



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



1 November 2009

To: All Voyageurs in Grand du Texas

Monsieur Voyageurs,

Hope that all are doing well and are in good health.

Since my last letter I attended the National Promenade in Rochester New York. I have to say that this was one of the best if not the best National Promenade I have attended. While I was in meetings Kathy was checking out the town of Rochester. She found some good places to go eat and some friendly people. We did very well a National this year in the number of National Officers from Texas. Our own Jerry Brady from V-1055 was elected Chef de Chemin de Fer. I will list the other Officers below. Met a lot of friends and had some great discussion about our programs and membership.

On the subject of membership I would like to thank V-1123 of Longview for achieving a 147%. Also would like to thank V-1096 of Odessa for 100%. And we just had another Locale hit 100% and that is V-312 and a big thanks to them. We still have two Locals at 0%. No Local should be 0% because all officers should have paid their dues before the Fall Cheminot. Nationale Membership Directeur had a goal of 50% by October we did not meet that goal. My goal is for each Local to be at 100% or more by December 31st and 115% or more by June 1st. The Chef de Chemin de Fer says to "JUST ASK" this is how we will be getting new members. With the membership change we need to start asking people to join our organization. We like all other organizations, need to get some young people to join us and start working our programs. As the Chef de Chemin de Fer Passe said at Grand in June we have to get 105% in order to stay at 100%. Because we are losing 5% a year to Voiture Everlasting. Since June we have lost 9 members and at this rate we have to start getting new members or we will no longer exist. We need to show Chef de Chemin de Fer Jerry that we support him a 100% by getting our membership up. REMEMBER MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S JOB. As of 29 October we were at 56%.

When Kathy and I got back from Promenade Nationale we were off to Pairs France and Holland. We met Kathy's son there and we had a great time. We saw a lot of the sites and took about 300 pictures. The only thing that disappointed me was the food. But not complaining got to spend time with the son before he had to go back to Afghanistan.

The thing that impressed me the most was the Eifel Tower. It's just metal but something about it just made me feel small and at ease.

Then I got to looking at it and I thought about our organization and the Eifel Tower. It has four legs just like we do. (1) The Voyageurs (2) Our Programs (3) Our Local and Grand Officers and (4) The Dames. Together they can reach as high as the Eifel Tower. So this year I would like for Grand du Texas to build as if we were building the Eifel Tower to see how high we can go. I know by working together we can be way up looking down as if we were in the top of the Eifel Tower.

Then it is time to get ready for the Fall Cheminot. I would like to thank V-1031 for all the hard work they did to make this a great event. We had some minor issues but nothing we couldn't overcome. We had the honor of having Chef de Chemin de Fer Jerry Brady with us. This will probably be the last time we will see him unless you go to his Homecoming in San Antonio 25 – 27 March 2010. Local Chef de Gare George Murphy did a great job. I would like to thank Sue Gibbs, Shirley and Jim Fowler, Terry Randall, Steve Anderson, and Ladies Auxiliary 573 for all their hard work in getting the dinner out. Also the Cabane for the food in the hospitality room and table directions.

We had some of the best meetings we have had in a long time. The new Finance Officer Thomas W. Larsen did a great job. This was one of the best financial reports I have seen in a long time. Thanks for all your hard work. Also I would like to thank Voyager John McKinney for all the hard work he did behind the scenes the past few months in getting the finances changed over.

The Nurses Training Committee gave out 6 scholarships to V-542. This is working our programs. Also the Nurses Training Directeur has pins for this year so if you need them please let him know.

I gave out Box Car Cards to some of the Locales and the rest I sent to the Grand Box Car Directeur. If you need some please let him know. Every Voyageur should have a Crew Card and at least one Associate Card. Pins were all gone after Nationale but if you need some please let the Grand Directeur know and we will try to come up with some.

I also gave Grand Directeur Child Welfare Daniel Zmrocek some pins. Please call him and get some pins to help this program out. This is also the program that the Chef de Chemin de Fer picked as his program this year so lets all support the great cause. Fines collected (\$102.00) at the Fall Cheminot went toward this program in honor of the Chef de Chemin de Fer.

List of National Officers from Texas:

Chef de Chemin de Fer	Gerald (Jerry) Brady	V-1055
Aid de Camp	Lanny Givens	V-1601
Aid de Camp	John (Jack) Winslow	V-1601
Historien National	Sandra Kausman	V-1031
Sous Historien	James (Jim) Shannon	V-1601
Sous Historien	John Pepin	V-1055
Sous Directeur Flags	Milton Chatham	V-312
Sous Directeur Box Car	Ronnie L. Wheeler	V-1031
Sous Directeur VAVA	Darrell Gibbs Sr.	V-1031
Lampiste National	Gabriel (Gab) Cina	V-1031

Dates to remember:

Event	Date or Dates
Pancake Breakfast and Nurses Scholarships presntationV-542	5 December
Merci Box Car (Grand Spring Cheminot)	12, 13 & 14 February 2010
Chef de Chemin de Fer (Jerry's) Homecoming	25, 26 & 27 March 2010
Central States 2010 Promenade (Irving, Texas)	29, 30 April, 1 & 2 May 2010

I will have more on Merci Box Car in my next letter. But if at all possible put this on your calendar to attend so that we can keep the price of the rooms down. I will be negotiating a new contract after this Merci Box Car. The bigger the turn out the better price I can work for.

Kathy and I would like to wish all of you a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving. Remember to help those less fortunate in our communities. Especially during the Holidays.

Remember it takes all of us working together to increase our membership and support our programs. Let's make this the best year ever.

If you would like for me to visit your Local please let me know. If at all possible I will be there.



**KEEP ONE EYE CLOSED TO NEGATIVITY
KEEP ONE EYE ON GETTING NEW MEMBERS
KEEPING GRAND DU TEXAS ON TOP**

“WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

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