

## GRANDES CHEMINOTS MTG

October 18, 2020 Fresno Federal Post 509, American Legion, Fresno CA

The Grandes Cheminots Meeting was called to order at 0905 by Grand Chef de Gare Mildred S Wright-Pearson. Colors were in place. Grand Conducteur Anthony Castillo led the Pledge to our Colors. Grand Aumonier Fred Clegg draped the Altar Cloth and offered the Opening Prayer. Grand Chef de Train Joseph R Donovan draped the POW banner.

Roll Call of Officers by Grand Correspondant Joe Donovan: Aumonier South Ozan Evans, Aide de Camp N Gary

Wright, S Ozan Evans, S Robert Heinisch were excused. Cheminot District 4 Martha Huff resigned Friday and Sous Cheminot Albert Martinez was not present. Avocat Robert Mattson, Alternate Cheminot Nationale Dennis Foggie, and Cheminot District 5 Gary Blackburn were present on-line. All other Grand officers were present.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:** Past Grand Frank Campo Introduced National Officers/Directors/Committee Persons: Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer himself, Commissaire Intendant Daniel Dumas, Advisory Committee Joseph R Donovan, Directeur Child Welfare Joseph R Donovan, Sous Directeur Americanism Robert C Brown, Sous Directeur Carville Star Steve Villegas, Sous Directeur Loco & Box Car Dennis Matarrese, Sous Directeur Ritual Court Bradbury, and Cheminot National John B Bartos. Not Present were Sous Directeur Membership Howard Darter, Sous Directeur Special Awards Jim Carpenter, and Sous Directeur Voiture Activities James Hadley were excused. Past Grand Chef's present were Joseph R Donovan, , Frank Campo, Steve Villegas, Will Williams, John Bartos, and himself.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the July 10 On-line Grand Promenade were accepted as read. Motion to approve Alex Herrera, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Huffman, CARRIED

**APPOINTMENTS:** Resolutions Committee: John B Bartos, Steve Villegas, and Ralph Jacob. Motion to approve Joe Donovan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alex Herrera, CARRIED

### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Nomination of Danielle Duffaut for Grand Conducteur 2022-23 from Voiture 47
2. Endorsement of Nomination of Danielle Duffaut for Grand Conducteur 2022-23 from Voiture 47
3. Congratulatory Letter from National Directeur POW/MIA Steve Slegers naming Robert Huey Outstanding Voyageur of the Year from the POW Committee
4. Congratulatory Letter from National Directeur Child Welfare Joe Donovan to Voiture 365 as Outstanding Voiture of the Year for Child Welfare.

**GRAND CHEF de GARE** Mildred S Wright Pearson: Activities are lite as are visitations due to COVID 19. Local Promenades, Elks Club and American Legion participation, Working fire lines with food distribution to firefighters for Creek Fire. Report from July 1 through September 30: 110 hrs = \$550.00, 183 miles = \$92.00. Donations = \$258.00 Total YTD \$900.00. Membership Achievement Certificates and pins for 2020 were distributed to those Locales over 100% last year. (Normally presented at Grande Promenade)

**GRAND CHEF de TRAIN** Joseph R Donovan: Tips and strategies for obtaining new members received from National Sous Directeur Membership Region 1 Paul Emmert Sr was read and discussed. Current Membership Report was distributed. 10 Locales have not yet transmitted any membership. All Voyageur's dues are due and payable. ARTICLE V Section 12 National Constitution requires a Voyageur's dues to be paid by October 20. The National Goal is for each Grande Voiture to gain a percentage of last

year's total. For California, that means 16 members. To be fair, each District Grand Cheminot is tasked to increase their District total by 3 over last year's closing. Cheminot's can distribute their goal as they see fit within their District.. YOU CAN HELP! Last January, due to selling out the original Challenge Coin Order (that benefitted Ways & Means), I ordered another 200 coins. Alas, we didn't meet in February, so I am out personally the cost of the new order. Please purchase coins, profit will be donated to this year's Ways & Means. My personal report 35 hours, 424 miles, donations \$36.00 for YTD total of \$423.00.

GRAND CONDUCTEUR Anthony Castillo: Has sent a letter to each Locale, AND District Sous Cheminot's urging them to donate at least \$100.00 to the Grande W&M effort. For this Grandes Cheminots, a Lotto Board with many different tickets is being offered that could result in a big winner for the board winner. Plus, we have the usual 50/50 "Opportunity" drawing.

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 1 Steven Culp: 2 of 4 reporting (268 & 1119), No Audits from V-557 or 858 Miles 69278 = \$34639, Hours 177 = \$885, Donations YTD TOTAL \$35524 /33mbrs = \$1076.48PC (GOOD, ACCURATE report from 50% of your District)

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 2 Bob Huffman: 4 of 6 Reports, No Audits from V 393, or 621 Hours 12279 = \$ 61395 , Miles 15175 = \$ 7588, Donations \$38121 YTD TOTAL \$ 107104/ 125 mbrs = \$ 856.83PC GOOD REPORT!

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 3 Alex Herrera; ? of 6 reports, 1 Audits (None V-104, V-109, V-1179, V-1303) Miles 2894= \$4320, Hours **525** = **\$2625**, Expenses \$ **0** YTD TOTAL **\$6945**/ 70 mbrs = **\$99.21PC** Addition error on hours!

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 4 E-mail 2 reports V-36 & 527 CR & Audits. No totals Hours, 47 = \$23.50 Miles 8808 = \$4404. YTD TOTAL \$1485 / 113 = \$13.35PC VERY LIGHT report from largest District

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 5 Gary Blackburn 3 Reports of 5, No Reports or Audits from V-1203 and 1504 Hours 38 = \$190.00, Miles 20 = \$10.00, Donations \$360.00 YTD TOTAL \$ 560.00 / 79 mbrs = \$ 32.83PC NICE LEGIBLE REPORT!

#### GRAND DIRECTEURS:

AMERICANISM Ken Newman (Written Report w/ Pin Accounting Sheet) Ken has recently undergone back surgery and is forced to resign. We wish him a speedy recovery and best wishes as he begins retirement. Locales are eligible for reimbursement of \$50.00 from Grand Americanism IF they participate in the program AND submit both Americanism and Voiture Activity Reports at Grand Promenade. 10 reports were received last year. Locales are urged to participate in the National Americanism Program, Details are on the National Web Site. 200 pins were purchased for 2021. PGC Will Williams from Voiture 268 has been appointed as successor to Ken, Sous Directeur Bobby Brown has pins for Southern CA, Fred Clegg has the remaining pins for Northern CA.

CARVILLE STAR Sous Directeur Danielle Duffaut emphasized the 4 programs of Carville Star: Star magazine @\$2.00 annually, Star pins @ \$3.00ea, Buy a Clinic or Buy a Country \$50, and the Museum Fund. How about purchasing a Star subscription for your personal dermatologist? It's only 2 bucks a year! Steve accepted 100 pins from National, cost per \$3.00ea.

CHILD WELFARE: National Directeur Joe Donovan: 200 pins were purchased this year, 105 have been sold. More are available from Joe. Joe explained the difference between the Ardery Fund (National

reimbursement for Locales that help Children during or as a result of disasters) and the Lingle Fund (CA Child Welfare Money available for special projects) Both require participation in our Pin programs for continued funding. An updated Pin Accounting Form was submitted. Cash sales of pins were tabulated.

LOCO & BOX CAR: Directeur Gary Blackburn On Line and Dennis Matarrese, Sous Directeur National Box Car. Pins, Crew Cards and Commemorative coins are available from National Sous Directeur Dennis Matarrese that support the NBCA. Merci Box Car Per Mildred Wright-Pearson: The City of Fresno has AGAIN put forth a stumbling block requiring an Independent Certified Inspector certify the welding of the Certified Welder in the attachment of the roof to the column's on our cover. The contractor was here yesterday afternoon to clarify and explain the new requirement. Things look toward construction actually beginning mid-November WE HOPE! Lake Co is trying to sell their Loco. Hobo's Fred Clegg requested more participants to spread the enjoyment to children. Dennis read the donation list of the NBCA this last year, \$21,250.00 to various programs of La Societe. A big chunk goes to the Annual Keep the wheel Chairs Rolling contests at the various VA and State veteran's Homes. A brief note of needs from the assigned VAVS Rep is all that is required. Box Car Maintenance Fund of \$150.00 from NBCA has been received.

NURSES TRAINING: Jack Shipper written report: 300 pins were ordered, 59 are left. Another 100 have been ordered. An updated Pin Accounting Sheet was submitted.

POW Jim McClurg resigned as Directeur. He is moving to Virginia. Sous Directeur Robert Huey still recovering. Grand Chem Mildred appointed John Anderson from V-31 to be Directeur. He attempted to sell the program merchandise. Since all Voitures place the POW Banner during opening of their Promenades, a simple entry to that effect constitutes the required Annual Report! Various Veterans organizations continue to publish statistics on the POW issue. Scholarships are available for Technical Schools also. 250 pins are available.

PUBLIC RELATIONS Ralph Jacob PICTURES of Voyageurs and events are needed. Send to Bill Beaumont at HQ for the "Voyageur Briefs" and/or Tom Orval Grand Correspondant du WI for the 40&8er Magazine. E-Mails of members should be sent to Grand Correspondant Joe ANNUALLY to get on distribution for Voyageur Briefs

SPECIAL AWARDS Jim Carpenter submitted a written report. California submission of Youssef Brady from LAPD as Hero of the Year from V-1450 won Grande Voiture du CA and also National Award. Thanks to Sous Directeur Court Bradbury for his efforts. NO other nominations were presented by ANY Locale in CA for consideration.

VAVS: Jim Leyser: Keep the Wheel Chairs Rolling Program (although a program name change is possible) has money available for clinics, hospitals, & Veterans Homes. A brief narrative (200 words or less) from the Deputy or Representative is all that is required. CA only received 1 grant last year, Barney LaRue from Livermore. 40 & 8 needs more ACTIVE VAVS reps and deputies at the various VA Clinics and Facilities AND State Veteran's Homes. Only 2 reports were received last year, Voitures 268 and 1406. We CAN do better!

WAYS & MEANS: Anthony Castillo reminded all Sous Cheminots of their goal to solicit donations of \$100.00 each from their respective Locales. Only 6 Locales have donated so far. Those experiencing severe fires in their regions are urged to contribute to fire victims; the Grande Voiture can survive without their participation, it's more important to take care of the home front. The Ways & Means's 50/50 Drawing raised \$186.00. The winner donated his proceeds back to the Grande, Many thanks. The Lotto Board netted \$209.00. Thank you VOYAGEURS.

YOUTH SPORTS: Acting Steve Villegas has 100 pins available. Locales are eligible to submit claims if they participate in the Pin Program.

INSURANCE: Joe Donovan: 10 Locales have not paid their Liability Insurance. Each will now be billed at \$2.75 per member.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Chuck Camarato turned proceedings over to Grand Commissaire Intendant Dan Dumas who read the fund balances and the Final approved Budget for FY 2021. Motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Donovan, CARRIED

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS: Sous Avocat Ralph Jacob live and Avocat Bob Mattson on-line. Three Resolutions from Voiture 1406 were read for the record. Approval will be at Grande Promenade. 1, Article VI Section 1 Define Grande Voiture Fiscal Year, 2. Article VI Sections 3 & 4 Define who can attend Grande Promenade and Grandes Cheminots. 3. Grande By-Laws NEW Article IV Emergency Promenades & renumber subsequent paragraphs. There are no revisions to our Standing Rules at this time. V-621 has yet to submit their revised Constitution. The Grande Constitution will be submitted to National Avocat following the National Promenade for a clean updated version.

TIME & PLACE: Grand Correspondant Joe Donovan. Spring 2021 Grandes Cheminots Mtg will be in Modesto (as of now). Grande Promenade July 2021 at Fresno. Fall 2021 Grandes Cheminots San Diego Spring 2022 Grandes Cheminots Santa Clara. Details will be provided in ample time.

TROPHY Marylyn Rideaux on-line submitted a written report on maintenance and upkeep of the Trophy Case here at Post 509.

RESOLUTIONS: Steve Villegas :B & B's were presented to Post 509 American Legion Auxiliary, Voiture 31, and Wyndham Garden Fresno Airport for their service in hosting the Grande Cheminots.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD of the GRANDE VOITURE:

Danielle Duffaut urged membership in the Past Chef's Club. The purpose is to assist in publication of the 40 & 8er Magazine.

Steve Villegas provided updates on the upcoming Western States Promenade hosted by California. April In Woodland CA at Yolo Post 77. Details will be sent to all Locales in CA.

Grand Correspondant Joe Donovan: Envelopes and stationary are available

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Grand Aumonier Fred Clegg. Grand Correspondant Joe Donovan read the list of 16 Deceased Voyageurs from February to July, total for 2020 FY was 39. This year, 6 Deceased Voyageurs since Grande Promenade.

There being no further business, the Grandes Cheminots Meeting was adjourned at 1055. Altar Cloth and POW banner were retrieved, Colors remained in place. Everyone urged to drive safely on the way home!

Joseph R Donovan, Grand Correspondant 34 REGISTERED, 30 BANQUET  
Not Present Locales 36, 104, 109, 257, 338, 393, 394, 527, 557, 621, 1119, 1203, 1303, 1341, and 1504