



Fellow Voyageurs Militaire,

I thank you for your confidence in me as we begin another year as members of La Societé de Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. Our challenges will be many, but they can easily be met as long as we remember to rely on our heritage, who we are and what we are about.

Founded on the grand scheme of incorporating fun making with patriotic bonding, La Societé quickly formulated a Child Welfare program to ease the pain and suffering of

those children whose fathers never returned or were unable to care for their needs after the Great War. Since then our programs have grown, branched out and expanded into other programs and we have never looked back.

We became the "Honor Society", the hand-picked Legionnaires, who were selected for membership based upon our dedication and commitment to serving veterans and our communities. We stood by our commitments, and we operated by a code of honor and ceremony, and we stood up loud and strong for veterans and community service. Our numbers were small but growing each year.

Members are still selected based upon that dedication to service for veterans and community. We still operate by the same code of honor and ceremony, but the rate of new membership has not kept up with the rate of attrition. Today our membership criteria has changed somewhat, as you all know. Now we can select members that may or may not be members of the American Legion. But the remaining criteria for 40/8 service hold steadfast to the bedrock principles that have brought us this far.

As a member of the American Legion, I can stand to say that I am a hand-picked Legionnaire, selected for membership in La Societé because of my commitment and dedication. But foremost, I am a proud veteran who has served my country. Now I serve my comrades and my community.

Some of our new and younger members can stand and say that while they may not be members of the American Legion, they too were chosen for membership in La Societé because of their commitment and dedication and they too will operate by the same code of honor and ceremony. And they too can say, "But foremost I am a proud veteran who has served my country and now I serve my comrades and my community."

And that is the bottom line. Sound repetitive? It should be, for that is what we are about.

In the coming year we must attract new membership and in order to do that I urge each Voiture to rely on our heritage of dedication and commitment to service for our veterans and community. We must use effective Public Relations efforts to make our communities aware of our purpose and programs.

Insure that your promenades remain full of fun, honor and ceremony. These are all important to La Societé. That is what instills the pride, the camaraderie, and the patriotic bonding in our Voyageurs Militaire. Do this and your Voiture Locale will continue to stand strong and tall as an Honor Society and will serve your community proudly.

May you have great success in the coming year. Send news and photos of your activities to L'Editeur Carl Barr for publication in "[The Cajun Link](#)."

H.T. "Terry" Sharp  
Grand Chef de Gare,