



Award winning publication

Grand Voiture du Georgia

Volume 557 October, November & December 2014



Meet our new Leaders



THE BIG COGS FOR 2015



Mike Wood from VA

Diane Carignan from MI

Both friends of Georgia



Message from the Grand Chef de Gare

Robert "Abbey" Abbensett



Hello World! So glad to correspond with the greatest people on God's green earth.

NOW TO BUSINESS SUV

You remember my slogan? "Sign Up Veterans" I've done one and looking for number two. I also know of two Voitures that have five new PG's. How many do you have?? Membership is our lifeline, lets not die to lack of transfusions (Inductions). Find a Vet and sign him or her up into the worlds best organization. NUFF SAID.

The National Promenade in Virginia Beach was great. The weather sucked but the 400 plus attendees plus the Dames, made for a good time.

Georgia won (1) award, that tells me that we are not submitting enough reports to Grand for submission to Nationale. I know for a fact that at my Voiture, I am ashamed to say submits none (zero). We were told by one member that we didn't need to submit reports. I hope to change that lie. Overall I learned a lot to forward to you.

The Veterans Day Parade in Birmingham Alabama is in November. They have requested that the Voiture 217 train participate but have also asked for the Georgia Grand Chef de Gare (ME) to represent Georgia in the parade. (A first) I know that it's early but we need application requests for the Mid-Winter and GALA locations. We don't want to wait until the last minute to make a decision. At your next Promenade, consult and see if you wish to host these events and then let the Grand Time and Place committee know of your intentions.

See you when I see you and soon I hope. God Bless You, USA and the Forty and Eight.

Remember, no matter what you do, Dear Abbey luv Ya....

**To our Men and Women in Uniform
We Thank You
May God Bless and Keep you**

From the Desk of Grand Correspondant Tom Reesman



As we return from attending the 95th Promenade, a few of the Grande officers have some further information to attain and to relate.

The Promenade was a fun time and a real learning experience for me personally. Please ensure that we have your updated rosters for your officers. I will be sending what I have as information to each of your Correspondants, please ensure correctness. An accurate list ensures that we can communicate any information.

I need a list of any known events that you and your Voiture have planned for the next year. The sooner we at Grande get the correct information the sooner we can have an accurate Grande Calendar and plan visits accordingly. A reminder for all that we have several Grande functions each year. These functions are held by a Voiture Locale, so please look to the future at your promenades and help Grande by volunteering to host an event. The sooner the information is out the sooner we will be able to have voyageurs planning to attend.

Grande du Georgia had a decent attendance at the Promenade Nationale. We also received some recognition from Nationale. Grande du Georgia received Honorable Mention recognition at Nationale for Americanism and Voiture Activities programs. Congratulations to those Directeurs at both Grande and Locale level for making this happen. Grande du Georgia received a plaque for 2nd place in the Dwindell Wharton Trophy. This is awarded annually for the Grande with the largest % of new or reactivated Voitures.

A resolution was passed at the Promenade which makes the membership year end on 31 December, after 31 December, member is in arrears. This resolution is effective now. Another resolution passed at Nationale which incorporates the reading of the Preamble to our constitution at Ritual Promenades at all levels, the Preamble will also be incorporated on the membership cards as soon as new cards are prepared. This resolution is effective now.

Some information discussed at the Nationale Promenade is provided below; Grande Reports close on 1 Aug of each year. Reports are what keep our tax exempt status valid. Please ensure that all Directeurs both Grande and Locale are looking at their reports now.

Continued on page 3



Grande La Presidente Corner

Teresa Smith



WOW! I have started off running! First Thank you to the Voyageurs & Dames at 1317

for the wonderful Grande Petite they held in August for us. Everything from the hotel rooms to the food and company was outstanding. Job well done. Right out of the gate I was off to Loganville to install my first Cabane and boy was I scared. Martha Abbensett was with me for support & we were served a wonderful dinner. Thank you Cabane 499. Then to my home Cabane 1229 where I was again ask to install our new officers. What a pleasure! Dottie Bolig traveled here to speak about membership and a few other things during the Rendezvous. Then on to meet with the Dames at Cabane 1317 it was outstanding. We talked and had a wonderful time together. Then on to Cabane 567, we were served some awesome BBQ Ribs made by one of the Voyagers. (finger licking good) I had the pleasure of having 3 of my Grande officers with me here, La Sous Presidente Dottie Bolig, La Garde De La Porte Martha Abbensett and La Aumonier Jean Molen. What a group of Dames? Let's don't forget about the QUILTS: Quality Cabanes, Unites, Integrity, Love, Trust, Sincerity. That we can wrap around each other to feel the warmth of our love that we should have as a "Sisterhood". Remember we need to leave our difference at the door when we gather together at a Rendezvous. God Bless each of you! Remember our military and their family.



Grand Correspondant Continued

25 cents of all members' dues are sent to Ardery Trust Fund. Donations and such that need to go to the trust fund should be sent to Grande to Nationale. Checks should be sent to Grande, Grande compiles and writes one check to Nationale. Grande and the Nationale trust funds receive monies from the sale of pins and shirts etc. So we need to sell the pins. There is \$5000 budgeted to each Grande for the Ardery Trust fund, we need to try to use it. Boland Trust Fund is another source of funding for Nurses Training. Please try to use.

Ritual; Promenades should be opened and closed and operated by Ritual. The past year the Societe had 246 Active wrecks, only 65 were done by Ritual. We had 690 white collar wrecks and only 117 were held by Ritual. Of the 1923 Voitures, only 692 Voitures hold their promenades using Ritual. The New Password is out, Please contact your Grande to get the information.

Membership; Our Societe loses 5% annually to Taps, we gain about 5% for new members, and we lost about 5% TO Non-renewal. All this gives us a net loss each year of 5%. 20 Grandes attained 100% in membership. The membership committee is adding 8 new annual awards for locales to recognize more locales and to try to increase membership. Membership is at the Locale level and therefore recognition should be for the Locale level. The committee produced a Powerpoint presentation on the history and programs of the Societe as a tool to help Voyageurs in recruiting. I am trying to get a copy and hope to be able to provide to each Voiture.

Time and Place; 96th Promenade Nationale will be held at Green Bay, WI 15-19 Sep 2015. 97th Promenade Nationale will be held in Toledo, OH 14-17 Sep 2016. 98th Promenade will be held in Boosier City (Shreveport) LA 13-17 Sep 2017.

Voyageur Mike Woods was selected as the Chef de Chemin de Fer for 2015. His theme and Motto (Not verbatim) for the year deals with 'What can all of us do to improve the Societe?' and 'Going the one more'.

His program for the year is Youth Sports. He closed the promenade with the question and answer that we ask ourselves, "What can I do to recruit or retain? Just one more!

Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed officers and Directeurs of Nationale.

Hope to see you all soon at the Homecoming.

GRAND AUMONIER

Nick Nicholson



Last quarter I spoke on "Faith" I would like to follow that up with "Fear". President Roosevelt, who lead us out of the depression and during

WWII said "WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR BUT FEAR ITSELF" It means that when you are afraid of something, you should confront your fear and deal with the thing you are afraid of. If you avoid what you fear you will not make any progress and will remain stuck at that point until you pluck up the courage to do what you fear. Often during a funeral or memorial service, the speaker will say that "so and so" was a God fearing person. I don't think God wants us to fear him, in fact many bible verses speaks of God's Love and how he wants us to love him. However we should fear Satan as he can lead us astray and actually get one out of Grace with the Lord. Each of us that has accepted Christ as our savior should not Fear God but to Love him for he has promised us eternal life. The physical body that each of us occupies will return to the ground from which it came but the spiritual body will return to the father. Most of the references to FEAR in the bible come from the Old Testament that was written before the coming of Jesus, and the only thing to guide the Jews was the Mosaic laws handed to Moses on Mt. Sinai and in the desert where they wandered because they disobeyed God. In the new testament where Jesus stated the he came not to change the law, but to fulfill the Law. 1st John 4:18 states "there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts our fear. He that fearith is not made in perfect love". 2 Timothy 1:7 states "For God hath not given us the spirit of FEAR; but of power, and of Love and a sound mind". We only should fear God if we are not sure of our salvation because God is jealous and we will have to face his wrath. Revelations 20:15 states " and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" and that is something to FEAR. Will your name be in the book of life?



Diane Carignan says I do, I will as she assumes the big job for 2015.



Likewise, Deanna Nicholson raises her hand as Nationale La Garde de la Porte.



A nice check was presented from the Voyageurs and Dames of Georgia to the Hobo Children's Party Project.



LaSociete de Femme, conducted a very impressive Memorial Service at the Nationale Rendezvous. Grand Garde de la Porte Martha Abbensett of Cabane 217 had the honor of representing Georgia.

Photo by Moose Walsh

GRAND AWARDS FOR 2014

The following awards were presented at the Petite Cheminot in August



Program	First	Second	Third
Americanism	499	567	719
Flags for First Graders	499	280	1317
Child Welfare	1229	567	499
Nurses Training	567	280	499
Ritual	1229	719	280
VAVS	499	719	280
Voiture Activities	567	1229	719
Rolling Stock	1317	280	0
POW-MIA	567	0	0
PUBLIC RELATIONS	280	1317	1229



Most Awards this year was a 3 way tie, 280, 499 and 567 with 5 each.

Is your Voiture represented here? If not, Why not? There were only 6 Voitures represented out of 15

The 95th PROMENADE NATIONALE is now history

Grand du Georgia was well represented, if my calculations are correct, we had 14 Voyageurs, 12 Dames and one visitor. I think everyone who attended had a good time, seeing old friends and meeting new friends. Just some highlights below.



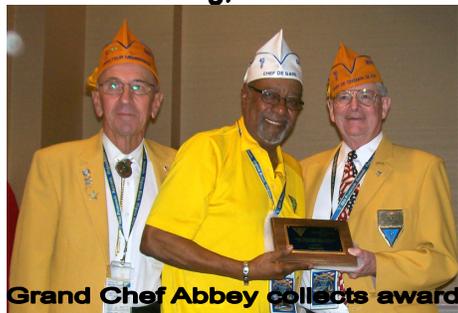
General meeting, business session



Big Chef Mike Wood takes the oath



Then it is the Sous Chef's turn



Grand Chef Abbey collects award

Grande du Georgia received a plaque for 2nd place in the Dwindell Wharton Trophy. This is awarded annually for the Grande with the largest % of new or reactivated Voitures.



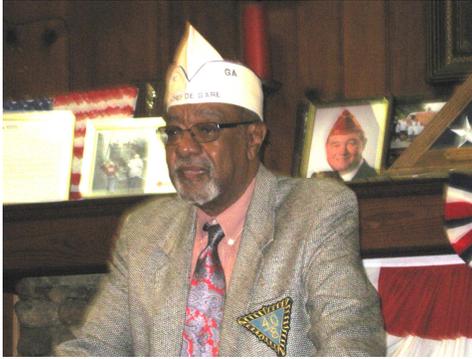
Part of the rowdy Georgia Bunch where was the rest of them.



Full house enjoyed the Banquet and Program

VOITURE 4

Chef de Gare Stanley Franklin



Grand Chef Abbensett welcomes the new Voiture.



Chef de Gare Franklin along with Grand Chef Abbey and Installing Officer Sous Chef Passe Molen proudly displays the new Charter



Chef Franklin can always say I was the first Chef of Voiture 4



Dito of the rest of the Charter Officers.

VOITURE 909

Chef de Gare Scott Hemmins



The Fall and winter seasons are upon us and the Parade season is here. We have already scheduled over 10 parades and the calls are still coming in from places we have never been before. Our local TV stations broadcast each of the parades and the word gets out that we are available. We participate in parades that are sometimes only a few blocks long but we enjoy each and every one of them. The Voiture is also involved in the Korean War Memorial that is to be erected in Veterans Park in Albany on November 11, at 11 AM. This is a carry over from the dedication of the WWI memorial event on the 11th day of the 11th month at 11:00 AM. We did the same time and date of the WWII memorial and will probably on the dedication of a Gulf war/War on terrorism once funds are raised. If you are in or near Albany on 11 November, join us for breakfast at Post #30 at 7:00 AM and the dedication at 11:00.

VOITURE 499

Chef de Gare George Hinkle



The Loganville Georgia American Legion Post 233 is currently undergoing major renovations and upgrading of its facility. This is being done to improve the quality of events in the Post and to be better able to support Veterans and the local community. Voiture 499 is doing its part to support Post 233! On 9/2/14 the Voiture presented a donation check to the Post in the amount of \$10,000.00 to help underwrite the extensive costs of the renovation. The donation presentation was in the form of a "BIG CHECK" (see picture) along with the actual Voiture check.

The participants in the presentation were, from left to right, : Ken Lucier – Commissaire-Intendant, Roger Decker – Chef de Train, Jack Wade – Correspondant, George Hinkle – Chef de Gare, Jim Carmona – Post 233 Commander, Jerry Mahaffey – Commis Voyageur, Bobby Boss – Chef de Gare Passe.

Voiture 719 wreck



Voiture 719 Augusta held a wreck recently raised \$394.36, for our programs. Shown L to R, Jim Vejar, PG sponsor, PG Richard Noel, PG Mike Jones, V-567 Chef Mike Thorne and V719 Chef Frank O'Brien.



One of the highlights was putting both Chef de Gare's in the stocks.



Judge Billy Chruch showed no mercy!

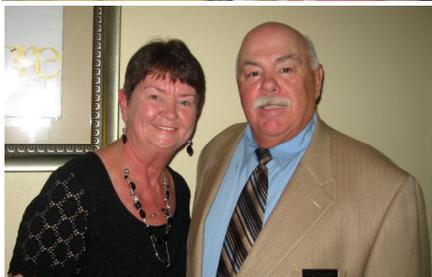
Dis N Dat

From the L'editeur

Chef de Chemin de Fer Pat Beamer and Madame La Presidente Kathy Ahner both had a good and successful year, However by the look on their faces, I would say they are glad it is over. So now enjoy being a Passe.



The Meet and Greet party was a fun time and was packed all night, but what do you expect? It was something free.



Mike and Sandy and Doug and Diane laid out the welcome mat.

THE FOLLOWING DONORS
ARE SUPPORTERS OF
GRAND DU GEORGIA PROGRAMS
& "Georgia on Track"

NORTH GEORGIA
VOITURE 1229
10/13

NORTH GEORGIA
CABANE 1229

JO ANN ADAMS
GAINESVILLE
1/14

RON & JANE MILLER
Voiture & Cabane 217
8/15

JIM & SYLVIA BOGGS
Voiture & Cabane 1226
9/14

Gary Cook & Pat Thornton
Voiture & Cabane 1226
8/14

JOHN & BRENDA PIZZO
Voiture & Cabane 909
2/14

ATLANTA
VOITURE 217

GAINESVILLE
VOITURE 1317
2/12

NICK & DEANNA NICHOLSON
Voiture & Cabane 909
2/14

ALBANY
VOITURE 909
2/12

DAN WARMACK
V-2000
5/14

TOM & JANET "MOOSE"
WALSH
7/13

AUGUSTA
VOITURE 719
2/12

ROGER DECKER
National Sous Dir
Nurses Training

TOM MILLIKEN
Grand Chef de Gare Passé
Voiture 1145
8/12

LOGANVILLE
VOITURE 499
2/12

TOMMY & CHARLOTTE
FORDHAM
Voiture & Cabane 567
5/13

SWEETWATER
VOITURE 1597
7/15

COLUMBUS
VOITURE 280
2/13

LAWSON SEWELL
VOITURE 499
5/13

DOUGLASVILLE
VOITURE 1631
9/12

DAVE & BETTY COLWELL
Voiture & Cabane 719
8/14

LEON & GAIL MARABLE
Voiture and Cabane 1317
10/14

VOITURE 1226
Jim Boggs, Chef de Gare
4/14



L'Editeur's Notebook

By Kent Molen

MEMBERSHIP

As of October 2nd, 2014

Grand du Georgia ranked 32nd of 54 Grands

It is that time of year for the "Out with the old and in with the new". The following are the new Officers at the National level representing Georgia.

2014	2015	GEORGIA	%
540	193	Short/Over	35.74%
		-347	
28530	9688	NATION WIDE	33.96%
		- 18842	

GEORGIA BY VOITURES

Voiture	2014	2015	% of Goal	Short/Over
4	0	0	0	0
217	61	12	19.67%	-49
280	35	26	74.29%	-0
499	75	39	52.00%	-36
567	45	24	53.33%	-21
711	6	0	0.00%	-6
719	48	23	47.92%	-25
867	6	2	33.33%	-4
909	51	25	49.02%	-26
1145	28	12	42.86%	-16
1226	16	0	0.00%	-16
1229	125	4	3.20%	-121
1317	15	7	46.67%	-8
1597	19	5	26.32%	-14
1631	10	4	40.00%	-6
1635		10	0	10

LA FEMME MEMBERSHIP

Nation Wide Georgia ranks 24th of 38 Grandes

NATION WIDE

2014	2015	%	Short/over
3129	824	26.33%	-2294
		GRANDE DE GEORGIA	
207	86	41.55%	-121

Roger Decker, Sous Dir. Box Car
John Aprill, Sous Mediin
Larry Butts, Aide de Camp
Kenneth Temples, Cheminot Nationale
Robert Abbensett, Alt Cheminot Natl.

Awards received:

Grand du Georgia received a plaque for 2nd place in the Dwindell Wharton Trophy. This is awarded annually for the Grande with the largest % of new or reactivated Voitures. Also Grande du Georgia received Honorable Mention recognition for Americanism and Voiture Activities programs.

Now from the LaFemme side.

Deanna Nicholson; Garde de la Porte
Brenda Alward: Cheminot Nationale
Teresa Smith: Alt. Cheminot Nationale
Brenda Pizzo, Aide to Voiture Chairman
Janet Walsh: Trophy & Awards Co-Chair
Audrey O'Keefe, Advisory Board and Nominating Committee
Cheryl Boswell: Advisory Board and Nominating Committee.

Awards received:

Voiture National Directeur of Carville Star recognized the Grande Cabane de Georgia with a second place plaque for participation in the program.

Grande Cabane de Georgia received the following awards.

1st place in the Joyce Wiseman POW/MIA award.

2nd place in the Mary Pittman Total All Programs award

3rd place in the Esther O'Kane Carville Star award.

Locale Cabanes from Georgia receiving the following awards:

C280—3rd place in the Kay Wesner Carville Start award

C280— 3rd place in the Helen Payne Americanism award.

C499— 3rd place in the Alice T. Capel Carville Star award

L'Editeur's note: Support is needed to help supplement the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. If your Voiture or an individual would like to support this cause, make check payable to Grand du Georgia and send to Kent Molen, 11780 Ashwick Place, Alpharetta, GA 30005., so I can give you credit in the Georgia on Track.

Kent Molen
kentdm@comcast.net

Thanks this month to Ron & Jane Miller and Larry Harden Sr. and V-1597 for their donation for the Printing and Mailing of the GOT

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

GALA, February, Date & place TBA
Mid-Winter Cheminot & Homecoming Date and place TBA

Check the website: granddugeorgia.org

SUGGESTED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. Plan your activities

Nov. Get out the Vote

Dec. Plan Holiday parties

PLAN YOUR WORK & WORK YOUR PLAN

