



# FORTY et EIGHTER



Official Newsletter of Le Grand Voiture de Maryland, Inc.  
La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, Grande du Maryland  
D12796272; EIN 26-3721723

--- Reports From 88th Grande Promenade/25th Grande Rendezvous ---

## Bob Ouellette 89th Grand Chef de Gare



**2010 LEADERSHIP.** Grande Chef de Gare Robert J. (Bob) Ouellette, Sr., flanked by (from left): Chef de Train (North) John C. Cockrell; Sous Chef de Train (North) Deborah DeFrank; and Senior Chef de Train (West) Patrick J. Hauke.

### Principle 2010 Officers

**Chef de Gare** Robert J. Ouellette, Sr.  
**Cheminot Nationale** James Jones  
**Alt. Cheminot Nationale** Wayne (Red) Costa  
**Senior Chef de Train (West)** Patrick J. Hauke  
**Chef de Train (North)** John C. Cockrell  
**Sous Chef de Train (North)** Deborah DeFrank  
**Commissaire Intendant** Warren Dearstine  
**Sous Commissaires Intendant:** Norman M. Covert; Gail Murdock  
**Correspondant** Earl E. (Gene) Benner  
**Avocat** John P. Baron  
**Conducteur** K. Martin Gahley  
**Gardes de la Porte:** Deborah DeFrank; James Jones; Leroy Wyatt  
**Aumonier (Permanente)** John W. Mackall, Sr.  
**Publiciste** Norman M. Covert  
**Directeur Americanism** Gail Murdock  
**Directeur Nurses Training** Donald L. Donahoe  
**Finance/Budget** John C. Cockrell; Patrick J. Hauke  
**Constitution/Standing Rules** John P. Baron  
**Resolutions** John P. Baron  
**Membership** John C. Cockrell, Patrick J. Hauke  
**V.A.V.S.** James Jones  
**Voiture Activities** Sanford R. McGuire  
**Mid-Atlantic Association Executive Committeeman:**  
 John W. Mackall, Sr.; Alt. Madame President (Passe) Jeffrey L. Hughes.

Robert "Bob" Ouellette (pronounced 'Well-Ette') was installed July 31, 2009, as 89th Chef de Gare for Le Grande Voiture de Maryland, La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, at Susquehanna American Legion Post 135, Perryville.

He assumes the leadership role from now Chef de Gare (Passe) James (J.J.) Jones of Rising Sun and Voiture Locale 1371. Warren S. Lloyd was the first Grand Chef de Gare, serving in administrative year 1922.

The Committee on Committees also nominated and delegates reelected Commissaire Intendant Warren L. Dearstine, who has served in that capacity for many years. Warren is a member of Voiture Locale 456.

Chef Bob, who served as 2009 Grand Chef de Train (South) and Chef de Gare of VL265, was sworn in by Grand Correspondant and Chef de Gare (Passe) Earl E. (Gene) Benner.

An active Legionnaire, Bob has served as Post Commander for Posts 247 and 295. He also was Montgomery County Commander.

### Military Service

Chef Bob was born in Holyoke, Mass., and reared in South Hadley, Mass. He joined the U. S. Army in April 1981. He completed Basic Combat and Military Police training at Ft. McClellan, Ala., and was assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG).

He volunteered for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) duty and completed his training at Indian Head, Md. He then was assigned to Edgewood Arsenal, Vicenza, Italy, Ft. McNair, Va., the EOD School and Ft. Belvoir, Va., before retiring from the Army in 1998.

He earned his B.A. degree in Business and Management from the University of Maryland, College Park, and MBA from Averett College, while on active duty. He works as a contractor with the U. S. Air Force in Washington, D. C.

Bob met his wife Cathy at Aberdeen in 1983. They moved to Poolesville in 1988. They have two children: Bob Jr., who serves with the South Carolina Army National Guard and is an active Legionnaire; and Joseph, who is serving with the U. S. Army and also is a Legionnaire and Voyageur Militaire.

(See more bio information on officers Page 2)

## Meet your Chefs de Train

### CWO Patrick J. Hauke, USCG

Pat was installed as Chef de Train (West) and Senior Chef de Train. He returns to the important leadership position after serving as Senior Chef de Train during the 2009 Administrative Year.



Hauke

Pat also was reelected as Chef de Gare for Frederick/Carroll Voiture Locale 155, his third consecutive year. He also is repeating as commander of Carroll Post 31, The American Legion, Westminster.

He was born in Williamsport, Pa. After he was graduated from S. Williamsport High School in 1979, he enlisted as a seaman recruit.

He has served in numerous Atlantic and Pacific Stations including Puerto Rico. He currently serves as a Chief Warrant Officer (4), Naval Engineering Officer, at U.S. Coast Station, Baltimore.

He became a member of La Societe in 2004 and carries on a tradition that his father, George Hauke, started 50-plus years ago with the Williamsport (Pa.) Voiture Locale, which has its own Chateau. He also is a member of AMVETS.



Cockrell

Chef de Gare Pat and his wife Cindy have three daughters and four grandchildren. They live in Westminster.

### John C. Cockrell

John also returns as Chef de Train (North). He is a member of Voiture locale 1297.

### Deborah DeFrank

Sous Chef de Train Deborah, a Voyageur with VL 1297, is a member of American Legion Post 47, Havre de Grace, where she is a former executive committeeman.



DeFrank

One of 11 children, she was reared on an Amish farm in Pennsylvania, attending a one room school house until age eight. She was graduated from Southern Lehigh High School in 1972 and attended Lehigh County Community College.

She joined the U. S. Army in November 1972 and served in Germany, with 1/36<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery and ARPAC VII Corps.

Assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md., she served successively as Supply, Mess Hall and Reenlistment NCO, as well as admin clerk for the Tank Turret Branch.

Deborah was discharged in May 1980 and became a supply clerk in the Materiel Testing Directorate at APG, where she ordered parts for the XM1 Abrams Main Battle Tank.

In 1988, Deborah transferred to U. S. Army Medical Research Institute for Chemical Defense (USAMRICD) at Edgewood Arsenal. She became a laboratory animal caretaker in July 1991.

She has two daughters and lives in Havre de Grace.

### Warren Dearstine, Commissar Intendant

Warren was re-elected Grand Commissar Attendant, a job he has held since 1986. A 57-year member of La Societe, he was wrecked in 1952. He also is treasurer and trustee for the Grande corporation.



Dearstine

Chef de Gare (passe) for VL 456 in Southern Maryland, he currently serves as correspondent.

He was Grand Chef de Gare in 1981 and elected Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer at Nationale,, where he also served many years on the Child Welfare committee.

Shortly after graduation from high school, Warren was inducted into the Army in 1942. He took part in fighting in New Guinea, South Pacific Theater. He was discharged in 1945.

He used his G. I. Bill benefit to earn certification as a carpenter and estimator. He was employed at Patuxent River Naval Air Station in the public works directorate where he was retired in 1977.

A past commander (1961-'62, 1962-'63) of John K. Fogarty Post 162, The American Legion, Warren also has served as adjutant, and is treasurer. He also "went through the chairs" at county and district level and served one year as vice commander for the Department of Maryland.



## PAST CHEFS' CLUB

By John P. Baron, Secretary

Greetings, Past Grand Chefs and fellow Voyageurs.

When I sent out the minutes from the annual Past Grand Chef's breakfast, I failed to put an important event in those minutes. Past Grand Chef Benner placed the name of Norman Covert in nomination for the high office of Honorary Past Grand Chef. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Congratulations, Norm!

For everyone's information, Jr. Past Grand Chef J.J. is now on probation. If you want to know what that is all about, we suggest you ask John J. O'Connor.

We are looking forward to next year's annual meeting when we will be presented with Grand Chef Bob at that time. This is a good opportunity to remind all Past Grand Chefs, that they have a standing invitation to this meeting.



Covert

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**ANOTHER YEAR.** 2009 Chef de Gare James Jones and Grand La Presidente Betty Turney cut cake celebrating 88th Promenade and 25th Rendezvous during Saturday night festivities.

## Correspondant Gene Benner honored as Voyageur of Year;

Grand Correspondant Earl E. (Gene) Benner was selected as Voyageur of the Year for Grande du Maryland at the closing banquet of the 88th Promenade Saturday night.

He was Wrecked into Voiture Locale 651, Hagerstown, in 1983. He served as Chef de Gare and was Correspondant Locale for three years.

He was elected Grand Chef de Train (West) in 1995, and became Grand Chef de Gare in 1998. In 1999 he was Cheminot Nationale. He also served three years on the National Committee for Nursing Home Visitation.

He transferred to Frederick/Carroll VL 155 in 1998 and served as its correspondant three years. He transferred to VL 1297, where he continues membership. He has served on multiple Grande du Maryland committees and was Sous Conducteur for Promenade National in 2001.

A former member of Antietam Post 236, (1973-2007), Gene served as its adjutant, three-time commander and long-term committee member.



**Benner**

Gene was born February 11, 1953 at King's Daughter's Hospital in Martinsburg, WV.

He was graduated in June 1971 from Boonsboro High School with a 3.99 grade point average. He then worked in the Shepherd College dining hall more than a year before enlisting in the U.S. Army in January 1973.

Gene underwent Basic Combat Training at Fort Dix, N. J., and Advanced Training at Fort Sam Houston, Tex., becoming a medical specialist.

He was then assigned to Airborne Jump School at Fort Benning, Ga., then was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, XVIII Airborne Corps, at Fort Bragg, N.C.

He reenlisted after two years and was assigned to Walter Reed Army Hospital (WRAMC), Washington, D.C. While at WRAMC he attended classes at the University of Maryland toward his nursing degree. He then was assigned to Izmir, Turkey, and Fort Hood, Tex., where he earned his B.S. degree in Nursing and a Master's degree in Geriatric Nursing.

He was discharged from the Army in 1980.

He lives in Sharpsburg with his mother, La Presidente (Passe) Emma Benner.

## Corporate Officers

The 2009 Corporation Meeting of Le Grande Voiture de Maryland, Inc., was conducted by President John P. Baron as part of the plenary session of the 88th Grande Promenade.

Among the actions: Corporation is current with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation; Bylaws remain in place; Financial books verified through the banking institution at account filing; liability insurance and surety bonds were in place as of Aug. 1, 2009 for one year with a new underwriter.

Officer and trustee appointments were agreed to, including John W. Mackall Sr., who assumes the vacated seat in the Class of 2010.

The next annual meeting is scheduled July 31, 2010 during the 89th Grande Promenade at Williamsport, Md.

**Officers:**

- President John P. Baron
- Vice President Robert Ouellette
- Treasurer: Warren L. Dearstine
- Secretary/Agent Norman M. Covert

**Trustees, (terms end Dec. 31st):**

**Class of 2010**

- John W. Mackall, Sr.
- Gail Murdock

**Class of 2011**

- Jeffrey L. Hughes
- Donald E. Fellows

**Class of 2012**

- Francis M. Marino
- Warren L. Dearstine

### Membership 2009

Grande Voiture de Maryland reached 100 percent membership for administrative year 2009, marking the first time since 2001.

Here are the final 2009 numbers by Voiture

Locale:	2008	2009	percentage	diff.
VL 122	29	29	100 %	0
VL 155	100	89	89 %	-11
VL 164	37	34	91.89 %	- 3
VL 265	129	129	100 %	0
VL 456	58	55	94.83 %	- 3
VL 651	32	32	100 %	0
VL 1230	21	18	85.71 %	- 3
VL 1297	33	41	124.24 %	8
VL 1371	59	71	120.34 %	12





*La Grande Presidente Betty Turney  
La Grande Correspondante Linda Green  
La Grande Commissaire Intendante Nancy Baron  
La Grande Aumonier Laurette O'Connor*

## Grande Cabane de Maryland

**By Linda L.Green  
La Grande Correspondante**

It was disappointing to Dames at our Grande Rendezvous in August that Cabane Locale 122 was relinquishing its Charter Without Malice this year.

Through years of dedication, loyalty and hard work by the Eastern Shore Dames, it became necessary to disband due to work, health, and family issues.

At this time, Maryland has only two Cabane Locales -- Cabane Locales 265 and 1297. Therefore, the Grande Cabane Charter will automatically be revoked Without Malice at the close of Rendezvous Nationale in September.

There must be a minimum of three Cabane Locales in which to Charter a Grande Cabane. However, Grande Cabane de Maryland has requested a 1-year extension until 2010 to remain viable.

At the close of Rendezvous Nationale, we hope to receive news of this extension. If such an extension is granted, we hope some enthusiastic efforts can be obtained to establish a third Cabane Locale. Are you interested? We're just an e-mail away at llgreen10@verizon.net.

The WUZ Club consisting of the Past Presidentes of the Grande Cabane do indeed plan to continue getting together in August in conjunction with the Grande Voiture to chat about past memories. In addition, Cabane Locales 265 and 1297 and the WUZ Club will participate in the Grande Voiture Memorial Service each year for which the Grande du Maryland has concurred. Thank you Voyageurs!

We will be holding our fourth cheminot of the Grande Cabane in April, place to be determined; and the Grande Rendezvous will be held July 31st in Williamsport. The Official Call will be distributed at the fourth cheminot.

Looking forward to seeing you in and around Maryland through the upcoming months. For the Good of La Societe de Femme, I remain forever loyal to the Veterans of the USA – God Bless America!

### **CABANE LOCALE 1297**

**By Nancy Baron  
Locale Correspondante**

We thank all our officers for agreeing to serve another year for our Locale. We were fortunate to add seven Dames to our Locale last year. It is a shame that two Cabane Locales had to turn in their charters, but we are happy to have their Dames join us.

They are: Pat Hurst, JoAnn Wyatt, Virginia Lane, Kim Endres, Tammy Hull, Irene Zdana and Diane Sullivan.

Congratulations to Kim Endres who was voted in as an Honorary Past Grande Presidente during the recent 25th Grande Rendezvous.

Our Locale is having fundraisers to be able to stuff "goody" bags for the Vets at the Perry Point VA Hospital during the holidays. If you wish to join us along with Mrs. Jingles and her elves, please contact me.



## **WUZ CLUB NEWS**

**By Nancy Baron  
Locale Correspondante**

We are happy to report that we survived another year! We held our annual meeting during the recent 25th Grande Rendezvous.

Grande Cabane will lose its charter.

By unanimous consent, the officers agreed to continue, including: La Grande Presidente Betty Turney; Correspondante Linda Green; Commissair Intendante Nancy Baron; and Aumonier Laurette O'Connor.

Minutes were mailed out to all past Grande Presidentes of the WUZ Club. One of the topics we approved was to continue having our annual meeting.

Congratulations to our newest WUZ Club member Kim Endres (right), who was elected an Honorary Past Grande Presidente



**Kim Endres**

### **CABANE LOCALE 265**

**By Linda L. Green  
Locale Correspondante**

Many thanks to our Dames, Cabane Locale 265 had a successful year for 2008-2009.

In addition to 100% membership, we were able to donate to Voiture Nationale's programs as follows: Nurses Training, \$75; Child Welfare, \$25; Box Car, \$25; and ads were placed in the Program Books for Memorial Day and the Grande Promenade.

We look forward to a prosperous year again in 2010, but we need all 18 Dames' support and assistance to continue our exemplary efforts — we hope we can achieve the goals set upon us once again this year.

When Rendezvous Nationale ends Sept. 12 th, 2010 dues are due.

Dues are still \$20 per Dame. Mail your check to me at 9320 Dogwood Park Street; Capitol Heights, MD 20743. Dames, once I receive your check, payable to Cabane Locale 265, I will forward the per capita to Cabane Nationale to obtain the 2010 membership cards. It usually takes from 1 to 2 weeks.

Our first Rendezvous will be held at American Legion Post 108 in Cheverly, MD at 7:30 pm on Thursday, September 24, 2009. We hope to have several Dames attending as we begin planning for the 2010 year. Your suggestions for fundraisers are welcome. See you there!

# Can we stoke up our best PR tools?

*Commentary*

Regular folks usually cannot tell you what the 40&8 is all about, but many react positively when you mention La Societe's locomotives.

The decorative and unique rolling stock were plentiful around the country 40 years ago with Voyageur Hoboes and Clowns as accessories in hometown parades. They are a rare site these days. When did you last hear of a newly built Loco?

Chef de Gare Bob Ouellette and Sr. Chef de Train Pat Hauke have been mulling the rebirth of our basic symbol as a tool to help revive our membership numbers and participation.

They believe we can find opportunities to display the Locos and advertise La Societe/identify new Voyageurs from among the huge numbers of eligible veterans under new membership guidelines -- female vets and any honorably discharged vet.

As far as we know, there may be two WORKING Locomotives in Grande du Maryland -- at VL 1371 and VL 155.

These vintage locomotives made their way proudly along the festive parade route at Ocean City during the 2004 American Legion Department of Maryland Convention. They were a success with all ages. Unfortunately the Department no longer features a parade to advertise its presence in OC.

The Locomotives are historic vehicles, which require lots of tender loving care to keep them rolling.

In the case of Voiture 155's locomotive, the 1950 GMC truck chassis was built at the B&O railroad yard for defunct Baltimore Voiture 113. It then became the property of Voiture 1230 at Severna Park. It fell into disrepair.

VL 155 accepted the rusted hulk nearly a decade ago, got the body in shape and found a mechanic, Voyageur Robert Browning of Mt. Airy, who volunteered many hours of labor, completely rewiring and reengineered the old power plant. With



**ON PARADE IN OC.** Locomotives from VL 1371(left) and VL 155 in the 2004 American Legion Department of Maryland Convention Parade. Age of the Locos requires planning to ensure the vehicles can avoid breakdowns. The VL 155 Loco is almost 60 years old.

some continued attention it has managed to appear in Frederick and Carroll County parades.

In recent years replacement brakes and tires, had to be found from sources on the internet, but at premium prices. The carburetor came from an abandoned Chevy coupe.

This year, the VL155 Locomotive appeared in parades at Woodsboro, Westminster, Winfield and Mount Airy, Md. Its final 2009 appearance will be Nov. 1 in the 77th Annual Veterans Day Parade, Brunswick.

The vehicle has the same GMC engine and manifolds that came with it. In July it showed some coolant challenges and an exhaust leak perhaps that will require more than just a quick effort. With all the steel surrounding the working parts, repairs are difficult.

When and if we get these old Locos on stage around the state this year, it will take some Voyageurs, with mechanical talent and creativity to keep our symbols on the road again. But it will be worth it. We can only make the effort.



## 88th Grande Promenade/ 25th Rendezvous

**MEMORIAL RITE.** La Grande Presidente Betty Turney (center) and Dames of Grande Cabane de Maryland line up with Grand du Maryland Aumonier John Mackall (left) and 2009 Grand Chef de Gare J. J. Jones during the annual Memorial Ceremony at the 88th Grande Promenade/ 25th Grande Rendezvous. From left are: La Grande Correspondante Linda Green, Emma Benner, Aumonier Mackall, Kim Endres, President Tierney, Nancy Baron, Chef de Gare Jones, JoAnn Wyatt, La Aumonier Laurette O'Connor.



## Orders From the Chef de Gare

By Bob Ouellette  
Grand Chef de Gare

Fellow Voyagers,

Welcome to another year as a proud member of La Societe! I am honored to have been elected to serve La Societe as your Grand Chef de Gare.

I believe La Societe is at a cross roads. As a Voyager you already know The Forty & Eight is committed to charitable and patriotic aims. Our purpose is to uphold and defend the United States Constitution, to promote the well being of veterans, their widows and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include programs that promote child welfare and nurse's training. I appreciate your continued support.

There is another area of concern — membership. Last year the Grande reached 100 percent, matching our 2008 membership. However, we only achieved 87.77 percent of our goal. It is the responsibility of every Voyager to recommend at least 1 new member each year.

La Societe has changed its constitution to allow for any honorably discharged veteran to become a member. I disagree if you feel that this may appear to trivialize the honor of our membership. Nominees must still be nominated

and voted on. Worthy nominees will be elected.

There are many worthy veterans, who served only during a period of peace. Did we have a say whether or not there would be a conflict when we were sworn into the Armed Forces? No, but we did sign on to go if ordered.



Ouellette

The fact that some served only in periods of peace allowed those who followed to achieve so much in war time. These service men and women are excluded by The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. I am pleased that we do not.

I am entrusting each Voyager with the mission of nominating at least one worthy veteran before November 31st.

You can follow the Grande du Maryland on Facebook! Find us by searching "Le Grande Voiture de Maryland," or on the internet at [www.grande\\_de\\_maryland.tripod.com](http://www.grande_de_maryland.tripod.com).

La Societe des Quarante Hommes at Huit Chevaux will continue to be an independent, by invitation, honor organization of male and female U. S. veterans.



Oestereich



## Greetings Voyageurs

By Orlyn C. Oestereich  
Department Commander  
State of Maryland

*(Editor's note: We are pleased to have received the following from the commander, The American Legion, Department of Maryland.)*

Congratulations and best wishes to Bob Ouellette, Grande du Maryland 2010 Chef de Gare. As the newly elected Department of Maryland American Legion Commander I am happy to be able to work beside the Chef and members of La Societe.

Our programs are similar and complement each other. Our effort assists in providing a community atmosphere of working together to further the welfare of all.

I would like you to know during this Legion year of

2009-2010 that if there is anything I can do to further our mutual goals and relationship I am willing to help. Your organization is made up primarily Legionnaires who understand what service to the community, state and nation stands for and together much can be accomplished by us.

I would accept an invitation to attend one of your meetings, if this is a practice you have had in the past, so I could personally express my thoughts concerning "Why I Do What I Do" in the Legion family.

### 2009-2010 Schedule of Events

SECOND CHEMINOT:  
Oct. 4, 2009, VL 1371, Easton Post 70.

THIRD CHEMINOT:  
Jan. 10, 2010, VL155, Carroll Post 31,  
Westminster.

FOURTH CHEMINOT:  
April 11, 2010, TBD.  
89th Grande Promenade, Potomac Post 202,  
Williamsport, Md.

Note: All Cheminots begin at 1 p.m. and are preceded by a complimentary luncheon by the host Voiture.