

CONSTITUTION
of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Name
Grande Voiture du California Inc.

PREAMBLE

“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:
To create a charitable and non-profit veterans organization; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to assist and promote the welfare and well-being of those who have served or are now serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, and their widows, widowers and orphans; to participate in all memorial services for and to be present at the funerals of departed comrades; to take part in and encourage others to participate in the proper observance of all days honoring veterans; to preserve the memories of our Services in the Armed Forces of our Country; to actively participate within our membership in projects relating to (a) the welfare of the children of America; (b) the health of our Nation by fostering a nurse’s training program; and (c) selected charitable endeavors.”

ARTICLE I
NAME

Section 1. NAME: This organization shall be known as Name of the GRANDE VOITURE du CALIFORNIA Inc, LA SOCIETE des QUARANTE HOMMES et HUIT CHEVAUX and located in City/County County, California.

ARTICLE II
NATURE AND OBJECTS

Section 1. NATURE of ORGANIZATION: La Societe de Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux is a civilian organization without rank or distinction between its members, and is non-political.

Section 2. OBJECTS of ORGANIZATION: The objects of Name Voiture # of the Grande Voiture du California, La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux are:
(a) To honor, through membership, those honorably discharged and currently serving U.S. military personnel who have proved themselves worthy of such honor.
(b) Through mutual helpfulness to bind ourselves in close ties afforded by our common service in the armed forces of our country.

Section 3. INCORPORATION: Name Voiture # was incorporated in the State of California on Date and was issued California Incorporation No #. The official address of Name Voiture # shall be Official street address Usually Correspondant

Section 4. DESCRIPTION: This instrument is the Constitution of Name Voiture #, and in all respects subject primarily to the provisions of the National Constitution of Voiture Nationale and the Grande Constitution of the Grande Voiture du California, La Societe des

Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, and any and all amendments thereof. Any provisions herewith in conflict with the aforementioned Constitutions and any and all amendments thereto, are void and without effect. Two copies of this approved Local Constitution shall be forwarded to the Grand Avocat for initial approval, and then to National Avocat for final approval. This Constitution shall become effective when notification is received from the Correspondant National of its approval by the Avocat National.

ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION and PURPOSE

Section 1. ORGANIZATION: The territorial jurisdiction of Name Voiture #. shall consist of _____ County, State of California. Waiver of jurisdiction over a person eligible for membership is provided in the National Constitution, ARTICLE V, Section 5.

Section 2. VOITURE HEADQUARTERS: The headquarters of Name Voiture # shall be street address, usually Correspondant.

Section 3. PURPOSE: La Societe is devoted to the following purposes:

A. To create an organization of true, loyal, and proven Veterans through which they may bind themselves more closely in comradeship and fraternalism;

B. To honor through membership, those Veterans in good standing who have proved themselves worthy of such an honor.

ARTICLE IV ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. WHO MAY BECOME MEMBERS: No persons other than honorably discharged U.S. military personnel and active duty U.S. military may become members of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. No Voiture Locale may prescribe or establish any eligibility qualifications for membership in La Societe which are in conflict with the Constitution of Voiture Nationale.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP and DUES

Section 1. HONORARY MEMBERS FORBIDDEN: There is but one form of membership in La Societe, namely active membership, and the election of honorary members is forbidden.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP in ONE VOITURE ONLY: No member may belong to more than one Voiture Locale, nor change their membership from one Voiture Locale to another except as is provided by this Constitution.

Section 3. A Life Membership in La Société may be awarded by the Voiture Locale to those members deemed worthy of such an honor.

Section 4. LIMITATION OF MEMBERSHIP: Numerical limitation of membership by any Voiture Locale is forbidden.

Section 5. VOITURE JUDGE of QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS: Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Constitution of the Grande Voiture du California, and the Constitution of Voiture Nationale, Name Voiture shall be the sole judge of the qualifications of its own members and of their nominees for membership. An active duty or honorably discharged U.S. military person nominated for membership in La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux who meets all of the qualifications as set forth in Section 7 NOMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP, shall be elected at a regular or special Promenade called for that purpose, upon an affirmative vote of at least a simple majority of those members present and voting. Voting may be by a viva voice (voice), ballot or by the raising of hands.

Section 6. WAIVER of JURISDICTION: Upon the written request of any Voiture Locale to Name Voiture having jurisdiction of a person eligible for membership, the latter may waive jurisdiction of the eligible person, and if it does, the former Voiture Locale may, within six months of the date of the granting of the waiver but not afterwards, unless further requests be made and granted, initiate the eligible person as, and they shall become, a member of the Voiture Locale into which they are initiated.

Section 7. NOMINATION for MEMBERSHIP: Membership may be granted by invitation only to any eligible person upon the nomination by a Voyageur Militaire and executed on the form furnished by Voiture Nationale showing:

- a. That they have been an honorably discharged U.S. military or U.S. active duty person preceding the date of the petition, and that their dues for the current year have been paid.
- b. That they have rendered service in the U.S. military entitling them to the honor of membership in La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux.
- c. That their character and reputation are good, and that they have rendered the service aforesaid, which must be shown by an endorsement to that effect bearing the signature of two or more members of the Voiture Locale to which the nomination is addressed.
- d. That they have or have not been previously rejected for membership, and if they have, the date of rejection and the number and location of the Voiture Locale by which they were rejected. That, if they were formerly a member of La Societe, the number and location of the Voiture Locale to which they belonged, and the reason for their withdrawal.
- e. That, if they withdrew from membership under Section 11 of this Article, the certificate required by said section is attached to their nomination.

Section 8. No Prisonniers de Guerre shall be required to wait longer than ninety (90) ninety days for initiation following approval of their petition.

Section 9. REMOVAL of MEMBERSHIP: Any member who removes their residence to the territorial jurisdiction of a Voiture Locale other than that of which they are a member shall be entitled, upon request, to a certificate from the Voiture Locale of which they are a member, which must be furnished them within thirty (30) days from the date of their request therefrom, setting forth their membership therein and the duration thereof; and upon presentation thereof

within two years to the Voiture Locale in whose territorial jurisdiction they then reside, and have continued the payment of their dues in La Societe, may be admitted into membership in such Voiture Locale under those terms as may be prescribed by that Voiture Locale.

Section 10. TRANSFER of MEMBERSHIP WITHIN JURISDICTION: In any territorial jurisdiction in which there are, or may hereafter be, two or more Voiture Locales, a member desiring to transfer their membership from one to another of said Voitures, shall be entitled, upon request, to a certificate from the Voiture Locale of which they are a member, which must be furnished them within thirty (30) days of their request therefore, setting forth their membership therein and the duration thereof, and, upon presentation thereof within one year to the Voiture Locale in said jurisdiction in which they desire membership, and have continued the payment of their dues in La Societe, may be admitted into membership in the Voiture Locale in which they desire membership upon such terms as said Voiture Locale may prescribe

Section.11. SURRENDER of MEMBERSHIP: A member of La Societe in good standing shall be entitled, upon request and upon surrender of their membership card, to withdraw from membership, and shall be entitled to a certificate, to be issued by the Correspondant of the Voiture Locale of which they are a member, setting forth the duration of their membership and that they have honorably withdrawn therefrom, and from and after such surrender and the receipt of such certificate they shall no longer be a member of La Societe, and shall not be readmitted to membership except upon nomination in accordance with Section 7 of this Article.

Section 12. SUBSEQUENT NOMINATION OF REJECTEE: A Voiture Locale may not entertain the nomination for membership of any person rejected by it or any other Voiture Locale until the expiration of six (6) months from the date of rejection.

Section 13. PROCEDURE WHERE NOMINEE FORMERLY REJECTED or FORMER MEMBER: Whenever it shall appear from the nomination of a person desiring membership, or from other information, that a nominee has been previously rejected for membership, has been expelled or has withdrawn from membership in some Voiture Locale other than the one nominated, their nomination shall not be acted upon until the receipt of a written statement from the Voiture Locale which rejected or expelled them or from which they withdrew, as to the reason for their rejection or expulsion, and such statement shall be read in open Promenade Locale before their nomination is acted upon; provided, if such statement has not been received within (60) sixty days from the date of request therefore, or if the Voiture Locale from which the statement is sought is no longer in existence, the nomination may be acted upon without such statement.

Section 14. DUES: Dues shall be set by the Cheminot and approved by the Promenade in January of each year for the following year. All Dues are payable to Voiture Nationale in advance of October 20 of each year, and payment thereof constitutes the payer a member in good standing until the end of the following calendar year. Dues paid prior to September 1 of any year on account of new members shall be considered as for the current year and those paid on or after September 1 of any year on account of new members shall be considered for the then ensuing year.

A. All elected and appointed officers shall pay their dues before being installed.
B. An initiation fee shall accompany each application for membership in this Voiture. The fee shall be calculated at Dollar (\$ XX.00) over the cost of the Chapeau, Bear Flag, Marching Medal, lapel pin, and membership dues.

Section 15. PENALTIES FOR NON-PAYMENT of DUES: Any member who shall fail to pay their dues for the current year on or before December 31st shall not be permitted to attend any Promenades, Nationale, Grande or Locale, until such dues for the current year have been paid, and any member in arrears for one year in the payment of their dues shall stand suspended and the Correspondant Locale shall notify him or her by registered/certified mail at his last known address; and if they shall fail within one month from the date of the mailing of said notice to pay the arrears, and such reinstatement fees as may be required by the Grande Voiture, they shall and may not be readmitted to membership except upon nomination in accordance with Section 7 of this Article.

Section 16. EXPULSION for TWO YEARS DELINQUENCY: Any member who fails for two years to pay their dues shall, as of December 31 of the second year and without requirement of the notice provided for in Section 15 of this Article, stand expelled; and may not be readmitted to membership except upon nomination in accordance with Section 7 of this Article.

Section 17. MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Each member shall be entitled to a membership card, to be issued annually, and to be in such form as the Cheminots Nationaux shall from time to time prescribe, provided, no membership card shall be issued to a new member unless and until they shall have taken the obligation or obligations required by the ritual of La Societe; and no membership card shall be issued to any member except upon full payment of their dues.

ARTICLE VI ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. ADMINISTRATION: The administration of all rules of Name Voiture # of the Grande Voiture du California, La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux shall be under the direction of the Officers of _____ Voiture.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP: There shall at all times be a minimum of ten (10) active members of Name Voiture #. Failing to maintain said membership shall be cause for surrender of the Charter of Name Voiture # as prescribed by the National Constitution Article XI Section 4.

Section 3. PROMENADES: Promenades of Voiture # shall be held on the ? Day of each month at Location CA. The location of the Promenades may be changed by a vote of the membership at the preceding month's Cheminot Meeting.

A. Special Promenades may be called at the discretion of the Chef de Gare and must be called upon a request of a majority of the Cheminots, or a petition of ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Voiture. Said petition must state the purpose of such Promenade. Notice of

the time, place, and purpose of such Special Promenade shall be mailed to each member of the Voiture to be received seventy two (72) hours prior to the time thereof.

B. A quorum for a Promenade shall consist of # members. **(The minimum number of Voyageurs required for a Promenade shall be not less than 10% of the total membership of this Voiture Locale # .)**

Section 4. CHEMINOT MEETINGS: The Cheminot is the Executive Board of the Voiture and shall consider all items pertaining to the membership and finance of the Voiture.

A. The Cheminots shall meet monthly at Time at Location , CA, unless previously changed by a vote of the Promenade.

B. A quorum for a Cheminot Meeting shall be a majority of the members of the Cheminot.

Section 5. CONSTITUTION: Following ratification at a local Promenade, this Constitution shall be forwarded to the Grand Avocat for approval and concurrence with both the Grande Voiture and Voiture National Constitutions. Following approval by the Grand Avocat, this Constitution shall then be forwarded to the Avocat National for approval and final certification by the Correspondant National.

Section 6. CONFLICT WITH NATIONAL OR GRANDE CONSTITUTIONS: Any provisions of this Constitution in conflict with the Grande Constitution or the Constitution of Voiture Nationale, or any amendment thereof, are void and without effect.

Section 7. LOCALE OFFICERS: Locale Officers shall be nominated at the May Promenade. Additional nominations and elections by secret ballot shall be held at the June Promenade. Vacancies in elective officers shall be filled by secret ballot at the next regular Promenade following notification of all members. Nominations for Delegates and Alternate Delegates to Grande and National Promenades shall be held at the Month Promenade.

A. The elective officers of this Voiture are:

Chef de Gare	Chef de Train
Conducteur	Commissaire Intendant
Garde de la Porte	Commis Voyageur
Drapeau	Three Members of the Cheminot

B. The appointive officers of this Voiture are: (* = **Mandatory**, ** = **Recommended**)

Correspondant *	Lampiste *
Medecin *	Garde des Prisonniers **
Avocat **	Aumonier **
Historien **	Chef de Cuisine **

C. The Cheminot of this Voiture shall consist of: (* = **Mandatory**, ** = **Recommended**)

Chef de Gare *	Chef de Train *
Conducteur *	Commissaire Intendant *
Garde de la Porte *	Commis Voyageur **
Jr Chef de Gare Passe *	Correspondant *

 # elected Members of the Cheminot * AND
any current Grand or National Officers **

Section 8. TERM: Elective Officers of this Voiture shall hold office for one (1) term only, excepting the Cheminots-at Large who may be re-elected for additional terms. A term shall cover the period of one (1) year or until their successors are chosen and qualified. All Officers shall serve without compensation, except as hereinafter provided.

Section 9. VOITURE FUNDS: All Locale funds shall be deposited in the name of Name Voiture # as designated by the Cheminots.

- A. A uniform accounting system shall be utilized to account for all funds of the Voiture.
- B. Officers handling money of the Voiture should be properly bonded.
- C. An annual Audit of the Commissaire Intendant's records shall be accomplished before the installation of the newly elected Chef de Gare, and may be required at such other times as the Cheminot may direct. The newly elected Chef shall appoint the Audit Committee, none of whom shall be signers on any accounts of the Voiture.

Section 10. RULES OF ORDER: Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall, except as they may be in conflict with this Constitution, the Constitution of the Grande Voiture, or the Constitution of Voiture Nationale, or any Special Rules of Procedure of this Voiture, govern the proceedings of any meetings of this Voiture.

ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. CHEF DE GARE: The Chef de Gare shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Voiture. He/she shall preside at all Promenades and meetings of the Cheminots. He/she shall appoint all appointive officers and members of standing committees of the Voiture except as otherwise provided. He/she shall watch the finances of the Voiture. He/she shall represent the Voiture at all public and private occasions and festivities in which the Voiture may participate. He/she shall perform such other duties as may properly come within his or her province as Chief Executive. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Voiture. In his or her absence, the Chef de Train shall assume the duties of the Chef de Gare, and if both are absent, the Conducteur and Commissaire Intendant shall assume the offices in the order named.

Section 2. THE CHEF de TRAIN: The Chef de Train shall be the Vice President of the Voiture, and shall be charged with the duty of actively assisting the Chef de Gare in conducting the affairs of the Voiture. He/she shall actively represent the Chef de Gare in promoting the good and advancement of the organization. He/she shall further perform the duties of the Chef de Gare in his or her absence, or in the event of his or her inability to perform such duties. In the event of the death, resignation, or removal of the Chef de Gare, the Chef de Train shall succeed to that office. He/she shall be in charge of the membership program of the Voiture.

Section 3. THE COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT: The Commissaire Intendant shall be the Chief Finance Officer of the Voiture and shall be charged with the expending of all funds. He/she shall prepare and furnish a copy of next year's budget. He/she shall pay all bills, when approved by the Voiture, by checks signed by the authorized officer; said checks to contain itemized statements of and/or services rendered. He/she shall utilize uniform accounting system,

and shall submit twice yearly to the officers of the Cheminots, a financial statement showing detailed receipts and disbursements under such subheads as shall be designated and approved by the Cheminots. The depository of Voiture funds shall be in a bank designated by the Commissaire Intendant with the approval of the Cheminots.

Section 4. THE CORRESPONDANT: The Correspondant shall act as the Secretary of the Voiture. The Correspondant shall keep all records, books, membership rolls, etc., with the exception of those of the Commissaire Intendant. He/she shall present vouchers to the Commissaire Intendant when approved by the Voiture; said vouchers to contain itemized statements of and/or services rendered. The Correspondant shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Voiture and of the Cheminots, and a true record of all correspondence relative to the Voiture. He or she shall keep the files of the organization, and perform such other duties as the Chef de Gare or Cheminots may from time to time assign to him or her.

Section 5. THE CONDUCTEUR: The Conducteur shall have charge of all initiatory work at all Promenades and wrecks of this Voiture. The Conducteur shall perform such other duties as the Chef de Gare may from time to time assign to him or her.

Section 6. THE GARDE de la PORTE: The Garde de la Porte shall perform the functions of the Sergeant-at- Arms at all Promenades and Cheminots meetings, and shall also perform such other duties as the Chef de Gare may from time to time assign to him or her.

Section 7. THE LAMPISTE: The Lampiste shall perform the function of the Outer Guard at all Promenades and Cheminots meetings, and shall also perform such other duties as the Chef de Gare may from time to time assign to him or her.

Section 8. THE AUMONIER: The Aumonier shall perform the duties of Chaplain at all Promenades and Cheminots meetings, and shall also perform such spiritual duties as the Chef de Gare may from time to time assign to him or her.

Section 9. THE AVOCAT: The Avocat is the legal officer of the Voiture. The Avocat shall interpret the Constitution and By-Laws of both the Grande Voiture and Voiture Nationale, and he shall submit from time to time, recommendations and constructive criticism pertaining to pending legislation and/or changes in the Constitution and By-Laws. The Avocat shall be charged with coordinating the Constitutions and By-Laws of Nationale, Grande, and this Voiture, and shall also perform such other duties as the Chef de Gare may from time to time assign to him or her.

Section 10. THE MEDICIN: The Medicin shall be the Medical Officer representing the Voiture. The Medicin shall be charged with the duties of examining all applicants for initiatory work at the "wreck". The Medicin shall pass on the physical fitness of these applicants and shall report his findings to the Conducteur and other Officers in charge of initiatory work, and he shall not permit any Prisonnier de Guerre who is not in a fit physical and/or mental condition to undergo initiatory work to the detriment of their physical welfare. The Medicin shall also perform such other duties as the Chef de Gare may from time to time assign to him or her.

Section 11. THE HISTORIEN: The Historien shall collect for permanent preservation matters of interest to La Societe and shall submit to the Voiture a history of the Voiture during their term of office.

Section 12. THE COMMIS VOYAGEUR: The Commis Voyageur shall be responsible for advancing the Colors at Promenades and Cheminot Meetings, and shall also perform such other duties as the Chef de Gare may from time to time assign to him or her.

Section 13. THE DRAPEAU: The Drapeau shall be responsible for the safe keeping of all equipment of the Voiture not otherwise delegated to other officers or committees, and shall also perform such other duties as the Chef de Gare may from time to time assign to him or her.

Section 14. THE CHEMINOT: The Cheminots shall be the governing body of the Voiture between Promenades, and is vested with the administrative and judicial powers not in conflict with National or Grand Constitutions. It shall have the power to discipline all Voyageurs within its jurisdiction in any manner not prohibited by the Grand or the National Constitution. It may adopt and enforce such rules and regulations as may be required for the proper guidance of the membership of this Voiture. Its action shall be final except that any Voyageur Militaire who shall feel aggrieved thereby may present their or its grievance to the next Promenade, which shall have the power by two-thirds (2/3) vote to overrule the Cheminots.

ARTICLE VIII

EMERGENCY CANCELLATION OF PROMENADES

Section 1. In the event of a declared National or Local Emergency that requires the cancellation of a Voiture Locale ____#____ Promenade or Promenades, the following shall apply:

a. An Executive Order promulgated by the Chef de Gare and approved by Voiture Locale ____#____ Cheminot shall outline procedures for an on-line Promenade, and if required, the nomination of Voiture Locale ____#____ Officers, elections, Constitution or By-Laws changes, and disbursements of required funds that will be via on-line communication. Written Notice (by E-MAIL or USPS) shall be provided to all Voiture Locale ____#____ Members the intent to hold on-line Promenades. A quorum shall be that as prescribed in ARTICLE VI ADMINISTRATION, Section 3. B. of this Constitution.

b. If elections are required, written ballots shall be provided to all Voiture Locale ____#____ Members by E-MAIL or USPS. Ballots must indicate “oui”, “non”, or “NV” Not Voting. All ballots must be signed and transmitted to the Correspondant of Voiture Locale ____#____. The Correspondant will inform Voiture Locale ____#____ members the results of the balloting.

ARTICLE IX

DISCIPLINE PUNISHMENT and MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. All provisions in the National Constitution Articles XIII and XIV as they relate to Voiture Officers and Voyageurs Militaire are included herein without repetition and unnecessary duplication.

ARTICLE **X** AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Promenade by-two thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment shall be presented in writing at the immediately previous Promenade.

Section 2. Any amendment to the Constitution of Voiture Nationale or of the Grande Voiture which shall affect or conflict with any provisions herein contained shall be considered an amendment to this Constitution.

Section 3. By the adoption of this Constitution, all previous Constitutions are revoked and/or annulled. Any provisions herein which are in conflict with the National Constitution or the Grande Constitution of this organization are hereby annulled, and such provisions as are not in conflict, shall remain in full force and effect.

First reading at a regular Promenade on *Date* .

Second reading and adopted by *Name* Voiture *#* at a regular Promenade on *Date* a quorum being present and by a two thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

Attest

Concur

Correspondant

Chef de Gare

Concur

Approved

Robert S Mattson
Grand Avocat

William Stroud
Avocat Nationale

