

# ***The Cajun Link***

## Newsletter

Published quarterly – January, April, July, October

By and for  
Grand Voiture de la Louisianne

May – June - July  
July 2011 (Summer)

John Kilgus Award -- Fiscal Years 2005 & 2006  
Arthur McDowell Award -- Fiscal Year 2008 & 2010



La Société des  
Quarante Hommes et Huit Cheveux

L'Éditeur Carl A. Barr [carlbarr@bellsouth.net](mailto:carlbarr@bellsouth.net)

On the Web at <http://www.cajunlink.org>



## **Grand Chef de Gare Kenneth C. Lafleur**

A new year begins. With all that went well last year we have a lot of pleasant things to do to equal or surpass that year led by Don Schrieber and helped by so many. The intensity and success of the efforts of a relatively large number of individual Voyageurs Militaire in our Grande Voiture truly impresses me. We can't all be in the category of a Milt Harrison but he sets a fine example for us to strive to emulate.

Our Grand Fundraiser is progressing nicely with Donald Schreiber as Directeur aided by Dennis Engdahl and Eldon Guidry. Please lend emotional, financial, and salesmanship support to our efforts to have another successful year with the fundraiser. Now that, thanks to Donna Fransen-Miller, we all know how to cook the new fundraiser will allow at least one of us to buy gasoline to go out for a meal occasionally for at least twelve weeks.

I thank God that learning of losing a legendary Grand Aumonier was immediately followed by learning of a replacement. When Charley Parent informed me of his decision to discontinue his duties as Grand Aumonier he expressed a high level of confidence in Ray Blanchard's ability and drive to serve as our new Grand Aumonier. I share Charley's enthusiasm and expect Ray Boy to do very well.

I would like to visit all twenty-two Voiture Locales this year but in some instances lack of Promenades may make that difficult. I am looking forward to Voiture and Cabane visits and hope to be as warmly welcomed this year as in the past.

***Kenneth C. Lafleur,***

Grand Chef de Gare

## Grand Officers for 2011-12

TITLE	NAME	VOITURE
Chef de Gare	Kenneth LaFleur	1351
Chef de Train	Milton Harrison	137
Chef de Train	Daniel Leonard	201
Correspondant	Henry Kwiatkowski	1588
Sous Correspondant	Dudley LeBlanc	1038
Commissaire Intendant	Cliff Kershaw	309
Medicin	J. R. Johnson	1588
Avocat	Richard Jakubiak	309
Conducteur	Dennis Engdahl	137
Gard de la Port	Gil Lovelady	1588
Lampiste	Alex Gueho	340
Commis Voyageur	Stuart Neitzel	430
Historien	Carl A. Barr	1588
Drapeau	Don Vallery	137
Cheminot National	Terry Sharp	224
Alt Cheminot Nationall	Donald Schreiber	137
Cheminot	Charles Rodgers	1588
Cheminot	Henry Montgomery	1532
Cheminot	Steven Tucker	1584
Cheminot	Johnny Keel	274
Cheminot	Richard Larned	137
Aumonier	Ray Blanchard	1038

**Membership**  
**MEMBERSHIP STATUS FOR LOUISIANA –**  
**TO 21 July 2011 (National Web Posting)**

<http://www.fortyandeight.org/>

<b>Voiture</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>% of Quota</b>	<b>Short</b>
108	34	30	88.24%	-4
137	159	166	104.40%	7
201	51	51	100.00%	0
224	23	26	113.04%	3
274	21	29	138.10%	8
309	39	39	100.00%	0
313	25	20	80.00%	-5
340	24	23	95.83%	-1
392	11	10	90.91%	-1
430	17	15	88.24%	-2
1038	78	75	96.15%	-3
1351	35	37	105.71%	2
1360	36	35	97.22%	-1
1522	39	37	94.87%	-2
1532	17	17	100.00%	0
1577	20	20	100.00%	0
1584	26	29	111.54%	3
1588	56	57	101.79%	1
1602	12	9	75.00%	-3
1615	85	85	100.00%	0
1616	36	33	91.67%	-3
1618	27	23	91.67%	-4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>99.43%</b>	<b>-5</b>

**FLASH UPDATE**  
**27 JULY-5 RENEWALS = 100%**



**Grand Chef de Gare**  
**(Passe – 2010-11)**  
**Donald K. Schreiber**

My year has come to a close, and rather quickly I might add. At the beginning my predecessor told me, “*You may think that you know all that goes on, but trust me you don’t.*” Thanks for the information, Terry, you were 100% right. This has been a year of learning and I find that

twelve months is not enough time.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve La Societé and Grande Voiture Louisiana as Grand Chef de Gare. Through the great efforts of all Voyageurs Militaire this has been a successful year. Success can only be accomplished by the support, commitment, and dedication of so many of you out there. To the Grand Officers, Grand Program Directors, Voiture Locale Officers and committeemen, I say, “*Thank you.*” This has been a wonderful year and I will cherish it forever.

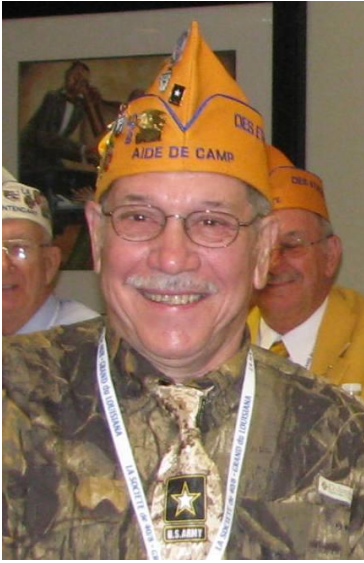
This past year we have seen the passing of many old and faithful Voyageurs. When they go, it leaves a void in La Societé. We must recruit new members to fill that gap.

To Chef de Gare Kenneth LaFleur, my best wishes and support are with you in all your endeavors; may they be many and successful. Please call on me for assistance at any time.

For God and Country and LaSocieté,

*Donald Schreiber*

Alternate Cheminot National 2012



## **Grand Aumonier**

Adam Ray Blanchard

Greetings fellow Voyageurs Militaire. Thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me as your Grand Aumonier. I will do my best to see that your trust was well placed. As I stumble along (and I will), I ask for your patience and help along the way.

I would ask all my fellow Voyageurs to join me in praying for Charley and Frances in their ordeal. By God's grace, they will get through this and one day Charley will return as our Grand Aumonier. It is a job he loves dearly and one day he'll have it back.

As we begin another year in La Societé, let us work toward our goals so that we may one day answer to our Supreme Commander, "We have done our best." I look forward to serving you and La Societé in the coming year.

Pour Dieu, Pays, et La Societé  
[For God, Country, and La Societé]

*Ray Boy*

Next Sunday, let's meet at my house before the game.

*God*



Charley Parent, Grand Aumonier, conducted his 24<sup>th</sup> and final Memorial Service on Saturday morning at the 2011 Grande Promenade. The chosen theme featured a miniature train with 40 & 8 boxcars on which a pennant was attached for each Voiture in which Voyageurs had passed away since the 2010 Grande Promenade. Above, James Hall presents a pennant for Voiture 1360 to Grand Chef de Gare Don Schreiber. There were a total of 15 pennants representing at least 50 lost Voyageurs. For the final step, the whistle sounded and the train began moving across the table, symbolically carrying its cargo toward its heavenly home.

This was a fitting finale for "The Pope," who has chosen to step down after 24 years in the office of Grand Aumonier. We extend best wishes, God's peace, and sincere thanks to Charles Parent, Grand Aumonier 1987 to 2011.



## TAPS

V. 137 Kenneth L. Bourgeois  
 V. 137 Robert E. Stewart  
 V. 137 Melton C. "Ken" Gray  
 V. 309 William L. Tarver  
 V. 1038 Manuel Ferreira  
 V. 1522 Anthony Lasome  
 V. 1588 Kathleen A. Gray  
 V. 1588 James W. Meier  
 V. 1588 Jim Moss  
 V. 1588 James C. Rodgers

### Hero of the Year & Law Officer of the Year Grande Promenade



Corey Cummings, EMT with the Shreveport Fire Department was chosen as Grand Hero of the Year and has also been selected as the National Hero of the Year, the award to be presented at Promenade Nationale in Vancouver, Washington.

←



Grand Law Officer of the Year Deputy Richard Porter of the Caddo Sheriff's Department is congratulated by Grand Chef de Gare Don Schreiber. →



Richard & Vivian Porter, Chef de Chemin de Fer Hank Kwiatkowski, Shannon & Corey Cummings, Grand Chef de Gare (2012) Kenneth Lafleur

## Voyageur of the Year



*Milton Harrison is the Grand Voyageur of the Year 2011. Chef de Gare Don Schreiber presented a plaque for the honor.*

*Milton was chosen as the National Voyageur of the Year, the fourth Voyageur from Louisiana to receive that honor since its inception in 2001.*



### **National Voyageurs of the Year**

Hank Kwiatkowski, 2006; Milton Harrison, 2011; Archie Boyette, 2009  
Al Petrus was the 2001 honoree; he died in 2009.

## **Public Relations**

The end of year is fast approaching. It is time to start preparing your public relations reports from Petit Communiqué and sending them in. Every Voiture has done some type of pr this year, whether it be a newspaper article or a bit on the evening news. All reports are due by July 1st. Please take the time to complete them. This is a way for us to share what we do with Nationale. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (504) 722-2469 or email [dkfransen@yahoo.com](mailto:dkfransen@yahoo.com).  
Donna Fransen-Miller

## **Voiture Activities**

Charlie Aucoin, Chairman  
807 Hudson Drive - Westlake, LA 70669  
[Cda0525@aol.com](mailto:Cda0525@aol.com)

I am asking for help from each Voiture by turning in Voiture Activity Reports so that we will get credit for all our hard work. Write it down! Keep good records! Render reports to Grand. Consider promenades, wrecks, hospital visits, funerals, etc.—you do have activities—report them.

Obtain the reporting form on line <http://www.fortyandeight.org>—go to > Main Index > Download Forms > Petite Communiqué > Voiture Activity Report. You can fill the form in on line and e-mail it to me, or you can print the form, fill it in, and send it via USPS mail to my home address above.

If I can help you, call me anytime.

## **Youth Sports Program**

**Directeur Wes Howell**

The Youth Sports Program of 40 & 8 is now in full swing and welcomes any and all contributions. The importance of this program and the contributions it has to offer our communities cannot be over-emphasized.

The **Youth Sports Program** was established in 1994 and through this program the 40/8 provides financial assistance in the form of Grants to individuals or teams who lack the funds to attend or participate in amateur sports programs. This program covers all amateur sports programs for youths from age 7 to 20 years of age.

For Grant applications and information contact **Grand Youth Sports Directeur Wes Howell** cell phone 985-966-1799  
[weshowell@aol.com](mailto:weshowell@aol.com)

The program offers the **Voiture Locales** the opportunity to help make supporting contributions through the sale of **Pins** and **Booster Cards**. These are also available through the program Directeur. Any Voiture interested in participating in Pin sales or wishing to make a donation to this worthwhile program may contact me and I will get this information to you. All checks should be made out to **Voiture Nationale Youth Sports**.

**Wesley Howell**

## **Past Chef de Gare Club**

2012 Dues are being collected. If you have not paid, now is a good time to do it. We are getting serious money in our bank account, and our membership continues to grow. If you are not a member, we would welcome you to our Club. The requirement is for you to have been or aspire to be a Chef de Gare. The dues are \$15.00, \$10.00 goes to Nationale, and the club keeps the \$5.00. We have two meetings a year, one at the Cajun Wreck and one at the Grand Promenade, dues are collected at these meetings, or you may join and send your dues to me. You may also send me your renewals. If you are joining I will need your complete mailing address; on the renewals I already have all of your information.

Archie Boyette  
128 Legacy Pointe Dr.  
Pineville La. 71360

## **Nurses Training Grand Directeur Cliff Kershaw**

2027 Antonio Road, Port Allen, LA 70767 [cljmakershaw@cox.net](mailto:cljmakershaw@cox.net)

I have the 2012 Pins available at this time. If you haven't gotten them, let me know and I will get them to you. Some Voitures got pins at the 1<sup>st</sup> Grande Cheminot. If they are on consignment, please send the check to the Grand Directeur made out to Grand Voiture de la Louisiana. Donation for pins is \$3.00 each. Let's get the funds submitted to Grand so we can get the funds forwarded to Nationale Directeur Ken Lafleur.

Fourteen (14) Voitures participated in the 2011 Nurses Training pins program. A total of 295 pins were ordered, 280 were distributed, 60 are still out on consignment.

Three (3) students received Boland Trust Grants of \$1,000 each. One student at LSUA was sponsored by Voiture 309; one student at UL Lafayette sponsored by Voiture 1351; one student at Southern University, sponsoring Voiture not identified.

Six (6) Voitures submitted reports this year; total membership 370. One (1) Voiture received a Boland Grant, but did not send in a report.

- Scholarships given = 9
- Graduated students = 5

### **Nurses Training Scholarship Award**

Voiture Locale 224

On Thursday July 14<sup>th</sup>, Voyageurs Militaire and officers of Voiture Locale 224 gathered at Covington American Legion Post 16 to install their officers for the coming year and to present their annual Nurses Training Scholarship Award to Miss Tina Couch of Covington, Louisiana.

After experiencing the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters, Miss Couch decided that she wanted to help in times of urgent need. She quit her job and enrolled in Nursing School. She wants to work in obstetrics and pediatrics. She has a long term goal of becoming a WOC nurse (wound, ostomy, and continence) and hopes to further her education in that specialty.



Terry Sharp, V. 224 Nurses Training  
Directeur & National Cheminot

Kenneth Lafleur, Grand Chef de Gare &  
National Directeur Nurses Training

Tina Couch, Scholarship Recipient

Roy Kellum, V. 224 Chef de Gare & Grand  
Aid de Camp

Cliff Kershaw, Grand Directeur Nurses  
Training & Grand Commissaire Intendant.

## Memorial Day Weekend in Washington, D. C.

Chef de Chemin de Fer Hank Kwiatkowski, National Directeur of Nurses Training Dr. Kenneth Lafleur, Patricia LaFleur, and your L'Editeur were joined by about a hundred other Voyageurs and LaFemmes from all around the country for a weekend of honoring the graves of fallen veterans in Arlington National Cemetery and other smaller cemeteries in that area. Highlight of the weekend (for me) was the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington. President Pat Jones presented a wreath from LaFemmes Nationale.



[PHOTO BY DAVE HILL]

The VFW National Honor Guard (in white) accompanied wreath layers. Pictured with the 40 & 8 wreath are Chef de Chemin de Fer Hank Kwiatkowski and National Aumonier Carl A. Barr. The other gold blazers are on Sous Chefs de Chemin de Fer—from left, Deiter Grethmann, Joe Steil, Kent Molen (partially hidden), and Donald Emley.

Saturday the group planted flags at veterans' graves in several smaller cemeteries. We visited the graves of 40 & 8 Founder Joseph Breen and of General of the Armies John J. Pershing on Sunday, presenting floral arrangements at each. We have posted more than a hundred photos of the events of the weekend on <http://www.cajunlink.org>



Elton Bourque, Past Grand Chef de Gare, made a brief appearance at the Grand Promenade on Saturday afternoon. He has been unable to attend for several years, so it was a pleasant surprise when he walked in with his son, Voyageur Mike Bourque.

Paul Landry, Elton Bourque, Carl Barr and Harold Deshotel



The 40 & 8 was started by the American "Dough Boys" of World War I. When our Veterans came back from WWI.....near 100 years ago.....there was nothing for them to come home to.

They had no money, no clothes, no jobs and their girl friends had all "married-up" with their friends that didn't go to war, so, they had NO GIRL FRIENDS. They were a very sad lot.

You see, the American Legion (who fought with congress for many years for Veterans rights) didn't form-up until 1919, so, there was no G.I. BILL (for free education) NO MUSTERING OUT PAY and NO V. A. (Veterans Administration) to help the veterans.

Hanging around together, they saw the SAD position they were in..... almost as bad as in La Belle France during the war.....raining all the time.....mud up to their knees....mosquitoes all summer and cold and wet all winter.

Their only consolation was to try to laugh-off the miserable position they were in.....knowing when you can laugh at the sad position you are in.....you're on the road to recovery.

So....remembering how they stuck-together in their misery in "La Belle France" they decided to form an organization for themselves. But what would the organization be called? Remembering how the French transported our men, horses and mules to the battle front....with the French train conductor ordering: "Quarante Hommes E C" (forty men here) "Huit Chevaux E C" (eight horses here) because the French train box-car was so little....nothing like our American train box-cars) space was very dear and this made our boys laugh at their "cramped" quarters.

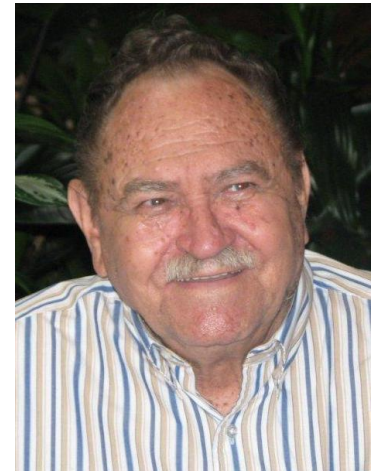
With that thought, in 1920 the "Forty and Eight" was organized. An organization formed to "cheer yourself up" when all you see around you is "hard times" and "misery"

The Forty and Eight has prospered all these years because of our ability to laugh at our conditions we're in.

It was decided in 1920 that we would long remember "La Belle France" by using French words during our get-togethers:  
A meeting is a PROMENADE (a visit) A member is a VOYAGEUR (one that travels) The organization is a VOITURE (means of transportation) A motion is a NOTION (French) and voting is by OUI and NON (yes and no) a book is available on the rest of the way we murder the French.

Yes, we murder the French language during our PROMENADES, but you are "FINED" if you use English words. The local promenade fines are "vin cenq cous" (25¢)....,but the Grande (state) promenade fines are "UNE PIECE" (one dollar)

So....if you are in "the dumps" and a buddy pulls a big "Hee Haw" trick on you....know that there is a FORTY AND EIGHTER trying to get you to feeling better. Join Him, and, remember....the happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything....they just make the best of everything they have.



Elton's recent newsletter from Voiture 1577 was a keeper, sharing history and personal observations about La Societé. We'll share a photo copy.

## American Legion Louisiana Department Convention 10-12 May 2011



New Department Officers are sworn in—Color Bearer Mike Strother, Sergeant at Arms Joe Malone, Color Bearer Skip Butler, Vice Commander Terry Sharp, Vice Commander Billy Ray Foley, Commander Larry Abshire.



A gathering of Eagles (sort of)—Past National Commander Bill Detweiler, ANEC Harold Burson, National Commander Jimmie Foster, National Vice Commander Russell Henry, National Executive Committeeman Charlie Aucoin. All but Foster are Department of Louisiana Legionnaires.