



# 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 | 2019 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2025  
BEST GRAND VOITURE PUBLICATION IN THE NATION WITHOUT ADVERTISING AND WINNER OF THE ROBERT KASEMAN AWARD 2018 | 2020  
RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS 2024 DIRECTEUR EDITEUR AWARD

Jan – Mar 2026

Volume 69 Issue 1



### GRAND CHEFS PASSE

- 2024-2025–Jim Sweeney V-1031
- 2023 - Keith Reiss Jr. V-266
- 2022 - Roger Folmar V-605
- 2021 - John Rodgers V-1031
- 2019-2020 - Renslar Keagle V-605
- \*2018 - George Murphy V1031
- 2016-2017 - Joe McCullough V-542
- 2014-2015 - David Knutson V-175
- 2013 - Lowell Mix V-542
- 2012- Dan Thompson V-1055
- \*2010-2011-Ronnie Wheeler V-1031
- 2009- Milton Chatham V-312
- \*2008- James Fowler V-1031
- \*2007- Jim Shannon V-1601
- \*2006- Gabe Cina V-1031
- 2005- James Overturf V-1031
- \*2004- David Kjell V-1185
- \*2003- Howard T. Ray V-542
- \*2002- Chuck Donaldson V-939
- \*2001- Jerry Brady V-1055
- \*2000- Darrell Gibbs V-1031
- \*1999- Ronnie Wheeler V-1031
- \*1998- Lanny Givens V-1601
- 1997- Robert Nagle V-1031
- \*1996- Norm Rader V-605
- \*1995- John Thompson V-1031
- \*1994- Don Barfield V-939
- \*1993- Henry Martin V-377
- \*1992- Hugh Brice V-163
- \*1991- Robert Toon V-1123
- \*1990- Dale Dillman V-1514
- \*1989- James Boone V-1077
- \*1988- Bud Sands V-1096
- \*1987- Andy Andreko V-1031
- \*1986- Bill Knox V-605
- \*1985- John Powell V-542
- \*1984- Charles Geisenberg V-163
- \*1983- L. C. Burgett V-377
- \*1982- Benjamin Reskey V-605
- \*1981- Ray Lerma V-246
- \*1980- Eben Smith V-542

\*Denotes Deceased

SEE FULL LIST AT [www.texasboxcar.org](http://www.texasboxcar.org)

## From the Grand Chef de Gare

A sincere “Thank you” to all who showed up at Spring Cheminot. Voiture 1640 hosted the cheminot and did a fantastic job. They are our newest Voiture Locale and it was their first time ever hosting such an event.

Along with V1640 we had folks from V175, V542, V605, V1031 and V1134. There were 23 Voyageurs present, I would like to see more but it was not bad.

V1640 Chef de Gare Lisa Dayhoff did a POW/MIA table and ceremony that was great. We went to the Texas Merci Box Car on Sunday and had a Memorial service for the departed Voyageurs. Our Grand Aumonier, J. Sean Habina, did a very nice ceremony.



Central States Promenade is 23-26 APR in North Plate, NE. This is open to any of our members. If you are interested and need information let me know.

Grand Promenade will be the 26 – 28 June in Killeen. Rooms are \$110.00 and Registration is \$30.00. I hope to see you all there. Remember to submit your reports you are doing the work so let’s get credit for the work we are doing.

As my term will come to an end in June, I would like to say that it has been an honor to serve you as Grand Chef de Gare. Until then, I am available and if you would like me to visit your Voiture please let me know proposed date and I will try to make it as my schedule permits. I hope to see you all soon and if not at your Voiture, then at the Grand Promenade in June.



Jim Sweeney  
Grand Chef de Gare

**La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux**  
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**MEMBERSHIP**

(AS OF MARCH 19, 2026 )

NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGAN AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>.

| Locale             | Location       | Current    | Goal       | Percent        |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 163                | Houston        | 11         | 12         | 92%            |
| 175                | Austin         | 17         | 18         | 94%            |
| 542                | San Antonio    | 11         | 22         | 50%            |
| 605                | El Paso        | 29         | 42         | 69%            |
| 689                | Amarillo       | 0          | 9          | 0%             |
| 980                | Willis         | 6          | 6          | 100%           |
| 1031               | Killeen        | 47         | 47         | 100%           |
| 1055               | Kerrville      | 15         | 15         | 100%           |
| 1134               | Corpus Christi | 12         | 14         | 86%            |
| 1640               | Round Rock     | 5          | 5          | 100%           |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>153</b>     | <b>190</b> | <b>-37</b> | <b>80.53 %</b> |

Bonjour my fellow Voyageur's.

The membership for the 2026 year is slowly coming to a close we need to work together to finish the year off strong. As of now we are 37 voyageurs short of 100%. We are at 80.53% as a Grande, and this places us in 26<sup>th</sup> place at national.

Congratulations to Locales 980, 1031, 1055 and 1640 for achieving 100%

If you have any questions or need any help do not hesitate to ask. My e-mail address is [hallmd1973@outlook.com](mailto:hallmd1973@outlook.com).

Michael Hall  
 Chef de Train, Grande du Texas

**WE NEED TO GROW!**

By: David J Knutson / 2026 National Voyageur of the Year!

As we all know, this is much easier said than done! Let's look at some of the roots of the problem.

**I have never been asked to join?** Often true!

Of course, that is only part of the solution. Do they even know who we are?

**I don't have time!** Rarely true.

Many organizations have members who work 40+ hours a week and are active in multiple organizations. Promenades are once a month at most and may last 2 hours. They just need to want to get involved.

**The 40 & 8 has a Bad Reputation!** Frequently true.

Only continued positive actions as a member of an Honor Society of American Veterans can change this perception. Most do not know the history of the split between the American Legion and Forty & Eight. This includes many Voyageurs Militaire. In a nutshell, the 40 & 8 was white male only in 1959-1960 and would not change with the American Legion who changed because they are chartered by Congress and did not have a choice. Prejudice was bad in many areas then and as we all know, **it still exists today.** However, today, the Forty & Eight welcomes honorably discharged men and women of all races. Our membership is still by invitation only and your membership can be denied for reasonable cause, but not for race or gender. In 2007-2008 the 40 & 8 took away the requirement to be a Legionnaire after reaching out to American Legion National and was pretty much told they don't need us. There are some who hold a grudge over this and some who just stay away. Fortunately, at the State and local levels, this is not as prevalent. If the person is not in favor of the 40 & 8 over things of the past – do not waste your time with them.

**Never heard of the Forty and Eight!** Frequently true.

This is where we can make the difference. First be active in one or more programs. Second – let others know and be a part of it. Working our programs, even only 1 or 2 of them can make all the difference and bring in new members.

**We are an Honor Society of American Veterans.**

Be proud you were invited in and help us grow. Even one member can make a big difference in your locale!

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

## C O R R E S P O N D A N T ' S

Although we pursue membership up to the last day, it is usually about this time of year we start reminders of our annual requirement for reports. Reports are actually due in about ten weeks, with our Grand requirement to turn in our consolidated locale reports by July. We begin by recognizing no matter how big or small our locale is, whether or not we are able to support all of the programs is not important. Each report is important so how do we begin? We first go to the National website and go to - resources, forms, then Petite Communique - all reports and instructions are there. Looks intimidating.

I suggest beginning with making copies of the most detailed reports to get you started or making a copy of all reports won't hurt. Suggest you start with the Americanism Report, - that data helps fill in several others such as POW/MIA. In the next week or so, I will start sending our examples of completed reports. BTW, reports may be written in and filled by hand although some are now fillable pdf documents. Who are they sent to. Reports are sent to the Directeur for that report with a "cc" courtesy copy to me. Each Directeur is responsible for consolidating all Locale reports and I make sure they get to Nationale on time and complete.

Negative Reports - Every Locale should be submitting at least three reports - Americanism, POW/MIA and Ritual with quite a bit of detail regarding, mile, hours and monies. Not all Locales have a Nurses Training Program or a nurse on a scholarship however a report should be submitted even if only a few pins were purchased. Reminder - all data, even those little activities like just purchasing pins or spending a little time or effort on a program - when combined across Grand - makes a difference. Some reports are quick and easy to fill out and just a matter of checking a few boxes. Time to start - NOW! Contact me, David Knutson or each Directeur with any questions and they should be able to guide you on reports.

Finally, each Locale that submits a completed copy of each report (less Special Awards), even those with no activity, will receive special recognition at the Grand Promenade. Special Awards is a report, handled by our special awards Directeur David Knutson. He will provide details on submission, but it doesn't hurt to look at the application form. Every Locale has someone who stands out and goes a little bit above and beyond to submit to Grand and possibly then on to Nationale where we have had great success.

Now is also the time to review your membership rosters to make sure all of your contact information is correct - emails, phone numbers and addresses. Changes should be sent to me and I will get distributed. With Locale elections coming up, all changes to Chef de Gare and Correspondant must be sent to Nationale as soon as possible. Good luck and see you in Killeen this summer.

Renslar "Renny" Keagle



President, Press Association of La Societe, 40 & 8  
Correspondant, Grande du Texas  
Directeur Nurses Training and Ritual, Grande du Texas  
Grande Chef de Gare du Texas Passe, 2019 and 2020  
Custodian, Grande du Minnesota Paul Bunyon Gavel, 2019  
Nationale Voyageur of the Year 2016

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**P.A.L.S.** As a reminder, I am no longer the Nationale Directeur for Public Relations but am now the President of the Press Association of La Societe also known as P.A.L.S. I sent the December issue of our newsletter, *The Bulletin*, out to all in Grand that I have contacts for. This was to encourage membership in our Press Association and encourage more participation in public relations at the Locale level. Membership and dues are only \$10.00 and you receive official press credentials and our monthly 12-page newsletter.

**Blue Chevaliers:** The Blue Chevaliers is not yet a program but still an important Project under Public Relations. I am its current National Coordinator. At the Grand Promenade I will be available to take in new memberships or do your renewal, Check your card now. It should say 2026. I will also bring hats, pens, pins, patches and decals as well as the ability to issue cards. Think about taking on the Grand responsibility for this important soon to be program for your Locale or Grand. My job is to help!



Renny Keagle, Blue Chevalier Project Coordinator, Nationale

**Nurses Training and Ritual:** As Directeur or both please look at the reports. Submit a report for each even if you do not have a nurse in training. I should receive a report from each and every Locale on Ritual - looking at the report will reveal why. My Locale and Grande du Texas have been fortunate for the last three passwords submitted to Nationale being selected from our Grand. The form for submission is in the Petite Communique. You pick a word, make it an acronym, and convert to French. One of my favorites was STAFF - "Support the American Flag Forever". Need help or guidance - just ask! Finally on nurses training - the Nurses Training Committee will meet at Grande and will evaluate any scholarships submitted for a Grand Scholarship.

Renslar "Renny" Keagle  
Grande Directeur Nurses Training and Ritual

**VOITURE 1640 RAFFLE WINNERS!**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!**



- 1st Prize – Larry Dayhoff
- 2nd Prize – Jack Bartlett
- 3rd Prize – John Rodgers
- 4th Prize – John Keller
- 5th Prize – Clarence Hill Sr.



**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THIS FUND RAISER FOR VOITURE 175!**

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**MORE ON NURSES TRAINING**

- Find an accredited Nursing School in your area.
  - Concentrate on students who are well established in their program. While you can support any student in an accredited college program you like, new or Freshman students are high risk of not finishing their program due to a variety of reasons. Some change their degree plan and others drop out completely.
  - While Universities are great the students there are not as likely to truly need financial support. You are welcome to work with a University in your area, but you may also want to consider a Community College in the area. Students in Community College typically cannot qualify or afford to go to University.
  - Look for a mobility track program. These programs usually have a high success rate as their students need to be at a level where they can earn their RN certification within 12 months.
- Scholarships are available in three ways, Locale, Grand or Nationale.
  - Locales establish a budget and determine in their own program how many nurses they can support and for how much.
  - Locales with a larger program may support with a scholarship each semester, quarterly, twice or once a year - all depending on funds raised and available.
  - The amount is not specifically set. It could be three nurses at \$250.00 each or one nurse at \$500.00, etc. It is flexible.
- Grand has funds available for nursing scholarships.
  - For Locales with no funds or who have depleted their nurses training budget. These are awarded at Grand functions.
  - A full-time student in an accredited nursing program may receive up to \$500.00.
  - Those that are part-time and in need of assistance may receive less due to not carrying a full load of credit hours.
  - The Nurses Training Committee makes this determination based on what the Locale presents.
- Nationale has the Boland Trust and always has money available for those that meet the requirements.
  - Details on the Boland Trust are on the Nationale Website.
  - Applications must be requested from them.
- Application Process - Once a nurse has been identified the process may begin.
  - Generally, we are looking at those seeking to become RN's - that has been the historical precedent.
  - Locales may decide on their own to assist those in lower programs, such as LPN or LVN. An RN working on advanced degrees may also be eligible.
  - Applicants should first be given an interview and if determined eligible, then provided the Grand application which is used for Locales.
  - The application should be supplemented by a current transcript which indicates also how many hours are being carried - 12 hours is considered a full-time student.
  - The student must verify they are a student in good standing and properly registered of course.
  - Submit a photo.
  - Nice to have a statement on why they would like to be a nurse or request a scholarship.
  - Letters of recommendation are optional but help if you are looking at two or three nurses and have to decide on one.
- The Scholarship
  - For years it was always the policy to provide the scholarship to the school rather than the nurse. It was seen that some students receiving additional aid were having their other assistance reduced by that amount actually negating the help we were providing.
  - So, on a case-by-case basis, we have allowed Locales to make the scholarships out to the student with a follow-up on how it is being spent - books, lab fees, scrubs, tuition, etc.
- Follow-ups
  - Students that are staying in the Locale program should provide updates on their status, grades and their future to the Locale proving the scholarship.
  - Student presented with a scholarship should be presented their check in person, at a Locale function and photos taken if possible.

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## Americanism



Bon Jour my fellow Voyageur's,

Thank you Voiture 1640 for hosting and all those who helped with planning for the Grande Cheminot. For all those who attended or helped to set everything up, make sure you record your hours and mileage. Now that the shameless plug is out of the way.

As discussed during the Cheminot. Reports are due to Grande Directeurs by 15 June. The Grand Promenade which will be hosted by Voiture 1031 in Killeen. Last year: I received 4 Locale reports, hopefully this year I get a few more. The Americanism report can be found at <https://www.fortyandeight.org/s/FORM-FILL-IN-AMERICANISM-FY26.pdf>

- Americanism Speeches & Flag Activities: Flag presentations, Flag raising ceremonies, Flag retirement ceremonies
- Youth Activities: Did anyone collaborate with Boy/Girl Scouts, ROTC, assist Law Officers with programs such as D.A.R.E, work with your nearest American Legion with Oratorical & Boys/Girls State?
- Community Activities: Did you get out and vote? Work at the voting polls? Work at a food bank? Clean up a city park or a memorial? Attend a Promenade or meetings in other Fraternal Organizations. There should be lots of hands up right now.
- Holidays & Memorials: Did any of you attend a funeral for those that have served their country? Did you participate in an installation? I truly hope that most of you said YES to that. Did you participate in a parade? Did anyone donate or assist in laying wreaths with Wreaths Across America? Participate in Post Everlasting at your local American Legion/VFW? Did you help put out flags at our National Cemeteries on Memorial Day?
- Veterans: Did any of you visit a Veterans Home and spend time with our Veterans there? Take another Veteran to a doctor's appointment?
- Flags For First Graders.

I would like to see all Locales submit an Americanism report this year even if it only captures any Promenades that were held during the year. This would be an easy thing to calculate and a great starting point and expand on for the next year.

If you have any questions or need any help do not hesitate to ask. My e-mail address is [hallmd1973@outlook.com](mailto:hallmd1973@outlook.com). You may also contact Grande Sous Director of Americanism Alison at [alisonthompsonhall@outlook.com](mailto:alisonthompsonhall@outlook.com) for assistance.

See everyone in Killeen.

*Michael Hall*

Directeur of Americanism, Grande du Texas

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

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# CARVILLE STAR PROGRAM

We still have Carville Star pins available. You can also buy a Clinic or Country. Form are available at [www.fortyandieght.org](http://www.fortyandieght.org) under the Resources / Forms tab. Only \$2 (two dollars) a year will also get you a subscription to the star newspaper.



Sorry that I missed everyone at the Spring cheminot. I hope to see you all at the Grand Promenade in Killeen.

John Rodgers, Directeur Nationale, Carville Star

## Carville Star Buy-A-Clinic Program

There are currently approximately 6,500 cases of Hansen's disease (Leprosy) in the United States; about 3,300 require active medical management. People with Hansen's disease are treated as outpatients and can generally continue their normal work and other activities uninterrupted while they are under treatment, which may last several years. For many patients, active medical treatment takes place at one of the clinics listed below:

ATLANTA HD CLINIC  
LOS ANGELES HD CLINIC  
PHOENIX HD CLINIC  
SPRINGDALE (AR) HD CLINIC

BOSTON HD CLINIC  
MIAMI HD CLINIC  
SAN JUAN HD CLINIC

CHICAGO HD CLINIC  
NEW YORK HD CLINIC  
SEATTLE HD CLINIC

TEXAS HD CLINICS:

Amarillo, Texas

Denton, Texas

Houston, Texas

San Antonio, Texas

"Buying" one or more of the above clinics for \$50.00 each will insure that we get copies of *The Star* to these clinics for distribution to clinic staff and patients. Buyers will receive a Certificate of Recognition. As a great tribute to the deceased, Clinics can be "bought" in memory of a voyageur or dame and the Certificate will include the name of the person(s) memorialized.

TO BUY ONE OR MORE OF THE ABOVE CLINICS - Complete and Mail this form

- CIRCLE THE CLINIC(S) ABOVE
- LOCALE, CABANE, GRAND(E), DONOR \_\_\_\_\_  
address \_\_\_\_\_
- IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_ (IF APPLICABLE)

please print

SEND THIS AND A CHECK (\$50 PER CLINIC) MADE PAYABLE TO "CARVILLE STAR" TO:  
Keith Kingston, 553 Bistineau Lake Rd, Ringgold, LA 71068

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

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NATIONAL BOX CAR ASSOCIATION**

**NBCA INVENTORY REDUCTION**

**GET 5 BUNDLE PIN SETS (25 PINS TOTAL) FOR \$25**

**(WITH TOTAL MINIMUM ORDER OF \$50)**

**Mix or Match the remaining \$25 from other Box Car Association items.**

Other Items (Crew Cards / Associate Cards) = \$1 ea; 2025 and 2026 Pins = \$3 ea; NBCA Patches = \$1 ea  
Coins (Specify – Magellan, NBCA 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Gratitude Train 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, La Femmes) = \$10 ea  
Large Whistles = \$10 each, Koozies (Specify bottle or can) = \$5 each.

**FREE SHIPPING**



**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE.**

**FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW FOR BOX CAR PINS, COINS, KOOZIES, ETC.**

[BOXCAR MERCHANDISE](#)



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**La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux**  
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**Minutes of the Grand Cheminot 2026 / Grande Voiture du Texas**  
**Round Rock, Texas / February 21, 2026**

1. The Grand Cheminot was called to order by Grand Chef de Gare Jim Sweeny according to Ritual and the Manual of Ceremonies as 1:00 p.m. February 21, 2026, Alison Thompson-Hall, acting Grand Correspondant.
2. Grand Call (Correspondant): By order of the Grand Chef de Gare du Texas, the 2026 Grand Cheminot will be held Saturday, February 21, 2026, in Round Rock, Texas, hosted by Williamson County V-1640. Committee Meetings, 9 a.m. at American Legion Post 447 with banquet being held at same location at 6 p.m.
3. Roll Call of Officers: Eight elected officers present, One appointed officers present, three Grand Directeurs present.
4. Roll Call of Locales: Present – V175, V542, V605, V1031, V1134, V1640 with six Locales in attendance. Correspondant reported that a quorum was present.
5. Reading of the Minutes of the Grand Promenade – Approved as posted in the TVN – Texas Voyageur News.
6. Reading of Bulletins and Correspondence – Voyageurs Deb Reynolds & Robert Hickey are Candidates for Chef de Chemin de Fer 2027.
7. Reports of Officers:
  - a. Acting Correspondant Alison Thompson-Hall read the Membership Report for Grand Chef de Train Michael Hall, who was absent (excused): The membership for the 2026 year is slowly coming to a close; we need to work together to finish the year off strong. As of now we are 41 Voyageurs short of 100%. We are at 78.42% as a Grande, this places us in 45<sup>th</sup> place nationally. Congratulations to Locales: 980, 1031 & 1055 for achieving 100%.
  - b. Chef de Gare Jim Sweeney read the Grand Finance Report for Grand Commissaire Intendant Roger Folmar who was absent (excused): Finance Report submitted and attached. Wells Fargo Account - \$13,508.43; Money Market Accounts - \$7,717.46; Checking Total - \$21,225.89. Current Investments totals - \$46,939.81. Grand total all funds - \$68,165.70. The report noted the Money Market funds decreased by \$5,000 which was moved to Investments to secure a \$5,000 CD. Report read and approved.
  - c. Grand Avocat Dave Knutson: Constitution for Voiture 1640 submitted and approved by Avocat Nationale. IRS has been notified about Voitures that are no longer in existence to have their EIN removed from their listing.
  - d. Grand Aumonier J. Sean Habina: Grand Chef de Gare Passe Lowell Mix (V542) is not doing well. Charlie Hawkins (V175) broke his hip. Raul Balesteros (V605) has passed away.
8. Program Reports (Reported by Directeur or a representative)
  - a. Americanism – It is that time of year to start thinking about reports. Please make sure that your Locale Report is sent to the Grand Directeur of the program and not to National. Deadline is June 15. The only Locale that I can report on is V605, they are leading the way with Flags for First Graders with 12 schools and approximately 1500 flags this year.
  - b. Boxcar – On March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> there will be WWI Battle Reenactment at Camp Mabry. David Knutson, Directeur National Box Car Directeur, will be there both days for the event. Anyone else who would like to attend are welcome.
  - c. Carville Star – John Rodgers, Directeur absent (excused) no report
  - d. Child Welfare – Position vacant - no report
  - e. POW/MIA – If any Locale needs assistance with their report the Grand Directeur is available to assist with it.
  - f. Nurses Training – report from Nurses Training Committee – Two nursing students selected for \$500.00 scholarships each. One for V175 and one to V605. Nurses were vetted with current grades and status reviewed.
  - g. Public Relations – TVN coming out soon. Locales are encouraged to send in any newsworthy activities and post to Grand du Texas Facebook page.

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- h. Ritual – no report
  - i. VAVS – no report
  - j. Special Awards – Hero, Law Office, City & Voyageur of the Year need to be submitted to Grand NLT June 1.
9. Grand Non-Program Reports:
- a. Boxcar Maintenance – no report
  - b. Time & Place – Grand Promenade 2026 will be V-1031 Killeen June 27-28, 2026. Details in TVN. 2027 Spring Cheminot to be held by V-175 Austin, Tx.
10. Old Business:
- a. Brief discussion on Youth Sports funds raised by Grand that are expected to be awarded prior to Grand Promenade.
11. New Business:
- a. Notion made and approved for the expenditure of \$1,000 for the two nurses scholarships (\$500 each).
  - b. Discussion on V-689 Amarillo – Notion made and approved for Grand Chef de Gare Jim Sweeney to notify it's Voyageurs of intent to pull the Locale Charter.
  - c. Discussion was held on having Flags for First Graders held at other locations outside of a typical classroom, due to heightened security at schools. Primary issue is in the Killeen area. Follow up will be done by Grand Chef Sweeney.
12. Elections & appointments:
- a. Les Lobell appointed as Child Welfare Directeur.
13. Good of the Grand Voiture:
- a. Raffle tickets are still available. Drawing will be at dinner.
  - b. Grand Aumonier will conduct a memorial ceremony at the boxcar 9am Sunday
14. There being no further business to come before the Grand Cheminot, the Cheminot was closed according to Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies.

ATTEST:

*Alison Thompson-Hall*

Alison Thompson-Hall, Acting Grand Correspondant  
Grande Voiture du Texas

**EXERPT FROM POW/MIA DIRECTEUR LETTER**

The POW/MIA Program help allow us to honor those who have given so much. I have received several calls inquiring about the Scholarship and all of its requirements. Last year was tremendous in response to our Program. Indications are that this year may be substantially better. This will require more funding for this Program. Please add a Donation jar/container at your Voiture and help promote our program as best you can.

This past year was great in the support we received for Scholarships. This year will require that we continue to promote and contribute to this more than worthy cause. Thank you for making my job so satisfying.

As always, I like to remind everyone that our 40/8 Programs continue. The 2026 POW/MIA Pins are available for purchase or consignment. The design of the 2026 Pin has been added to the POW/MIA Program file in the Emblem Sales website.

Previous years pins are also available at a discount, while some may be free for the asking.

**DO NOT FORGET OUR FOUR GOALS:**

- 1. Raising our POW/MIA Survivor Scholarship Fund Awareness
- 2. Merchandise Sales
- 3. Consolidated Reports
- 4. POW/MIA Pin Design

For La Societe,

Steve Slegers

**La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux  
Grande Voiture du Texas  
TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS  
Spring Cheminot 2026 – Round Rock, Texas**



Top Row: V1640 officers Erica Leos and Jay Jerningen welcomed everyone as they came in. V1640 Chef de Gare Lisa Dayhoff treated everyone with a POW/MIA ceremony at the beginning of the dinner. Grand Chef Sweeney also welcomes those in attendance. Second Row: Although not a large number of folks attending, we had a great time! Third Row: The crew from V1134 Corpus Christi! Alison Thompson-Hall of V605 and Lillian Lennon of V1031. Photo right: V175 Nurses Training Scholarship recipient Angelica Valadez (right) attended with her friend Angela.

**La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux  
Grande Voiture du Texas  
TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS  
Spring Cheminot 2026 – Round Rock, Texas**



Top Row: Jim & Donna Sweeney, Sandy Kousman, Joe McCullough, David & Deborah Knutson, and a Grand Welcome Back to Melody Thomas and Bell Chondra. Center: Grand Aumonier J. Sean Habina conducts the Boxcar Memorial.



2026 Boxcar Memorial – From left: Directeur National Box Car Association David Knutson (V175), Onorio Villarreal (V1134), Joe McCullough (V542), Sandy Kousman (V1031), Grand Chef de Gare Jim Sweeney (V1031), J. Sean Habina (V542), Lisa Dayhoff (V1640) and Lonnie Bennett (V1031)

**La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux  
Grande Voiture du Texas  
TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS  
CAMP MABRY OVER THERE: 1918  
Living History Event / Mar 14-15, 2026**



**HOMMES 40  
CHEVAUX 8**

Reenactor volunteers from around Texas and even outside Texas came in for the event.

Dressed in their Doughboy attire are volunteers who posed for our organization with the WWI boxcar that transported our troops.

The photo below includes the Scots who I am sure also shared the same experiences in 40 & 8 boxcars as our American Doughboys.

The count here is 19 so you would more than double the size to fill the 40 & 8 boxcars.

Thank you to Jeff Hunt and all the reenactors who put on a great show.

You can view photos of the event at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/texasmilitaryforcesmuseum>



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



**La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux  
THE SOCIETY OF 40 MEN & 8 HORSES  
THE GRANDE VOITURE DU TEXAS**



**O F F I C I A L C A L L**

**105<sup>TH</sup> GRANDE PROMENADE OF THE GRANDE VOITURE DU TEXAS**

In accordance with the Constitution of the Grand Voiture du Texas, the 105<sup>TH</sup> Grande Promenade of La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux, Grand du Texas, will be held in Killeen, Texas, Saturday, June 27, 2026.

**PURPOSE**

The Grande Promenade is called for the purpose of electing Grand Officers for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the Grande Promenade.

**BASIS OF REPRESENTATION**

Each Voiture Locale shall be entitled to three (3) delegates and three (3) alternates for the first ten (10) members, and one (1) additional delegate and one (1) alternate for each additional fifteen (15) members or major fraction thereof and such membership shall be calculated as of the date which is thirty (30) prior to the convening of the Grande Promenade. Each Grand Chef de Gare Passe and the sitting Grand Chef de Gare, who are members of a local Voiture, shall be entitled to one (1) vote to be exercised only when personally present on the floor at the time the vote is taken.

Voiture Locales indebted to this Grand Voiture will not be included in the roll call and will not be eligible to vote unless indebtedness is paid.

**CREDENTIALS**

Voiture Delegates' lists must be sent to the Grand Correspondant, Renslar Keagle, 8714 Marble Dr, El Paso, TX 79904, via E-mail to: [renslarkeagle@gmail.com](mailto:renslarkeagle@gmail.com) or provided in person prior to 9:00 am, Saturday, June 27, 2026.

**VOTING STRENGTH OF VOITURES LOCALE**

Voitures Locale shall have the number of votes in the Grande Promenade equal to the number of delegates to which they are severally entitled, provided that at least one (1) of the certified delegates must be duly registered and such registered delegate or delegates may vote the entire certified delegates strength.

**ADMITTANCE TO THE GRANDE PROMENADE**

Only delegates and alternates holding credentials will be entitled to a vote on the floor of the Grande Promenade duly assembled. Any member of La Societe in good standing will be admitted to the Grande Promenade Hall on presentation of their 2026 membership card to the Grand Garde La Porte.

**RESOLUTIONS**

All resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Grand Correspondant on Saturday morning, June 27, 2026, no later than 9:00 a.m.

**GRAND PROMENADE**

The Grande Promenade is called to begin at 1:00 p.m., June 27, 2026, at American Legion J.Q. Adams Post 223, 208 S. Park St, Killeen, Texas.

The election of Grand Officers for 2027 will be held immediately following the transaction of business with installation being held at the discretion of the Grand Chef de Gare.

ATTESTED BY:

**RENSLAR KEAGLE  
GRAND CORRESPONDANT**

**JIM SWEENEY  
GRAND CHEF DE GARE**

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

**2026 GRANDE PROMENADE**  
**LIST OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ County, Voiture No. \_\_\_\_\_ has elected the following delegates to the 2026 Grand Promenade to be held in Killeen, Texas, on June 27, 2026.

**ARTICLE VI – Section 2**

“In the Grande Promenade each Voiture Locale shall be entitled to three (3) delegates and three (3) alternates for the first ten (10) members, and one (1) additional delegate and one (1) additional alternate for each fifteen (15) members or major fraction thereof and such membership shall be calculated as of the date which is thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Grande Promenade.”

**DELEGATES**

**ALTERNATES**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 1. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 3. _____ |

**Name of Voyageurs deceased during the past twelve (12) months.**

| Name  | Address |
|-------|---------|
| _____ | _____   |
| _____ | _____   |
| _____ | _____   |

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Locale Correspondant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Locale Chef de Gare

**CREDENTIALS CERTIFICATION**

**Send to: Grand Correspondant, Renslar Keagle, 8714 Marble Dr, El Paso, TX 79904**  
**or turn in at Grande Promenade**

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

**2026 GRANDE PROMENADE  
JUNE 26-27-28, 2026**



**SHILO INN SUITES HOTEL**  
**3701 S W S Young Drive, Killeen, TX**

**Call the Hotel for Reservations at 254-699-0944**  
**Let them know you are with the 40&8**

**GROUP RATE: \$110.00 per night + tax**

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: June 10, 2026**

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

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

**TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS**

**2026 GRANDE PROMENADE 26-27 JUNE 2026**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please fill in the following information to register for the Grand Promenade

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title or Highest Office held: \_\_\_\_\_

Voiture or Cabane #: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title or Highest Office held: \_\_\_\_\_

Voiture or Cabane #: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Registrations this form: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Advance Registration is \$30 per person  
Advance Registration must be received by June 10, 2026  
Late Registration fee is \$35 per person**

**Program Book Ads**

Full page ad - \$30.00

Half Page ad - \$20.00

Business Card - \$10.00

**\*\*\*In addition to hard copy, please send ads via email (JPEG, PDF) to:**

**[Jimwsweeney4@yahoo.com](mailto:Jimwsweeney4@yahoo.com)**

**All program ads must be received NLT June 10th, 2026**

SEND REGISTRATION AND HARD COPY PROGRAM ADS TO:

Jim Sweeney

3231 Colorado Dr

Copperas Cove, TX 76522

**(Make checks payable to - Voiture 1031)**

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



**La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux  
THE SOCIETY OF 40 MEN & 8 HORSES  
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**RESOLUTION FOR GRAND POSITION**

I \_\_\_\_\_ would like to be considered for the following elected or appointed position within Grand du Texas.

Position applying for: \_\_\_\_\_.

I have been a Voyageur for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

I have served my Locale in the following positions: (list top three)

\_\_\_\_\_

I have served my Grand in the following positions: (list top three)

\_\_\_\_\_

If elected or appointed to this position I promise to faithfully perform the duties that is required of me to the best of my ability. If I fail to do my duties as required. I know that it will not only reflect badly upon Grand du Texas but La Societe as a whole.

If elected or appointed to this position, I will accept the responsibility of said position for the duration of my term. And promise to learn all the duties as outlined in all Constitution and manuals of my Grand, and La Societe.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Voyageur's Signature

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that this resolution be placed before the Committee on Committees of Grand du Texas for its consideration.

Approved at Grand Promenade duly assembled at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

**ATTESTED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Correspondant Grand du Texas

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grand Chef de Gare du Texas

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

**DEADLINE TO GRAND DIRECTEURS FOR ALL REPORTS IS 6/15/2026**

Program information and report forms can be found on the Voiture Nationale website: [www.fortyandeight.org](http://www.fortyandeight.org)

Link to Program Report Forms and Petite Communique: <https://www.fortyandeight.org/resources-overview>

| <u>Program</u>  | <u>Directeur Name</u> | <u>Phone</u> | <u>E-MAIL</u>  | <u>Due to Grand</u> |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Special Awards  | David Knutson         | 512-736-2377 | <a href="mailto:davidknutson@sbcglobal.net">davidknutson@sbcglobal.net</a>         | 6/15/2026           |
| Special Awards: Voyageur of the Year, Law Officer of the Year, Hero of the Year, Etc. |                       |              |  |                     |
| Americanism   | Michael Hall          | 915-244-1801 | <a href="mailto:hallmd1973@outlook.com">hallmd1973@outlook.com</a>                 | 6/15/2026           |
| Carville Star   | Roger Folmar          | 915-269-7775 | <a href="mailto:rfolmar@elp.rr.com">rfolmar@elp.rr.com</a>                         | 6/15/2026           |
| Child Welfare   | Les Lobdell           | 512-945-2805 | <a href="mailto:les.lobdell@gmail.com">les.lobdell@gmail.com</a>                   | 6/15/2026           |
| POW/MIA   | Alison Thompson-Hall  | 915-244-1799 | <a href="mailto:alisonthompsonhall@outlook.com">alisonthompsonhall@outlook.com</a> | 6/15/2026           |
| Ritual  | Brian Smock           | 254-542-2759 | <a href="mailto:bsmock@hot.rr.com">bsmock@hot.rr.com</a>                           | 6/15/2026           |
| Nurses Training   | Renslar Keagle        | 917-269-6209 | <a href="mailto:renslarkeagle@gmail.com">renslarkeagle@gmail.com</a>               | 6/15/2026           |
| VAVS  | Brian Smock           | 254-542-2759 | <a href="mailto:bsmock@hot.rr.com">bsmock@hot.rr.com</a>                           | 6/15/2026           |
| Youth Sports  | Brian Smock           | 254-542-2759 | <a href="mailto:bsmock@hot.rr.com">bsmock@hot.rr.com</a>                           | 6/15/2026           |
| Public Relations  | David Knutson         | 512-736-2377 | <a href="mailto:davidknutson@sbcglobal.net">davidknutson@sbcglobal.net</a>         | 6/15/2026           |

**SUBMIT REPORTS TO GRAND DIRECTEUR PRIOR TO THE "DUE TO GRAND" DATE**

**ALSO SUBMIT A COPY TO THE GRAND CORRESPONDANT RENNY KEAGLE AT [RENSLARKEAGLE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RENSLARKEAGLE@GMAIL.COM)**

The Voiture Activities report was eliminated at Nationale but you can still use the idea to keep track of your activities and help with your reports. A single Voyageur can record their activities or a Locale Correspondant can roughly calculate their Voiture's activities. Multiple reports can be done from this simple worksheet below.

| Description of Event                        | # Voyageurs or Dames Participating | # Guests | Total \$ Spent | Total Miles of All Voyageurs or Dames Participating<br>(Round trip miles each totaled) | Total Hours of All Voyageurs or Dames Participating<br>(Hours each totaled)<br>(10 x 2) |
|---|------------------------------------|----------|----------------|--|---|
| <i>(Example)</i><br><i>Locale Promenade</i> | 10                                 | 0        | 0              | 50   | 20  |
|   |                                    |          |                |  |   |
|   |                                    |          |                |  |   |
|   |                                    |          |                |  |   |

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

**PROGRAM REPORTS ZOOM WORKSHOPS**

Sun, Jun 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm, Mon, Jun 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm, and Tue, Jun 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm

We can help you do reports or just answer questions. If you need a different day or time, please let us know. Far too many Locales do not turn in any reports. The workshops are expected to last for about an hour. We can do one-on-one workshops as well.

*We will help explain reports, help fill them out and help submit them to the Grand Directeurs. Open to any member wanting to learn about the programs and reports.*

**Zoom invite will be sent to Locale Chefs and Locale Correspondants.**

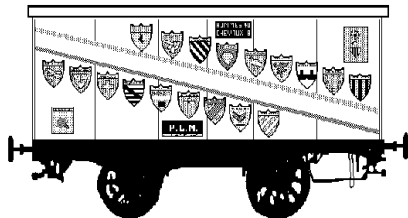
**Anyone else interested in joining the meetings contact Dave Knutson.**

Email: [djk3002@yahoo.com](mailto:djk3002@yahoo.com)

La Grande Voiture du Texas  
La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux  
8714 Marble Dr, El Paso, TX 79904



Affix  
1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Postage  
Here



Addresssee

ADDRESSEE: Please notify sender of name/address correction

Grand Chef de Gare – Jim Sweeney  
Grand Commissaire Intendant – Roger Folmar

Grand Correspondant – Renny Keagle  
L'Editeur / Publiciste – Dave Knutson

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