



## Communiqué



# La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux

## Grande Voiture du Missouri

August 2022 - Grand Chef de Gare Hallie Williams

L'Éditeur Robert C. Emery



Greetings Voyagers,

We are on a good start that can lead to a good year. We can't slow down. It's a good feeling to travel

around the state and see such upbeat Voyagers.

We must keep membership in our conversations. If possible let's stop our membership from cascading downward. Remember the Buddy Check. Alone we can do little, but together we can do so much more. Keep up the good work. Our goal is RECRUIT RECLAIM RETAIN.

Hallie Williams

Grand Chef de Gare du Missouri

The attached Constitutional Resolution was passed by a unanimous vote at the Grand Promenade and Cheminot of Grand du Arizona on 17 July 2022.

TO clarify this resolution;

1. This resolution only requires that Voiture Nationale begin posting on social media advertisements that are targeted to non-members to familiarize the public with who we are.

Voiture Nationale has a Facebook page that can be reached by anyone in the public. On this page there are only posts that are aimed at members like the Voiture briefs and raffle results. When the public comes to our page, they do not read our Voiture brief as a nonmember publication. They should come to our page and see who we are, what we are about, and how to join our ranks.

Voiture Nationale has a Facebook that is private for members only and approval must be completed to accept members into this group. This member-only group should be where newsletters and posts aimed only at members should be made.

The key difference to note is between a Facebook group and Facebook page. Our Facebook page that can be reached by anyone is public and the world can see all posts. It should aim to attract people to our programs or membership. A group is pri-

vate, and no one can see the posts that are made until they are approved into the group.

This resolution does not make a requirement of any Grand Voiture or Voiture Local. It merely is a suggestion to these two Voitures.

This resolution does not introduce anything that would cost money in any area of our organization.

If you have questions pertaining to this resolution, please contact me at 40and8.987@gmail.com or cellular 505-2274882.

Just a reminder that if you are coming to the Grande Homecoming and Cheminot at the Holiday Inn Earth City on September 30 and October 1, 2022 then you will need to make your own room reservations by September 9, 2022 to get the \$109 room rate, after that you will be paying more. When you call 314-291-6800 then press 0 to make reservations. Let's everyone come to celebrate our new Grand Chef, Hallie Williams  
Terry Lanning  
Grande Correspondant

### Sous Grand Correspondants Notes

Another year is upon us and it is time to hear from our new directeurs. The articles for the next newsletter will be due by July 31, 2022 Ritual, Carville Star, and Child Welfare

# Resolution To Define and Amend Article VIII, section 15

**Whereas;** La Societe has an established Constitution, a written instrument embodying the rules and principles of La Societe, the powers and duties of the officers and committees and the rights of the members of the organization, and

**Whereas;** When La Societe was formed, it was done so by members of the newly formed American Legion, VSO. Those Legionnaires used the American Legion as a blueprint and guide to create many of the administrative, protocol and operating procedures of La Societe, including the Constitution, as a point of reference. This idea was well intended and was beneficial for many years, and

**Whereas;** Among the informal administrative customs adopted was the American Legions system of nominating and electing the National Commander [Chef de Chemin de Fer]. This procedure, as implemented, is not specifically stated or defined in the La Societe Constitution, remains ambiguous, but has been used for many years and was useful when the membership was in the tens of thousands instead of the present total of less than \*18,147, and

**Whereas;** The National Constitution states in **ARTICLE VIII, section 15...** ***“The Committee on Committees shall recommend to the Promenade Nationale the names of eligible members, who have complied with Article VII, section 3, for election to the respective elective offices in Voiture Nationale as set forth in the Constitution thereto. Such recommendations of the Committee on Committees shall not preclude the nomination from the floor of the Promenade Nationale of the name of an eligible member to any elective office of Voiture Nationale or his election thereto”***...This Article and section defines the duties of the Committee on Committees as **recommending** eligible **members** to the members of La Societe at Promenade Nationale **for election**. This would make **all qualified members that have met the constitutional requirements to run, eligible to be elected**, not just a single candidate selection by the five (5) member Committee on Committees amongst the \*18,147 members in La Societe. This would also constitute an official election by pure definition of the word, by the full membership, and

**Whereas;** The current procedure employed by La Societe is for the Committee on Committees to review all candidates and make a “preferred selection” of one candidate, irregardless of how many candidates are qualified and send that to the floor at Promenade Nationale. That candidate is then “elected” by acclamation without contestation. The candidate(s) not selected as the “preferred” candidate are strongly advised by the committee not to run off the floor, as is their constitutional right, that their future efforts would be severely impaired if they do so. This basically disenfranchises the membership of their right of voting and selecting the Chef de Chemin de Fer. This procedure is a customary ritual that is constitutionally incorrect by definition, and

**The wording \*Election, and \*Elective appear in Article VIII, section 15 of Constitution of La Societe in an ambiguous meaning. The lawful rule on this issue is defined hereto;**

The Plain Meaning Rule also known as The Literal rule are rules of statutory document construction applied in the court system.

The Plain Meaning Rule dictates that wording is to be interpreted using the ordinary literal meaning by the associated and accepted common language. In other words it should be read, word for word, and interpreted according to the ordinary meaning of the phrase unless the results would be cruel or absurd. Ordinary word meaning is given by local and cultural terms recognized as applicable. The Plain Meaning Rule is a mechanism that prevents parties from taking sides in the meaning of the word definition. Additionally it is a mechanism that underlies \*textualism and, to a certain extent, \*\*originalism.

According to the Plain Meaning rule, absent of contrary definition, words must be given their plain ordinary and literal meaning. If these words are clear, they must be applied, even though the intention may or may not have been different, or the result is harsh or undesirable.

The Literal Rule is what the law states, instead of what was or may have been intended.

*Ref; Larry Solum, Professor of Law, Georgetown University*

*K-Mart v Cartier 486 U.S. 281, 319 (Scalia,J.)*

*Nix v Hedden 149 U.S. 304*

*Caminetti v United States 242 U.S. 470*

Glossary: (source; The Hoover Legal Institute.)

**\* Textualism** *n. strict or rigid adherence to a text. 2. No consideration given to non textual sources such as intent of meaning.*

**\*\* Originalism** *n. a legal philosophy that the word in documents should be interpreted as they were understood culturally at the time the document was written.*

## **Explanation of reasoning to amend the National Constitution Article VIII, section 15, Committee on Committees election responsibilities and duties.**

1. When the Forty and Eight was formed in 1920, it was done so by Legionnaires of the newly formed American Legion. These Legionnaires used the blueprint of the American Legion to form many of the administrative, protocol and operating examples of the American Legion, including their Constitution as an example of reference. This idea was well intended and was a benefit in operational abilities for both organizations for many years.
2. Among the administrative ways of doing business was the system in which the American Legion used to select the next National Commander. It was done by a selected committee and they endorsed a candidate that would be “elected” although no defined election actually occurred. The Forty and Eight adopted a very similar system to select their incoming Chef de Chemin de Fer at Promenade Nationale on an annual basis.
3. This system worked very well when both organizations had very strong numbers in membership for many reasons; *ie.*, schedule planning, being able to start duties efficiently immediately after election, monetary concerns and many other viable reasons. The American Legion had membership in the millions and the Forty and Eight had membership in the tens of thousands, so this system was reasonable and necessary.
4. The Forty and Eight has since eliminated the requirement that candidates for membership must be an American Legion member and has severed ties with the Legion, operating as a separate incorporated Veterans Service Organization. Therefore they operate independently governed by their own National Constitution, ritual and protocol. However the Forty and Eight continues to follow some of the internal operating procedures inherited from the American Legion. One of those procedures is the election process of the Chef de Chemin de Fer at Promenade Nationale.
5. The Forty and Eight has a National Committee on Committees that has annually “recommended” a “preferred” candidate from all candidates that have



## La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux Grande Voiture du Missouri

### OFFICIAL CALL

TO: ALL GRAND CHEMINOTS  
ALL GRAND OFFICERS  
ALL GRAND CHEFS de GARE PASSE  
ALL VOITURE'S CHEFS de GARE & CORRESPONDANTS  
ALL VOYAGEURS OF GRANDE VOITURE du MISSOURI

This is the OFFICIAL CALL for the Grande Fall Cheminot and Grand Chef de Gare Hallie Williams Homecoming to be held September 30th and October 1st, 2022 at the Holiday Inn St. Louis Airport West Earth City, 3400 Rider Trail South, Earth City, MO 63045, phone (314) 291-6800.

There will be an Executive Board Meeting on Saturday morning at 9:00 AM in the Hospitality Room.

The Fall Grande Cheminot will be held on Saturday at 1:00 PM at the Holiday Inn St. Louis Airport West Earth City.

ALL GRAND OFFICERS AND GRAND CHEMINOTS ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE A REPORT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND SUBMIT A COPY IN WRITING TO THE GRAND CORRESPONDANT.

All Voyageurs are to be in proper attire. The following male Officers are expected to be in coat, tie, shirt, long pants, socks and shoes, whereas female Officers are expected to be in a dress or skirt and blouse or slacks and blouse and shoes: Grand Chef de Gare, Grand Chef de Train, Grand Commissaire Intendant, Grand Correspondant, Grand Garde de la Porte, Grand Lampiste, Grand Conducteur, Sous Grand Conducteurs, and Grand Aumonier.

Terry L. Lanning  
Grand Correspondant

Hallie Williams  
Grand Chef de Gare





The Most Elite  
Charitable  
Veterans Honor  
Society in America

Child Welfare

Nurses Training

Carville Star

Flags for 1st Graders

Youth Sports

POW/MIA

# WE WANT YOU



Scan this code or go to [join408.info](http://join408.info) today!!!

*Membership by nomination only for honorably separated veterans or active service members of the U.S. military.*

# GRANDE VOITURE DU MISSOURI

## GRANDE CHEF DE GARE HOMECOMING & CHEMINOT



September 30 & October 1, 2022  
Holiday Inn St. Louis Airport West Earth City  
3400 Rider Trail South  
St. Louis, MO 63045  
Phone: (314) 291-6800  
Room Rate is \$109.00 (plus tax) per night



For Standard King or Standard Double Queen Occupancy  
**Handicap rooms available**  
Make Hotel reservations directly with Holiday Inn by **September 9, 2022**  
**Mention "Forty & Eight" to receive room rate**

**Friday, September 30, 2022**  
Registration: 1500 until 1800  
Hospitality Room 1500 - ????

**Saturday, October 1, 2022**  
Registration 0900 – Noon  
Committee Meetings: 9:00 – 11:30 AM  
LUNCH 1130 – 1300 in Hospitality Room  
**Grande Cheminot 1300**  
Hospitality Room opens after Cheminot until 1700  
Grand Chef de Gare Passe' Social Hour – 1700 – 1800  
Social Hour 1800 – Cash Bar  
Banquet: 1900  
Hospitality Room: After Banquet – ???????

Check Out  
HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME  
**Deadline for registration and the banquet is September 24, 2022**

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To register for the Grande Cheminot, make Check payable to **Voiture 448**

Send to:  
**Terry Lanning**  
2045 Granada Drive  
Florissant, MO 63033

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Voiture Number \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet/Person \$35.00 X No. Guests \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$10.00 (Voyageurs Only) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

