

Notes on proposed changes are at the end of this Constitution.

Constitution
of
The Grande Voiture
du
Florida

LA SOCIÉTÉ
DES
40 HOMMES ET 8 CHEVAUX



As Amended
June, 2010
Ocala, Florida

PREAMBLE

"FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES: TO CREATE A CHARITABLE AND NON-PROFIT VETERANS ORGANIZATION; TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; TO ASSIST AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND WELL-BEING OF THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES ~~DURING ALL WARS AND CONFLICTS, RECOGNIZED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,~~ AND THEIR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS; TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR AND TO BE PRESENT AT THE FUNERALS OF DEPARTED COMRADES; TO TAKE PART IN AND TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPER OBSERVANCE OF ALL DAYS HONORING VETERANS; TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES OF OUR SERVICES IN THE ARMED FORCES OF OUR COUNTRY; TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE WITHIN OUR MEMBERSHIP IN PROJECTS RELATING TO:

- (A) THE WELFARE OF THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA;
- (B) THE HEALTH OF OUR NATION BY FOSTERING A NURSES TRAINING PROGRAM; AND
- (C) SELECTED CHARITABLE ENDEAVORS."

ARTICLE I

NATURE AND OBJECTS

SECTION 1.

La Societé des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux is a civilian organization, without rank or distinction between its members, and is nonpolitical.

SECTION 2.

The objects of La Societé des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux are:

A. To honor, through membership, those **honorably discharged and currently serving U. S. military personnel** ~~members of the American Legion~~ who have **proved** themselves worthy of such honor, and

B. Through **mutual helpfulness** ~~fraternality~~, to bind ourselves in close ties afforded by our common service in the armed forces of our Country.

ARTICLE II

ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1.

The Grande Voiture du Florida, La Societé des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, shall be organized into a Grande Voiture and Voitures Locale, as hereinafter provided.

SECTION 2.

The State of Florida shall be divided into Regions at the discretion of the Grande Voiture de Florida; and each Region shall be represented in the Grande Voiture du Florida by a Grand Cheminot. **Boundaries of the various Regions shall follow as closely as possible to the boundaries of the various Districts (one or more) as provided by the American Legion, Department of Florida.**

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1.

No persons, other than **honorably discharged U.S. military personnel and active duty U.S. military** ~~male members of the American Legion, in good standing~~, shall be eligible for membership in La Societé des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, and membership may be granted upon written nomination by a Voyageur Militaire in good standing, within whose territorial jurisdiction **they** reside, showing:

A. That they have been an honorably discharged U.S. military or U.S. active duty person preceding the date of the petition, That he has been a member of the American Legion for not less than twelve months preceding the date of the petition, and that their dues for the current year therein have been paid;

B. That they have rendered service in the U.S. military American Legion, which in the opinion of the members of the Voiture Locale, entitles them to the honor of membership in La Societ  des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux;

C. That their character and reputation are good, and that they have rendered the service aforesaid, which must be shown by an endorsement to that effect, bearing the signatures of two or more members of the Voiture Locale, to which the petition is addressed, this being in addition to the signature of the nominating Voyageur;

D. That they have or have not been previously rejected for membership, and if they have so been rejected, there must be shown the date of such rejection, the number and location of the Voiture Locale by which rejected, and

E. That if formerly a member of La Societ  des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, there must be shown the number and location of the Voiture Locale to which they belonged and the reason for withdrawal.

SECTION 2.

Removal of Membership, Transfer of Membership Within Jurisdictions and Surrender of Membership, shall be governed by Article V, Sections 7, 8 and 9 of the Constitution of Voiture Nationale.

SECTION 3.

Membership shall be obtainable only upon election thereto, as prescribed in Article V Section 6 of the Constitution of Voiture Nationale, following proper consideration of the Nomination of a P.G. by the Voiture Locale of the territorial jurisdiction in which the prospective member resides. The prescribed nomination form shall, in all instances, be completed in detail and properly executed.

SECTION 4.

There shall be no form or class of membership, except an active membership, and election of honorary members is forbidden. Numerical limitation of membership by any Voiture Locale or Grande Voiture is forbidden..

SECTION 5.

Every member of La Societ  shall belong to and hold allegiance to a Voiture Locale; provided however that where no Voiture Locale exists in a county in which a member resides, he shall become affiliated with a Voiture Locale of his selection.

SECTION 6.

~~Failure of a member of La Societ  to maintain his membership in the American~~

~~Legion shall, ipso facto, terminate his membership in La Societé.~~

SECTION 6

Dues of La Societé shall be payable to the Voiture Locale in advance on October 20th each year, and the Voiture Locale shall promptly remit dues to Voiture Nationale in the proper amount as established by the Promenade Nationale for the current year. Payment of dues shall entitle the Voyageur Militaire to a membership card, certifying him to be a member in good standing until and through December 31 of the following year. Any member who shall fail to pay his dues for the current year, on or before March 31st shall not be permitted to attend any Promenade (s) until such dues have been paid; and any member who shall be in arrears in payment of his dues for one year shall stand suspended and notice to that effect shall be given to him by the Correspondant Locale of his Voiture Locale by Certified Mail, addressed to his last known address or place of residence. Should the suspended member fail within one month from the date of postmark of such mailing to pay the arrears and any reinstatement fee required by the Voiture Locale, he shall stand expelled and may not be re-admitted to membership except upon **nomination in accordance with Section 1 of this Article.** ~~petition and evidence that he has paid his dues in the American Legion for the current calendar year. A secret ballot shall be taken upon said petition for reinstatement and a two-thirds (2/3's) affirmative ballot is required for reinstatement. Should there be a less than two-thirds (2/3's) ballot cast, the petition for reinstatement shall be rejected without prejudice to a future petition after a period of six (6) months.~~ No more than one (1) years dues and any reinstatement fee may be assessed a member upon approval of reinstatement following voluntary expulsion or otherwise. Any member who fails to pay his dues for two (2) years shall stand expelled without the requirement of notice, as provided above. Re-admission into membership shall be upon petition in accordance with Section 1 of this Article. Whenever a member is expelled for non-payment of dues and has removed from the jurisdiction of the Voiture Locale to which he formerly belonged, and having become a bona fide resident within the jurisdiction of another Voiture Locale for two (2) years, shall be eligible to petition for reinstatement to the Voiture Locale in which jurisdiction he resides. Said petition (application) shall be received and acted upon by the Voiture Locale in the same manner as an original nomination for membership, provided however, that such applicant shall have paid any amount of indebtedness to his former Voiture Locale in full. Any indebtedness shall consist of not more than two (2) years dues or other amounts which may have remained unpaid at the time of the expulsion. The Voiture Locale receiving the nomination (petition or application) shall appoint an Investigating Committee whose duty shall be to determine whether or not there exists any bar to membership, and to report its findings to the Voiture Locale. The nomination (petition or application) shall lay upon the table for a period of sixty (60) days following the report of the Investigating Committee and a copy of the nomination for reinstatement shall be sent to the Voiture Locale to which the nominee formerly belonged with the request for any comments as to the quality of the former member's membership and activities.

SECTION 7.

At the holding of any Grande Voiture Wreck, a **person** ~~member of the American Legion~~ may not be initiated into La Societé unless there shall be ~~previously and on his behalf a Certificate of Election filed with and approved by~~ **on file with the Grand Correspondant, a certificate of the Voiture Locale of which they are to become a member, signed by the Chef de**

Gare and Correspondant thereof, setting forth that such person is eligible to membership in La Societe, has been duly elected to become a member by and of such Voiture Locale and with a request for initiation issued by officers of the Voiture Locale admitting such person to membership.

SECTION 8.

A membership card shall not be delivered to any person having not received the first, second and third Degrees of La Societe as prescribed by the official Ritual of La Societe, excepting that part of the second Degree referred to as "The Wreck". taken the obligation or obligations required by the ritual of La Societe.

SECTION 9.

A Voiture Locale may not entertain the petition for membership of any person rejected by it, or any other Voiture Locale, until the expiration of six (6) months from the date of such rejection.

SECTION 10.

The Official Insignia of the Grande Voiture du Florida shall be an orange metal emblem of the State of Florida, with a **blue alligator** and the numbers 40/8 inscribed thereon.

ARTICLE IV

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1.

The Legislative body of this Grande Voiture shall be the Grande Voiture in general meeting assembled, to be known as the Grande Promenade, to be held annually at the time and place recommended by the Time and Place Committee and approved by the Grande Promenade. Whenever possible, the recommendation should be two years in advance.

A. (~~As amended per resolutions of 6/28/86 & 6/24/89~~)

The Grand Chef de Gare shall appoint, subject to the ratification by the Grands Cheminots, a Grande Voiture Time & Place Committee, for the future meeting site(s), to be composed of five (5) members. Of the five members appointed, following the Grande Promenade of 1986, one shall be appointed for a full five (5) years, one for four (4) years, one for three (3) years, one for two (2) years, and one for one (1) year. Thereafter, each succeeding appointee shall serve for a full five (5) year term or until removed by a majority vote of the Grands Cheminots. No more than one (1) member from any Voiture Locale shall serve on this committee at one time. Between sessions of the Grands Cheminots, the Grand Chef de Gare may fill vacancies for the unexpired term of the Grande Voiture Time & Place Committee, subject to the ratification of the Grands Cheminots at its next meeting. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Grand Time & Place Committee to invite and receive bids and proposals of sites and accommodations for the holding of the next succeeding Grande Promenade. Bids and proposals may also be invited and received for a second succeeding year, provided, however, any acceptance recommendations must be adopted by the Grands Cheminots.

B. In case of an emergency declared to exist by the Grand Chef de Gare and with the approval of the Grands Cheminots, the Grande Promenade may be held at a time or place other than previously designated.

SECTION 2.

In the Grande Promenade every Voiture Locale shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternate delegates for the first fifteen (15) members and one (1) additional delegate and one (1) additional alternate delegate for each additional fifteen (15) members, or major fraction thereof; provided that the per capita tax has been paid and was properly reported on the regulation membership forms provided by Voiture Nationale, and which have been actually received by Voiture Nationale at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the holding of the Grande Promenade. Entitlement shall be based on official certification by the Correspondant National and such entitlement shall also be subject to each Voiture Locale not being in arrears of funds or indebtedness to the Grande Voiture du Florida. Each officer of the Grande Voiture du Florida, as set forth in Article V Section 1, shall be entitled to one (1) vote, said vote to be exercised only when such officer is properly registered and present in person. "Sous" Officers shall not be entitled to vote based on their title or position; however, such officers may be designated as delegates or alternates as elected and certified by their Voiture Locale. Each delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote, and in the absence of the delegate, the alternate delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The vote of each Voiture Locale shall be equal to the number of delegates to which it is entitled.

SECTION 3.

Grand Chefs de Gare Pass9, while in good standing, in their respective Voitures Locale, shall be members for life of the Grands Cheminots, with vote, and also be life delegates to all Grande Promenades of La Societé, with vote to be exercised only when present in person and properly registered.

SECTION 4.

A quorum of the Grande Promenade shall consist of a majority of the Voitures Locale, represented in whole or in part by duly authorized delegates.

SECTION 5.

At any regular Promenade or Promenade Local, no form of entertainment or refreshment shall be indulged in or served before or during the Promenade; nor will any Voyageur Militaire be admitted to any such Promenade while in a disorderly condition.

SECTION 6.

The Grands Cheminots shall consider and recommend for adoption any and all special rules to govern the Grande Promenade. The Grand Avocat shall prepare such special rules for consideration and adoption by the Grands Cheminots at a Grands Cheminots meeting prior to the holding of the Grande Promenade. The special rules may not supersede or be in conflict with any of the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grande Voiture du Florida or Voiture Nationale.

ARTICLE V

GRAND OFFICERS

SECTION 1. ~~(as amended per resolutions of 12/5/87)~~

The Officers of the Grande Voiture du Florida, La Societé des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux shall be:

One (1) Grand Chef de Gare	(President)
One (1) Grand Chef de Train	(Vice-President)
One (1) Grand Conducteur	(Master of Ceremonies)
One (1) Grand Commissaire Intendant	(Treasurer)
One (1) Grand Correspondant	(Secretary)
One (1) Grand Avocat	(Judge Advocate)
Two (2) Grand Gardes de la Porte	(Sgt-at-Arms)
One (1) Grand Commis Voyageur	(Property Man)
One (1) Grand Historian	(Historian)
One (1) Grand Medicin	(Medical Officer)
One (1) Grand Lampiste	(Asst. Sgt-at-Arms)
One (1) Grand Aumonier	(Chaplain)
Grand Cheminots	(Directors): 1 per Region with up to and

including 3 Voitures; and 1 additional Grand Cheminot with 4 or more Voitures per Region; and such other officers, not inconsistent herewith, which the Grande Promenade of the Grande Voiture du Florida may determine; which other officers, however, shall have duties and standing only within the jurisdiction of the Grande Voiture du Florida. All elective officers shall be elected without consideration of the geographical location of their residences in the State of Florida.

SECTION 2.

A Cheminot National and a Alternate Cheminot National shall be elected by the Annual Grande Promenade to represent the Grande Voiture du Florida on the Cheminots Nationaux of Voiture Nationale.

SECTION 3.

The Grande Voiture Officers named in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article shall be elected by the Grande Promenade assembled, except the Grand Commissaire Intendant, Grand Correspondant, Grand Avocat, Grand Historian, Grand Medicin, Grand Lampiste, and Grand Aumonier, all of whom shall be appointed by the Grand Chef de Gare, with the approval of the Grands Cheminots. A candidate for Grande Voiture Office shall not be eligible for election to any office unless his candidacy shall have been first endorsed by a majority of the Voyageurs Militaire present at a regularly held Promenade Locale of the Voiture Locale of which such candidate is a member, or at least thirty (30) days prior to the holding of the annual Grande Promenade.

SECTION 4.

Vacancies occurring in any of the elective offices between Grande Promenades

shall be filled by the Grands Cheminots, except as provided in Section 10 of this Article pertaining to the office of the Grand Chef de Gare.

SECTION 5.

All of the elective Grande Voiture Officers named in section 1 of this Article shall be installed at the Grande Promenade immediately prior to adjournment (newly appointed officers may be included). The Grand Chef de Gare shall have the right and authority to name any other present or past Voiture Nationale or Grande Voiture du Florida officer as the Installing Officer. Such installation shall be as outlined in the Ritual, with suitable and appropriate changes to apply to the Grande Voiture du Florida.

SECTION 6.

Each officer of the Grande Voiture or of a Voiture Locale who receives and/or disburses funds or monies of such Voiture shall be bonded in a sum to be determined by the Voiture concerned, or by the Cheminot(s) of such Voiture. Every effort shall be made to maintain uniform accounting systems as recommended by Voiture Nationale. Financial officers of the Grande Voiture or Voitures Locale shall not be recognized by the Grande Voiture du Florida until duly qualified and bonded.

SECTION 7.

All funds of the Grande Voiture, and of Voitures Locale, shall be deposited and carried in the name of such Voiture, and in such depository or depositories as may be selected by the Grands Cheminots, or of the Cheminots Locale, as appropriate.

SECTION 8.

Books and records of each Voiture Locale shall be open to inspection at any time by authorized officials of the Grande Voiture de Florida or Voiture Nationale.

SECTION 9.

The Grande Voiture du Florida in Grande Promenade assembled shall have the power to limit the maximum dues and initiation fees which may be assessed by Voitures Locale.

SECTION 10.

In the event of resignation, death, suspension or removal from office of the Grand Chef de Gare, the immediate Grand Chef de Gare Pass $\text{\textcircled{9}}$, in good standing and available, shall immediately take office as Acting Grand Chef de Gare. The Grands Cheminots shall meet to fill the vacancy within ten (10) days from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy, or until the next Grande Promenade, whichever comes first.

SECTION 11.

Members and Officers of La Societé des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux charged with disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty, conduct unbecoming member of La Societé, or charged with any action inimical to the interests and standings of La Societé shall be dealt with as provided for in Article XIII of the Constitution of Voiture Nationale, La Societé des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux.

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 1.

The GRAND CHEF DE GARE shall be the chief executive officer of the Grande Voiture du Florida. He shall preside at all Grande Promenades, meetings of the Grands Cheminots and other functions of the Grande Voiture. He shall appoint all the appointive officers of the Grande Voiture, subject only to the approval of the Grands Cheminots. He shall appoint all standing committees of the Grande Voiture, except as otherwise provided herein, and shall perform such other duties as may properly come within the province of his office. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Grande Voiture.

SECTION 2.

The GRAND CHEF DE TRAIN shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Chef de Gare. In the temporary absence or disability of the Grand Chef de Gare, he shall act as the presiding officer of the Grande Promenade, meetings of the Grands Cheminots or other functions of the Grande Voiture, or preside at the request of the Grand Chef de Gare.

SECTION 3.

The GRAND CONDUCTEUR shall have charge of the initiatory work at all Grande Promenades, Grand Wrecks, and shall have supervision over Wrecks in all Voiture Locales, and such other duties as may be required by the Grand Chef de Gare.

SECTION 4.

The GRAND COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT shall be the Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee and shall see that the financial records of the Grande Voiture are audited at the end of the year.

SECTION 5.

The GRAND CORRESPONDANT shall be the Secretary of the Grande Voiture, Grande Promenades, Grands Cheminots meetings and other functions of the Grande Voiture. He shall keep a true and accurate record of all proceedings, shall conduct their correspondence and keep a correct list of all Voitures Locale and their Officers. He shall be the chief Finance Officer of the Grande Voiture du Florida. He shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements and report thereon at each Grande. Promenade. He shall furnish the Grand Finance and Budget Committee with a monthly statement of receipts and disbursements. He shall pay all bills when audited and approved by the Grand Chef de Gare. He shall handle all other matters pertaining to his office as Secretary and perform such other duties as may be imposed by the Grand Chef de Gare.

SECTION 6.

It shall be the duty of the GRAND AVOCAT to interpret the Constitution of the Grande Voiture du Florida during and between Grande Promenades. He shall perform such

other duties as may be required by the Grand Chef de Gare and the Grande Promenade. He shall also serve as Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee of the Grande Voiture and the Grande Promenade.

SECTION 7.

The GRAND GARDES DE LA PORTE (2) shall perform the usual duties of a Sergeant-at-Arms at all Promenades and functions of the Grande Voiture du Florida, and such other duties as may be required by the Grand Chef de Gare.

SECTION 8.

The GRAND COMMIS VOYAGEUR shall be charged with the responsibility of caring for the properties of the Grande Voiture du Florida and such other duties as may be required by the Grand Chef de Gare.

SECTION 9.

The GRAND HISTORIAN shall collect for permanent preservation all matters of interest to La Societé, and submit a history of the Grande Voiture during his term of office to the Annual Grande Promenade; and such other duties as may be required by the Grand Chef de Gate.

SECTION 10.

The GRAND MEDICIN shall perform the usual duties of a Medical Officer and such other duties as may be required by the Grand Chef de Gare.

SECTION 11.

The GRAND LAMPISTE shall perform the duties of an Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms at all Grande Promenades and such other duties as may be required by the Grand Chef de Gare.

SECTION 12.

The GRAND AUMONIER shall perform the usual duties of a Chaplain and such other duties as may be required by the Grand Chef de Gare.

SECTION 13.

The Grand Chef de Gare and the Grande Voiture du Florida shall obtain and issue a Certificate of Service, as offered by Voiture Nationale, to each Chef de Gare of each Voiture Locale on the occasion of the installation of each Chef de Gare Locale.

SECTION 14.

The Grand Chef de Gare shall, immediately after his election and installation, appoint the Grand Correspondant, subject to the approval of the Grands Cheminots. The Grand Correspondant shall furnish, without cost to the Grande Voiture, sufficient space to adequately house and protect the equipment, records and files of the Grande Voiture du Florida, including any and all paraphernalia or regalia. He shall furnish an annual inventory, including any changes therein, to the Grands Cheminots. The Grand Correspondant shall serve without pay or remuneration; except he may receive a travel allowance allocated for such purpose by the Grand Finance and Budget Committee and approved by the Grands Cheminots.

SECTION 15.

The Grand Chef de Gare shall appoint a Sous Grand Correspondant immediately after his election and installation, subject to the approval of the Grands Cheminots; whose duties and responsibilities shall be to assist the Grand Correspondant; and such other duties as may be required by the Grand Chef de Gare. The Sous Grand Correspondant shall immediately assume the duties and responsibilities of the Grand Correspondant should a vacancy occur in that office and until a formal appointment shall be made by the Grand Chef de Gare for replacement.

SECTION 16.

The duties and responsibilities of the GRANDE VOITURE COMMITTEES shall be as follows:

A. The TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE shall receive and consider bids or invitations for the holding of subsequent Grande Promenades and any Petite Grande Promenades, dealing with sites, accommodations and facilities. A report and recommendation for approval shall be rendered for adoption at the Annual Grande Promenade.

B. The CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE shall record and tabulate all registrations of delegates, alternates, visitors and any visiting dignitaries in attendance at any proper function of the Grande Voiture du Florida; particularly at the Annual Grande Promenade. It shall give a proper and accurate account of the delegate and voting strength at all Grande Promenades, with verification that all delegates and alternates including officers and Grand Chefs de Gate Pass⁹, shall have registered and paid the proper registration fees.

C. The CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE shall receive propose and consider any changes or amendments to the constitution of the Grande Voiture du Florida. The Grand Avocat shall be the Chairman of this Committee, and shall make recommendations for the Committee for adoption of any changes or amendments at the Annual Grande Promenade.

D. The COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE shall coordinate and receive reports dealing with community service by the Voitures Locale and make such reports to the Grande Voiture, or elsewhere, as appropriate.

E. The AMERICANISM COMMITTEE shall coordinate and receive reports dealing with Americanism activities by the Voitures Locale and make such reports to the Grande Voiture, Voiture Nationale, or elsewhere, as appropriate.

F. The AUDIT COMMITTEE shall conduct an annual review and audit of the financial records of the Grande Voiture du Florida and make a report to the Grande Voiture Finance and Budget Committee at its annual meeting immediately prior to the holding of the Grande Promenade. The Audit Committee may request quarterly statements of financial receipts and disbursements from the Grand Commissaire Intendant and Grand Correspondant in order to maintain financial continuity.

G. The NURSES TRAINING COMMITTEE shall coordinate, promote, compile

reports and otherwise further the programs of nurses training within the Grande Voiture du Florida; rendering all possible assistance to the Voitures Locale in their individual programs. The Committee Chairman shall make reports to the Grande Voiture, Voiture Nationale, and/or otherwise, as appropriate.

H. The VOITURE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE shall receive and compile reports of the activities of the Voitures Locale during the current year, offering suggestions and guidance toward a fully rounded program of La Soci  t   activities within the Voitures Locale; and make a report to the Grande Voiture, Voiture Nationale, and/or otherwise, as appropriate.

I. The LEGION MEMBERSHIP ROUND-UP COMMITTEE shall coordinate and cooperate with the American Legion, Department of Florida, in conducting an annual round-up of American Legion memberships.

J. The LOCOMOTIVE AND BOXCAR COMMITTEE shall promote the activities of the National Box Cat Association and assist in the furthering of activities and projects of Locomotives and Box Cats in Voitures Locale within the Grande Voiture du Florida, and/or elsewhere.

K. The CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE shall assist in the promotion and utilization of all means available to render care and assistance to provide benefits to children within the jurisdiction of the Grande Voiture and Voitures Locale. It shall compile and report all activities to the Grande Voiture and Voiture Nationale as may be required and appropriate.

L. The CARVILLE STAR COMMITTEE shall promote the activities of the program of treatment of Hansen's Disease, or such other public health diseases as may be subsequently adopted by Voiture Nationale, with particular emphasis on the distribution of educational materials through the Carville Star Magazine and maintenance of the publication equipment at Carville, LA or elsewhere; and shall make proper reports to the Grande Voiture and Voiture Nationale.

M. The RITUAL COMMITTEE shall consider all constructive and beneficial changes to the Ritual of La Soci  t   and shall make recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Promenade Nationale. All recommendations shall be presented to the Annual Grande Promenade for concurrence and further recommendation to the Promenade Nationale. The Ritual Committee shall attempt to inform and educate the Voitures Locale on the proper use of the Ritual and maintain uniform application thereto of all its provisions.

N. There shall be a GRAND FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE to consist of the Grand Commissaire Intendant, as Chairman, and five (5) members at large. Upon election, each Grand Chef de Gare shall appoint a member at large to serve for a period of five (5) years. The Grand Chef de Gare, the Grand Correspondant, and the Custodian of the Emergency Fund shall serve as ex-officio members. The Grand Correspondant shall serve as Secretary of this Committee.

O. There shall be a GRAND TROPHIES AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

consisting of three (3) members at large, to be selected annually by the Grands Cheminots, Such Committee shall select its own Chairman. The Committee shall be responsible for promulgating such rules and regulations as may be required for the awarding of each trophy or award. The Committee shall recommend to the Grands Cheminots the establishment of any new awards and trophies and including any stipulation (s) by or for the honoree or donors.

P. The RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE shall receive and consider all resolutions for recommendation(s) as to approval or rejection by the Grande Promenade assembled or the Grands Cheminots if expediency is required between Grande Promenades; having due concern for those matters and interests of La Societé as to established policies and programs of Voiture Nationale, the Grande Voiture and Voitures Locale.

Q. The YOUTH SPORTS COMMITTEE shall participate in the Youth Sports activities wherever possible. The committee shall encourage participation in the program within the Grande Voiture by the Voitures Locale. It shall promote the national program in whatever manner prescribed by Voiture Nationale.

ARTICLE VII

GRANDS CHEMINOTS

SECTION 1. ~~(as amended per resolution 12/5/87)~~

There shall be a GRANDS CHEMINOTS (Executive Committee) consisting of the following Officers:

GRAND CHEF DE GARE
CHEMINOT NATIONALE
GRAND CHEFS DE GARE PASSI
ALTERNATE CHEMINOT NATIONALE
GRAND CHEF DE TRAIN
GRAND CONDUCTEUR
GRAND COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT
GRAND CORRESPONDANT
GRAND AVOCAT
TWO GRAND GARDES DE LA PORTE
GRAND COMMIS VOYAGEUR
GRAND AUMONIER
THE GRAND CHEMINOTS (as prescribed in Article V as changed)

SECTION 2

Between Grande Promenades, the administration and judicial powers shall be vested in the Grands Cheminots, and it shall be empowered to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be required for the proper guidance of the Grande Voiture, subject to ratification of the succeeding Grande Promenade.

SECTION 3.

The incoming Grands Cheminots shall meet immediately after the final adjournment (within 24 hours) of the Grande Promenade to transact such business as may come before it; and for the incoming officers to receive the records and properties of the Grande Voiture pertaining to their respective offices. The incoming Grands Cheminots shall meet at the call of the Grand Chef de Gare. The Grand Chef de Gare shall call a meeting of the Grands Cheminots upon written request of a majority of the members thereof, the place and time of the meeting to be designated in the written request.

SECTION 4.

The Grands Cheminots shall provide for committees on rules and regulations, credentials, organization and such others as is necessary in its judgment.

SECTION 5.

A majority of the members of the Grands Cheminots, excluding the Grand Chefs de Gare Pass⁹, shall constitute a quorum of that body.

SECTION 6. ~~(as amended)~~

The Grand Cheminots (as prescribed in Article V as changed) elected from the various Regions shall have a further and singular duty placed on them; i.e., they and each of them shall visit, if possible all Voitures Locale in their respective Regions, as many times during the year as possible. They shall become familiar with the ritualistic work as provided in the Ritual of La Societé and see that all provisions of the Ritual are properly carried out within the Promenade Locale. The Regional Grand Cheminot shall preside at all Regional Promenades. Regional Grand Cheminots shall prepare and submit a written report for the year's activities within their Region to the Grand Correspondant and the Grande Promenade. A written report shall be made at the Mid-Winter Petite and Annual Grande Promenades. Each Regional Grand Cheminot shall be the Membership Chairman within the Region from which he was elected and he shall promote the membership in all Voitures Locale within it.

SECTION 7.

In addition to any Regional Petite Promenade(s) that may be held in the several Regions of the Grande Voiture, there shall be held a Regional Petite Promenade, not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual Grande Promenade, at which there shall be nominated a Grand Cheminot to serve for and during the term of one(1) year succeeding.

ARTICLE VIII

VOITURES LOCALE

SECTION 1.

A. Five (5) or more **honorably discharged or active U.S. military persons** ~~members of the American Legion, in any County representing in their membership two (2) or more of the chartered American Legion Posts in that County,~~ who are eligible **for** membership in La Societé may make application to the Grande Voiture du Florida for a Charter for a Voiture Locale in that County.

B. If such application for a Charter be approved by the Grande Voiture du Florida, such application will be forwarded to Voiture Nationale, after which the Charter will be issued. In the event of approval by the Grande Voiture, a dispensation may be issued by the Grande Voiture for the organization of such Voiture Locale until such time as a Charter has been issued. Charter approval shall be subject to Article XI Section 1 of the Constitution of Voiture Nationale.

C. Provided, however, that two Counties may be consolidated into one Voiture Locale with the approval of the Grands Cheminots and the Grande Promenade.

SECTION 2.

The Grand Chef de Gare shall recommend promptly the revocation and cancellation of the Charter of any Voiture Locale in its jurisdiction which indulges in or permits drunkenness, vulgarity or obscenity at Promenades, Wrecks, or any social function whatsoever by such Voiture Locale in the name of or under the auspices of La Societ  des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux.

SECTION 3.

The officers of Voitures Locale shall be as follows:

CHEF DE GARE	(President)
CHEF DE TRAIN	(Vice-President)
COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT	(Treasurer)
CORRESPONDANT	(Secretary)
CONDUCTEUR	(Master of Ceremonies)
GARDE DE LA PORTE	(Sergeant at Arms)
LAMPISTE	(Asst. Sergeant at Arms)
COMMIS VOYAGEUR	(Property Man)
MEDICIN	(Medical Officer)
AUMONIER	(Chaplain)

and such other officers, not inconsistent herewith, as any Voiture Locale may determine, which other officers, however, shall have duties and standing only within the jurisdiction of the Voiture Locale by which elected or appointed.

SECTION 4.

There shall be a Cheminots Locale consisting of the following:

CHEF DE GARE
CHEF DE TRAIN
COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT
CORRESPONDANT
and NOT LESS THAN THREE (3) MEMBERS AT LARGE.

SECTION 5.

Each Voiture Locale shall be the judge of its own membership subject only to the restrictions of the Constitution and By-Laws of this Grande Voiture and the Voiture Nationale.

SECTION 6.

Promenades of Voitures Locale shall be held as the majority members shall elect, provided, however, that each Voiture Locale shall hold at least one (1) Promenade per month, and a copy of the minutes of each Cheminot Meeting of the Voiture Locale and a copy of the minutes of each Promenade be forwarded to the Grande Voiture Office within fifteen (15) days of any Cheminot Meeting or Promenade or both.

SECTION 7.

Each Voiture Locale in the Grande Voiture du Florida shall have its own Constitution and By-Laws, the same not to conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of either the Grande Voiture du Florida or Voiture Nationale. A copy of said Constitution and By-Laws must have the approval of Grand Avocat of the Grande Voiture du Florida and the Avocat National of Voiture Nationale.

SECTION 8.

Each Voiture Locale shall hold and conduct an annual election of all officers of said Voiture Locale including Delegates and Alternates to the Grande Promenade for the next ensuing year. Officers and Delegates and Alternates shall be elected and later certified to the Grand Correspondant not more than forty five (45) days nor less than fifteen (15) days prior to the holding of the Grande Promenade. Each certification shall include the names and addresses and postal zip codes of all persons certified. In the event of a replacement during the year, the name and address of the successor in office shall be promptly reported to the Grand Correspondant within ten (10) days after such replacement. A certification shall be made to the Correspondant National showing a complete listing of the names, addresses, and zip code of all Voiture Locale Officers elected or appointed within ten (10) days after their installation.

SECTION 9.

Each Voiture Locale shall at the close of each administration, forward to the Grand Correspondant a copy of the report of the Chef de Gare, Correspondant and Commissaire Intendant, respectively, for the prior year and a report of such other activities as may be of interest or value to the Grande Voiture.

SECTION 10.

Voitures Locale shall use and follow the Ritual prescribed by Voiture Nationale for conducting all Promenades and Wrecks.

SECTION 11.

Voitures Locale shall obtain permission from the Grand Chef de Gare, through the Grande Voiture Office, for a Wreck before proceeding with plans for a Wreck.

ARTICLE IX

FINANCES

SECTION 1.

The revenue of the Grande Voiture shall be derived from such sources as may be provided or approved by the Promenade Nationale.

SECTION 2.

Each Voiture Locale applying for a Charter shall pay a **Charter Fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)**. Each member enrolled by initiation in Voitures Locale shall pay an initiation fee which shall include annual dues; a Grande Voiture per capita tax; Child Welfare contribution; Voiture Nationale per capita tax; and a Chapeau, properly lettered with **Chapeau** Medal. After initiation, each Voiture Locale shall pay an annual per capita tax for each Voyageur Militaire in an amount as may be established by Voiture Nationale and the Grande Voiture du Florida.

SECTION 3.

A Metal Alligator Chapeau Insignia, as described in Article III, Section **10** shall be obtained through the office of the Grand Correspondant of the Grande Voiture du Florida ONLY, and the office of the Grand Correspondant shall maintain an adequate supply of the insignia for distribution.

SECTION 4.

No Voiture Locale or Voyageur Militaire shall purchase or use any Chapeau, Medals or other paraphernalia or supplies except those purchased through the Correspondant National, as provided in Article XIII Section **6** of the Constitution of Voiture Nationale.

SECTION 5.

There shall be appointed three (3) GRANDE VOITURE TRUSTEES consisting of the three (3) immediate living Grand Chefs de Gare Pass9. These Trustees shall be responsible for the administration of the invested and/or savings, sinking funds, or any other funds not in the General Fund of the Grande Voiture du Florida. There shall also be appointed a CUSTODIAN of the invested and/or savings, sinking funds, or any other funds not in the General Fund.

SECTION 6.

There shall be established a Grande Voiture du Florida EMERGENCY FUND; which shall be deposited in an insured account in a banking institution within the State of Florida. The Grande Voiture du Florida Emergency Fund shall be used for emergency purposes only; said emergency to be determined by the unanimous decision of the Grande Voiture Trustees or the majority vote of the Grands Cheminots.

SECTION 7.

Signatures of the Custodian and one (1) Grande Voiture Trustee shall be required for any authorized withdrawal from the Grande Voiture du Florida Emergency Fund. Only accrued interest proceeds earned from the Fund's investment(s) may be used for annual needs of the Grand Voiture, as recommended by the Finance and Budget Committee and adopted by the Annual Grande Promenade.

SECTION 8.

The Custodian shall render an annual status report to the Grande Voiture Finance

and Budget Committee; Grands Cheminots and Grande Promenade of all designated Funds in his custody.

SECTION 9.

The Custodian shall be Surety Bonded for an amount commensurate with the amount outstanding in the Grande Voiture du Florida Emergency Fund Account and/or other funds in his custody. The cost of such bond premium shall be at the expense of the Grande Voiture du Florida.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1.

This Constitution may be amended by any Grande Promenade, in annual session assembled, by a two thirds vote of the total authorized representation thereat; provided that the proposed amendment(s) shall be presented in writing at the first business session of the annual Grande Promenade; except that all amendments presented to the Grande Promenade by the Convention Committee on Constitution and By-Laws shall be considered.

SECTION 2.

Immediately upon adjournment of the annual Grande Promenade, all Voitures Locale shall be notified by the Grand Correspondant of all changes in and to this Constitution; and it shall be mandatory that each Cheminots Locale implement all changes in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Voiture Locale.

ARTICLE XI

REPEALING CLAUSE

SECTION 1.

By adoption of this Constitution, all previous Constitutions are revoked and annulled.

ARTICLE XII

RULES OF ORDER

SECTION 1

Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, are adopted as the rules governing the Grande Promenade when not otherwise provided in this Constitution. Provided further that Special Rules of procedure may be adopted; however, no Special Rule shall conflict with, change or nullify any provision of the Constitution of Voiture Nationale or the Grande Voiture du Florida.

CONSTITUTION REVISIONS:

Grande Promenade; May, 1966, Daytona Beach, FL.
Grande Promenade; June, 1967, Miami, FL.
Grande Promenade; June, 1968, Clearwater, FL.
Grande Promenade; June, 1974, Jacksonville, FL.
Grande Promenade; June, 1979, Orlando, FL.
Grande Promenade; August, 1989, Orlando, FL.
Grande Promenade; July, 1992, Tampa FL.
Grande Promenade; June, 1998, Melbourne, FL
Grande Promenade; June, 2003, Cocoa Beach, FL

Amended in Grande Promenade, June, 2010 to reflect changes approved in prior Grande Promenades.

ATTEST:

Joseph E. Nolan
Grand Correspondant, 2011

NOTES ON PROPOSED CHANGES

Page 2 – Preamble: removed references to American Legion membership criteria.

Page 3 – Article I Section 2A: updated to reflect current National Constitution wording.

- Section 2B: updated to reflect current National Constitution wording.

Page 3 – Article II Section 2: the blue highlighted portion reflects our prior longstanding connection with the American Legion Department of Florida and remains a valid boundary determinant of our Cheminot Regions.

Page 3 and 4 – Article III Section 1: National Constitution change. Updated to reflect current National Constitution wording.

Page 4 – Article III Section 2: updated to reflect current National Constitution paragraph numbers.

- Section 3: updated to reflect current National Constitution paragraph number.

Page 4 and 5 – Article III Section 6: deleted. National Constitution change.

Page 5 – Article III Section 7: renumbered. National Constitution change. Readmittance after expulsion for non-payment of dues changed to reflect current National Constitution. Deleted references to American Legion membership and secret ballot.

Page 5 and 6 – Article III Section 8: renumbered. National Constitution change. Reworded to reflect current National Constitution.

Page 6 – Article III Section 9: renumbered and reworded to reflect current National Constitution.

- Sections 10 and 11: renumbered.

Page 6 – Article IV Section 1A: deleted references to past amendment.

Page 8 – Article V Section 1: deleted references to past amendment.

Page 13 – Article VI Section 16I: retention of the “Legion Membership Round-up Committee” is a policy issue that must be determined by the Grande Promenade.

Page 14 – Article VII Section 1: deleted reference to past amendment.

Page 15 – Article VII Section 6: deleted reference to past amendment.

Page 15 – Article VIII Section 1A: National Constitution change. Updated to reflect current National Constitution wording.

Page 17 – Article VIII Section 11: changed Voiture to Voitures

Page 18 – Article IX Section 2: do we want the Charter Fee fixed in our Constitution, which requires a 2/3's majority to change, or change to something like "...Charter Fee as determined by the Grande Promenade assembled"? Add "Chapeau" before the word "Medal" to reflect the correct title.

Page 18 – Article IX Section 3: corrected Section 2 to Section 10.

Page 18 – Article IX Section 4: updated to reflect current National Constitution paragraph number.

Page 19 – Article XII Section 1: updated to reflect current title of Robert's Rules.

Page 20 – Constitution Revision: updated to reflect current revision process.