

## GRANDES CHEMINOTS MTG

October 17, 2021 Larry E Homburg Post 731, American Legion, San Diego CA

The Grandes Cheminots Meeting was called to order at 0905 by Grand Chef de Gare Joseph R Donovan. Colors were in place. Grand Conducteur Robert C Herinisch led the Pledge to our Colors. Grand Aumonier N Fred Clegg draped the Altar Cloth Grand Aumonier S Danielle Duffaut offered the Opening Prayer. Grand Chef de Train Anthony Castillo draped the POW banner.

Roll Call of Officers by Grand Sous Correspondant Chuck Camarato: Cheminot Dist 1 Steve Culp ABSENT, Sous Cheminot Dist 1 Robert Safreno ABSENT, Grand Chef Passe Mildred S Wright-Pearson Excused, Aide de Camp North Gary Wright Excused. All other officers were present.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:** Sous Correspondant Chuck Camarato Introduced National Officers/Directors/Committee Persons: Commissaire Intendant Daniel Dumas, National Photographer Monique Clemons, Advisory Committee Joseph R Donovan, Time & Place Committee Robert S Mattson, Directeur Child Welfare Joseph R Donovan, Sous Directeur Americanism Robert Brown, Sous Directeur Carville Star Steve Villegas, Sous Directeur Ritual Court Bradbury, Sous Directeur Voiture Activities James Hadley, Not Present were Directeur Americanism Frank P Campo, Sous Directeur Box Car Dennis Matarrese. Sous Directeur Membership Howard Darter, and Sous Directeur Special Awards James Carpenter. Past Grand Chef's present were Robert S Mattson. Court Bradbury, Joseph R Donovan, Steve Villegas, Will Williams, John B Bartos and himself.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the July 9 & 10, 2021 Grande Promenade were accepted.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Youth Sports Directeur Nick Rosa V-1450, Resolutions Committee Chair Robert S Mattson with Court Bradbury and Steve Villegas. Motion to approve Steve Villegas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alex Herrera, CARRIED

### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Notes from National Promenade by Grand Correspondant Joe Donovan
2. Announcement of Great Western States Promenade in Tombstone AZ April 7 – 10, 2022
3. Promotion Flyer "KEEP the WHEEL CHAIRS ROLLING" contest @ VA and SVH's

**GRAND CHEF de GARE** Joseph R Donovan: Attended V-527 Child Welfare benefit luncheon, participated in V-394 Active Wreck of 9PG's. Attended National Promenade in Springfield MO Total hours 176, Miles 6012, donations \$2335, for YTD totals of \$6221.00

**GRAND CHEF de TRAIN** Anthony Castillo: Current Membership Report was distributed. All Voyageur's dues are due and payable by October 20. Congratulations to V-1179 OVER THE TOP already! Certificate presented to District Cheminot as V-1179 was not present, Grand Chef Joe presented 100% Membership Certificates and pins to Voitures from Last year: V-31, 109, 393, 395, and 1450. Personal Report 9 mtgs & Proms, 2 memorial services, 90 hrs, 600 miles, donations of behalf of 40 & 8 - \$1050, YTD \$1800.00.

**GRAND CONDUCTEUR** Robert C Heinisch: Most Locales have yet to donate to our Grande Ways & Means. We purposefully keep our per-capita low so that Locales can have a fundraiser for Ways & Means that funds our Grande Voiture expenses. Due to low attendance @ this Grandes Cheminots, our 50/50 and opportunity drawing last evening were a little low. Thanks to all who participated we raised \$165 in the 50/50 (\$85 profit) and \$185 on the various drawings. Merci!

**GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 1** Steven Culp: NOT PRESENT, no report!

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 2 Steve Villegas: 4 of 6 Reports, No Report or Audits from V 393, or 621 No Audit from V-257. Hours 4906 = \$ 24530 , Miles 32508 = \$ 16254, Donations V-31, 365, and 653 to Grand Ways & Means \$400, Total YTD \$41184 / 145 mbrs = \$284.03 pc **please ensure locales AND Cheminot use current form**

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 3 Alex Herrera; 5 of 5 reports, 5 Audits Miles 16698 = \$21290, Hours 4258 = \$21290, Donations \$3900 YTD TOTAL \$33939 / 79 mbrs = \$424.54 pc **Math errors – 1<sup>st</sup> Report of Fiscal year!**

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 4 Ruben Alvarado: 3 of 5 reports, 5 audits, **No Reports from V-394 or 1341** Hours, 6682 = \$ 33410 Miles 24514 = \$12257. Donations \$4210 **YTD \$49877 / 95 = \$525.02 pc (Great job!)**

Grand Chef Joe presented the written report from Grand Chef Passe Mildred S Wright-Pearson: Hours 240 = \$1200, Miles 7698 = \$3849, Donations \$1282 for YTD \$6331.00

#### GRAND DIRECTEURS:

AMERICANISM Will Williams (Written Report w/ Pin Accounting Sheet) Any activity where the American Flag is displayed or honored is reportable on your Americanism Report. 200 pins were ordered, 30 are left. Pin payments to Grand Commissaire Intendant should be copy to Americanism Directeur. Maintain continuous activity for Annual Report due @ Grande Promenade.

CARVILLE STAR Jeff Driskell 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! Grand received 100 pins from National, cost per \$3.00ea. No written report was submitted.

CHILD WELFARE: Michelle de la Cruz: 225 pins were purchased this year, Over 208 have been sold. Pins are still AVAILABLE!! Michelle 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. V-36 submitted a request for Ralph W Lingle Fund reimbursement of \$500.00 utilized for clothing for homeless children. Notion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alex Herrera, CARRIED

LOCO & BOX CAR: Directeur Gary Blackburn CA Pin for 2022 is the NBCA pin and they are available. Pins, Crew Cards and Commemorative coins are available from National Sous Directeur Dennis Matarrese that support the NBCA, however, Dennis is not present. Merci Box Car Cover has been installed and a formal dedication took place at Grande Promenade. Hobo's Fred Clegg requested more participants to spread the enjoyment to children.

MEMBERSHIP: Grand Chef de Train Anthony Castillo presented a 100% Membership certificate to Voiture 1179. The current membership report was discussed. We still have 9 goose egg Locales.

NURSES TRAINING: Jack Shipper: 300 pins were ordered, 29 are left. Updated Pin Accounting Sheet was submitted. Stanley Fund applications are due April 30. Applications are available on CA Web Site. National Scholarship Boland Fund scholarships for \$1000.00 also available. Those applications are on the National Web Site. Updated Pin Accounting sheet was submitted. Financial discussion was referred to the Budget & Finance Committee.

POW John Anderson: Due to the repeated lack of durability for the POW Dangles, none were ordered by CA this year and requests for Donations to the National POW Scholarship Fund were presented to all Locales. 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.

RITUAL: Nick Rosa .Voyageurs are urged (and required) to wear the proper color Chapeau at all Forty and Eight activities. From Sous Directeur Nationale Court Bradbury: New Password ----- sent by another Sous Directeur via e-mail! (In Violation of Ritual Manual)

SPECIAL AWARDS Dennis Foggie The Raffle raised \$235.00, Thanks for participating. We hope you are canvassing your locales for candidates based upon their efforts THIS year. City/Town of the Year Nominations go to Dennis Foggie, Hero nominations to Mildred Wright-Pearson, Law Officer nominations to Richard Kalk and Voyageur of the Year to himself ALL are due by May 15. See the Petit Communiqué on the National Web Site for forms. Remember, include separate documentation, the application will not suffice for award purposes. We ask that you consider joining the Generals Club. It promotes/provides funds for attendee recipients at National Promenades. Only \$10 annually

VAVS: Sous National Directeur Alex Herrera: Minutes from Long Beach VA submitted as discussion example. Needs of Veterans can be addressed through requests of the Keep the Wheel Chairs Rolling National program.

VOITURE ACTIVITIES James Hadley: Any Voyageur socializing with another Voyageur constitutes Voiture Activities and should be reported. There are 3 National Awards Best Locale, Best Grande (based upon Locale Reports to me) and Best Loco Report (NA in CA). How about YOUR reports to me? Steve Villegas is working on the 2021 GW to be held in Woodland CA.

WAYS & MEANS: Bob Heinisch reminded all Sous Cheminots of their goal to solicit donations of \$100.00 each from their respective Locales. The Ways & Means 50/50 Drawing raised \$350.00. Many thanks.

YOUTH SPORTS: Acting Steve Villegas has 100 pins available. Locales are eligible to submit claims if they participate in the Pin Program. An updated Pin Chart was submitted. New Directeur approved is Nick Rosa. Merci! Steve presented check # 1671 from V-365 for \$1500.00 allocated to Americanism, Carville Star, Child Welfare, Nurses Training, POW, and Youth Sports \$250.00ea.

INSURANCE: Joe Donovan: Several Locales have not paid their Liability Insurance. All are now delinquent, the price goes up to \$2.75 per member now!.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Will Williams turned proceedings over to Grand Commissaire Intendant Dan Dumas who read the fund balances. Discussion re Nurses Training Scholarships by John Bartos. Due to reduced revenue (caused by membership decline) in 2016 – 17, the Grande Promenade Finance Committee decided that interest from restricted Funds should go into the General fund. The same Promenade also decided per-deim & travel for Grand Officers be halved. The current situation involving the Stanley Fund for Nurses Training Scholarships mandates no reduction in funds below \$20,000.00. Only interest can be used for scholarships. Currently it stands a slightly over \$19,959.00. Ruben Alvarado Cheminot District 4 and Kevin Stonestreet from V-36 donated a total of \$41.00 to bring the Nurses Training Fund back to \$20,000.00. Scholarships can be granted to a Locale upon the purchase of 25 pins and submission of proper reports & forms, and their confirmation of raising at least \$100.00 toward Nurses Training. Suggestion to

increase minimum pin purchase to 30 pins effective next year. There was much discussion in opposition to this endeavor. Grand Chef Joe mentioned that scholarships do NOT necessarily need to be granted to every Locale that applies, awards could be spaced over say two years with pin sale participation in both years. That decision is up to the Grand Nurses Training Committee (Directeur, 2 Sous Directeurs, Grand Chef, Grand Correspondant, Grand Commissaire Intendant). It was suggested that we reduce the total investments on restricted funds so as to have more total money available in the General fund. Since the current national investment strategy is in limbo, a decision on making such a move at this time was not deemed viable. Motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Villegas, CARRIED

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS: Avocat Robert S Mattson: No changes have been proposed. Grand Chef Joe stated Grand constitution has been sent to Voiture National for approval. It seems the copy sent in July never got to the Avocat. Now we have a new National Avocat and a replacement copy has been sent. No response yet.

TIME & PLACE: Grand Correspondant Joe Donovan. Grand Promenade in Fresno Spring Grandes Cheminots will be in Santa Clara. Remember, Cheminots are 3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend in Oct & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Feb., Promenades 2<sup>nd</sup> Fri & Sat in July.

RESOLUTIONS: Robert Mattson : B & B's were presented to Post 731 American Legion, Voiture 1406, and Comfort Suites for their service in hosting the Grande Cheminots.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Grand Aumonier Danielle Duffaut. Sous Grand Correspondant Chuck Camarato read the list of 5 Deceased Voyageurs since the last Grande Promenade,

GOOD of the GRANDE VOITURE:

PGC Steve Villegas announced an Active Wreck at San Leandro VMB Nov 6. Contact Manager Ron Galvan in advance with number of PG's

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

30 REGISTERED, 36 BANQUET

Not Present Locales 257, 393, 621, 1119, 1203, 1341, and 1504

There being no further business, the Grandes Cheminots Meeting was adjourned at 1115. Altar Cloth and POW banner were retrieved, Colors remained in place. Everyone urged to drive safely on the way home!

Charles Camarato Sous Grand Correspondant