



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

Oct – Dec 2025

Volume 68 Issue 4

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
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*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
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*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

From the Grand Chef de Gare

Hello Fellow Voyageurs,

I hope this finds you all well. As 2025 comes to an end, I look back at the great accomplishment we have made as the 40/8, but I also remember the tragedies that have happened. So, as we gather with our families please remember that not everyone is able to gather with their family. There are many who have lost loved ones this year let us keep them in our prayers.



Please give your full support to your local charities and support programs to help the many children who would not get a Christmas present, or a homeless person who has nowhere to go. Thank you each and every one for what you are doing and I look forward to working with each of you in the New Year.

I hope to get to the Voitures I have not made it to yet so if you have an event coming up before June let me know and I will try to make it to your Locale.

The Spring Cheminot is just around the corner, I hope to have a good turnout for that. It will be in Round Rock with our newest Voiture so please come out and support them. Hotel information and registration information is in the TVN.



It has been an honor to serve you as Grand Chef de Gare. I look forward to working with you all in 2026.

Jim Sweeney
Grand Chef de Gare

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jim & Donna Sweeney



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

(AS OF DEC 19, 2025)

NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGAN AUGUST 1ST.

Locale	Location	Current	Goal	Percent
163	Houston	11	12	92%
175	Austin	17	18	94%
542	San Antonio	11	22	50%
605	El Paso	28	42	67%
689	Amarillo	0	9	0%
980	Willis	6	6	100%
1031	Killeen	36	47	77%
1055	Kerrville	15	15	100%
1134	Corpus Christi	12	14	86%
1640	Round Rock	1	5	20%
Grand Total		137	190	72.11%

MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE DECEMBER 31ST

The new membership year began on August 1st. All Locale Correspondents should have received their membership cards envelope for their locale. Please ensure they are up to date! This is up to each member and each Locale Correspondant. You can update member data on the back of their renewal card or online if it occurs during the year.

Reminder: Members are considered delinquent and not in good standing after December 31st.

SPRING CHEMINOT 2026



WILLIAMSON COUNTY VOITURE 1640 TO HOST 2026 SPRING CHEMINOT IN ROUND ROCK, TX!

They have 5 members on their roster to date, but they are willing to step up and host the 2026 Spring Cheminot. Come and meet the Fearsome Five! Registration and Hotel Information are included in this edition of the TVN. Also check out the early bird 50/50 raffle and Spring Cheminot Raffle.

All Grand Officers, Grand Program Directeurs and a representative from all Voiture Locales should attend.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW.
 Hotel rates are excellent and the area is awesome!



**La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Grande Voiture du Texas
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C O R R E S P O N D A N T ' S

Greetings from El Paso and the Franklin Mountains where bighorn sheep have now been reintroduced into our area. All of us in El Paso extend our best wishes for this holiday season, which means we come to the end of our calendar year and almost half of our membership year is gone.

Our Nationale Constitution states that those who have not renewed by December 31st are no longer in good standing. That being said, it is important that we push membership reminders out to those who have not yet renewed. This also gives us an opportunity to reach out to those that we may not have been in contact with recently to see how things are going, especially in this holiday season.

Things to check as we begin the new year - do you have all of the correct addresses, emails and phone numbers of your members. We normally use the transmittal card to correct all of this information. You may send corrections to me and I will see that they get to Nationale. This is significantly important for Locale Chefs de Gare and Correspondants if that information has changed.

Do you have all of the most current manuals? The most current Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies is dated September 19, 2024. There are changes, especially in the Ritual and it is important to have the most updated manual. The Officer and Correspondants Manual has also been updated. I picked a copy up at Nationale and it is extremely helpful. All current manuals are available for a modest fee from our emblem sales at www.fortyandeight.org



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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



La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

Grande Voiture du Texas

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P.A.L.S. Many may not know, 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 am sending the December issue of our newsletter, *The Bulletin*, out to all in Grand that I have contacts for. This is 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: Many in Grande du Texas are members of the Blue Chevaliers - please check your card to see if it is time to renew - 2026 is soon upon us. Renewals are only \$10.00 per year or you can renew membership for ten years for only \$45.00. I am currently acting as the Nationale Coordinator so contact me for any information. Dues are also sent to me.

So, as we approach and begin the new year, we must resolve to "foster and perpetuate" our duties and responsibilities in La Societe and to grow our organization. Happy New Year and blessings to all.



Renslar "Renny" Keagle, Nationale Coordinator

Nurses Training: For the Cheminot, applications for Grand Nursing Scholarship must be accompanied by their original application, verification that they are still in good standing at their school, current transcripts and verification of the number of hours being carried. Bring multiple copies for the Nurses training Committee please. I have some nurses training pins available and will see that they get to the Cheminot.

Renslar "Renny" Keagle
Grande Directeur Nurses Training

VOITURE 175 NURSES TRAINING RAFFLE WINNERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!



- 1st Prize - Frank Flores / Voiture 175
- 2nd Prize - Mike Barba / Harker Heights
- 3rd Prize - Dray Noble / AL Post 83
- 4th Prize - Grand Chef Jim Sweeney / Voiture 1031
- 5th Prize - Jay Jernigan / Voiture 1640

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

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

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

John W Edelblute IV

Americanism Directeur Nationale

3952 E Edgerton Ave Cudahy WI 53110

CELL: 262-212-0209 EMAIL: edelblutejohn@gmail.com

01 December 2025

Greetings to all my fellow Voyagers,

Well folks it looks like Winter has arrived here in the Midwest. I spent the better part of my Football Sunday shoveling myself out here in Wisconsin. Steady and slow with a lot of breaks. We were cursed with about 6 to 8 inches of the heavy wet snow. This too shall pass come May.

Please continue to support all our programs as they all fall under what we do as great Americans and please share with me what you are doing around our country. I would very much like to hear from you.

I have set up a Zoom meeting to discuss our platform for our Americanism program this year. If you would like to get in on this and you did receive an email with the check-in link, please let me know, It is scheduled for December 17th at 6:00 PM CST. I hope for a good showing and great round table discussion.

It is time to start thinking of nominees for our 2026 Americanism Award winner. Submissions are due by June 1st. Please think of a candidate from your Grande. The requirement information is on our Nationale Website. Please start looking. It is also a good time to start recording information for the Americanism Communiqué report if not already been doing so. It will be due before you know it.

Being the time of year as it is I am asking all of you to do one simple thing as a Veteran and the great Americans I know you all are. Please check on a fellow Veteran whether it be a Voyageur or not that you know and have not talked to in a while. This can be a lonely time of year for some of us. Just Please, make a phone call or send a letter letting them no you are thinking about them. Thank you in advance.

I have signed up to attend the Twister Wreck in Wichita held this coming February. I have never attended before and am looking forward to it,

In closing this letter I just want to say how great I think this year is going to be with us all working our programs together and remember Communication is Key. Thank you to all of my Sous Directeurs and the Grand Americanism Chairman for all your hard work so far this year.

If you have any questions, I am only a phone call or email away. Please reach out.

Have a safe and blessed Mery Christmas and or Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Yours in Service. Until next time.....

R/S

John W Edelblute IV
Americanism Directeur Nationale

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

Steven W. Slegers
Directeur Nationale POW/MIA
8503 NE 13th St, Vancouver, WA 98664
Cell: 503-348-9576
steven.tink4748@gmail.com



30 November 2025

Monsieur's and Madame's

November has passed by in a hurry. Family and friends provided lots of activities to help keep us excited. It was a busy time for several reasons. First of all it was the Marine Corps 250th Birthday. On Saturday the 8th I attended a semi formal Birthday Celebration with the Marine Corps League. November the 10th consisted of a Birthday breakfast followed by Birthday Cake.

Veterans Day was celebrated by attending our annual Veterans Day Parade at Fort Vancouver National Site, followed by 30 tables set up with ALL Services handing out information about the many resources to help all interested parties.

Thanksgiving gave us a good chance to be with family once again. The food was plentiful and the fellowship could not be beaten. I have almost recovered from the cornucopia goodies that were consumed. I hope that everyone has had a wonderful month and recover quickly from the great meals that were presented.

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 will be 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**

**2026 SPRING CHEMINOT
HOSTED BY VOITURE 1640
ROUND ROCK, TEXAS
FEBRUARY 20-22, 2026**



Free
Breakfast
Included



**SORRY
NO
PETS
ALLOWED**

FREE WI-FI

**Country Inn & Suites
1560 North I-35, Round Rock, TX**

**A GREAT GROUP RATE OF $\$79$ + TAX PER NIGHT
(STANDARD KING OR STANDARD DOUBLE QUEEN)**

Make your Reservation Online at:

SPRING CHEMINOT

OR

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/GC91M7>

Default check in is for Thurs, Feb 19th.

Make sure you change it if you are arriving on Friday, Feb 20th.

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!
RESERVATION CUT-OFF DATE IS FEB 6, 2026**

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

**La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Grande Voiture du Texas
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2026 SPRING CHEMINOT / FEBRUARY 20-21, 2026

REGISTRATION FORM

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

Name: _____

Current Position or Highest Office held: _____

Voiture or Cabane #: _____

Name: _____

Current Position or Highest Office held: _____

Voiture or Cabane #: _____

Number Registration: _____ X \$30.00 = \$_____

Advance registration is \$30 per person

Advance registration must be received by February 1, 2025.

Late Registration fee is \$40 per person

Program Book Ads

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

Please send ads via Email to:

lisa.dayhoff@gmail.com

All program ads must be received by February 6, 2026

SEND REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS TO:

Lisa Dayhoff
401 Long Run
Liberty Hill, TX 78642

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

TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS

(Make Checks Payable to Voiture 1640)

2026 SPRING CHEMINOT

EARLY BIRD 50/50 RAFFLE



**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE
POSTMARKED NLT
February 6, 2026**

EARLY BIRD 50/50 RAFFLE

SEND IN FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN THE
EARLY BIRD 50/50 RAFFLE.

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!

SEND IN YOUR ENTRY FORM BELOW
TO BE ENTERED! CHOOSE TO ENTER
ONCE OR MULTIPLE TIMES!

LOCALES ALSO WELCOME TO ENTER

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

_____ One (1) Ticket for \$5 = _____

_____ Six (6) Tickets for \$20 = _____



Make checks payable to V-1640 and send to:
Lisa Dayhoff, 401 Long Run, Liberty Hill, TX 78642

**WHO IS GOING TO BE
THE BIG WINNER?**

Ticket number will be written below and entered into the drawing bin. Need not be present to win!

Ticket #

Ticket #

Ticket #

Ticket #

Ticket #

Ticket #

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

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FOR TICKETS CONTACT LISA DAYHOFF, JOHN RODGERS OR DAVE KNUTSON

2026 SPRING CHEMINOT RAFFLE

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20 / Only 300 tickets available!

**1st Prize:
Smith & Wesson SD 2.0
40 caliber pistol**



**2nd Prize:
Onn 65" Class 4k UHD
Roku Smart Television
(New in Box)**



**3rd Prize: \$100 Gift Card
4th - 5th Prizes:
\$50 Gift Card each**



**2026 SPRING CHEMINOT RAFFLE
Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20 / Only 300 tickets available!**

1st Prize: Smith & Wesson SD 2.0 40 caliber pistol

2nd Prize: Onn Roku 65" 4k Smart TV

3rd Prize: \$100 Gift Card

4th – 5th Prizes: \$50 Gift Card

La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux / The Societe of 40 Men and 8 Horses
Grande Voiture du Texas / 8714 Marble Dr, El Paso, TX 79904
Drawing set for Sat, February 21, 2026, at American Legion Post 447, Round Rock, TX.

Donations support Voiture Locale 1640. Must be 21 or older to enter.

1st Prize winner responsible for any transfer fees via licensed FFL dealer

And must pass background check to legally obtain the prize through a FFL dealer

Total tickets available = 300. Must claim prize within 30 days.
(need not be present to win)



Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux Grande Voiture du Texas

TEXAS VOYAGEUR NEWS 2026 Veterans Day Parade

<https://souvenirfrancaisusa.org/>



<https://fvot.org/p/2>

Grand Chef de Gare du Texas Jim Sweeney and Grand Chef de Gare Passe John Rodgers (both of Voiture 1031) traveled to Houston to join Le Souvenir Française and the French Veterans of Texas in the Houston Veterans Day Parade 2025. Chef Sweeney is marching and holding the Grande Voiture du Texas 40 & 8 colors! We are Thankful to our friends for the invitation and honor of marching with them!

FLAGS FOR FIRST GRADERS PROGRAM / VOITURE 605, EL PASO, TX



Voiture 605 was on the move again - this time at Crockett Elementary. Chef de Gare Passe Mike, Chef de Gare Alison & Dir. of Americanism William presented Flags for First Graders to this school for the first time.

The doors were first opened on November 29, 1920. At that time, the school was called Manhattan Heights School. The school opened with 360 students and 8 teachers for grades kindergarten through sixth grade. In 1922, the board approved the renaming of the school to Crockett School, to commemorate the life of David Crockett, a hero of the Alamo.



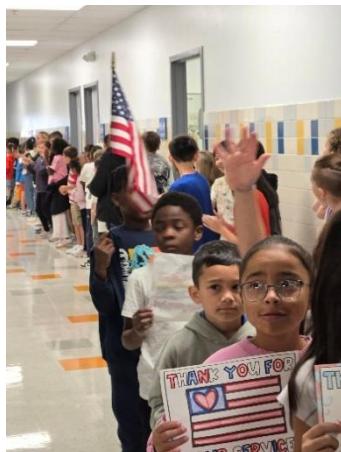
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Grande Voiture du Texas

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El Paso Voiture 605 presents the POW / MIA table for Veterans Day Program



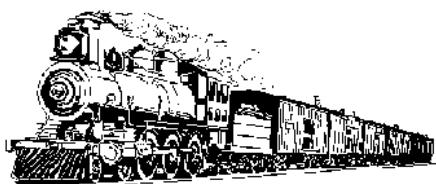
Voiture 605 was asked to present the POW/MIA Table for Gen. Colin Powell Elementary Schools Veterans Day Program. Chef de Gare Alison & Dir. of Americanism William gave a brief overview of what Veterans Day is all about and explained the setting for the POW/MIA table. We were treated to a parade of students and Chapin High School on the drums.



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

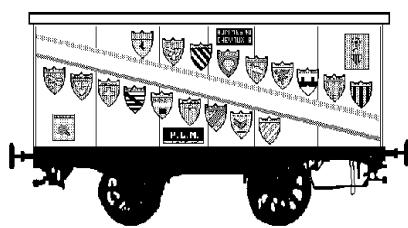


**HOMMES 40
CHEVAUX 8**



Affix
1st Class
Postage
Here

Addressee



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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