

GRANDES CHEMINOTS MTG
October 20, 2024 Orange Post 132, American Legion, Orange CA

The Grandes Cheminots Meeting was called to order at 0901 by Grand Chef de Gare Michele de la Cruz. Colors were in place. Grand Chef de Train Tim Gilbert led the Pledge to our Colors. Grand Aumonier Freddie Clegg offered the Opening Prayer. Grand Chef de Train Tim Gilbert draped the POW banner.

Roll Call of Officers by Grand Correspondant Joseph Donovan: Grand Chef Passe Robert Heinisch excused. Grand Garde de la Porte Joseph « Bob » Huffman and Alternate Cheminot Nationale Ruben Alvarado were absent. All other officers were present.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS: Distinguish Guest Chair North Mildred S Wright-Pearson introduced National Officers/Directors and Committee Persons: Cheminot Nationale and Sous Directeur POW Anthony M Castillo, Commissaire Intendant Daniel Dumas, National Advisory Committee Joseph R Donovan, Sous Directeur Carville Star Steve Villegas, Sous Directeur Box Car Dennis Matarrese Not Present were Sous Directeur Membership Howard Darter, Sous Directeur Ritual Court Bradbury and Sous Directeur Americanism Robert Brown. Past Grand Chef's present were Robert S Mattson, Court Bradbury, Joseph R Donovan, Steve Villegas, Lionel "Will Williams", Anthony Castillo, Daniel Dumas, and herself.

MINUTES: The minutes of the July 10, 2024 Grande Promenade were approved as e-mailed. Notion by Avocat Robert S Mattson, 2nd by Cheminot minutes be accepted as published. **CARRIED**

APPOINTMENTS: Resolutions Committee: Chair Avocat Robert Mattson, Steve Vilegas and Anthony Castillo. Aumonier South James Hadley V-1450, Acting Garde de la Porte Ab Gagaza. Motion to approve appointments by Joe Donovan, 2nd Gary Blackburn, **CARIED**

CORRESPONDENCE:

None received as of this date

GRAND CHEF de GARE: Michele de la Cruz. Greatly enjoyed her ride and attendance at her 1st National Promenade. A little chaotic as 1st time attendee, looking forward to Gettysburg PA next year. Voiture Activities Program was deleted, Blue Cheveliers program still on hold. (Was to be made a separate program of the 40 & 8) A Grande Newsletter will be published son on our Grande Web Site.

GRAND CHEF de TRAIN: Tim Gilbert: Things are moving slowly as I had by-pass surgery following Grande Promenade. My personal report 4 Promenades, 2 Memorial services, 1260 miles, 75 hours, and donations of \$1005. Our membership year is just starting, we are looking fairly good at 49.82% for the first National reporting. Some Voitures have submitted membership for the current year. (2025). We do have 8 GOOSE EGG's: 3 from District 1 V-268, 338, and 1203; 1 from District 2 V-365; 2 from District 3 V-47 & 1303, and 2 from District 4 V-394 and 1406. Remember, all current officers Dues must be paid before they assume their office. Congratulations to Voiture 557 – the first in our Grande to reach goal and **GO OVER!**

GRAND CONDUCTEUR: Ozan Evans: No Locales have donated 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. Sous Cheminots Let's get with the program, **THAT's YOUR JOB!** Notes will be sent to all Locales re Ways & Means. The Ways & Means raffle raised **\$243.00. MERCI!**

GRAND CORRESPONDANT: Thanks to Sous Correspondant Steve Vilegas for handling things at National Promenade. Full details of my not attending will be shared with Past Grand Chef's at our meeting tomorrow morning. Notes from the National Promenade will be posted on the Grande Web Site.

CHEMINOT NATIONAL: Anthony Castillo Nothing to report at this time.

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 1 Gary Blackburn: 4 Reports out of 6. 3 Audits out of 6 75 hrs, 6245mi, donations TOTAL YTD \$6898 / 68mbrs = \$101.44pc

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 2 Steve Villegas: 4 of 4 reports, 3 Audits 16402 miles, 14637 hrs, donations 9556 total \$90937 / 85= \$1069.85pc

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 3 Michael Stadnick Jr: 2 of 4 reports, 2 Audits 4055hr, 27500mi = 34025 / 48 = \$708.85pc

GRAND CHEMINOT DISTRICT 4 Joseph R Donovan: 3 audits, 3 of 4 REPORTS 82042 miles, 2529 hrs, donations \$1812 TOTAL \$7178 / 77 = \$53901 pc

GRAND DIRECTEURS:

AMERICANISM Will Williams Sous Directeur (Written Report) Any activity where the American Flag is displayed or honored is reportable on your Americanism Report. Locales should utilize the Americanism Annual Report as a guide monthly as a crutch leading to completing the Grand Consolidated Reports 3 times yearly. The 2025 Pins are available from Directeur Barbara Lowe. Prior year pins are available for the discounted price of \$1.00 ea when purchased 5 or more, otherwise \$2.00ea.

LOCO & BOX CAR: Gary Blackburn: National NBCA Sous Directeur Dennis Matarrese noted the CA Pin for 2025 is the NBCA pin and they are available. Pins, Crew Cards and Commemorative coins are available from him that support the NBCA, The NBCA has a coin available to match this year's pin. National Box Car posters are available for \$10.00ea showing all 43 remaining Box Cars. Hobo Freddie Clegg will participate in this year's Veterans Day parade in San Jose.

CARVILLE STAR Steve Villegas Star magazine @\$2.00 annually, Star pins @ \$4.00ea, only 14 are left. 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! Remember the old premise that Armadillos were related to Hansens Disease. Now Great Brittan has discovered pet squirrels (?) were also related to Hansens Disease. WATCH OUT! Also remember, that immediate treatment upon discovery can be cured, TIME exposed untreated will mean no cure. Pin Accounting Sheet turned in.

CHILD WELFARE: Fred Clegg: 200 pins were purchased this year, 153 have been sold or are on consignment. Pins are still AVAILABLE!! Remember Annual Reports are due at Grande Promenade. Grand Voiture has both Lingle Trust and National has the Ardery Trust available. The Lingle Fund is for Voiture Locale dedicated Child Welfare Programs, applications are approved by Grand Child Welfare Committee at Grande Voiture meetings. The Ardery Trust is for children suffering from emergencies; fire, flood, hurricane, earthquake etc;, applications are for Locale reimbursement of funds that are paid out to benefit children. Applications are on the National Web Site. Pin Accounting Sheet turned in.

OPPS: Grand Correspondant Joe Donovan Awards received at National Promenade:

1. Prestigious Award for our Grand Web Site Presented to Web Master Michelle de la Cruz
2. Child Welfare Award: Outstanding Locale to Voiture 365
3. Child Welfare Award Outstanding Grande Voiture California
4. Child Welfare Award Outstanding Pin Sales Grand Directeur Freddie Clegg
5. Carville Star Outstanding participation Award Voiture 365

NURSES TRAINING: Joe Donovan: 300 pins were ordered, 186 are sold. More pins will be ordered if Locales contact Jack Schipper with commitments. 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 for members, veterans, and their descendants.

POW/MIA Anthony Castillo: An updated Pin Accounting sheet was presented. Great Grandchildren have been added as eligible recipients of POW Scholarships who met eligibility requirements. Locales submitting for scholarships should CC our Grand Directeur for his annual reporting requirements. Bolo ties are also available this year at 20.00ea. A Separate Accounting sheet will be prepared for Bolo Ties.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Freddie Clegg reporting: Remember to include your program activities when publicizing your events. It's all under the umbrella of Public Relations. Only 5 Locale Reports were submitted last year. Let's do better this year.

RITUAL: Joe Donovan from Sous Directeur Court Bradbury. Remember, pins on your Chapeau go on your RIGHT side ONLY. We should NOT salute the POW Banner, nod your head when passing. (EXCEPTION- Participants in POW ceremony's should salute per our Ritual Manual.) Special thanks to Will Williams and Tim Gilbert for their participation in the POW ceremony at last evening's dinner. The manual requires substantial revision for gender neutrality. That was the mission once females were permitted membership in La Societe, but it has not been done as yet. There were 2 minor changes to the Ritual Manual in the Initiation, THIRD DEGREE: They were distributed yesterday. REMEMBER, the 40 & 8 Birthday celebration is coming up in March. Your Locale should participate – it's simple, buy a cake for your Promenade and utilize the short ceremony in the Ritual Manual.

SPECIAL AWARDS Mildred S Wright-Pearson We hope you are canvassing your locales for candidates based upon their efforts THIS year. City/Town of the Year Nominations go to Mildred S Wright-Pearson, Hero nominations to Dennis Foggie, Law Officer nominations to Timothy Gilbert and Voyageur of the Year to _____. ALL are due by May 15. See the Petit Communique 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. It's only \$10 annually. The new Blue Chevaliers Program supports or enhances the Law Officer Annual Award and has become a separate program of the 40 & 8. Use Local Police Depts for enhancing the Law Officer Program, Fire Depts for the Hero Program. It was decided by the Grand Finance Committee that the Grande du California will write checks for the recipients of Hero of the Year, Voyageur of the Year and City/Town of the Year to be presented at National Promenade. The raffle raised \$135.00, the Opportunity \$90.00 Personal miles 1057, Hours 629, Expenditures \$3377.

VOITURE ACTIVITIES Not present

WAYS & MEANS: Ozan Evans reminded all Sous Cheminots of their goal to solicit donations of \$100.00 each from their respective Locales. The Ways & Means Raffle raised \$243.00. Many thanks.

YOUTH SPORTS: Ben Wiliams: Pin participants can apply for awards from Grande and National Youth Sports programs. National has increased their award to up to \$1000.00 per. Think outside the box for awards, not just baseball- how bout archery, shooting, rodeo etc? 100 pins were purchased, ALL are sold..

VAVS: Mildred S Wright-Pearson Please keep track of your hours of service at VA or Veterans Homes. Our Annual Reporting justifies our existence with Congress for us to maintain our non-profit status with the IRS. Raffle for VA Center Fresno raised \$60.00.

INSURANCE: Joe Donovan: Our Liability and Fidelity Bond insurance is \$600.40. Motion we bill each Locae \$1.00 per members of 2024. 2nd Dan Dumas, CARRIED Bills will be prepared next week.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Mildred Wright-Pearson referred to Commissaire Intendant Daniel Dumas who read the fund balances. Expenses above income due to we are early in the fiscal year. Should improve by our next Grandes Cheminots in February. Motion to approve the finance report, 2nd Steve Villegas, CARRIED

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS: Avocat Robert S Mattson: It's time for all Locales to update their Constitutions. Only 8 have been done so far. **NOT SUBMITTED ARE V-31, 47, 57, 19, 179, 1203, 1303, 1406, AND 1450.** Template is on the Grande Voiture Web Site under the Correspondant's tab. **All Locales need to update the page of their Constitution concerning Dues because of the action by Grande Promenade to increase the Grand Per capita effective January 1, 2025.**

TIME & PLACE: Joe Donovan: Next Grandes Cheminots Yolo Post 77 hosted by Voiture 268 February 15 & 16, 2025. Grande Promenade set for Modesto Post 74 hosted by Voiture 653 July 1 & 12, 2025.

RESOLUTIONS: B & B's. Thanks to Michele de la Cruz, American Legion Riders 132 and Fairfield Inn & Suites for the hospitality. Applause for allcon

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Freddie Clegg. Grand Correspondant Joe Donovan read the list of 1 Deceased Voyageur since the last Grande Promenade,

GOOD of the GRANDE VOITURE:

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!

Joe Donovan Grand Correspondant REGISTERED 21, Banquet attendance 24,
Locales not present: Voitures 36, 47, 394, 1119, 1203, and 1303