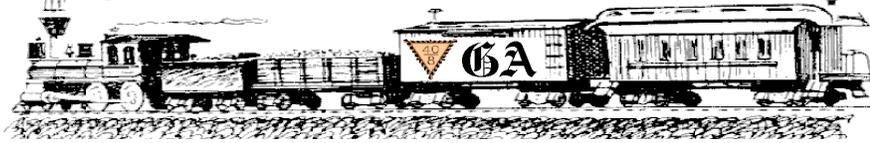


Georgia on Track



Grand Voiture du Georgia

Award winning publication

Volume 2017-2, April, May, June 2017



Grand Chef de Gare 2016-17 Mike Wood

My Fellow Voyageurs

We Now that Spring has arrived it reminds us all of fresh and new beginnings seeing all the flowers and trees blooming a new life. We in the Forty and Eight should adopt this same attitude and look at this as a time for the opportunity to start a new and fresh member into La Societe. With the upcoming events that we have this Spring it is a great time to offer the opportunity to a qualified veteran to become a Voyageur and make your Locale and the Grande du Georgia an even stronger voice in our programs and in supporting veterans rights.

I would like to send out my appreciation to Voiture Locale 217 for being an excellent host for our Grande Mid-Winter Cheminot on Saturday, February 18. The luncheon was good food and the meeting room was well set up with a microphone so all could hear. We had a marginal turnout for the amount of business that was conducted and I hope that we will get more attendance in the future. Job Well Done V-217. We had the drawing for the Grande raffle and Nathan Blair took home \$500, Abbey Abbensett left with \$300 and Cabane 217 got a check for \$200. It was discussed if the members would like to continue and make this a yearly drawing in the future and it will be voted on at the Grande Promenade. The Grande du Georgia made \$780 on the raffle, only because all 200 tickets were not sold, but it was still a successful project. We should have sold all 200 with 3 months to get it done, so next time remember the old saying "you can't win if you don't play."

One thing that was discussed and voted on at the Grande Mid-Winter was to change the schedule and format of the Grande meetings each year. Beginning the next membership year (2017-2018) the Grande du Georgia will now have 4 Grande meetings per year, one Promenade and three Cheminots. They will be broken down as follows; In early September we will have a one day Fall Grande Cheminot. This will be done to take care of any Georgia business to be presented at Promenade Nationale and to secure our delegates (Locale & Grande). In late January we will hold the Mid-Winter Cheminot and Homecoming. This will be a two day (weekend) event, then in March or early April we will hold a one day Spring Grand Cheminot and in June the two day weekend Grande Promenade. These events will rotate from Voitures Locale according to bidding and the exact dates will be set at that time. This will give the Voyageurs of the Grande du Georgia a better line of communication and also a more effective way to conduct business.

The 2017 Georgia Grande Promenade will be held in Columbus, GA on June 9, 10, and 11, 2017 with Voiture Locale 280 as the host. All events, the Promenade, hospitality room and banquet will be held at the hotel. The hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn and the registration is included in this issue of the GOT. I hope to see all of you there as we will make our plans and elect new Grande officers for the 2017-2018 year. Many other events are happening this Spring near us, so you may want to join in the fun, such as the Hillbilly Wreck in Tennessee in April, the Gator Wreck in Goose Creek, SC in May and of course Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery in May as well. These are great events to visit but let's support the Grande Promenade here in Georgia for sure. There will be issues discussed, officers elected and Grande du Georgia business conducted. You need to be there to voice your opinion and vote or don't gripe later because you declined to attend that you don't like the results. This is your Grande and you should have your say in its affairs.

I must Congratulate the Voyageurs of the Grande du Georgia on the job you are doing in membership. We have 465 paid members and only 44 members short of achieving 100%. We have 15 Voitures Locale in Georgia and 9 of those have achieved 100% or better as of this date, so I believe that the 100% accomplishment will happen and hopefully we will get a few more new members and grow a little. A Tip of my Chapeau to Grande Chefs de Train Tommy Fordham, James Hall and Tom Reesman for getting Georgia in a healthy membership situation for achieving success, so now let's just finish strong and have some fun.

I know that you are probably tired of hearing me preach membership, but that is the key to our survival and growth. This responsibility starts at the root of the Grande, and that is the Voitures Locale. The Grande will either succeed or fail at the Locale level. If the Locales don't work membership in the proper fashion, not only will they fail but they will be one weak link in the chain of the Grande du Georgia. Conversely, if the Locales achieve their membership goals then they in turn are not only successful, but they are the backbone of a strong Grande. We also need the same attitude in our Forty and Eight Program support. No matter what you think of a donation, if it is too small or not, you are wrong, all donations are needed and show your support. So buy a pin, a program card, a shirt or make a donation. Remember what the results of that donation can be...another nurse to help us, another child gets shoes or

Grand Chef de Gare (continued)

school clothes and supplies, or learns about the American Flag. All of our programs benefit our community and will assure it will be a better place when we leave it than it was when we arrived. It all starts at your Locale, so please attend your Promenades and get involved.

This March 15th La Societe celebrated its 97th anniversary so I hope that every Locale held a ceremony to honor our past and celebrate our future. As a third generation Irish American I would be remiss if I did not wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day (Cead Mile Failte) which is Gaelic for "A Hundred Thousand Welcomes." I would also like to wish you a Happy Easter and remember your pledge to Honor Memorial Day. I have enjoyed serving the Grande du Georgia this year as your Chef de Gare and want to send my sincere Gratitude to La Grande Presidente Janet Walsh and all the Dames of Georgia for all you do to support La Societe. I hope to see everyone at the Grande Promenade in June and hope that between now and then we will get so much accomplished that when Promenade Nationale rolls around in September we will leave them all with Georgia on their Minds. Take care.

Yours for La Societe



La Grande Presidente 2016-17

Janet 'Moose' Walsh

Well, Winter has flown by (if you can call it Winter) and we just completed Grande Mid-Winter Cheminot Fes-tivites in a "Big" way. My beret goes off the Voyageurs and Dames of 217 in Atlanta, Georgia for hosting an outstanding Grande Cheminot. The event was fun and the camaraderie was outstanding. The Cheminot was well represented by Cabanes 217, 499, 719, 567, 719, 909 and 1317. We had three La Presidentes Nationale Passe in attendance, Audrey O'Keefe, Irene Lester and Sandy Wood. Special thanks to Donna McCain, Presidente, Cabane 217, who arranged for two fabulous cakes for the outgoing Grande La Presidente, Janet Walsh and Grande Chef, Mike Wood. Special Appreciation to Tom Walsh and his son J.R. Walsh for the great luncheon presentation. J.R. drove in from Chattanooga to be part of this event and to assist his Father – "what a Team"!

There has been one other remarkable event celebrated this month – that is the 85th Birthday of one of our La Presidente Passe Audrey O'Keefe. Tom & I traveled to Augusta to help her celebrate her big day, we were fearful that she may not know how to proceed without us. If you know Audrey, and who doesn't, you know she probably wrote the book on celebrating and having a good time – so we were just there to have a good time on our own.

Upcoming events include Hillbilly Wreck in Gatlinburg, TN, March 30, 2017; Homecoming for Joyce Willis, March 3-4, 2017 in Richmond, Virginia; Southland Dixie in Louisville, KY, April 27, 2017 and, of course, Grande in Columbus, Georgia, scheduled for June 9th, 10th and 11th and Nationale in Bossier City, Louisiana, September 12-16, 2017..

In summary, congratulations goes to the following Cabanes that are over the top in membership (as of 3/1/2017): Cabane 449 – 112.50%; Cabane 1631 – 106.67%; Cabane 280 – 104.17% and Cabane 719 – 100%. Nation Wide Georgia ranks 21st out of 34 Cabanes at 79.46% (-38). Remember my focus this year is: "Let's Take Membership Up, Up and Away" – Georgia is just 38 members away from being 100%. I know we can achieve 100%. We succeeded the last time I was Grande Presidente.

God Bless our Men and Women in Uniform – We thank you for your service and may God Bless and Keep you. Yours in Service, Janet Walsh, Grande La Presidente

La Femmes Appreciation Day is an annual event at V-217. The Voyageurs show their appreciation for all the La Femmes do throughout the year by preparing a meal and serving the meal. Held 2-5-2017 @ V-217.

Photo left to right (Wayne Crockett, new Chef de Gare @ V-217, Janet "Moose" Walsh, Joanne Hines, Donna McCain, Mary Roberts, Shirley Hayes and Beulah Thigpen. Seated are Paula Laborde, Jane Miller, Betty Hanna and Evelyn Ireton.)



**From the Desk Of
Grand Correspondant
Nadine Asberry**

Bonjour Voyageurs,

It's good to write to you all again and I hope all is well with your families, and fellow Voyageurs.

Let me begin by thanking ALL who participated in the Grand du Georgia fundraiser helping in it's success. The drawing was held at our Mid-Winter Cheminot on February 18th. Congratulations go out to our three winners in 1st to 3rd place order: Nathan Blair, V-1597; Robert Abbensett, V-217; and V-217 Cabane.

Springtime is just around the corner so we will set our clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night March 17th, for Daylight Saving Time. That being said, the days will be longer. Hopefully, that gives us added daylight to recruit new members into our organization. Let us also take time to visit those that may be in the hospital or unable to get around well.

I deem my membership an honor and look forward to celebrating the 97th year of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. By the way, the 40&8 Birthday Ritual is on page 4 of the Winter 2017 (this issue), of the Forty and Eighter and on the Nationale Website. Click "Programs" and select Ritual on the drop down.

I would like to remind everyone to fortify their support of 40&8 Programs (i.e., National Boxcar Association; Nurses Training Scholarship; Flags for 1st Graders; POW/MIA Survivors Scholarship; Carvel Star). That's what we are here for and it's what we do. We touch lives, aid in building futures, and make a difference.

Voitures, don't forget our Chef de Chemin de Fer, Mark Moots' Homecoming March 17 and 18th in Huntsville, Alabama.

In closing, I wish each of you a Happy Easter on Sunday April 16th, and look forward to seeing you at upcoming 40&8 events.

From the Desk of Eddie Asberry

GRAND DIRECTEUR — AMERICANISM

It's reports time! All forms and information needed for Americanism reports are on line at:

www.fortyandeight.org

On top of that page select Resources tab.

From drop down list, select: Forms & Petite Communiqué

Scroll down to:

- A. 2016 Americanism Award Guidelines
- B. 2016 Americanism Consolidated Report

(NOTE THE REPORTS ARE DUE TO ME NLT MAY12, 2017)

1316 Cotton Gin Dr
Powder Springs, GA 30127-6453



TAPS

- Kenneth C Trout, V-567
- Stephen Nash, V-567
- Elmer Singley, V-719



Noice 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
P. O. Box 346
Calvert, AL 36513
ATTN: Georgia On Track**

OR

**Tom Reesman
4117 Cherokee Trail
Gainesville, GA 30504**

Recently Audrey O'Keefe, Nationale Presidente Passe turned 85. These pics were taken at her 85th Birthday Party held in Augusta, GA. The group picture is all Dames and Voyageurs in attendance. The solo pic is Audrey blowing out the candles on her cake.



Dames attending Grande Mid-Winter Cheminot

Picture of the Grande de Georgia Dames at Mid-Winter Cheminot held at V-217, Atlanta, GA.



VOITURE 499 NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2017

VOYAGEURS AND DAMES:

We will be conducting a formal wreck at our Promenade March 14th. We have three PG's, two from Voiture 499 and one from Voiture 217. We invite everyone who has a PG to bring them to Loganville and we will include them in our wreck.

We will need to know how many are coming so we will have enough food for dinner. Voiture 499 works hard to put on a good wreck from memory, and with props. Please let Wanda Savage know if you plan to attend, 770-985-0911.

We will be having a country breakfast on April 22nd at Post 233. Correspondant Wade will be mailing tickets to members that you may sell, or purchase for your family, or purchase and give to friends.

This fundraiser will support our programs such as Nurses Training (we now have three nurses, \$500 each per semester; Child Welfare (coats for kids) approximately \$350 annually; Flags for First Graders – approximately \$350 annually; plus donations to all other programs.

March 14th - Social: 6:30, Meal 7:07; Promenade and Rendezvous 8:00

Jack Wade, Correspondant
Voiture 499

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

<p>MIKE WOOD Chef de Chemin de Fer 2015 SANDY WOOD La Presidente Natinale 2012</p>	<p>LEON AND GAIL MARABLE Voiture and Cabane 1317</p>	<p>ROGER DECKER NATIONAL SOUS DIRECTEUR BOX CAR</p>
<p>TOM AND MOOSE WALSH</p>	<p>VOITURE 217 ATLANTA</p>	<p>ABBEY& MARTHA ABBENSETT Voiture and Cabane 217</p>
<p>NICK AND DEANNA NICHOLSON Voiture and Cabane 909</p>	<p>VOITURE 1229 NORTHWEST GEORGIA</p>	<p>VOITURE 1145 WARNER ROBBINS</p>
	<p>VOITURE 1631 DOUGLASVILLE</p>	<p>JIM VAUGHAN</p>

From the Desk of Michael Bolig GRAND DIRECTEUR — BOX CAR

Bonjour les Voyageurs Militaires. I hope this finds you and yours in good health and spirits. As your Grand Directeur National Box Car I must say that disappointment has set in. After my passionate plea at mid-winter Cheminot for contact, I have heard from but two Voitures regarding anything boxcar. Thank you VL 217 and VL 1317!! It's nice to know some are supporting the Box Car program. I only hope that we are supporting the other programs in a more aggressive manner. I urge each of you to reach out to your Locale Box Car Directeur and ask for a Crew Card, pin or coin. Your contributions will provide for the children's party at Promenade Nationale and support our other programs.

I have provided in this newsletter a copy of the National Box Car Sales. This form can also be found on the Nationale website under Programs/Box Car. Even though there is not an "official" report for NBCA I ask that each locale complete the form and submit to me **no later than May 19,2017**. This will allow me to (1) make an appropriate report at Grande Promenade and (2) validate the information that the Nationale Directeur has for Grand du Georgia.

For those Locales considering taking a locomotive to Promenade Nationale, you have the opportunity to receive a recognition license plate for your locomotive. That form is on the Nationale website, or I can send it to you. Just let me know.

Please let me know if I can help you in any way regarding Box Car. I would be more than happy to see that you get your pins, cards and coins!! I can be reached by email at: mebolig@att.net; or by phone at (573) 842-8312. DON'T HESITATE to reach out.

Child Welfare—Roger Decker

March greetings Central Region Grands Our Nationale Directeur has reminded us that we have now passed into the final quarter of the fiscal year. Which means we only have three more months to contribute to the Ardery Trust Fund? I am pleased to report that Texas has joined the ranks of a contributor to the Fund. The Central region is now at around the 70% level of predicament. We now only have Germany, Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska left to contribute. I was pleased to attend a Grand Promenade during the month of March where the Grand was already a contributor the Fund moved to make a donation along with at least one of the Locals also donated monies. I would encourage those Grands who have not been involved to consider the option. Our Nationale Directeur also reports that the program will be ordering the 2018 pins in the coming month and the can be order beginning in June. Checks should be payable to the CHILD WELFARE FUND and sent to Treasurer John A Kaiserian, 365 W Olympia St Hernando FL. 34443-4868. Important notice. If your Grand have not paid for the 2017 pins, they must pay by April 1st in order to be able participate in the National Promenade. Please get your payment in the Mail as soon as possible. I am taking the time to remind that all GRAND report is due to the National Directeur by July 15. Please get this report in on time so we can provide information on the full impact of the Child Welfare Program. The report form is link to the bottom of the Child Welfare PDF to make it easier to make the report. Please encourage all of your Locales to participate. AS we keep abreast of the news, we read about the many disaster they are occurring. Keep in mind the C. W. Fund may be able to assist those children who are affected. I have been wearing my Green C.W. Shirt which attracts attention. The shirts can be ordered along with pins and reports can be sent to Directeur Child Welfare Joseph Donovan, 4660 N River Rd Spc 12 Oceanside CX, 92057-5879 Tel 760-721-9405. Yours in Service Roger Decker C W S D

From the desk of Tom Reesman Grand Directeur Voiture Activités



Bonjour,

Please remember to record all your Voiture Activités. If you record at every promenade, you will won't have to struggle to remember.

Almost anything you do for Veterans can be Voiture activités. I hope every Voiture remembers to submit their reports by 1 June 2017 to the Grand Directeurs I will be available to answer any questions you have on Voiture Activités, completing the form as well as provide any suggestions or ideas for events/ activités. A few things upcoming this quarter where you can plan and participate in Voiture Activités are Inauguration Day, Martin Luther King Day, and Valentin's Day.

Don't forget to plan to attend Nationale in the upcoming years. Bossier City LA is the host city for 2017, Louisville KY 2018 hosts in 2018, and Myrtle Beach, SC hosts in 2019. These Nationales are all close for Georgia voyageurs to attend.

From the desk of Tom Reesman GRAND CHEF de TRAIN NORTH— Membership

As of March 23rd, Grand du Georgia North is at 97.16% of our membership for the six Voitures in the North. I want to express my appreciation to those Locales that have achieved their 100% or more. The Voitures that have made 100% or more are: V-4 Cartersville, V-1317 Gainesville, Voiture 1635 Marietta, V 1636 Athens. The North has 4 out of 6 Voitures with the 31 January goal of 100%. We have two Voiture at over the 105%. Again, all congratulations on your success. Now you have to help Grand du Georgia reach their goals for gains in membership. V1229 has the train rolling and I am sure will reach the 100% goal soon.

It will take everyone's HELP to achieve our Goals. I know that we can achieve 105% in Grand du Georgia North and want to remind everyone that MEMBERSHIP is EVERYONE's Responsibility. Please look for Quality and Qualified PG's for your Voiture. By bringing in Quality People into your Voiture, it will make your Voiture Stronger, and with New People, brings New Ideas to assist you with your chosen Programs of La Societe.

We have a couple of Voyageurs that are under strength of a minimum of 10 Voyageurs, if the Voiture doesn't bring their Strength up to the Minimum, these Voitures will be endangered at the Grand next year, to recommend the charter be removed. We don't want to have anyone's Charter removed, however, we are bound by the Nationale Constitution to do so. Please seek assistance for your Voiture if you want help. I am here to assist you.

As of 23 March 2017, Grand du Georgia is at 93.52% and ranked 9th nationally. We need to continue the fight.

"We are the FUN and HONOR society Of the American Veteran "

L'Editeur

If you are receiving a hard copy of GOT and would prefer electronic copy, let us know.

For Locale Correspondants, when your Voiture wrecks in new members please ensure that Tom & I receive their information so that they can begin receiving the Georgia on Track. Let us know if they want to receive it in hard copy (provide current mailing address) or electronically (provide valid email address). The GOT goes out, via email, to Nationale officers and all Grand Chef de Gares and Grand Correspondants that I have email addresses for. In turn I receive the newsletters of Grand du FL and Grand du VA. I pass them on, electronically, to all GA Locale Chefs and Correspondants. Ask to see them!!

You may submit your articles via email

and donations via snail mail to me and Tom at:

Michael Bolig
P. O. Box 346
Calvert, AL 36513
mebolig@aol.net;

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



Georgia On Track Boosters

1. Tom Reesman V 1317
2. V1317 Gainesville

We accept articles and photos. Sponsors and Boosters help defray the cost of publishing for Grand du Georgia. Please think about donating. A sponsor is a person or entity that donates \$25 per issue or \$100 per Year for all for issues. The sponsor receives a block with the information they want in the newsletter, please look at past edition of the GOT. The booster is a new entity in our newsletter and gets listed along with other boosters in a list. The minimum for listing as a booster is \$5. Additional recognition for each increment of \$5 per issue. Think about sending \$20 for the entire year.

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:

Thomas Reesman
4117 Cherokee Trl
Gainesville, GA 30504



GRANDE du GEORGIA
Grande Promenade & Grande Rendezvous
June 9-10-11, 2017
Columbus, Georgia

Headquarters Hotel: \$84 plus tax	Registration: \$55 per person
Hilton Garden Inn Columbus 1500 Bradley Lake Blvd. Columbus, GA 31904 (706) 660-1000 Mention 40/8 for Special rate Reservation cutoff for this rate is May 10 Rate is valid for June 8-9-10	Fee includes Hospitality Room & Banquet Make checks payable to Voiture 280 Send completed form by June 1 st to: John Aprill Chef de Gare, V280 95 White Rock Road Phenix City, AL 36867

Name: _____

Voiture# _____ Title: _____

Name: _____

Cabane# _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Tentative Agenda

Friday - June 9, 2017

1:00 – 6:00 PM

Registration and Hospitality Room – Hilton Garden Inn

6:00 – 9:00 PM

Dinner (Post 35 Steak Night)

9:00 – till

Hospitality Room – Hilton Garden Inn

Saturday - June 10, 2017

8:30 - 10:00 am

Registration – Hilton Garden Inn

10:00 - 10:30 am

Grande Voiture & Grande Cabane Joint Memorial Service

10:30 – Noon

Grande Promenade and Grande Rendezvous

Noon - 1:30 pm

Recess for Lunch

Noon - 1:30 pm

Pass Grande Chef's Luncheon

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Grande Promenade Reconvenes

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Banquet – Program - Installation of Grande Officers

9:00 – until

Fun & Comradery

GRANDE VOITURE MEMBERSHIP

As of March 23, 2017

Grande du Georgia ranks 9th of 54 Grandes

<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Short/Over</u>	<u>%</u>
476	509	-33	93.52%

Voiture	2017	2016 YET	% of Quota	Short/Over
4	18	18	100.00%	-0
217	53	59	89.83%	-6
280	29	29	100.00%	-0
499	67	77	87.01%	-10
567	54	50	108.00%	4
719	34	44	77.27%	-10
867	0	4	0.00%	-4
909	46	46	100.00%	0
1145	28	24	116.66%	4
1226	5	10	50.00%	-5
1229	67	75	89.33%	-8
1317	17	14	121.43%	+3
1597	15	22	68.18%	-7
1631	13	13	100.00%	0
1635	22	21	104.76%	1
1636	8	3	266.67%	+5

GRANDE CABANE MEMBERSHIP

Grande de Georgia ranks 13th of 36 Grandes

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Short</u>
164	137	74.05%	-48

Cabane	2016	2017 Reported	2017 Goal	% of Goal
4	8	8	10	80.00%
217	34	22	35	62.86%
280	15	16	26	61.54%
499	16	16	16	100.00%
567	15	12	16	75.00%
719	14	14	14	100.00%
909	14	12	14	85.71%
1229	28	21	28	75.00%
1317	16	11	18	68.75%
1631	4	5	10	50.00%

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Hillbilly Wrek Gaitlinburg
2 Hillbilly Wrek Gaitlinburg	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Easter	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Southland Dixie Louisville	28 Southland Dixie	29 Southland Dixie
30 SD cont						

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Grand Promenade Columbus	10 Grand Prome- nade Columbus
11 Grand Promenade Columbus	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Fa- ther's Day	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

