



## Grand Voiture du Georgia

Award winning publication

Volume 2017-3, July, August, September 2017



## Grand Chef de Gare 2017-18 Tommy Fordham

Hello from Grand du Georgia, I would like everyone to know, that it's my honor to serve as your next Grand Chef. We had a wonderful time at Columbus GA, and another big thank you to Voiture & Cabane 280 for their exceptional hospitality and hard work in having the Grand there. To all Voitures please get your officer list in as soon as possible. I am trying to fill all of the appointed Grand positions and there are a few left if you are interested in serving please contact me. Please keep in mind our next Grand event will be the Petite the Sunday after the Shamrock Wreck October 14, 2017.

I want to also thank all of my elected and appointed Grand officers for stepping up and I hope that we will be able to work together to make this a banner year for Grand du Georgia. We will surely need to work on membership but I will not talk too much about that right now as I think we all know what we need to do. Voiture locale Chefs I want to encourage you and your officers to reach out to your new and especially young Voyageurs and work with them and help them learn how our organizations works. To



## La Grande Presidente 2017-18 Charlotte Fordham



It is a true honor to have been elected Grande La Presidente for 2017-2018. I hope to be able to fill the shoes of our previous La Presidente. With our new team in place, we can work together and grow. At all Rendezvous, we are constantly reminding everyone about membership. Numbers are important, but without active dames, you have nothing. Getting active in our locales will bring in new members. Have some " Dame time"! When we work, we work hard! Then you need to have some fun. A few years ago, our Cabane started having a luncheon for just the paid up members. We have it at Christmas time. Then we go shopping afterwards. It's all fun!

I hope to be able to visit all of the Cabanes and meet new dames during my term. I will help when called upon and if I can't I will get someone who can.

Thanks again,

Charlotte Fordham, La Presidente Grand du Georgia



## Grand Chef de Train North Membership Tom Reesman



As of June 22nd, Grand du Georgia is at 98.23% of our membership for the 15 Voitures and ranked 7<sup>th</sup> nationally. I want to express my appreciation to those Locales that have achieved their 100% or more. It will take everyone's HELP to achieve our Goals. I know that we can achieve 100% in Grand du Georgia 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 are the FUN and HONOR society Of the American Veteran "

**Grand Chef de Gare Passe  
2016-17  
Mike Wood**



My Fellow Voyageurs

This article in the GOT will close out my term as Grande Chef de Gare du Georgia and it has been an honor and privilege to serve the Voyageurs of Georgia. We have had a good year, made a few changes that I think will help Georgia be an even more productive Grande in La Societe. I would like to thank all the Officers that served this year whether it be in the Grande or your Locale. I am grateful for all the support that was given to me this year, and especially to Grande La Presidente, Janet Walsh and the Dames of Georgia for an outstanding year. The Dames are a great asset to the Forty and Eight and their work goes unnoticed many times but we accomplish so much more because of them...Thank you.

I would like to Congratulate the new Grande Chef de Gare, Tommy Fordham from Voiture Locale 567. Chef Tommy is a very dedicated Voyageur and will be a very good Grande Chef leading the Grande du Georgia to a most successful year during his term. I offer the new Grande Chef any assistance I can possibly give him. He will have a very capable Grande La Presidente to work with, his wife Charlotte. With your support, together they will be fine leaders for the Voyageurs and Dames of Georgia. Best of Luck.

We had a very successful Grande Promenade in Columbus June 9 – 11 and if you were not there you missed a good time. We had a very good turnout and conducted some very constructive business including electing the new Grande Officers and Delegates for Promenade Nationale in Louisiana. Voiture Locale 280 did a tremendous job hosting the Promenade. The accommodations and meeting facilities were top notch and the hospitality was even better. Voyageur John Aprill and his crew worked hard to have everything organized to take place in the hotel, so once you parked your car there was no reason to leave until it was time to go home. Job Well Done.

As I write this article the Grande du Georgia is only 2 members short of achieving 100% in membership. Voiture Locale 4 just sent in 7 new members today so this just proves that there are veterans out there to be recruited and Voitures Locale that are willing to work until the very end for success. Thank you V-4 for your dedication and perseverance, now let's get those last 2 and possibly a few more to make Georgia even stronger in La Societe. We have 15 Locales in this Grande and I am sure we can get a few more members if we work together and don't quit trying until the year ends on July 31. The Grande du Georgia is in 8<sup>th</sup> place nationally and I know that we can finish this year in the Top Ten, and that is an elite club. The Voyageurs of Georgia have worked hard up to this point and I am very proud of that, now let's close the deal.

I am proud to be a member of the Grande du Georgia and am now a member of the Grande Chef de Gare Passe Club after a very polite and courteous invitation. I look forward to serving with all of you in the future for the betterment of the Grande du Georgia and La Societe. Once again, thank you for all the support and dedication given to me and remember support your Locale and your Grande but getting involved and attending events. The Grande du Georgia can only be as successful as the members want it to be, so please do your part. God Bless each of you and the Forty and Eight.

FROM THE DESK OF EDDIE ASBERRY  
GRAND DIRECTEUR OF AMERICANISM

[easberry@comcast.net](mailto:easberry@comcast.net)

Our **2018 Americanism Pins** are available now. Call Eddie Asberry at (770) 330-8401 or email [easberry@comcast.net](mailto:easberry@comcast.net). Please encourage your Voiture to order now and prevent losing out. There are no plans to place an additional order.

**Let's all get to work and make this year the best ever.**

*These are the some of the things that we must keep working on.*

**Are you working on your Flags for First Grader program?**

**Are you working on your pin sales?**

**Have you found a candidate for the National Americanism Award?**

**Keep track of what you do for your end of year report.**

**And remember almost everything we do falls under AMERICANISM**

**A new change to Americanism Consolidated report, under Americanism Speeches and Flag Activities. You can take credit for flying your flag at your house.**

**V909, Albany**

Hello everyone, things are getting wet and growing in south Georgia. Just came back from Grand and had a great time. Good to see and renew old friendships. We at V909 fully support and endorse the new Grand Chef and La president. Looks like the parade season will not start until the fall which gives us time to repair our Loci and Boxcar which is in need of major repair. Anyway, looking forward to a new and exciting year. Already have several in the wings to wreck in as we have lost two Voyagers in 16-17 year and need to build up our membership. Suggest all Voitures be looking for worthy candidates. Charles " Nick" Nicholson, Chef (again) V909

From the desk of Tom Reesman

Grand Directeur  
Voiture Activities



Bonjour,

Please remember to record all your Voiture Activities. If you record at every promenade, you won't have to struggle to remember. Almost anything you do for Veterans can be Voiture activities. I have submitted the 2017 report to Nationale. We reported more this year than last, but we can do better.

I will be available to answer any questions you have on Voiture Activities, completing the form as well as provide any suggestions or ideas for events/ activities.

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.

## 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



**TAPS**

Lawson Sewell V-499  
James Wheeler V-499  
Bill Fourquean V-499



## 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:

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

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

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### Adapt or Die

Adapt or Die. It's a simple declaration used by everyone from business moguls, to Generals, to scientists, to Superbowl winning coaches. The reason that this particular maxim carries weight in so many different communities is because it happens to have the attribute of being true.

Consider this; not long ago, Blockbuster Video was the undisputed nationwide leader in video rentals. You remember that iconic blue and yellow movie ticket logo. In 1991 Blockbuster was worth an estimated 8.4 BILLION dollars. You might think that they made all of their money on video rentals and Raisinets. Not true. A significant portion of their revenue came from those dreaded "late fees". In fact, in the year 2000 they took in 800 MILLION dollars in late fees alone.

In 1997, a man named Reed Hastings was charged a \$40 late fee for a Blockbuster copy of Apollo 13. He disliked that experience so much; he went home and invented Netflix. On demand – in home movie rental.

By the year 2000, Blockbuster had the opportunity to purchase Netflix for a measly 50 million dollars. They were short-sighted and chose not to adapt to a changing market. Remember, in that same year they took in 800 MILLION in late fees. They didn't see the need to adapt. By 2010 Blockbuster was worth just 24 million dollars and had suffered 1.1 BILLION in revenue losses. In ten short years, it was gone.

Adapt or die.

Today Netflix is worth approximately 13.6 BILLION in total assets. And those iconic video stores with the big blue and yellow movie ticket logo? They're all pawnshops and payday loan outfits.

In business, as in countless other aspects of life, if you choose not to adapt to the changing conditions and circumstances around you...You. Will. Die.

Make no mistake about it; La Société is a business. Yes. Yes. It's the fun and honor society, and it's a charitable organization, and so many other great and wonderful things. But at its core it is a business; and business requires revenue.

We all know that the majority of our revenue is derived from membership dues. Our raffles and fundraisers generate some limited income, as well as some generous and much appreciated financial gifts from our members. But that cannot replace the income lost from the nearly 40,000 members we've lost in the past two decades.

That's right, each and every year since 1997 when Mr. Hastings invented Netflix, we have lost an average of 5% of our membership. Every. Year. How many businesses do you know of that can take that kind of a hit and survive?

The question that keeps me up at night, the question that seems to have no answer is this:

What number of members does a national organization have to drop to, before it begins the slow spiral to certain failure? What is the tipping point? That's a tough question, and I don't have an answer to it. But I do know that the next 20 years can't be like the last 20 years. We simply won't survive.

I also know this; we CAN adapt. We can construct a future of our choosing.

Or, we can hang on to our old ways, our old attitudes and our biases. We can hang on our remembrances of years gone by and the way things used to be. We can hang on so tight to La Société... that we choke it to death.

Or, each one of us can take personal responsibility for recruiting the next generation of Voyageurs.

I assure you that if we fail; if by our inaction, we allow La Société to wither and die, history will judge us harshly.

**Adapt or die.**

**Choose.**

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

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

I know there were times when I bothered you, asked for too much,  
and generally was pain in the neck.....



**Well suck it up cupcake, cause there ain't no changes until we achieve  
success !!!!!**

*Tommy Fordham Grand Chef de Gare*

## What is a Veteran

He is a cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the bar room loudmouth, dumber than a hammer, whose out grown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by the exquisite bravery near the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.

He or she is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another, or didn't come back at all.

He is the boot camp drill instructor who has never seen combat, but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no account rednecks and gang members into Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen by teaching them to watch each other's back.

He is a parade riding, hat wearing, flag waving person who pins on their ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career Quartermaster who watches the medals and ribbons pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in the Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless depths.

He is that old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket, hands palsied and aggravatingly slow, who helped liberate a Nazi death camp, and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being. A person who offered some of his life's most vital years in service to his Country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a Soldier and a Savior and a Sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest Nation ever known.

They come in all shapes, ages, genders, colors, religions, education and political beliefs, but they all share one common bond. They displayed that outstanding unselfish call to duty and answered when their Country called.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our Country, just stop and say "Thank You." That's all most of them need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot to that person we know as a Veteran.

Mike Wood, Chef de Chemin de Fer 2015

## **From the Desk Of Grand Correspondant**

**We need a Grand Correspondant, if you are interested, PLEASE contact your Grand Chef de Gare Toomy Fordham.**



**La Grande Presidente Passe  
2016-17  
Janet 'Moose' Walsh**



I extend my sincere appreciation to Voiture 280 and Cabane 280, for going above and beyond at the Grande "Finale" held in Columbus, Georgia. You can always depend on them to put forth their 110%.

I could not have accomplished all that was accomplished this year without the fabulous Dames in Grande Cabane de Georgia. I love you all and appreciate all of your efforts. Congratulations to our new Grande Presidente, Charlotte Fordham. I promise to support you and your goals in any way you need. THANKS!!

Obviously the strength of any organization is its membership. I am pleased to report that the membership of Grande Cabane de Georgia ended the year (6/30/2017) at 84.57% (27 under goal), as I have spoken to most of you during the year, I realized that your efforts were 100%, but you suffered many losses in your Cabane. However, as I toured the State, I've found that there has been some excellent execution of our programs, with a continuing effort throughout Georgia to expand our accomplishments. Where there has been a need for improvement, local leadership has been effectively striving to see that progress is being made. Overall, in my opinion, the Cabane de Georgia is on the road to a healthier future. I extend my sincere thanks to all Cabane members for working so hard during my tenure as Grande Cabane Presidente and I pledge my cooperation to assist this Organization in its future efforts. Thanks for a "Wonderful Year".

Yours in Service

## VOITURE 499 NEWSLETTER – JULY 2017

### VOYAGEURS AND DAMES:

The June picnic was a huge success. Thanks to all who brought food (barbecue pork and chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, stew, chips, salad, and all kinds of desserts). We had food galore. Kudos to Voyageur Alan O'Neal for the barbecue and stew.

We will be installing the new officers for 2018 at our July promenade. Come and give your support to these new officers. We are also looking for program directeurs.

The 2018 dues cards are here and I will be collecting dues at our promenade and by mail. They are \$25.00 and can be mailed to me at 492 Hightower Ridge Road, Covington, Georgia 30014. We were eight voyageurs short of 100% for the 2017 year. We lost three voyageurs to death: Lawson Sewell, James Wheeler and Bill Fourquean. Please remember their families in your prayers.

On a happy note, the dames of Cabane 499 donated \$500 to our Nurses Training Program. Thank you Dames!

Our July Promenade/Rendezvous will be on Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, social 6:30 P.M., meal 7:07 P.M.; Promenade/Rendezvous 8:00 P.M. Please try to attend and support our organization.

Jack Wade, Correspondant



## GRANDE VOITURE MEMBERSHIP

As of June 22, 2017

Grande du Georgia ranks 7th of 54 Grandes

<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Short/Over</u>	<u>%</u>
500	509	-3	98.23%

Voiture	2017	2016 YET	% of Quota	Short/Over
4	18	18	100.00%	-0
217	56	59	89.83%	-3
280	30	29	103.00%	+1
499	69	77	87.01%	-8
567	55	50	110%	+5
719	37	44	84.09%	-7
909	46	46	100%	0
1145	28	24	116.66%	4
1226	5	10	50.00%	-5
1229	74	75	98.67%	-1
1317	18	14	128.57%	+4
1597	20	22	90.91%	-2
1631	13	13	100%	0
1635	23	21	109.52%	+2
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

July 2017

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

August 2017

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

September 2017

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