

GRANDES CHEMINOTS MEETING February 15, 2009
Santa Maria Veterans Memorial Bldg, Santa Maria CA

The Grandes Cheminots Meeting was called to order at 9:00AM at the Veterans Memorial Bldg, Santa Maria CA by Grand Chef de Gare Court Bradbury. Colors were advanced by the Grand Color Guard from San Mateo Voiture 393. POW Empty Chair was draped by Grand Chef de Train William J Reed. Grand Aumonier South William Sullivan draped the Altar Cloth and offered the opening prayer. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Grand Conducteur Ronald A Galvan

Roll Call of officers by Grand Correspondant Joseph R Donovan:

Grand Chef de Gare Court Bradbury	Grand Cheminot District 1 Gary Leach
Grand Chef de Train William J Reed	Grand Cheminot District 2 Sous Larry Leonardo
Grand Conducteur Ronald A Galvan	Grand Cheminot District 3 Richard Edgecomb
Grand Commissaire Intendant Daniel Dumas	Grand Cheminot District 4 Charles Leonard
Grand Chef de Gare Passe Carl E Asher Jr Ex	Grand Cheminot District 5 Frank Estrada Excused
Grand Avocat Robert S Mattson	Grand Cheminot District 6 Victor Kestner
Grand Aumonier South William Sullivan	Grand Aumonier North Joshua L Laws Sr Excused
Grand Aide de Camp 1 Gary Wright	Grand Aide de Camp 2 Larry Turley
Grand Aide de Camp 3	Grand Aide de Camp 4 Ralph H Duncan
Grand Aide de Camp 5	Grand Aide de Camp 6 Jesse Taylor
Quorum declared present	

Grand Directeur VP South Walter J “Sonny” Quinn introduced our National appointments: Sous Avocat Wayne Schwartz, Sous Directeur Box Cars Dennis Matarrese, Sous Directeur Public Relations Peter Duncan, and Sous Directeur Youth Sports Robert Mattson. Past Grand Chef’s present were Ted Pasnak, Sonny Quinn, Jim Palsrok, Bob Mattson, Carl Asher, and Honorary Barney LaRue.

The Minutes of the Grandes Cheminots Meeting held October 19, 2008 were accepted as read.

Grand Chef Court Bradbury announced the following appointments: Alfred Menshew Grand Aide de Camp District 3, Resolutions Committee Chairman Wayne Schwartz, with Dennis Alexander and Walter Waite III Motion to accept the appointments by John Fee, 2nd Victor Kestner, CARRIED

OFFICERS REPORTS:

GRAND CHEF de GARE Court Bradbury has 200 hours, travelled over 4500 miles since October. He attended 7 Christmas Dinners and thanks those profusely for their hospitality. He attended the Ceremony at Fresno honoring our Merci Box Car and the Alameda Wreck held in Santa Clara, the dinner honoring National American Legion Commander, and several District and Area American Legion Meetings.

GRAND CHEF de TRAIN William J Reed has 92 hours, travelled 1700 miles and made 12 visitations to local Voitures. He presented 100% Pins and Certificates to Voitures 109, 257, 358, 365, 394, 736, 912, 1341, and 1450.

GRAND CONDUCTEUR Ronald A Galvan has 95 hours, travelled 1000 miles, made 6 Voiture visitations, and conducted one Wreck. On Ways & Means, Sous Cheminots are challenged to raise the following: District 1-\$400, District 2-\$400, District 3-\$400, District 4-\$400, District 5-\$500, and District 6-\$300. The

figures have been adjusted due to size of the Voitures. Submissions to Grande Voiture are behind at this time. Remember, the goal is to keep our per-capita low, and to fund Grande Activities.

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 1 Gary Leach: 2 of 7 Voitures reporting; 114 members, 44 hours, 1191 miles, donations \$28,645 for per cap of \$251.27. 4 Audits are in..

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 2 John Fee: 6 of 7 Voitures reporting, 204 Members, 7 Audits are in, 9962 hours, 4761 miles, donations \$49810 for per cap \$255.83.

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 3 Richard Edgecomb: 6 of 7 Voitures reporting 173 members, 66 hours, 385 miles, \$49,810 donations, per cap \$584, 6 Audit Reports are in. Voiture 282 has folded and turned in their charter. Several of their members have transferred to Voiture 653 and we are trying to get the remainder.

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 4 Charles Leonard: 4 of 8 Voitures reporting, 195 members, 9310 hours, 44,476 miles, donations 68788 for per cap of \$352.75, 2 visitation, 4 Audits are in

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 5 Frank Estrada: 8 of 8 Voitures reporting, 8 Audits are in (100%) 374 members, donations 95869.50, per cap \$256.33

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 6 Victor Kestner: 5 of 5 Voitures reporting, 167 members, 7383 hours, 17,130 miles, \$234,220.50 donations, \$293.24 per cap. 5 Audits are in.

GRAND PUBLICISTE Paul Terry: Some have complained about the size of the last 40 & 8 column in the Legionnaire. Paul explained that we received exactly ¼ page, which is what we pay for. Previous issues had larger space allocated due to the generosity of the Editor, Sous Publiciste Dave Eby. Directeurs are requested to provide an article to Paul that will be utilized at some time in the future.

CORRESPONDANCE read by Grand Correspondant:

1. Endorsement for Joe Ser III from Grande du VA for Chef de Chemin de Fer 2009-2010
2. Hillbilly Wrek Cleveland TN March 27 – 29
3. Great Western States Promenade Kanai AK April 16 – 18
4. Central States Promenade Wichita KS April 30 – May 2
5. Memorial Day Services Arlington VA May 23 - 25

GRAND DIRECTEURS REPORTS:

AMERICANISM Sous Ken Newman: \$845 currently in the fund. 6 Locales have paid for their pins. He acknowledged a \$1000 Contribution from former Voiture 1509. A program needs to be developed to spend available funds. Reports are necessary; “No Report” wastes paper, time, and is not acceptable.

CHILD WELFARE Sous Gene Fanucchi: Each Locale NEED to submit their report to Directeur Ray Alli by June 15. He acknowledged a Contribution of \$2,000 from the former Voiture 1509. Ardery Fund from National is available to provide \$150 per child or a total of \$600 per family for EMERGENCIAS. Forms are available from the Directeur and must be sent to Grand Correspondant for processing before being forwarded to National. The Ralph Lingle Fund is available in California to reimburse Locales for CW expenses. Submit form to Directeur. Grant requests were received from V-912 for Easter Egg Hunt \$100, V-653 for Handicapped Childrens Farm Program \$500, and V-1406 for Jobs daughters \$300. The requests were approved by the committee. Motion to accept report, 2nd Richard Edgecomb, CARRIED

RECESS at 0955 for visitation by LaFemmes President Sheryl Palsrok. She brought greetings and introduced her accompanying officers. RECONVENE at 1000

LOCO & BOX CAR Dennis Matarrese: Locales MUST report changes to drivers and submit copies of their drivers license for the Insurance Company. New Insurance Certificates were distributed to Locales with Rolling Stock. National Box Car Crew & Associate Cards are available. National Box Car pins are available from Ted Pasmak. These programs directly benefit ALL National programs, and deserve your assistance. Grande du CA Pins depicting Sonoma V-338 are \$5.00ea, and go toward subsidizing some of our insurance costs. Locales MUST sell 25 pins AND report activity to be included. A vest with Loco Pins is being raffled, hopefully to subsidize some gasoline costs of our Loco's. Please participate. Dennis is working with our Web Master on a column "Loco Tech Talks". More later. Dennis emphasized the importance of joining the Hobo's. National Directeur Gordie Foley has more info. Dennis is canvassing for a possible new vendor for Rolling Stock Insurance. More details later. V-1203 has been selected for next year's pin. Film maker Beth Spiegel is researching information re Merci Box Cars and is looking for assistance, especially first hand information. Contact Dennis or National Directeur Jim Maxwell.

NURSES TRAINING Sous George Dixon: Checks for pin sales will be mailed to Directeur Freddie Sisario

POW/MIA Stanley Fimowicz: New pins have not been received from National as of today. Five Locales owe money from last year. He will contact them ASAP. The fund stands at \$7430. He acknowledged a Contribution of \$1000 from the former V-1509. New pins will be distributed shortly.

PUBLIC RELATIONS Peter Duncan: Continue USING the information packet handed out at our last Promenade. He EXPECTS reports of activity by Locales! A contest was announced \$100 to the best article presented to a newspaper AND actually printed.

RITUAL Jerry Wilcox: Opening & closing a Promenade constitutes Ritual. All Voitures MUST report something!

SPECIAL AWARDS Sous Jim Carpenter: More participation from Locales is necessary for the 4 programs. The National Generals Club assists the program, please join. A good example for Hero would be Capt Sully Sullenberg who landed a plane in the Hudson. He lives in Danville, Contra Costa County, V-573 for action! Nominations are due June 1. A handout with guidelines and sample forms was distributed. The raffle raised \$201.

VAVS Barney LaRue: Certification process is still slow for Deputies and Representatives. We need to promote the "Keep the Wheel Chairs Rolling" Program. He is promoting a change in National to award \$100 vice \$50. Reps and Deputies are still needed at several clinics and Barstow CA Veterans Home.

VOITURE ACTIVITIES: James Hadley TWO reports are required yearly from each Locale, fall and Summer. He intends to send a new activity reporting form to all Correspondants Locale. Each Correspondant should keep track of activity monthly; that way forms are efficiently tallied.

YOUTH SPORTS Sous Steve Villegas: All pins are gone. Several Locales have not paid for their pins as yet. Grant money is available for the program. Locales should ASK for it! He acknowledged a

Contribution of \$1000 from the former V-1509. Motion to donate \$100 to the National Fund. 2nd Richard Edgecomb, CARRIED

WAYS & MEANS Ron Galvan: Raffle raised \$200 yesterday. District 2 donated \$250. Because of membership in the Districts, Fund Raising Goals for Sous Cheminots have been adjusted: District 1 - \$400, District 2 - \$400, District 3 - \$400, District 4 - \$400, District 5 - \$500, and District 6 - \$300. First place prize is two Airline tickets, any destination!

FINANCE COMMITTEE Bob Mattson reporting: Locales receiving checks from Grande are requested to PLEASE cash them promptly. Also checks for the Grande should be made out to 'Grande Voiture du California'.

GRAND COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT Dan Dumas read the fund balances as of February 2009. Motion to approve, 2nd Joe Donovan, CARRIED A check should be sent to Bob Munroe for Sacramento Voiture 268 our host for the next Grande Promenade.

TIME & PLACE Acting Chairman John Lea: Department Commander Al Lennox intends to appoint a committee looking into Department Conventions at the upcoming DEC in Santa Maria next month. Chairman of the 89th Promenade in Sacramento is Robert Munroe. Everything is coming together. Rooms \$89 plus tax at the Lions Gate Hotel, Banquet \$35. Full details later. Sonny Quinn reported the 2010 Promenade in Monrovia is still a go. Rooms \$139 inc tax, banquet \$35.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS AVOCAT Robert Mattson: Bob provided an overview of information required by and submitted to the Franchise Tax Board due to their review of Non-profit Organizations. V-858 has also been contacted. Details of the FTB request were in the last Legionnaire. Once the National Constitution & By-Laws are re-written to reflect recent changes, the Grande Voiture will also need to be revised. Following that, each Locale will need to revise theirs and submit them to the Grande Voiture for approval. (Its' been over 10 years!) The Avocat reminded all Committee Chairmen that any motions made in committee dictating expenditure of funds must be presented to and approved by the Cheminot.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE Wayne Schwartz presented the Bread & Butter Resolutions to Chairman John Fazzone of Voiture 1179 with our thanks and appreciation. Certificates were presented to him for American Legion Post 56 and the Santa Maria Inn.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD of the GRAND VOITURE

CORRESPONDANT Joe Donovan ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1 Grand Directeurs are requested to report their PROGRAMS, not their individual hours and travel.
- 2 Grand Cheminots are responsible for ensuring their respective Locales submit their reports ie Consolidated Reports, Audits, etc, and reporting the summation and written summation to the Grand Correspondant. You have been elected for this important job by your peers! If you don't get the reports, CALL the Correspondant, Chef or anybody else, but get them! Ask Frank Estrada, Vic Kester or Richard Edgecomb for tactics!
- 3 Cheminots: Audits from your Locales are critical. Ask the Grand Chef or Avocat – FTB mandate!

Voiture 257 will have a Wreck in Sacramento in June hosted by Voiture 268.
Voiture 1406 will have a Wreck in Perris in May hosted by V-394.

Memorial Service by Grand Aumonier South Bill Sullivan. 26 Voyageurs were reported as being transferred to Voiture Everlasting.

There being no further business, the Grandes Cheminots Meeting was adjourned at 11:00.

Joseph R Donovan
Grand Correspondant