

Voiture Nationale 40&8

VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

Ken Lafleur – Chef de Chemin de Fer



Among interesting events occurring in the 40 & 8 during the past month were some in the Indianapolis area. Among those were the 72nd Razzberry Wreck in Lafayette at Voiture 364, Brass Hat at V 510 in Anderson, Veterans Memorial Service sponsored by V 1415 in Greenfield (the home of our delightful Dame Kay Wesner), and the Chef's Wreck at V 967 in Shelbyville. Patricia and I were delighted to attend them all.

Upon our arrival at the airport in Indianapolis Brad Young and Marilyn Mikels of Voiture and Cabane 364 enthusiastically and warmly greeted and then chauffeured us to our motel room in Lafayette. That set the tone for the entire very informative, pleasant, and enjoyable weekend.

Voiture 364 (sponsor of the Razzberry) is a relatively large Voiture with over 300 members and admirably with over 100% of quota this year. Sixteen nursing students were presented with one of the two \$1,000 scholarships each received this school year. All were young women and all were from nearby very well regarded institutions of higher learning. The nearest School of Nursing was across the Wabash River at the home of the Boilermakers of Purdue.



Each student had been encouraged to invite up to five family members or other guests to the evening banquet given in their honor. Their entourage comprised a fine group of people. We did express to the students our deep appreciation and our deep gratitude for their long and hard years of work and study on our behalf.

The Students and their guests were "released" and we proceeded with other aspects of the Razzberry Program. The Razzing was in good taste and enjoyed by both those giving and those receiving, and as a result Patricia has a deeper appreciation of me now. One of the highlights of the evening was the induction of the final and last three members of the Grand Voiture du Indiana "Dickey Doo Club". Tony Cross, Brad Young and I are honored to have been the inductees.

The Brass Hat, our next event, was at Voiture 510 in Anderson, the birthplace of our Nurses Training Program. The Chateau is on the right bank of the occasionally wild White River that sometimes floods the two V510 buildings closest to it. The river has

not yet ever flooded the Chateau. On May 5th the river was very inviting with a five-mile-an-hour current and brightly colored single-seat kayaks going by. Each was filled with an apparently happy visitor to the park located across the way. An impressive gold 1700 cc Victor motorcycle belonging to the somewhat colorful Voyageur Chris Myers was parked near the riverside bar for all to admire. That bike makes it difficult to not covet a neighbor's goods. Voiture 510 has a current membership of 82. It is at a commendable 82% of a reachable 100% of quota.

A Veterans Memorial Service on Saturday, May 5, 2018, in Greenfield sponsored by Voiture 1415 was the next event that we attended. That town is the birthplace of James Whitcomb Riley the "Hoosier Poet" and the town was his home during his lifetime. It is the birthplace of Riley Days where every October a great festive time is had by all fortunate attendees.

The Hancock County Veterans Park in Greenfield is beautifully designed and impeccably maintained. A series of photos is available at <https://www.greenfieldin.org/residents/hancock-county-veterans-park>. An inscription in part reads, "This hallowed ground will insure that the service of every American Veteran with ties to Hancock County will be remembered in a permanent way." That is a beautiful sentiment and a beautiful Park encouraging us all to be forever grateful for our Veterans.

Dame Kay Wesner, La Advocate Nationale and savior of Cabane 1415, was notably present. She presented to me and Patricia a copy of the complete works of James Whitcomb Riley autographed by the Mayor Chuck Fewell of Greenfield. Kay does live and does vote

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Ken Lafleur -Cont'd

in Greenfield. I don't read poetry with regularity and was not at all familiar with Riley's work. After receiving the gift I did read some of the book and was favorably impressed.

One of South Louisiana's most well liked Swamp-Pop songs is Colinda with several versions available on iTunes. The lyrics include:

Colinda is the prettiest girl in all the Bayou Land.

The boys all come from miles around just to hold her hand.

Colinda has been missing for years.

It was a tremendous surprise to find her. She was at the Veterans Memorial in the person of Voyager Colinda Walker. Much to my delight I got to hold her hand (confidentially and not to be repeated is that I also got a hug and a kiss from Colinda). As the word gets around that I held Colinda's hand I will be the envy of every boy in Bayou Land.

The following day on Sunday at noon we had the Chef's Wreck sponsored by V967 in Shelbyville. Shelbyville, the birthplace of fictional character Captain America and other super

veterans. The Voiture is at a very commendable over 100% of membership quota this year. After a very pleasant afternoon in Shelbyville we were off to our motel in Lafayette for the evening departing to Lafayette LA the following day.

To quote one of our most noteworthy Voyageurs "Be the best 40 & 8er that you can be." Our Country needed our military service. Or Country needs our service now.

Kenneth "Doc" Lafleur
Chef du Chemin de Fer

Chef's Travels –Kenneth "Doc" Lafleur Razzberry -Lafayette, Indiana



Beautiful Gift Presented by Brad Young, Chef Voiture 364 Indiana.



The last members ever to be inducted into the "Dicky Doo Club" by the Grand Voiture du Indiana.

L to R: Tony Cross, Chef de Gare Grande Voiture du Indiana— Kenneth "Doc" Lafleur, Chef de Chemin de Fer—Brad Young, Chef du Gare Voiture 364 and Grand Chef de Cuisina.



Houston – We have a problem

Patrick Mobley - Correspondant National

My Friends,

While serving as your Correspondant, I welcome the opportunity to receive feedback from you in various forms. As I travel to different functions, I meet Voyageurs who, with great zeal, share their opinions on the future of La Société and the direction we should go. I often receive phone calls, letters and emails concerning proposed resolutions for amendments to our constitution, or opinions I should pass along to committees, or I'm informed about a meeting that was held concerning prospective changes to one of our programs.

I look forward to, and appreciate this feedback. I also appreciate the opportunity for the free exchange of ideas and open discussion. Problem solving typically doesn't happen in a vacuum; it involves untold hours and the effort of many people.

A couple of nights ago I stumbled across one of my favorite movies on TV. It was the 1995 film **Apollo 13**, starring Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton, and Kevin Bacon. If you haven't seen it in a while, you should give it another look. There is a scene in the movie where NASA Flight Director Gene Krantz (played masterfully by Ed Harris) draws the Earth and the Moon on a chalk board in a room full of engineers; and presents the problem that all of their calculations predict that they will fall well short of bringing the crew back safely to earth.

Just then, NASA engineer John Aaron approaches from the back of the room and adjusts everyone's reality. The situation is actually much worse. He states that "Power Is Everything". He points out that the spacecraft is using up their limited battery power way too quickly, and they have to cut power consumption down to just 12 amps. If they don't save the batteries, the crew dies. That's the ballgame.

Despite the fact that most of the major systems are damaged, and the fact that barely anything on the spacecraft still works, and there is a room full of rocket scientists ready to discuss and debate how to "fix" their specific system; the only thing that really matters is power. You can watch the scene here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tid44iy6Rjs>

You guessed it; Membership is power, and **Power Is Everything**.

Without Membership we have no revenue to pay our bills, we have no Flags for First Graders, no Nurses Training Scholarships, no Child Welfare, no Youth Sports, no Ritual, no Committees. Without power – we have nothing. We die.

All of the time and effort that is spent on the meetings, the phone calls, the emails, the talk about resolutions, the opinions, the suggestions, the plans, the changes. All of the talk. No one is concentrating on the fact that we'll be dead before we get there. Very few are working on the real problem.

At every level, MEMBERSHIP has to be Mission PRIORITY ONE.

Part of Joseph Breen's genius in founding La Société, was that he cherry picked the top 20% of the American Legion. We only recruited from the top of the membership pyramid. When we became an independent organization, we never built our own pyramid. As a result we don't have a solid base of membership that is content to pay dues, support fund raisers and receive newsletters. And evidently, we have a large contingent of recruiters that is unwilling to invite that 80% membership base to join us. This is why we struggle. We have a proud tradition of not being "card carriers" – when card carriers is EXACTLY what we need for our survival. We can't get them, because no one will recruit them.

I understand and appreciate the fond memories of the bygone days when a candidate had to "prove" their worthiness as a Legionnaire before being invited to join us. The fact is; those days are over. Gone forever. We're in survival mode now. Those are nice memories, but no amount of second guessing decisions that were made a decade ago are going to change the fact that we are in critical condition right now. We need all hands on deck – NOW. There are over 2 million eligible Veterans out there. Once you get them onboard, you can train them to be the Voyageur you need them to be. But if we hold out – waiting for the perfect candidate to find us – we'll die. That's the ballgame. I've shown you 30 years of steadily declining membership data that backs it up.

Everyone, and I mean everyone, from the Chef de Chemin de Fer to the newest Voyageur that was Wrecked last night (and everyone in between) has a responsibility to recruit new members. No one is exempt from this responsibility. Our survival demands it.

AT EVERY LEVEL, MEMBERSHIP HAS TO BE MISSION PRIORITY ONE — OR WE DIE

For those of you wondering, I do realize that my articles have a common theme, and maybe even a common tone. I would sincerely like to use this space to communicate about other topics, but duty compels me to continue to bring this issue to your attention. My intention is to keep you, the membership informed about the status of our organization. Each of us holds a stake in it, and each of us must decide for ourselves if we are willing to do what is necessary to save it, or let it die. Your choice will be made evident by the number of Voyageurs that you personally induct each year. I sincerely hope that you chose to honor your years of service, and the legacy that our fathers and grandfathers built.



THE MEMBERSHIP PROBLEM!

Presidential Biographies

At the end of his two terms in office, Ronald Reagan viewed with satisfaction the achievements of his innovative program known as the Reagan Revolution, which aimed to reinvigorate the American people and reduce their reliance upon Government. He felt he had fulfilled his campaign pledge of 1980 to restore “the great, confident roar of American progress and growth and optimism.”

On February 6, 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan was born to Nelle and John Reagan in Tampico, Illinois. He attended high school in nearby Dixon and then worked his way through Eureka College. There, he studied economics and sociology, played on the football team, and acted in school plays. Upon graduation, he became a radio sports announcer. A screen test in 1937 won him a contract in Hollywood. During the next two decades he appeared in 53 films.

From his first marriage to actress Jane Wyman, he had two children, Maureen and Michael. Maureen passed away in 2001. In 1952 he married Nancy Davis, who was also an actress, and they had two children, Patricia Ann and Ronald Prescott.

As president of the Screen Actors Guild, Reagan became embroiled in disputes over the issue of Communism in the film industry; his political views shifted from liberal to conservative. He toured the country as a television host, becoming a spokesman for conservatism. In 1966 he was elected Governor of California



by a margin of a million votes; he was re-elected in 1970.

Ronald Reagan won the Republican Presidential nomination in 1980 and chose as his running mate former Texas Congressman and United Nations Ambassador George Bush. Voters troubled by inflation and by the year-long confinement of Americans in Iran swept the Republican ticket into office. Reagan won 489 electoral votes to 49 for President Jimmy Carter.

On January 20, 1981, Reagan took office. Only 69 days later he was shot by a would-be assassin, but quickly recovered and returned to duty. His grace and wit during the dangerous incident caused his popularity to soar.

Dealing skillfully with Con-

gress, Reagan obtained legislation to stimulate economic growth, curb inflation, increase employment, and strengthen national defense. He embarked upon a course of cutting taxes and Government expenditures, refusing to deviate from it when the strengthening of defense forces led to a large deficit.

A renewal of national self-confidence by 1984 helped Reagan and Bush win a second term with an unprecedented number of electoral votes. Their victory turned away Democratic challengers Walter F. Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro.

In 1986 Reagan obtained an overhaul of the income tax code, which eliminated many deductions and exempted millions of people with low incomes. At the end of his

administration, the Nation was enjoying its longest recorded period of peacetime prosperity without recession or depression.

In foreign policy, Reagan sought to achieve “peace through strength.” During his two terms he increased defense spending 35 percent, but sought to improve relations with the Soviet Union. In dramatic meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, he negotiated a treaty that would eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles. Reagan declared war against international terrorism, sending American bombers against Libya after evidence came out that Libya was involved in an attack on American soldiers in a West Berlin nightclub.

By ordering naval escorts in the Persian Gulf, he maintained the free flow of oil during the Iran-Iraq war. In keeping with the Reagan Doctrine, he gave support to anti-Communist insurgencies in Central America, Asia, and Africa.

Overall, the Reagan years saw a restoration of prosperity, and the goal of peace through strength seemed to be within grasp.



**Building Donation Challenge
Grand Total -\$158,855.20**



April 2018 Donations

| NAME | VOITURE | GR | AMT |
|--------------|---------|----|-----------|
| Mark Moots | 1072 | AL | \$ 100.50 |
| Voiture 854 | 854 | AR | \$ 33.50 |
| Voiture 1539 | 1539 | AK | \$ 20.00 |
| Voiture 143 | 143 | NY | \$ 5.50 |
| Voiture 317 | 317 | IN | \$ 5.00 |





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Correspondant National Patrick Mobley draws the lucky winners for the 2018 Nurse's Day Raffle.



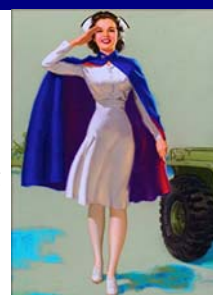
| PLACE | NAME | GRANDE/CABANE | WINNINGS |
|-------|-----------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1ST | Clarence Blitz | V978-IN | \$3,000.00 |
| 2ND | Harold Visser | V1233-FL | \$500.00 |
| 3RD | Walter E Ciokajlo Jr. | V11-OH | \$500.00 |
| 4TH | Franklin W Thompson | V125-NJ | \$100.00 |
| 5TH | Michael E Henley | V1360-LA | \$100.00 |
| 6TH | David K Maple | V443-OH | \$100.00 |
| 7TH | Sidney C Shouse | V1387-KY | \$100.00 |
| 8TH | William Bowman | V103-NE | \$100.00 |
| 9TH | Maryann Vanmulem | C111-NY | \$100.00 |
| 10TH | R J Richard Sr. | V858-CA | \$100.00 |

National Nurses Training Program



With our Nurse Training Program now entering the final quarter of the 2018 membership year, Pin revenues have been doing well. There are, however, some loose ends that we now must begin to clear up if we wish to finish with a "Banner Year" in sales.

Our "La Societe" has 46 participating Grands and 8 Non-participating. 28 Grands are at 100% of their consignments on Pin sales and 18 still have outstanding consignments totaling 1399 Pins with projected sales of \$4197. Our Nurse Training Pin program is on track for a record finish with all Grands reconciling their consignments. All Voyageurs Militaire are urged to contact your Grand Directeur for Nurse Training and join with us for the sprint to the finish.



The pride that goes with being a member of a contributing Grand goes a long way in indicating the attitude and dedication of the Voyageurs of that Grand. While many Grands are putting forth those extra efforts, there is always a Grand Voiture that stands out with their hard work at any given time.

This month we wish to recognize one such Grand from the Northwest Region which has shown a great effort in support of the National Nurse Training Program by demonstrating the commitment needed to effectively support this vital program of the 40/8.

GRAND VOITURE of the Month for APRIL "GRAND du MONTANA" Northwest Region Posting earned sales to-date of 67 Pins for \$201 and a member per-capita of \$ 2.34.

"MERCI, Fellow Voyageurs Militaire", National Secretaire/Treasurer, *H.T. "Terry" Sharp*