175 / Annual POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony

Voiture 605 / Flags for First Graders

Link to FFFG's flickr photostream:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/125752713@N04/albums/with/72157711820560501

THE TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT WWW.TEXASBOXCAR.ORG
VIA OUR FACEBOOK PAGE "GRANDE VOITURE DU TEXAS"
AND AT HTTP://ISSUU.COM/GRANDEVOITUREDUTEXAS

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Grande Voiture du Texas

TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

SPRING CHEMINOT
MARCH 6-7-8, 2020 IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 21, 2020

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!

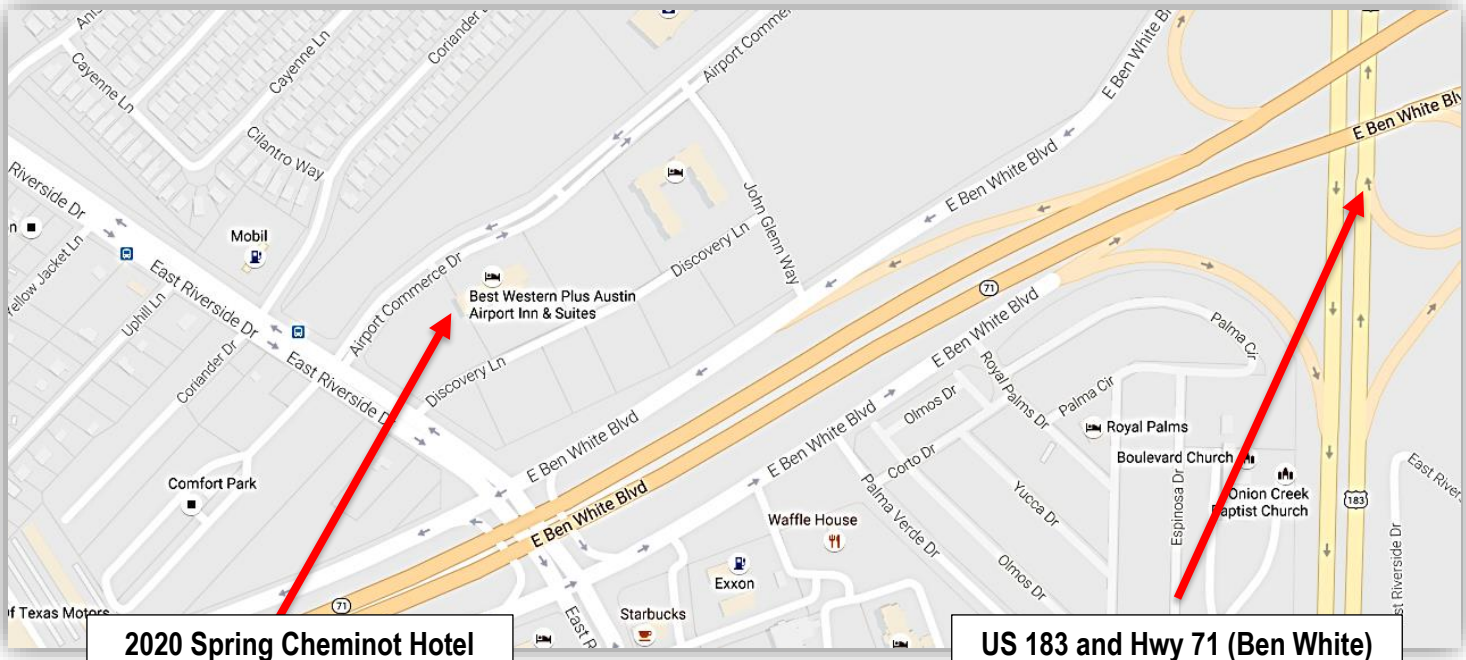
HOTEL RESERVATIONS
BEST WESTERN Plus
Austin Airport Inn & Suites

1805 Airport Commerce Drive,
Austin, Texas, 78741-4538
Phone: (512) 386-5455

GROUP RATE: $119 per night + tax
(Advise you are with the Texas 40 & 8 Group)

HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 21, 2020

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!



2020 Spring Cheminot Hotel
Best Western Plus
1805 Airport Commerce Drive,
Austin, Texas, 78741-4538

SAME HOTEL AS 2019

US 183 and Hwy 71 (Ben White)

Austin Bergstrom Intl Airport and Toll Road 130 just minutes east of the Best Western Hotel

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Grande Voiture du Texas

TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

2020 Spring Cheminot / March 6-8, 2020

REGISTRATIONFORM

Please fill in the following information to register for Spring Cheminot.

Name: _____

Title or Highest Office held: _____

Voiture or Cabane #: _____

Name: _____

Title or Highest Office held: _____

Voiture or Cabane #: _____

Number Registration _____ X $25.00 = $_____

Advance registration is $25 per person
Advance registration must be received by March 1, 2020.
Late Registration fee is $30 per person

Program Book Ads

Full page Ad - $30 **Half page Ad - $20** **Business Card - $10**

In addition to a hard copy, please send ads via Email to:
davidknutson@sbcglobal.net
All program ads must be received by March 1, 2020

SEND REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM ADS TO:
David Knutson
1904 Rutherford Dr
Leander, TX 78641-3138
(Make Checks Payable to Voiture 175)

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Grande Voiture du Texas

TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

Grand Chef de Gare Passe 2008

James Woodrow Fowler

DECEMBER 11, 1938 – OCTOBER 8, 2019

James Woodrow Fowler, age 80, passed away October 8, 2019 in San Antonio, Texas. He was born on December 11, 1938 in Arlington, Massachusetts. James retired from the U.S. Army after 26 years of military duty. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Shirley Fowler; son, Ronald Fowler and wife Noreen; daughter, Tracy Fowler Thomas; grandchildren, Kelly (Jake Skiver) Thomas, Kristin (Jonathan Corona) Thomas, Katherine (John Lopez) Thomas, Augustus Fowler, Calista Fowler and Camille Fowler; great-grandchildren, Nathan Javier Corona Thomas and Nova Ann Skiver. Visitation was held at Sunset Northwest Funeral Home, 6321 Bandera Road on Thursday, October 10, 2019 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. A funeral service will be celebrated at 10:30 A.M. Friday, October 11, 2019 at the Western Hills Christian Church, 8535 Huebner Road, 78240. A graveside service was held Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with U.S. Army military honors.

https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/san-antonio-tx/james-fowler-8883410

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Grande Voiture du Texas

TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

Grand Chef de Gare Passe 2000

Darrell Lee Gibbs, Sr.

APRIL 29, 1949 – NOVEMBER 18, 2019

In Loving Memory of Darrell Lee Gibbs, Sr.

On April 29, 1949 a baby boy was born to Melvin and Bonnie Gibbs. Darrell Lee Gibbs grew up with four younger brothers. He is survived by two of them, Randall Gibbs and Dennis Ice.

With a military step-father, Darrell grew up calling many places home, but his heart has always been in Kansas City. Go Chiefs! Go Royals!

In 1966 Darrell joined the military and was in the Vietnam War as a Private First Class member of the Army
and bravely served until 1972.

In 1979 Darrell married his wife of 40 years, Sue Gibbs. In 1980 they gave birth to Darrell Lee Gibbs, Jr.

Darrell has always had a passion for the military community, volunteering much of his time to the 40/8, American Legion, DAV & VFW.

Some of Darrell's favorite pastimes include fishing, golf, painting, pool, darts, karaoke and advocating for Veteran's in all ways possible.

On November 18, 2019 Darrell slept peacefully in his home surrounded by his family until he was reunited with friends and family that left before him.

https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/killeen-tx/darrell-gibbs-sr-8932803

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Grande Voiture du Texas
TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

What to expect at the Spring Cheminot!

Hospitality Room opens Friday afternoon!
Committee Meetings and Training Session Saturday Morning!
Cheminot at Post 83 Saturday Afternoon!
Banquet with Great Food Saturday Night at Post 83!

Program Awards, Law Officer of the Year, Hero of the Year and City of the Year

Come meet our recipients! Show your support!

Sunday morning / Annual Pilgrimage and Memorial Service at the Texas Merci Boxcar
Texas Military Forces Museum, Camp Mabry

La Grande Voiture du Texas
La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
P.O. Box 170074
Austin, Texas 78717

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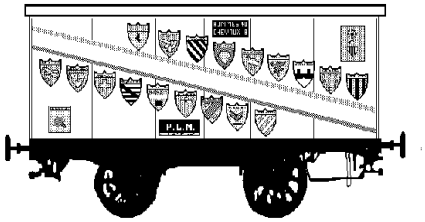

ADDRESSEE: Please notify sender of name/address correction

Grand Chef de Gare – Renslar Keagle
Grand Commissaire Intendant – Roger Folmar

Grand Correspondant – Milton Chatham
Grand Publiciste – Dave Knutson

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