



# Georgia on Track



Award winning publication

**Grand Voiture du Georgia**

Volume 2016-3, July, August, September 2016

## Au Revoir from the Grand Chef de Gare



Greetings Grand du Georgia!! Alas, all good things must come to an end. It has TRULY been an honor to serve as your Grand Chef de Gare this past

year. It has been a very interesting year to say the least. Visiting the various Voitures and meeting Voyageurs new and old was a real treat. Thanks to all of you for your efforts in membership this year and I urge you to provide all of your support to Grand Chef 2016-17 Mike Wood. Membership is the foundation of our great organization and we ALL must put forth the effort to ensure the 40&8 lasts well beyond our years! In addition, remember what my theme was this past year, LEGACY. We are living our legacy. What do you want your legacy to be?? The things we do, or don't do, for La Societe today have a significant impact on the La Societe of tomorrow. How would you want to be remembered as a Voyageur Militaire?

As Dottie and I move forward with a new part of our lives I want each of you to know that we love you and you will ALWAYS be a part of our lives. Each of you has had an impact on my life in one way or the other and I thank you for that.

I would like to send out a big THANK YOU to Abbey for his support and guidance as a mentor. Thank you to all of the Officers and Directeurs for your support and the work that you have done. Thank you Grande Dames for everything that you do. Without you, we Voyageurs couldn't do what we do (because you push us to do it!!). Thank you all for having enough faith in me to elect me as your Grand Chef.

And finally THANK YOU Dottie for supporting me, having faith in me and loving me. I love you Duck!!

Rendez-vous dans les journaux drôles!!

Michael

Grand Chef 2015-16

## From the Desk Of Grand Correspondant Nadine Asberry

Greetings Voyageurs, Another year has come and gone. We have had some gains and many losses, yet we still prevail. I am proud of my state, Georgia for achieving our membership goal but pray we do better and reach goals even sooner next year.

When it comes to our membership, there is one old adage that applies to both sides of the coin. "It's not always the quantity but it's the quality that counts". We can also say, "it's not always the quality but the quantity that counts". It's great that some of our Voitures can get out there and increase membership, and some Voitures do an ever greater job retaining their members. Now we ALL must dig our heels in realizing a "good (quality)" Voyageur is not always *made* overnight.

Everything evolves, resolutions are created, and amendments are made. Nothing stays the same. I believe that for the endurance of a healthy 40&8 we must charge one another to patiently groom and train those who come along (*even ourselves*), as we strive towards the betterment of La Societe.

Voyageurs, we've worked hard to maintain the history and rules of La Societe. We have also cheered in celebrating the many goals achieved in helping fellow veterans and their families, children, nursing students, health, and research. That is why it is so important to document those achievements. Yeah, I know it's the end of this year but I urge all of us to begin documentation right after each event so at close of year 2017 reporting will be much easier to complete.

Lastly, I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable July 4<sup>th</sup>. As we celebrate the independence of our great Nation, let us take a moment to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice as well as those who are out there today around the globe protecting our freedom!

POUR DIEU ET LA PATRIE

Nadine Asberry

Grand Correspondant du Georgia

## Au Revoir from the La Grande Presidente



I am going to take this opportunity to say a few things that I was not given the chance to say at Grande.

First, Thank all of the Dames at Cabane 909 for a fantastic weekend. You Dames are Great and I love ya'll.

To all the Cabanes and Dame that welcomed me on my visits THANK YOU.

You made those visits so enjoyable.

You are a great group of women and I love each of you.

It truly was an honor an privilege to have served as you Grande La Presidente!!

Best of luck to the officers for 2016-17.

Love to all.

Dottie

La Grande Presidente 2015-16

# Grand Chef de Gare 2016-17

## Mike Wood



Merci Grande du Georgia for having the confidence in me to allow me to serve as your Grande Chef de Gare for the 2016-2017 year. I assure you I will do my best to justify that trust, and with your help we will advance the Grande du Georgia as one of the leading Grandes in La Societe. I would like to Congratulate Grande Chef de Gare Passe Michael Bolig and his Officers for a successful year and accomplishing the most important goal of 100% in membership. Now this challenge falls upon this year's leadership to duplicate that feat and hopefully even increase it.

Make no mistake about it, our main focus this year will be on membership, as a matter of fact I have a theme for the 2016-2017 year and that is 'Membership is Priority One.' This is

necessary to be able to support our many programs and be able to have an active Grande. This is no great revelation because we all know that the less manpower we have the less we accomplish and we want to move forward not step back. The only way we can advance this Grande is with participation from **every Locale**, so that means there will be much responsibility on the Grande Officers and Directeurs communicating with the Locale Officers and Directeurs. Remember this is a team effort and we are all members of the Georgia team of La Societe.

I believe that the two words that will greatly increase our efforts are 'participation' and 'activity.' These are key elements for any Grande or Locale to be what was intended by our founders for them to be. We must have participation, first by the Voyageurs supporting the Locale and the Grande. This is done by attending Promenades & Cheminots, serving as officers, supporting the programs of La Societe and working to renew and recruit members. Next we need activity. This is done by creating things that interests the Voyageurs. Think of things that will make the member want to help or enjoy getting involved. Raffles, cookouts, sports game days, a poker tournament, holiday parties and so forth. I am sure you can think of some things that would be attractive, but do something. These are also good activities to use to invite a new prospective member to attend to interest them in La Societe. I will assure you that this formula of 'participation + 'activities' will equal growth and success in our Grande and Locales.

I am sure that there are some that are reading this and thinking "oh boy I have heard all this junk before." OK, I will admit you probably have, but did you try any of it? Well I sincerely want you to do so this year. I ask that we all give this an honest effort and we don't reap the rewards of it, I will shut up, apologize and never bring it up again. All I ask is just give it a chance and together I believe we will Git-R-Done. There is an old saying that says "Some will do their job, and others will not, but in the end we will all be judged by one thing---The results." This means all of us in Georgia will be the responsible for the year end results. All I ask is that you be one of those to support this idea and work with me to keep all of La Societe with 'Georgia on their Minds.'

I would like to thank and compliment Voiture Locale 909 for being such a gracious and accommodating host for the Grande Promenade in Albany. Everything was done very well and a good time was had by all. We will take bids for the 2017 Grande Mid-Winter and the 2017 Grande Promenade from the Locales and if you have never hosted one before this is a great way to get Voyageurs in your area of Georgia. There is no sense in the same Locales doing the Grande events time after time, so let's all get involved. That is what this big family that we call the Forty and Eight is all about.

Once again thank you and I will work as hard as I can to advance Georgia and with your help we should make that happen. I look forward to working with Grande La Presidente Janet "Moose" Walsh and the La Femmes as well. We all know that men can only do so much alone. Until the next issue, take care of each other.

Mike Wood, Grand Chef de Gare du Georgia

# La Grande Presidente 2016-17

## Janet 'Moose' Walsh



Thank you all for your confidence in me. I consider it a distinct honor to have been re-elected your Grande La Presidente for the 2016-2017 year and I sincerely look forward to working with each Cabane, in order to strengthen our mission of providing service to our respective communities --and to support the Voitures with which we are each associated. One of the most important goals is to increase Memberships and Renewals. We all know that Membership will be the salvation of this great Organization. I would challenge any of our current Cabanes and Voitures to work diligently this upcoming year to show an increase in membership. I would like to see Georgia be #1 and 100% in membership. If anyone would like for me to attend an event this coming year, please call me at 770.317.6225 or email me at [moose\\_w7@yahoo.com](mailto:moose_w7@yahoo.com) and I will make every effort to attend. I would like to thank my husband Tom Walsh, for his support and I would like to thank the Dames of Cabane 217 for their loyalty and support. Let's have a great year filled with success and fun. Thanks again!! See you at the Grande Petite Cheminot in Savannah, Georgia, Cabane 567 on October 9, 2016. Please remember to keep our Military in your thoughts and prayers.



FB/ Jill Blakeway

## Membership Math

Mike Wood, Grand Chef de Gare

I think every Voyageur has their own formula or idea of what percentage or number of members we can recruit or retain. I have heard that we cannot recruit **any** of the younger Veterans so that percentage would be .00% and the number would be zero. I have also heard that we would be fortunate if we got 1 out of every 100 we recruited and that percentage would be .01%. I have even been told numbers as high as 1 out of every 10 recruited or 10% is what we could do. As in many other things in life when it is all "said and done", there is usually more said than done.

As far as renewals I have heard from some members that we could get ½ or 50% to renew and others say ¾ or 75%, very few say that we can get 100% to renew and I guess that has been true for the last 20 some years. It has been the pattern for the last several years that we lose approximately 1700 members or roughly 5% - 7% per year nationally. These numbers are all speculation and in many ways and different opinions depending on what Grande you talk with.

All these numbers are all well and good and I am not disputing any of them, but there is only one true fact that I have learned over the year in La Societe that cannot be argued and is the **only** factual true membership math and it applies to recruiting and renewals. We cannot renew or recruit 100% of the veterans that we never talk with about La Societe. So it all comes back down to the same formula that has worked for years and that is each member needs to shoulder their part of the responsibility of making our organization stronger by seeking out and talking with Veterans about joining or talking with Voyageurs about renewing their dues. So as you see the membership math is very simple and until we can convince every Voyageur in La Societe of this fact, the only 100% that we will achieve is the one of not talking to qualified Veterans that we need. It would be so rewarding to reverse that 100% number of not talking to enough prospective members to 100% in total National Membership, but that is up to each and every Voyageur. You control the destiny of La Societe, so we need to do the proper membership math to achieve that goal.

## Voiture 909 Albany

Greetings Voyagers and Dames of Grand du Georgia. We survived the Grand Promenade in due form. Enjoyed the company of many that attended the Grand. Hope everyone had a good time. Sorry about having the hospitality room at the Post but the logistics of moving everything back and forth from the Post to the Hotel would have provided an extra burden on the workers. I hope that V909/C909 can do it again someday. The fish fry was a success for the post and the band was good as normal. On Saturday night I even danced once with my bride and even sang a Merle Haggard song (butchered it up properly) but I never claimed to be a world class tenor. I look forward to attending many more of the Mid-winters and Grands in the future and seeing some old friends and meeting new ones. 909 does many parades, especially in the fall and around Christmas time. If you want something to do on a Saturday, call me and verify we are having one and come on down and ride the Loci with us.

Nick Nicholson  
outgoing Chef de Gare locale



### Grande Petite Promenade/

### Rendezvous

Voiture & Cabane 567 Savannah are hosting the Grande Petite Promenade/ Rendezvous. It will be held October 9, 2016 at American Legion Post 135. **More details to follow.** Information from Promenade/ Rendezvous Nationale will be disseminated so please plan to attend.



## L'Editeur

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You may submit your articles via email

and donations via snail mail to me and Tom at:

Michael Bolig  
115 Feno Drive  
Westminster, SC 29693  
mebolig@att.net;

Tom Reesman  
4117 Cherokee Trail  
Gainesville, GA 30504  
reesmanta@yahoo.com

# Nurses Training

Greetings fellow Voyageurs and Dames of Grand du Georgia. I know I was supposed to be moving to Pennsylvania but my plans have been changed until the end of next summer 2017. So with that said it is my honor to have excepted the position of Grand Directeur of Nurses Training for the year 2016 -2017. I encourage each and every Voiture in this Grand to participate in the Nurses training program this year. The Nurses training program is so vital in helping fund Nurses in training and for them to move forward to graduating as either an LPN or an RN. In turn the more nurses that we can sponsor will inevitably be a huge asset to our Veterans and our active service men and woman alike.

I fear with the way things are going with the conflicts overseas that the number of wounded Vets and service members is going to greatly increase in the near future. That makes our Nurses Training program so crucial more than ever. Please feel free to contact me for any questions or help and I will do my very best to assist you in anyway that I can. I'm excited to see what we can do this year in our Grand. In closing I'd like to wish everyone well and I hope that I will see you at the Pettite that will be held in Savannah Georgia this year following the Shamrock Wreck.

God Bless,  
 Mike Thorne  
 Dir Nurses Training  
 Grand du Georgia

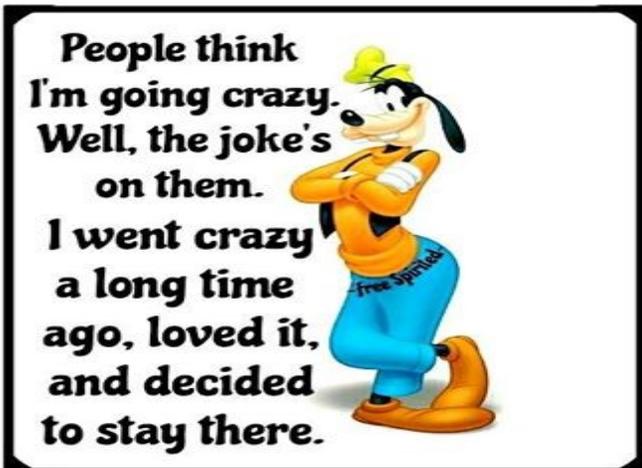
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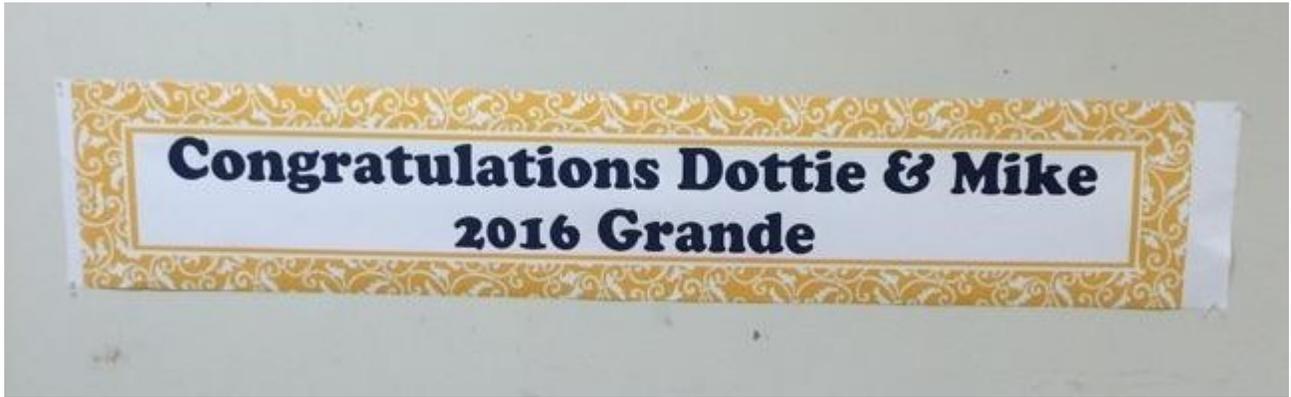
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<b>NORTHWEST GEORGIA CABANE 1229</b>	<b>BETTY HANNAH CABANE 217</b>
<b>NORTHWEST GEORGIA VOITURE 1229</b>	<b>AUGUSTA VOITURE 719</b>
<b>ROGER DECKER NATIONAL SOUS DIRECTEUR BOX CAR</b>	<b>ABBEY &amp; MARTHA ABBENSETT</b>

**Notice all of the white space here!!**

**If you would like to assist with the printing and distribution of the Georgia On Track send a check made out to "Grand du Georgia" with a note for GOT, and send to:**

**Michael Bolig, L' Editeur  
 115 Feno Drive  
 Westminster, SC 29693  
 ATTN: Georgia On Track**





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mebolig@att.net;

Tom Reesman  
4117 Cherokee Trail  
Gainesville, GA 30504  
reesmanta@yahoo.com

## GRANDE VOITURE MEMBERSHIP

As of August 5, 2016

Grande du Georgia ranks 7th of 54 Grandes

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Short/Over</u>	<u>%</u>
500	509	+9	101.20%

Voiture	2015	2016	% of Quota	Short/Over
4	17	18	105.88%	1
217	58	59	101.72%	1
280	29	29	100.00%	0
499	76	77	101.32%	1
567	45	50	111.11%	5
711	0	0	0.00%	0
719	42	44	104.76%	2
867	5	4	80.00%	-1
909	49	46	93.88%	-3
1145	24	24	100.00%	0
1226	10	10	100.00%	0
1229	89	75	84.27%	-14
1317	17	14	82.35%	-3
1597	12	22	183.33%	10
1631	11	13	118.18%	2
1635	16	21	131.25%	5
1636		3	N/A	3

## GRANDE CABANE MEMBERSHIP

Grande de Georgia ranks 23rd of 36 Grandes

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Short</u>
192	173	76.89%	-52

Cabane	2015	2016 Reported	2016 Goal	% of Goal
4	8	8	11	72.73%
217	37	34	40	85.00%
280	24	15	33	45.45%
499	18	16	23	69.57%
567	13	15	16	93.75%
719	13	14	14	100.00%
909	15	14	16	87.50%
1226	15	9	20	56.25%
1229	28	28	28	100.00%
1317	17	16	18	88.89%
1631	4	4	10	40.00%